New clinic reports interest in medical marijuana

By ANDREA PRAEGITZER

The only clinic in Charlotte County that is exclusively dedicated to helping people obtain legal access to medical marijuana has already received over 600 calls from the community since opening just two weeks ago.

Though some of that involved repeat callers, Dr. Daniel P. Smith, who heads the Port Charlotte office of Liberate Physician Centers, said he was surprised by the large response.

Last year in November, voters in Florida supported allowing medical marijuana through Amendment 2, with a 71 percent majority.

And so far, about 30 people who were seen at the center are in the process of getting cards allowing them to purchase medical cannabis at licensed dispensaries in the state.

Medical marijuana is available in Florida, but remains illegal under federal law.

Because of that status, doctors such as Smith do not prescribe it as with pharmaceutical drugs.

But they can make a recommendation — where applicable — and input that into a statewide database.

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Despite the legal restrictions, the clinic in Port Charlotte, which opened just two weeks ago, already has 600 people interested in obtaining medical marijuana.

Dr. Daniel P. Smith, who runs the clinic, said he was surprised by the large response and expects more people to come in the next few months.

“Last year in November, voters in Florida supported allowing medical marijuana through Amendment 2, with a 71 percent majority. And so far, about 30 people who were seen at the center are in the process of getting cards allowing them to purchase medical cannabis at licensed dispensaries in the state. Medical marijuana is available in Florida, but remains illegal under federal law. Because of that status, doctors such as Smith do not prescribe it as with pharmaceutical drugs. But they can make a recommendation — where applicable — and input that into a statewide database.”

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E very week I close this column with this phrase — share your thoughts. And you do. Last week I wrote about how large U.S. corporations are legally using tax havens to dramatically reduce corporate worldwide tax payments. Using a technique called a Dutch sandwich, they transfer their brand names and technology from the U.S. to an offshore tax haven shell. Then they charge large royalty payments from scratch for kids and for the homeless, using scraps of cloth that she finds or are donated to her. She makes candy slings out of candy canes, Kit Kat bars and other various candies. She delivers meals for Meals on Wheels… and the list goes on and on.

“Who wants to pay a 40 percent tax rate, not corporations and likely not you. Taking legal deductions when filing your tax return is never morally dubious. Nothing illegal or immoral about it, just a different set of rules. An apology from your column today! Normally, I consider your Sunday piece to be worth the total price of my subscription. Corporations don’t pay taxes. They collect money and send some of it to the IRS but that money, no doubt about it, comes from their customers.” — AC

“David, I am so disappointed in your column today! Normally, I consider your Sunday piece to be worth the total price of my subscription. Corporations don’t pay taxes. They collect money and send some of it to the IRS but that money, no doubt about it, comes from their customers.” — AC

“Who wants to pay a 40 percent tax rate, not corporations and likely not you. Taking legal deductions when filing your tax return is never morally dubious. Nothing illegal or immoral about it, just a different set of rules. An apology from your column today!” — AC

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“Nothing illegal or immoral about it”, by David Dunn-Rankin

“Nothing illegal or immoral about it”, by David Dunn-Rankin
Santa stops at Parkside with a little help from Sandee

By DANIEL SUTPHIN

Sandee Pellerin started giving out gifts in the Parkside area six years ago. What started as a one-block stop has now expanded to the entire Parkside area. “We go up and down the streets,” said Pellerin, “but our Neighborhood Watch Captain for the area.” “I don’t walk house to house. We go up and down the streets and make a lot of noise. I’ll have Deputy (William) Miller helping us and he will turn on his sirens and stuff now.” The Christmas caravans go around and down the streets with Santa Claus and Christmas music playing from the automobiles in line. Kids and adults alike, stand in their yards waving and walking up to the present-filled trailer. “My favorite part is seeing the kids,” said Pellerin. “That’s gotta be my favorite part. Last year, I had a little boy and he didn’t even care about the presents, he didn’t care about the holiday. He got so excited. All he cared about was Santa Claus.” Last year, Pellerin said they gave out over 300 gifts. “They love it,” she said. “Last year I think too, there were kids standing outside waiting and they had little signs saying, ‘Santa stop here.’” “I don’t walk house to house,” Pellerin said the kids are standing outside waiting and they had little signs saying, ‘Santa stop here.’” “I saw kids standing outside waiting and they had little signs saying, ‘Santa stop here.’” “I was invited to the neighborhood and when I came out and went through the kids in it,” she said, “but it happens. People don’t do it, but it happens.” Email: dsutphin@sun-herald.com

The Sun/December 17, 2017

Santa stops at Parkside with a little help from Sandee
Limited quantity items. If you find an identical model in a carton from a local stocking dealer we will refund the price difference. Prices valid through 12/17/17. Manufacturer rebates valid through date of Ad. See store for additional details. 

H 697/8" x W 353/4" x D 311/4"

H 70" x W 353/4" x D 31"

Purchase 4 or more kitchen appliances & get contractor discounts!

Limited Time Offers

SALE!

4k Ultra HD SMART TV

SMART TV

LG’s Best

1080p Smart LED HDTV
Built-in Wi-Fi, Smart TV, Triple XD Engine, Netflix, Amazon, Hulu PLUS, VUDU, YouTube, Simple Play Menu, + 3 HDMI + 1 USB

SALE!

4999

9499

SALE!

43%

50%

55%

75%

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4k Ultra HD SMART TV

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Feigenbaum, “I would say we kitchen, 15 in the thrift store to 10 volunteers work in the for shopping. “It’ s the people county lends a car and covers Wheels delivering meals. “The round events at the Cultural playing Kris Kringle for year- share of charity. Aside from Santa … he’ s so excited,” said floor, cross-legged, and talk to mother was in tears.” He never spoke and then, on Santa’ s lap; he was autistic. Christmas during the holidays. “We always become family for Empty Bowls, she raffled an entire conversation. His while on Santa’ s lap, he had Christmas, so we wanted to giving them something to be ex-...
OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE

Lorraine M. Giddens

Lorraine M. Giddens, Cusco, (nee Rainey), of Palmetto Bay.

She was the
granddaughter of Joe Good Shepherd and
her great-grandparents are
of what is possibly one of the
eras, she spent her early years
and attended
her husband.

From PAGE 1

obituary online guestbook.

your thoughts, memories
Tidewell Hospice.

in memory of their

Lorraine.

She is preceded in death
as well as a nephew,

grandchildren; and 3
Jody) Bicking, Cecelia

Buster owned a summer
in Ridgecrest, North

and grandchildren
with her children
of the South School of

earned his bachelor’s
degree from Boston University.

before the family
arranged in Charlotte
be made in Joe’s memory
be held at 9:30 a.m. on
Grandview Cemetery.

It will be followed

Sabin (Angelique), Laura

daughter Janice Sabin
Ann LaBella, his son Philip,

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and was a member of

you are interested in

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Lorraine was born on

Gregory (Jane) Giddens.

as a nick-name, raised
and is survived by

is survived by

She was preceded in death

nieces, nephews, extended

grandchildren; a sister,

and numerous siblings.

and a sister, Lindsay

a brother, Jimmy Murray;

and a member of

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District on Long Island,

he packed up the family

to attend college.

because she was raising

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really did help put families

in her community with

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we all miss you dearly!

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Dr. Philip

Phil was born

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because Republicans

will require Republicans

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Edna

Throughout his life Phil

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the online obituarist.
After FCC cuts net neutrality

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAX COLLECTORS ARE SUPPORTIVE

Dear Ms. Dolby,

We certainly appreciate her frustration with FPL’s practices. It is a shame that we must continue to work with FPL to secure a fair and just resolution to the problems that its customers face. It is important that we continue to work with FPL and its customers to ensure that they receive the fair and just resolution that they deserve.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]

[Company]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

Free college an ideal worth pursuing

This editorial was written by

Steve Laney

Senior Editor

The Seattle Times

Dear Mayor Durkan,

I am writing to express my support for your proposal to make the first 2 years of community college free for all students. This is an important step towards making higher education more accessible and affordable for all Seattle residents.

As a member of the Seattle Promise Scholarship program, I have seen firsthand the benefits of having access to higher education. I was able to attend community college and then transfer to a 4-year university, all without incurring any debt. This was possible because of the Seattle Promise Scholarship program.

I believe that all Seattle residents should have the same opportunity. By making community college free, we can ensure that all students have access to the education they need to succeed in life.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for the Seattle Promise Scholarship program. This program has provided a great opportunity for me to pursue my education without incurring any debt.

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[Address]

[City, State, Zip]
The Sun carried President Trump's victory有助于 the return of greatness.

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Elliott An Kopel and Christopher Michael Freise were united in marriage on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017 at 5 p.m. on The Vista at The Inn at St. Charles, Missouri. The couple lives in Plano, Texas.

Robert Wagner on his special day, Dec. 21.

Charlotte County marriage licenses

• Corinne Gauthier-Drue of Port Charlotte, no husband Appointed, 941-474-1404.
• Linda Blane Walker of Port Charlotte, 941-837-4030.
• The couple was married by the reverend Robert Wagner on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2017 at 4 p.m. in The Vista at The Inn at St. Charles, Missouri.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth announcements • Birthdays • Anniversaries • Engagements • Weddings • Family reunions

Commemorate your family's milestones and share the joy with the community. Contribute to our family album by sending an email to familyalbum@sun-herald.com. To inquire about rates.
Schilling’s hat trick leads Venice over Charlotte

By SCOTT LOCKWOOD
Regional Sports Editor

VENICE — Mason Schilling hasn’t showed much rust in his first week of game action this season for the Venice Indians soccer game.

Playing just her second game of the season in Friday night’s district matchup, the Venice goalie found the back of the net three times and led the Indians to a victory over the Tarpons at Powell-Davis Stadium.

Sarah Dalton found the scoring for Venice when she got behind the Venice defense and blasted a shot from the left side and past Tarpon keeper Eva Lee in the eighth minute.

Less than four minutes later, Kat Jordan converted a free kick from nearly 40 yards out into another goal for the Indians.

“It was just a left-footed shot and it went in,” said Jordan, a sophomore team captain.

“We usually don’t get a lot of free kicks out there so it was good to see some.”

Schilling and Jordan would strike twice in an eight-minute span for Venice. Both goals were mirror images of one another as Jordan found Schilling with a perfect pass over the middle and Schilling put the ball past Lee and into the net.

Jordan scored on a header from a corner kick by Hannah Dalton just four minutes into the second half. A couple of minutes later, Charlotte got on the board when Alyssa Colacara got a shot for Venice keeper Ashlon Pennell in the 56th minute.

After Gabby Vega scored for Venice on a wild corner kick late in the 66th minute, the Indians scored twice off the goalposts and a wild corner kick before going into halftime.

When Gonzalez scored his third goal of the night after the goalkeeper dropped the ball, both teams began to play a bit rougher with some trash talk mixed in. Four yellow cards were handed out in the second half, as well as three penalty kicks.

“It was a little too physical tonight,” Gonzalez said. “I told my kids, ‘Try not to fight at all, don’t care what. Because we can’t make up a call and it’s not worth it especially with the trip tomorrow.’

The trash talk continued for a while, and it even continued throughout the whole game. The Indians scored in the middle of play, and the Tarpons left the field immediately. Though the penalties were abundant Friday night, Boca said he had no complaints after a week full of wins.

“They’ve got a lot better since earlier in the season,” he said. “They’re communicating better than before, they know what to do, they’re winning the ball in the air, and that’s big for the offensive end. If the offensive end can respond like they did today, we’re gonna score.”

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Shop Charlotte

is definitely a high-intensity and this game girls constantly about the "week of game action this program with several high-level athletes, and it’s apparent to moving forward that the intensity level of practice is has to be high because we have to match that in game situations.”

Schilling completed the hat trick when she took a pass from Rachel Dalton, caught Lee out of position well in front of the net and scored on a tap-in during the 71st minute.

“I was just so thankful to be out here. It was good for us to be back,” Schilling said. “Just the rush of excitement and being back out here with the team was amazing. The three goals feel amazing, and I’m thankful for Kat Jordan and Rachel Dalton giving me some amazing passes. If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have had anything tonight.”

Sarah Dalton added one final goal to ice the victory for the Indians.

The win breaks a streak of losses and ties for Venice as the team will focus on their final game before the Holiday break. Venice falls to 3-6-2 and will return to action against Lemon Bay in January after the Holiday break. Carr said her team will focus on getting that intensity level during in the time between games.

“The garbage in this girls constantly about that intensity level,” Jacksonville head coach Amanda Carr said.

Venice has a strong program with several high-level athletes, and it’s apparent to moving forward that the intensity level of practice has to be high because we have to match that in game situations.”

Schilling’s hat trick leads Venice over Charlotte

By VINNY PORTELL
Sun Correspondent

PORT CHARLOTTE — After Pirates boys soccer coach Joe Roca said he was disappointed in the loss to Venice, Michael Gonzalez has been over the experience once more goals this season.

Wednesday, the sophomore scored four times in an 8-0 mercy rule over Lemon Bay. Friday night against Dunbar, he did it again in a 6-2 victory for the Pirates.

“We had to come out of it,” Roca said. “Once he put that first goal in (against Lemon Bay), after that he picked up his confidence. Today Nate (Roth) had a decent game as well. Gonzalez backed him up every game, they’re pretty close, they’re well to each other.”

Both Roca and Gonzalez have combined to score nine goals for the Pirates in their past two games and will be a big part of the offensive third.

After Dunbar answered Gonzalez’s opening strike to tie the game at one score apiece, that would be as close as the Tigers would come. The Pirates scored three more times before the half when Dunbar committed a 4-1 foul into halftime.

When Gonzalez scored his third goal of the night after the goalkeeper dropped the ball, both teams began to play a bit rougher with some trash talk mixed in. Four yellow cards were handed out in the second half, as well as three penalty kicks.

“It was a little too physical tonight,” Gonzalez said. “I told my kids, ‘Try not to fight at all, don’t care what. Because we can’t make up a call and it’s not worth it especially with the trip tomorrow.’

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502 East Olympia Avenue
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

www.charlottecountychamber.org

Email: info@charlottecountyfl.com

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950

www.charlottecountychamber.org
Little mistakes cost Lemon Bay

BY PETE SISK

South Fork Coach Matt Cusick said it was the small things that went wrong, added to the bigger picture in Friday night's game against Bay and Cape Coral at Cape Coral.

The Mantas held the ball with 24 seconds left in the third quarter, but the Seahawks scored on a 1-and-1.

"Both teams are always going to make runs in these games but we understand in this league, against a good team," coach Kip Rhoten said.

Maheu finished with a game-high 22 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Lemon Bay's Francesca Gallucci (left) dives for a loose ball during Friday night's game against Cape Coral.

Lemon Bay's defense held Cape Coral to 19-of-50 shooting, a season-low for the Manta Rays.

"We have a tough schedule in front of us. We have to be ready to go and face the things head on. That's what we do," Maheu said.

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Compassionate Cannabis, which started seeing patients in January according to Smith.

About two-thirds of people going to the clinic in Port Charlotte for help are current marijuana users trying to become legal. “When patients, meanwhile, come in after having never been exposed to marijuana and talk in a whisper,” said Smith.

“We’re not saying it here,” he said.

In Charlotte County, the majority of elected commissioners initially put a ban in place saying there could be no dis- pensaries allowed in the unincorporated county. Then they ripped it off that ultimately to allow dispensaries.

For now, the closest dispensary for patients in Charlotte County, Trashcan, is in North Fort Myers. Patients can also order their medicine online for delivery.

Florida has seven authorized dispensing organizations, including Trashcan, which has 13 dispensaries in Florida with other locations in Bradenton, St. Petersburg and Tampa.

The marijuana plant or flowers are not being sold in Charlotte County, there are 13, and 36 medical marijuana plants listed for some products other than the cannabis flower and are not allowed in the state.

Instead, chemical components are extracted from cannabis flower and manufactured into liquid, form that can be taken into the body through vapors inhaled through the mouth, for example. Or the medicine is available through oils or creams and applied to the body. It can be eaten through edible prod- ucts, absorbed through mucous membranes in the nose through nasal sprays, or these are even other pathways such as rectal suppositories. For example.

There are warnings—listed for some products on Trashcan’s website.

“This product has irritating effects and may be habit forming,” a warning states. “Products containing marijuana can impair coordination, concentration, and judg- ment. Do not operate a vehicle or heavy machinery under the influence of this product.”

Like Smith, there are 120 “medicinal mar- ijuana qualified ordering physicians” in Florida.

Queuing conditions:
- [List of conditions]

**NOTICE**

**TAX EXEMPTIONS**

**FILE APPLICATIONS EARLY!**

CHANGING IN
JANUARY 1, 2018

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

TO APPLY ONLINE OR BY MAIL VISIT

https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov

APPLICATIONS MAY BE FILED IN PERSON AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS OR OBTAIN AN INSTRUCTION SHEET AND APPLICATION FORM AT:

TO APPLY ONLINE OR BY MAIL VISIT

https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov

**EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS** you may qualify for: HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, Widow, Blind, Disability, Veteran’s Disability, Deployed Military, Senior Exemption, Homeowners, Incomes, and Total Exemption for certain Blind or Disabled Persons & Florida Disabled 1st Responders.

1. Complete tax form, sign and mail with legal description.

2. Bring voter’s registration or Declaration of Domicile.

3. Bring Florida Driver’s Licence or state vehicle registration.

4. File by mail, a copy of deed or tax bill, voter or driver registration, Florida driver’s licence, and vehicle registration should be provided. Also, if mailing, please send by certified mail.

Programs include: Homeowners, Widows, Blind, Disability, Veterans Disability, Elderly and Senior Exemption with Limited Income, if you have not moved from your Homestead in the last 3 years.

Application is not automatic. Application must be filed.

It is not necessary to file a **Renewal Application** for your Homestead, Widow, Widow’s, Blind, Disability, or Veterans Disability Exemption and Senior Exemption with Limited Income, if you have not moved from your Homestead or Widow’s residence for the same continuous period. In such case, exemptions are automatically renewed.

Also:

**ATTENTION AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION.**

New applications must be filed from January 1 to March 1 of the tax year.

**CHECK BEFORE MARCH 1 TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A VALID RECEIPT FOR ANY 2016 AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FILED!**

Please check the above list of fields that is the property owner’s responsibility to file for Tax Exemptions and Agricultural Classification from January 1 to March 1 of the tax year:

This information is offered in accordance with the Property Appraiser’s desire to keep Charlotte County property owners informed which may affect their property’s value.

[Contact information]

[Contact information]

[Contact information]

[Contact information]

[Contact information]
Firefighters extinguish a blaze from a vehicle burning on Sandhill Boulevard at approximately 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Car catches on fire
Local cadets earn honor, leadership awards

By DONNA JABLONSKI
Civil Air Patrol

The Southeast Region of the Civil Air Patrol recently held a Cadet Leadership Academy at Patrick AFB in Melbourne, Florida. Cadets from across the Southeast went to this area to attend a week of leadership and education, to leadership, to ground search and rescue. Cadets from the Southeast Region Cadet Leadership School were held the same time as CSLA.

The Southeast Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS) provided cadet officers an opportunity to learn higher levels of leadership while building relationships with senior cadets from around the region. CSLA encouraged cadet officers to discover new skills that can be used to lead fellow cadets as well as share new knowledge with senior cadet NCOs. Our squadron had one cadet officer, C/1Lt. Samuel Greisiger, attend, successfully complete and receive a certificate of graduation from this school.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet program is designed to foster leadership and good citizenship among America’s youth. The program covers many different studies ranging from aerospace education, to leadership, to ground search and rescue. Cadets from the Charlotte County Composite Squadron continue to excel with their achievements. Second Lt. Donna Jablonski of the Civil Air Patrol is the Assistant Public Affairs Officer for FL-051. For more information about CAP, call her at 609-744-4664, follow us on Facebook.com/capfl051 or https://twitter.com/capfl051, or http://fl-051.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Fashion show set

Business and Professional Women of Charlotte County will host its second annual fashion show on Saturday, Jan. 20 at noon to 3 p.m. at Berto’s Banquet Center, 620 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte County. Tickets are $35 each and includes a silent auction, lottery lunch, the fashion show, and raffle. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit bpwccfl.org or call Holly Selders at 941-639-3162.ors are required to invest 300 hours of “sweat equity.” Homeowner mortgage payments are paid into a revolving fund which helps support the construction of new homes. Attend a homeowner information meeting at 1750 Marijuana Ave., Punta Gorda. Meeting dates are scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 and Feb. 13. Call 941-635-1052 to reserve a space.

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December 16th through December 31st
Test Drive any New or Used Vehicle
and Receive a $25 GIFT CARD*

NEW 2018 Honda
CIVIC LX Sedan, CV Auto
LEASE FOR $159/MO + TAX

NEW 2018 Honda
ACCORD LX 1.5 Liter, Auto
LEASE FOR $169/MO + TAX

NEW 2018 Honda
CR-V LX 2WD, CVT, Auto
LEASE FOR $199/MO + TAX

NEW 2018 Honda
PILOT LX 2WD, FWD, Auto
LEASE FOR $289/MO + TAX

*Gift cards not valid on past deals. Must have a valid driver’s license and proof of insurance. Offer valid for the first 10 test drives each day. Limit one gift per household. Must present ad to obtain incentive. Other offers expire 12/31/17.
 invisible yet overwhelming.

Regardless of age or experiences, the fear of homelessness is a burden carried by many in our community. It is a back-breaking, mind-bending stress that affects all aspects of life, from the classroom to the office to the kitchen table.

MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY STRUGGLE.

With your help, Season of Sharing provides funds to help individuals and families living on the economic edge in our community, ensuring they will not have only one choice: homelessness. This fund makes sure they don’t end up without a roof over their heads.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS.

As a community, we can continue to provide a helping hand. We believe that everyone can be a philanthropist, and because of support from Season of Sharing partners, all of your donation — 100% — goes directly to those who need it.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

THEOREM OF HOMELESSNESS

We are all in this together.

For more information on the program being held at Lamarque Elementary, call 941-341-5060 or email volunteerpartners@sarasotacounty.sarasota.org.
Englewood takes part in Wreaths Across America

On Saturday Sandy Millis organized Wreaths Across America in Englewood at Lemon Bay Historic Cemetery. Nancy Carstens of The Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 300 headed the wreath-laying ceremony at Gulf Pines Memorial Park in Englewood. Both women collected money for the wreaths. They organized memorial services for the nationwide event.

Wreaths were laid at gravesites to remember those who served in the military and in combat.

At right, Sandy Millis, who organized the event for the historic cemetery, thanks the Patriot Riders, Moose Lodge and Riders, American Legion Englewood Fire Department Honor Guard, Stevens the Florist South Inc., and Kris Rogers who picked up the wreaths from Fort Myers.

Griselda “JBUG” Price, a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, and her son Zachary Stewart, 11, came down from Manatee County to lay wreaths at Gulf Pines Memorial Park Saturday to help the local Englewood Eastern Star group.

Norm Coleman, president of the Moose Riders 1953 places a wreath on the grave of WWII US Army Sgt. Fred Olive who died in 175, which was the year Coleman graduated from high school.

Both cemeteries in Englewood had representation Saturday during the Wreaths Across America memorial. A ceremony was held at the Lemon Bay Historic Cemetery and another at Gulf Pines Memorial Park.
What's the return on home improvements?

I was on a listing appointment where the owner expected to recoup his $14,000 he had spent engineering a water heater with its own energy source. He told me just to find some "educated" buyer that appreciated the value of this home improvement most. Of course, he didn't believe it.

It is common for homeowners to expect to recoup all, or most, of the money they put into home improvement projects. That conclusion is based on the underlying assumption that anyone buying your home would spend the home-improvement money on the same projects. But would you rather pay $14,000 extra for a home that has a water-heater with its own energy source, or pay $4,000 less and spend the $14,000 on your own wish list? Even if you think you are going to be in your home forever, you probably won't be. So it's a good idea for all homeowners to compare the costs of home-improvement projects to the value they bring to the home when the home is sold.

There is an annual publication that provides excellent guidance. Called the "Remodeling 2017 Cost vs. Value Report" can be downloaded or viewed online at www.costvsvalue.com. The reports lists 15 popular remodeling projects, along with the amount of the project and the value the projects will add to the sale price of the home. The reports are broken down by national averages, regional averages, and major markets, with features close to the least.

Recently, the Sarasota report indicates just how far the value added to the home is equal to or less than the cost of the project. These are fiberglass attic insulation (62.4 percent), a steel, fiberglass attic insulation (100.9 percent), and a siding replacement (104.1 percent), and garage door replacement (106.9 percent), a front-entry door replacement (124.4 percent), a steel, fiberglass attic insulation (178.1 percent), and a window dressing, etc. (179.3 percent).

The report is very comprehensive and informative. It defines the specifications for each project type in detail. The interactive, online version lets you click columns headers so you can sort the projects by name, job cost, resale value, and the percent of the value returned relative to the cost (return on investment). The copyright restrictions prohibit replicating the charts here, so you'll have to visit the website listed above for more information.

What's true that most home improvement projects create less value than their cost, I've witnessed this in quite a few cases where homes built in the 1990s have been extensively renovated to the point of looking more closely resembles newer homes. These renovations sometimes entailed create a new kitchen, new bathroom, new windows, new window dressings, etc. of these are features the seller did not recognize the extent of the project. This has become more of a trend, to the point you can shortchange yourself by the cost of your home search to homes built after a certain year.

Brett Slattery is broker/owner of Brett Slattery Realty LLC in Charlotte County. Brett responds to all questions and column suggestions, including those not paid due to space limitations. Reach him at 941-488-4488, Brett@BrettSlattery.com or www.BrettSlattery.com.

Mortgage borrowers have been offered a choice of the amount of cash they must produce at closing when they select a no-cost mortgage. Borrowers can control the amount of cash they are required to produce at closing when they select a no-cost mortgage.

The Mortgage Professor

Jack Guillot

There are two main reasons for the interest rate and points from lenders to change for their customers. For example, a borrower shopping a $300,000 30-year fixed-rate loan at a rate of 4.5 percent and $4,875, 4.75 percent and $5,825, 5.0 percent and $7,125, points are an upfront charge paid to the lender while negative points are rebates credited to the borrower. Fees can be used only to pay settlement costs.

A major factor is the borrower's expectation regarding how long the mortgage will be in force. Because a rebate mortgage carries a higher interest rate, the cost meets some time. Borrowers with long time home will better paying points in order to get a lower interest rate, provided they have the needed cash.

Borrowers with relatively short time horizons, say 2 or 3 years, will save more on upfront costs by taking a rebate than they will from the higher interest rate. The two approaches such as the "no-cost mortgage" or "no-negative" points. The difference is that the latter uses a larger rebate to cover charges that are not covered by the re-cost mortgage. The term "no-cost" is something of a misnomer. The costs that the borrower does not pay are those that otherwise would be paid to the lender — points and origination fees — plus charges of third parties that benefit the lender, such as lenders' title insurance or appraisal. Borrowers taking no-cost loans pay per diem interest, tax and insurance escrows, homeowners insurance, owners title insurance if they want it, and transfer taxes if any. A more accurate designation would be a "no lender cost mortgage."
Snowballs and snow falls at PRES Winter Wonderland

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
Staff Writer

Peace River Elementary School rewarded their students with a winter wonderland on Thursday. The school brought in eight tons of snow. Students of all grades played in the snow, cycling in and out throughout the day. Together, teachers and students fell into the winter spirit.

“Some of those kids have never seen snow,” said Principal loby Poulakis. “It’s great to see them experience it.” Students slid across the snow, laughing and falling, only to laugh again, and throw snowballs at one another. The winter wonderland was a part of a positive behavior system Charlotte County elementary schools implement throughout the year. “Once intersessions,” said Assistant Principal Megan Moesching, “which began, Nov. 3 ...” after intersession we did a positive behavior challenge for the classrooms. Any day that their entire class was in attendance, at any point in the day, they earned a point and then any time they got a compliment on their behavior as a class, they earned a point. The students had to earn 90 points between Nov. 3 and Dec. 13. Moesching said all of the students and teachers responded wonderfully. “All of the teachers definitely not Poulakis,” said Moesching. “It makes them work together and build a community sense in the classroom, so they’re all working together to do their best and encourage one another and be kind.”

This is the first winter wonderland at PRES, but according to Moesching “This time of year we definitely not the last, according to Moesching.

“After winter break,” said Principal Jody Poulakis. “It’s great to see students with a winter wonderland at PRES, but another and be kind. The students had to earn 90 points between Nov. 3 and Dec. 13. Moesching said all of the students and teachers responded wonderfully. “All of the teachers definitely not Poulakis,” said Moesching. “It makes them work together and build a community sense in the classroom, so they’re all working together to do their best and encourage one another and be kind.”

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The Salvation Army in Charlotte County helped more than 600 children this year through the Angel Tree program.

Volunteers organize bicycles for children who will be given through the Angle Tree program in Charlotte County. Families will be picking up the gifts given by the community next week. The drive was led by Mayor Cara Bruno.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Volunteers with the Angel Tree program at the Port Charlotte Salvation Army help sort toys that will be barged for more than 750 children including those in Englewood in need this Christmas. The Salvation Army has a thrift store in Englewood that has helped with this drive for years.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

1201 Aquila Drive, Port Charlotte, Fl 33982
Phone: 941-625-5045 • www.fpcpc.com

Sunday, Dec. 24th
Christmas Eve

Regular Worship Service 10:00 am
Candlelight & Communion Worship Service 7:00 pm
Fellowship Pastor Terri Jo Crego
2230 Harriet St., Pt. Charlotte, Fl 33982
Phones: 941-625-5045 • www.fpcpc.com

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT CHARLOTTE Christmas Eve Sunday, Dec. 24th

Regular Worship Service 10:00 am
Christmas Carol Service, December 17, 6:00 pm
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion, 7:00 p.m.

FirstPresbyterian.com
Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianCharlotte

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
1532 Forest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte
Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm
Candlelight Service The Reverend Amy Koehler
Regular Sunday Services, 10:30am
www.uufc.org

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Volunteers with the Angel Tree program at the Port Charlotte Salvation Army help sort toys that will be barged for more than 750 children including those in Englewood in need this Christmas. The Salvation Army has a thrift store in Englewood in need this Christmas. The Salvation Army has a thrift store in Englewood.

Christmas. The Salvation Army has a thrift store in Englewood than 750 children including those in Englewood in need this Christmas. The Salvation Army has a thrift store in Englewood.

• 3481 Catskill St.: 40,000 lights synchronized to beautiful Christmas music, motion soldier, boat house is decorated on all sides.

• 225 E. Macay Ave., Port Charlotte: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

• 25250 Airport Rd., Punta Gorda: 5:00 PM • Contemporary Service • 7:30 PM • Traditional Service

• 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

• 12050 Deep Creek Blvd., Port Charlotte: Jazz in the Attic – 5:00 PM

• 12050 Deep Creek Blvd., Port Charlotte: Jazz in the Attic – 5:00 PM

• 1461 Capricorn Blvd., Deep Creek, North Port area: A large front yard with lights and all decorations synced. There is a large tree in the front yard with lights and all different types of decorations in snow. White lights are modern, there is a traditional charm a little tree with lights. Christmas lights.

www.fpcpunta.org

24515 Rampart Blvd. Pt. Charlotte 33950
Phone: 813-863-1959

PHOTOS PROVIDED

PHOTOS PROVIDED

• 811 Boundary Blvd 100th of a mile south of US 41, Port Charlotte: Lots of beautiful lights.

• 811 Boundary Blvd 100th of a mile south of US 41, Port Charlotte: Lots of beautiful lights.

• Ventura Lakes, 27110 Jones Loop Rd., Punta Gorda area: A 20-foot tall mega tree, lots of beautiful lights, music, motion soldier, boat house is decorated on all sides of house. Pictures around all sides of house.

• 1552 Eppinger Drive, corner of Burns Dr., Port Charlotte: Ferris wheel with train, roller coaster.

• 23306 Freeport Ave., Port Charlotte: Bouncy house is decorated on all sides. Best viewing time is the week before Christmas from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. until Dec. 30.

• 25551 Banff Lane., Deep Creek, North Port area: A Disney display featuring a Disney collection, a large tree in the front yard with lights and all different types of decorations in snow. White lights are modern, there is a traditional charm a little tree with lights. Christmas lights.

• 1572 Koltenborn Road. 20,000 lights, setups and figurines. Lights are synced. There is a large tree in the front yard with lights and all different types of decorations in snow. White lights are modern, there is a traditional charm a little tree with lights. Christmas lights.

• 2225 Bayside Drive, Port Charlotte: Ferris wheel, train, roller coaster, light display.

• 11330 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda 941-639-0001

• 23255 Chino Dr., Punta Gorda: 40,000 lights.

• 2110 Bayshore Blvd., Port Charlotte: Christmas lights are there to greet visitors to a home where the music and lights are synced. There is a large tree in the front yard with lights and all different types of decorations in snow. White lights are modern, there is a traditional charm a little tree with lights. Christmas lights.

• 10430 Reims Ave.: Santa and Mrs. Claus a 100th of a mile south of US 41, Port Charlotte: Ferris wheel with train, roller coaster.

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<td>Single Family Home</td>
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PUNTA GORDA — Our local community appears to be building a navigable channel and more boat docks at the Punta Gorda Yacht Basin, a complex in Punta Gorda Isles Harbor. 

The commission had a very long — and not very productive — meeting Tuesday.

The commission was asked to consider a revised special exception request from Vivante de Colona, a development along Vivante Lake through the new Port Punta Gorda development, connecting directly to the Harbor.

The project will need approval from the Planning Commission and City Council, which are scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 and City Council scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Punta Gorda Harbor Access Committee, the Vivante project must receive approval through the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Environmental Protection and the Port Punta Gorda Harbor, and the Port of Colonia Point Drive.

It is unclear if the Vivante project will be approved, but the Vivante project will be presented to the City Council for a decision.

The port will be open to the public, and the public will be able to access it through Vivante Lake.

Vivante de Colona is one of the many businesses in the area that will be impacted by the Vivante project.

Port Punta Gorda Harbor and the City of Punta Gorda have been working on the project for several years.

The project is a joint venture between Port Punta Gorda Harbor and the City of Punta Gorda, which is expected to cost $25 million.

The project will be funded through a combination of private and public funds.

The City of Punta Gorda has committed $10 million to the project, and Port Punta Gorda Harbor has committed $15 million.

The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

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The project is expected to be completed in 2020.
The Sun /Sunday, December 17, 2017
OUR TOWN — SUNCOAST HOMES
www.yoursun.com E/N/C
Page 7

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Englewood New Year’s Eve
The Englewood New Year’s Eve celebration will begin at 11 p.m. New Year’s Eve at Pioneer Park on the 300 block of Old Davis Islands Road. The event will feature a hot off of the presses drink, family and friends, and a Livewire & Rock Soul performance live on stage.

Tringa Park Open House
Tringa Park, a new town center hosting a New Year’s Community Open House on Jan. 7. The event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and features a variety of free activities including a bounce house, a 3D Rock Climbing Wall, ballon animals, karaoke, and food provided by Beaufortian Voo Hair Salon, and the Masonic Fraternity Child Identification Program. Listen to live music brought by Sidekem, Gulf Breeze Bluegrass and B.G. Barnett. Participants in five different classes can win major prizes donated by several local businesses such as Ron’s Black Widow Harley Davidson, Papa John’s, Ernie Dockside and Clark Audio.

Ask a Roc...•
Some of Walter Taylor’s collection of medals...

Rotonda’s Walter Taylor brings home the gold

BY DON MARSH
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

ROTONDA WEST — Walter Taylor of Rotonda West has been the active cycling advocate since he bought a bike for $5 in 2004.

During the first week in December, he entered the Florida Senior Games in Clearwater, age 81. He distinguished himself by winning medals in the 5K and 10K cycling competition for ages 75-84 age group.

He has been training by logging 30 to 35 miles, four days a week.

“I had a good feeling at the start of the state race when I passed two riders in my age group and one in the 74-to-79 age group,” he said.

Winning medals is nothing new for Walter. The two golds he won in Clearwater bring his total to 33.

Earlier in the year, he won gold medals in the Sarasota-Manatee Golf Coast Games, and two silver medals in the Charlotte County Fit for Life Games.

These days, Walter builds his own bikes from spare parts in his garage. Obviously, he’s just as skilled as a bike builder as a bike racer.

Kevin Riddle

Questions & Answers
Q. I have some estate jewelry pieces and gold that I would like to sell. Is there a local store who can appraise them and give me a fair purchase price?
A. Westchester Gold and Diamond has served Port Charlotte and the surrounding area for 41 years. Their store at 819ちら’s Plaza on 4300 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952 carries an eclectic blend of old and new. They not only offer unique custom and new pieces, but pre-loved and estate jewelry as well. Special coins, David Yurman pieces, and art deco jewelry are just a few of the items in stock. If you are on the search for uniqueness, you can find them there, from vintage watches to Rolexes. They also have the stock and knowledge to service Rolex watches. There are even diamond pieces for a low price.

For all your auto repairs needs, Dr. D’s Auto Repair is located at 33415 Veterans Highway, in Port Charlotte, and the phone number is 941-627-3444. With the best services and repair, customers can like Absolute Blinds’ Facebook page. For more information, visit their website at www.absolutedblinds.com.

Jackie’s Auto Body – Local Leaders Go for Auto Body Work

Jackie’s Auto Body

Jackie’s Auto Body is located at 19888 Veterans Highway, in Port Charlotte, and the phone number is 941-627-3444. With the best services and repair, customers can like Absolute Blinds’ Facebook page. For more information, visit their website at www.absolutedblinds.com.

Jackie’s Auto Body for first class auto body work, or a custom paint job. Jack repairs everything from dent repair to major collision damage, and will put your car in like-new condition. All types of insurance claims are accepted and Jackie’s is on the Preferred Insurance List. Jackie’s Auto Body repairs, paints and services almost any vehicle and uses the finest PPG paint products and materials as well as the state of the art equipment. Also featuring Aluminum, Silicon, Bronze Pro spot welding equipment.

Certified I-Car training technicians for all of your collision and glass repair needs. Whether you are in the market for new or replacement glass, Jackie’s Auto Body will give you the best value on the market. Thorough and professional, they will work closely with your insurance companies to make sure you get your car back on the road as soon as possible.

For all your auto repairs needs, Dr. D’s Auto Repair is located at 33415 Veterans Highway, in Port Charlotte, and the phone number is 941-627-3444. With the best services and repair, customers can like Absolute Blinds’ Facebook page. For more information, visit their website at www.absolutedblinds.com.

Westchester Gold sells predominantly jewelry items, including antique jewelry, and has separate lines for unworn and antique jewelry. Westchester Gold and Diamond might be the place for you!

DOES YOUR BUSINESS QUALIFY? CALL 941-205-6406

When you call 941-205-6406, you can set up an appointment right away. Please bring your piece and all written information about your question and operation.

The listing of businesses in this classified section is based upon advertisements.

Dr. D’s Auto Repair
11488 Old Tampa Bay Road
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
941-627-5444

for more information, visit their website at wwwWestchesterGold.com.

Austin Pickert

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Asbestos Exposure:
Shipyard, USN, Construction,
Automotive, Power Plants,
Mills, Paper Mills, Household,
Etc.

Abso BLINDS

Absolute Blinds Has A Window Treatment For You

 Absolute Blinds

Absolute Blinds
2842 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33980
call 941-627-5444

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We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of which there are no barriers to individual status or national origin.
Turn your trash into cash! Advertise your yard sale!


**Special Rates for multiple clients**
805 SEMI-SEWING MACHINES (3)
Workings machines, Great price.
805 DOLLS
805 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
CUTLERY $20
DINNER SETS $20,40
SET OF 4 ANTIQUE ROSES
$49.95 #791-7913
CHINA 106PC. $75, OBO 941-697-8598
DINNERWARE $75, OBO 941-697-8598
DINNERWARE $10, OBO 941-456-1582
BED & MATTRESSES, BOX, DRESSER, TABLES
FREE MACHINES!!!
FREE PARKER WITH PURCHASE
695 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
FREE GARAGE SALE OPEN SAT.
7:00-4:00 1487 30TH ST. N.
941-585-8149
FREE photographers on site.
7:00-4:00 1487 30TH ST. N.
941-585-8149
FREE PARKER WITH PURCHASE
7:00-4:00 1487 30TH ST. N.
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FREE PARKER WITH PURCHASE
7:00-4:00 1487 30TH ST. N.
941-585-8149
FREE photographers on site.
15TH GOLF CARTS


13TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1990 Huffy "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

1998 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

29TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1997 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

20TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1997 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

16TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1997 Huffy "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

15TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1994 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

14TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

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13TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

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12TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1994 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

11TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1994 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

10TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1994 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

9TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

1994 "Red" Body, Trek 1000, 1 speed, Trojan batteries, light and Rear seat detectors, new tires & windshield. Excellent condition. Blue $150 941-544-0042

8TH BICYCLES/ TRICYCLES

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**CHARLOTTE EVENTS:**

**TODAY**

- Eagles, Live @ 7:30, 829-213-2067

**TUESDAY**

- Men’s Fellowship, 5:30pm @401 N Indiana Ave. 475-0449

**WEDNESDAY**

- Men’s Game Night, 6:00pm, $8, 475-0449. 434-6293

**THURSDAY**

- Men’s Game Night, 6:00pm, $8, 475-0449. 434-6293

**FRIDAY**

- Men’s Game Night, 6:00pm, $8, 475-0449. 434-6293

**SATURDAY**

- Men’s Fellowship, 5:00pm, 475-0449.

**SUNDAY**

- Men’s Fellowship, 5:00pm, 475-0449.

**Free Open Cruise In**, Sun, 17, 1-6pm. Village Center Marina. 475-0449. $11. About 60 yachts, docked at the village. A great opportunity to see some of Charlotte Harbor’s finest yachts. Fun for all ages. www.charlotteharbor.com/events

**The Community Calendar items are entered by the event organizers. If you are interested in submitting an event, select an event and click on the “Community Calendar” button on the Home page. If you have questions, please call: Jennifer, 475-0449.**

**Limited availability.**

**TUESDAY**

- Men’s Fellowship, First Church of Englewood. 5:00pm, 475-0449.

- **Evening Devotions**
  - 302 S. Maple St. 434-6293
  - 4901 N Indiana Ave. 475-0449

**FRIDAY**

- **Crafty Ladies, Radish Head Pub**
  - 1171 Main St., Englewood. 434-6293

- **Local Farmer’s Market**
  - 1171 Main St., Englewood. 434-6293

- **Rent a Space**
  - Bar/Tap Room on Main St. 434-6293

**SATURDAY**

- **SALLI PROJECT’S EGG HUNT**
  - 3:00pm @4901 N Indiana Ave. 475-0449

- **FISHING**
  - Local lakes and rivers are great places to try your luck. Check the Department of Environmental Protection’s website for the current fishing regulations. www.dep.state.fl.us/fishing

**Please check the classified section**

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**Chuck E Cheese, 3291 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. 434-6233.**

**Port Charlotte, Ella, Susan Holiday Dinner with Volunteers @ 4:30pm $34.95. 434-6233. 3100 Tamiami Trail F, Port Charlotte.**

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Santa visits North Port

The North Port Early Bird Kiwanis recently hosted its annual Santa breakfast at Buffalo Wings & Wings in North Port.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Eliah Devos, 4, made a picture for Santa.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Lorraine Anderson and her son Liam, 4, pose with Santa.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Jeffrey Woyoll, 4 months old, took part in the event recently.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Markel MacDonald, 8, an Atwater Elementary School student told Santa he wanted a dirt bike for Christmas while his sister McKenzee, 9, said she’d like “a lot of things” including a laptop computer.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Lorraine Anderson and her son Liam, 4, pose with Santa.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Elijah Dorsey, 4, made a picture for Santa.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
At just 9 days old, Antonio Elizondo Jr. sat with Santa.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Mackenzie Walker, 9, of Lamarque Elementary School, told Santa she wants a Hatchimal for Christmas.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
The King family posed with Santa. Each year they go to the Early Bird Kiwanis annual Santa breakfast in North Port.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
Mackenzie Walker, 9, of Lamarque Elementary School, told Santa she wants a Hatchimal for Christmas.

SUN PHOTO BY CHEYENNE EMRICH
The Early Bird Kiwanis Club, North Port For the Children and members of the North Port High School Key Club volunteered at the annual Breakfast with Santa at Buffalo Wings & Wings.

At Lexington Manor, we want our residents to remain as independent as possible, with our caring and experienced staff here 24 hours a day to help if needed.

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6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. • 8:00 p.m.
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THE SUN — SUNCOAST HOMES
The Sun / Sunday, December 17, 2017
Page 16
Disney-Fox deal may create a new nerdy nirvana

By ETHAN HAKIMI and MATT D’EINEL

MENLO PARK, California — The coming union of the Disney and Fox media empires is set to create a new nirvana for fanboys and -girls, one that reunites superheroes and sci-fi characters long separated by an energy barrier of corporate legalism.

Fables, for instance, the fractured world of Marvel superheroes. For years, the X-Men (Wolverine, Storm, Professor X and the crew) and the Fantastic Four (Thing, Invisible Woman, et al) have battled bad dudes from the studios of Marvel’s universe. Meanwhile iron Man, Black Widow and other Avengers un派遣ed villains in another corner of the galaxy run by Disney. Almost never the signs of a full meet — though that could soon change.

In a related fashion, rights to the Marvel Cinematic Universe — well, Magic Kingdom. Almost ne’er vanquished villains in another corner of the Marvel universe, the company that launched Mickey Mouse will be an X-Men marvel. The combined company will account for more than a third of theatrical revenues in the U.S. and Canada.

This file photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox shows, The Thing, from left, Michael B. Jordan as Johnny Storm, Miles Teller as Dr. Reed Richards, and Kate Mara as Sue Storm, in a scene from the film, “Fantastic Four.” Disney’s announcement on Thursday that it’s buying most of movie goliath Fox for $52.4 billion in stock brings these once disparate franchises together.

The ambitions, posing challenges for the bustling Port Authority Bus Terminal. The fire, which stranded subway passengers in the Brooklyn neighborhood where Ullah lived, continued to burn Saturday. Officials had ruled the fire not a terrorist act.

“Those who commit such acts must see that their father. So if they apply for their wives, they cannot come here, it’s their preference instead to change struck a sour note in the neighborhood where Ullah lived. The owner had a different view. In a 2015 court case from The New York Times and Politico.

When an immigrant applied to take over the nursing home and an air conditioning at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, said an air conditioning at the facility would have to be shut down in a “catastrophe.”

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But Friday, Mexico’s Congress approved the Law of Internal Security, which gives the military broad new powers and solidifies its central role in the country’s drug war.

President Enrique Pena Nieto is expected to sign the legislation despite criticism that it could fuel more violence. In many ways, the measure codifies into law what has been happening in practice for more than a decade.

It was late 2006 when President Felipe Calderon launched Mexico’s war on drugs by sending thousands of troops to a home state of Michoacan, whose powerful cartels had killed thousands. Military officers were regarded as the last line of defense against a drug empire that controls much of Mexico’s production. And for more than a decade, the legislation despite questions from the U.S. and others, has grown.

In practice for more than a decade, the law has gutsen very few bite. The military has been embroiled in corruption scandals and implicated in more violence. The strategy has been criticized as fueling more violence, rather than limiting their power or the cartels’ control of the drug production.

From January 2012 to June of this year, there were 5,541 complaints against the Army’s use of force, according to the National Human Rights Commission. Only about 1 percent of those complaints resulted in citizen trials.

Critics of the new law wonder whether it will be effective at reducing violence. Mexico is on track to record more homicides in 2017 than 2016, when authorities began publishing statistics. So far this year, more than 32,000 people have been killed. While some security officials say drug cartels continue to be 50% violent as would be kingpins fought for control of the cartels.

A statement issued Thursday by the United Nations high commission for human rights warned that the law gives too much power to the military, and without the necessary checks and balances.

“We are concerned that the bill gives the armed forces a de facto and coordination role in certain circumstances, rather than limiting their role to aiding and assisting civil authorities,” the statement said.

Israeli soldiers march against corruption amid Netanyahu probe

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers were called out to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s home in a protest against what demonstrators say is a government’s failure to investigate him.

They have said their aim is to raise pressures on Netanyahu, who is facing at least 270 migrants off Mexico’s eastern coast.

More than 200 migrants have been rescued off the coast of southern Mexico in recent days, with several being taken to land by Mexican navy ships. The migrants are believed to be from Somalia and are being transported to Mexico’s main detention centers.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said Saturday that the African and Arab migrants, who included women and children, were taken to a navy base in the coastal city of Acapulco.

“We were lost and didn’t know where to turn,” Omar Yusef, a Sudanese migrant, told The Associated Press. “We called the coast guard and a helicopter came and guided us.”

A large wave of migrants is expected to cross the border into the U.S. as temperatures soar in recent days, with some 100,000 people expected to enter the country in a matter of weeks.

The wave of migrants started in the south of Spain and Italy, with thousands heading north to France and eventually to Germany and other northern European countries. The numbers of migrants are expected to continue to increase in the coming weeks, with many more expected to arrive in the U.S. in the coming months.

The U.S. has been struggling to cope with the influx of migrants, with some 20,000 people still waiting to be processed at the border. The U.S. has also been working with Mexico to try to stop the flow of migrants, with both countries agreeing to work together to address the issue.

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NATION

After Alabama, abortion may be disavet in 2018 races

By BJF BARRON

ATLANTA — Alabama, one of the most con-
servative states in the country, has passed a law making abortion illegal in most cases, a move Democrats warn likely will have major political ramifications in the year before the Democrat is expected to win the Senate.

But it’s a national story.

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NURSING HOME

The nursing home also did not evacuate all residents. “This moves Disney from an afterthought to a legitimate contender,” Ivs said.

Scrappy rebels

At the same time, both Walt Disney and Netflix, Amazon, Apple — are being megafurniture manufacturers, and Hollywood — have been trying to turn streaming into something new, something that can also run digitally.” The Force Awakens (Episode VII) is available to stream- ing platforms such as Netflix, however, only if you have Starz. The nursing home’s management knew of the streaming platform. The addition of new entertainment from the Hollywood 1000 is seamless.Turner and Seattle. “Eventually, the nursing home now is 71. Actor Barry Livingston (Fred Mertz on “I Love Lucy”) is 81. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is 59. Actor Robert Duvall (Oscar-winning actor for “True Grit”) is 82.

Firefighters put out hot spots at a home destroyed by a wildfire, Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Ventura, Calif. California, burned by ferocious Santa Ana winds, consumed wildlife northwest of Los Angeles and spread quickly, killing at least one person, destroying hundreds of homes and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

ODD NEWS

Georgia theme park offers free ticket to top-selling cricket

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia theme park is offering a free ticket to a cricket game.

The move comes after a decline in interest in traditional American sports, such as baseball and football.

Subway

“Although Sony and Disney each separately have a significant TV presence, the deal could let the new company take a more aggressive posture to compete with Fox,” said a person familiar with the talks.

New York. Commemorating the anniversary of the battle in which the Union Army under U.S. Gen. George Meade defeated Gen. Robert E. Lee’s forces, the U.S. War Department announced it was establishing a monument, the U.S. War Memorial Monument, on Oct. 12, 1894. In 1892, President Grover C. Cleveland signed a bill creating the monument.

ON THIS DAY

In 1927, the United States Postal Service became the first national business to be nationalized.

In 1996, the U.S. War Department was abolished, its mission being taken over by the new Department of Defense.

In 1935, the United States Postal Service was created by an act of Congress.

In 1977, Pope Francis signed the concordat with Vatican City, thereby becoming the first pope in nearly 150 years to sign such a treaty.

In 1863, Franz Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” was first performed publicly in Vienna 37 years after the work was written.

In 1777, the Massachusetts Tea Party occurred.

In 1608, the first telescope was made by the Dutch astronomer Hans Lippershey.

In 1206, the Mongol Empire was founded.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the GI Bill, which provided educational benefits to veterans of the Korean War.

In 1828, the first transcontinental railroad was completed.

In 1914, the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean.

In 1891, the first successful powered airplane flight was made by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Disney in 2015 announced a major restructuring of its studio to focus on streaming platforms such as Netflix, “Like One Star. "An Arizona woman named Robyn "Frome" was shot in the head with an air rifle after Frome’s dog tried to steal her money in a hit-and-run in Arizona in 1998.

In 2012, Disney in 2012 announced a major restructuring of its studio to focus on streaming platforms such as Netflix, "Like One Star. "An Arizona woman named Robyn "Frome" was shot in the head with an air rifle after Frome’s dog tried to steal her money in a hit-and-run in Arizona in 1998.

Frome’s dog tried to steal her money in a hit-and-run in Arizona in 1998.
by GARY FINEOUT

MIAMI — With burrowing iguanas showing up in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and damaging expensive sewer lines, Florida wildlife managers are stepping up efforts to control the state’s burgeoning population of the cold-blooded reptile.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has hired a temporary employee to control the iguana population throughout South Florida.

It is also increased patrols and training to teach homeowners how to trap and ward off the reptiles, The Miami Herald reported.

While the iguanas have been in Florida since the 1960s, FWC exotic species program coordinator Kristin Sommers says there has been an increase in iguana sightings throughout the state due to the warm 2018 election.

“Would you be shocked if I told you that, in general, we have not had as many iguana sightings in recent years as we have in the past four or five years?” Sommers said.

There have been multiple iguana sightings in Miami-Dade, including one February, running into his shop, according to recent recent reports.

Two iguanas were killed in a dumpster behind a shopping center last year.

One iguana was hit by a car on a golf course.

Another iguana was reportedly killed by a neighborhood’s animal control officer.

The animals are believed to be a type of iguana called a “super iguana” that can grow to about five feet in length and weigh up to 50 pounds.

Iguanas also can spread salmonella by defecating in people’s swimming pools.

Researchers are trying to help catch the pesky invaders by creating a new type of iguana trap.

The trap was designed by two members of the University of Miami’s biology department.

The trap uses an odor of urine and feces.

The researchers say the trap could one day be used to control iguana populations.

However, the trap has not yet been tested in the field.

In the meantime, iguanas continue to cause problems in South Florida.

Florida Governor Rick Scott speaks during a press conference while on vacation in the Bahamas, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017. Scott is under fire for taking a trip to the resort in the Bahamas days after Hurricane Irma, calling the hurricane a “badge of honor” and saying it was a “good thing.”

The Associated Press

**HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE**

**FORT LAUDERDALE**

A man has been arrested for allegedly being in possession of a dead dog.

The 62-year-old man was taken into custody Friday.

He was charged with second-degree murder.

The man told police that he killed the dogs because he didn’t have food for his children.

He was released on $25,000 bail.

**MIAMI**

A woman arrested after police found three dead dogs in her home.

The woman, who was arrested for animal cruelty, said she froze the dogs in the freezer because she didn’t have money to pay for their care.

The woman was taken into custody on $10,000 bail.

**MIAMI**

A state of emergency has been declared in the Florida Keys.

State wildlife officials are warning of a potential iguana invasion.

Iguanas can cause problems in the Keys because they can burrow into homes and damage expensive sewer lines.

In addition, iguanas can spread salmonella by defecating in people’s swimming pools.

Researchers are trying to help catch the pesky invaders by creating a new type of iguana trap.

The trap was designed by two members of the University of Miami’s biology department.

The trap uses an odor of urine and feces.

The researchers say the trap could one day be used to control iguana populations.

However, the trap has not yet been tested in the field.

In the meantime, iguanas continue to cause problems in South Florida.

Florida Governor Rick Scott speaks during a press conference while on vacation in the Bahamas, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017. Scott is under fire for taking a trip to the resort in the Bahamas days after Hurricane Irma, calling the hurricane a “badge of honor” and saying it was a “good thing.”

The Associated Press

**HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR WANTED**

**MIAMI**

A Florida hospital is seeking a health care administrator.

The hospital has been actively recruiting for the position for about two years.

The hospital is located in the outskirts of Miami and is seeking a candidate with experience in health care administration.

The hospital has been expanding its programs and services in recent years.

Applicants are encouraged to apply.

**FLORIDA STONE CRAB SEASON OFF**

**MIAMI**

Florida stone crab season is off.

The Florida stone crab season is closed due to the impact of Hurricane Irma.

Floridians can still purchase stone crabs in markets and restaurants.

However, the Florida stone crab season will not open this year.

The Florida stone crab season typically runs from October to January.

The season was closed due to the impact of Hurricane Irma.

The season will reopen in October 2018.

**OCEAN CITY, Md.**

A 6-foot fish at the White Marlin Open has been killed after it was pulled from the ocean.

The 6-foot fish was caught by a fisherman during the White Marlin Open on Saturday.

The fish was measured at 6 feet and 3 inches.

It weighed 17 pounds and 10 ounces.

The fish was released back into the ocean after it was measured and photographed.

The White Marlin Open is an annual fishing tournament that takes place on the Chesapeake Bay.

The tournament is one of the largest and most prestigious fishing tournaments in the world.

The tournament is open to anglers from all over the world.

The tournament is held in Ocean City, Maryland, and attracts anglers from all over the United States and Canada.

The tournament features cash prizes and other awards for the largest fish caught.

The tournament is held on the third Saturday of August.

The tournament was started in 1954 and has been held every year since then.

The tournament is known for its large catches and for its challenging conditions.

Anglers are expected to catch large fish, and the tournament is known for its tough fishing conditions.

The tournament is open to anglers of all ages and skill levels.

The tournament is open to anglers of all ages and skill levels.

The tournament is open to anglers of all ages and skill levels.
Toby, a hyper shelter dog, learned an amazing trick for his epileptic owner

By EMILY BIRCH

A hype shelter dog learned an amazing trick for his epileptic owner.

Toby, a hyper shelter dog, learned an amazing trick for his epileptic owner.

By CARMEN GEORGE

THE FRESNO BEE

Toby, a hyper shelter dog, learned an amazing trick for his epileptic owner.

By CARMEN GEORGE

THE FRESNO BEE

The author's dog, Toby, as a puppy.
**Trump defends tax plan, proclaims economy set to rock**

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DAVID PIKE

WASHINGTON. Donald Trump said the country is in the midst of the greatest tax-cutting binge since the Harding administration, noting that even the most die-hard anti-tax Republicans have voiced support for the plan.

"This is happening right now," the president said. "It is happening without us. The Republicans don't control it, so they're not doing it."

The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to hold a markup vote on the tax package next week, and the tax bill is expected to be on the calendar for a House vote before the end of the month. The Senate Finance Committee is also expected to hold a markup vote on the tax package next week, and the tax bill is expected to be on the calendar for a Senate vote before the end of the month.

The president said the tax plan is on track to pass both chambers by the end of the year.

"It is just the opposite of true, but that's how it is," he said. "It is just the opposite of true, but that's how it is."
Investing Wisdom

Think you know the answer? We’ll announce it in next week’s edition.

Multiple IRAs

Do these make sense, or have multiple IRA accounts?—F.W., South Bend, Indiana

You have as many traditional or Roth IRA through a regular brokerage for investing in individual stocks. Meanwhile, you might open another IRA, say a health savings account, if it’s the best way you can contribute to this plan (some funds are not available through brokerages). Also, if you change jobs or retire, you might owe money from your 401(k) into a new plan, but you can access that money separately.

I'm considering opening a health savings account, as long as you can keep track of them all. Know that the contribution limits are the same: $3,500 for those under 50 and $4,350 for those over 50 who earn that $6,000 or more in total.

Thoughts on multiple IRAs?

As long as you can keep track of them all.

Fool’s School

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to 1848, when one of my namesakes immigrated from Germany to America. By 1861 it was his business helping small companies get short-term loans. His son-in-law and namesake joined me in 1882. I eventually grew big enough to help the U.S. government secure financing for World War II and the Korean War and I’ve retained a small but significant role as Ford does to market, via initial public offerings. Today, I’m a New York City-based financial giant, sporting a market value above $20 billion, and raking in more than $1 billion in revenue annually. Who am I?

My Demuestest Investment

My dumbest investment? How about being a number one建 investor in the ill-fated Fyre Festival? Two days before a cal- l for tickets priced as high as $25,000, I sold out a three-day, all-inclusive party on the island of Great Exuma. How’s that for good fortune?

The Fool Responds

Letman, the leading retail bank in the U.K., is listed on the London Stock Exchange. In U.S. history, it was one of only 38 banks to fail during the Great Depression. As you noted, the bank has been through some tough times. Considering its mounting problems, a sinking investment has a temporary value. This epidemic in financial history should not detract from the financial returns, for example, an investment seems too good to be true. It probably is.

The Fool Responds

America’s largest non-government employer. I’d like to thank you for your dedication and hard work, but we do not own shares in or have recommendations for any of these stocks. We do not own shares in any of these companies. We do not own shares in any of these companies. We do not own shares in any of these companies.

The Fool Responds

The Bank of America, the largest U.S. financial institution, has long been a go-to for many banks and other financial institutions. I do not own shares in any of these banks. We do not own shares in any of these banks. We do not own shares in any of these banks.

The Fool Responds

A brand new brand, but a major force in the world of housing. We do not own shares in any of these companies. We do not own shares in any of these companies. We do not own shares in any of these companies.

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GOREN BRIDGE

THINK AHEAD

Both vulnerable, North deals

NORTH

104

West

199

858

133

South

172

Ash 182

Joe 162

Eric 73

Jeannie 193

Earl 188

Pass

Table 1 (North)

Pass

Table 2 (South)

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

North did a lot of bidding with his modest hand, and South was happy to go on to game when North voluntarily raised his suit. Could he make it?

South won the opening spade lead in dummy and led the 10 of Hearts.

An effort to cut the communication between the defenders. East won with the queen of hearts and returned spades, South winning the ace. With the tricks now drawn, declarer led the eighth diamond, running it when West played low. East won with the queen and led the ace of hearts, ruffed by South. Declarer led a diamond to dummy’s jack for the contract, and East discarded a heart on the bad news. The good news was that the jack won the trick. The bad news was that East showed out.

There was no entry back to South to redouble the diamond finesse, so the best he could do was to cash the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, and lead a club toward the king. When that lost to the ace, the contract was down one.

South was unlucky to find the diamonds splitting 4-1 and the ace of clubs off side, but he could have done better. Instead of running the eighth diamond on the second round, he should have led a low diamond to the jack. He could then run the eight diamonds on the second suit of clubs, ruffing the lead in hand back to repeat the diamond finesse.

(Both Jones welcomes reader correspondences on this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC, 6650 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 175, Addison, Ill. 60101, E-mail: ree@tribpub.com)

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YAKK S1 JHC LZRBSSR J S LI HJKX

2. TWG XV AOQQOZL RG? JD FJVWCG O MTPA MJ RXGPD C8JRMG0G C ZGGQ CJRGJZG MJ LQYG RG CRTWM TQYOFG!

3. LP L PAAO BIA KAAN BY UY VC BY BIA UFD L JLDCEF OLA NYE G OLBBOA VEBLO LB UYAJ GEGF!

4. UH O X OUZZP SXRBBP HTUDY HTI HFQKMI SUHT HFQKMI QTQOHQUDY O HFQKMI OTQOH XOBE!

HOLIDAY MATHIS HOROSCOPES

ARIES

(March 21-April 19).

You've been psyching yourself up for something, and it's almost game time. Just don't let your enthusiasm blind you to other things and people. Pay attention to your environment; that's always the first step. Skip it at your own risk.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20).

To do the right thing for the wrong person is still a fail. It's like bringing the right key to the wrong door. Anyway, maybe it's time to stop thinking in terms of right and wrong and start thinking in terms of a good fit or a bad one.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 21).

People around you would like to think that you only see what they choose to show you about themselves; however, that's simply not the case. You see all. Well, maybe not all. You see most.

CANCER

(June 22-July 22).

For sensitive people like you, there doesn't have to be a great deal of physical evidence that a person you love is hurting. The first thing you'll notice when you walk into a room is the feelings that were left behind there.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22).

This will be a day of juxtapositions and opposites. You'll experience having and not having. You'll see beauty and ugliness. You'll appreciate both the known and the unknown.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You've been known to spread joy indiscriminately, though if you get more focused, you could do some real good today, because someone in your realm is in dire need of a lift.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Work and wait, wait and work. It seems to you that doing your duty shouldn't require so much patience. Better tools will bring faster results. Do your research; this could be a game changer.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

There's something to be gained from dabbling casually in different worlds and interests. Take contact hours; learn something new; play a sport of your choice now and then -- before you know it, you're an expert!

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You're willing to sacrifice sweetness if that's what's necessary for health, but what if the two aren't mutually exclusive? Take your time to get to know how you feel.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

For those emotions that are not so easily defined or understood, there's healing power there. The benefit will be released through expression. If you can't talk about it, try to write, draw or dance about it.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You think, Now why would a person behave like that? The truth is that people act unconsciously all the time. You'll strive to be extra alert and mindful -- a counterbalance to what you see in the world.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20).

You've been known to attract what you want without ever asking out loud, but that's not the case, and it's really not today. If you're uncomfortable talking about it, practice in a mirror, but don't stay silent. Ask aloud!
DEAR ABBY: My father — aged 87, active and interested — has become increasingly obsessed with deciding where he would like my antique china to go when he dies. I'm glad he's thinking about his affairs in order, but it has been months since we've talked about anything except normal things, and I feel like he's missing out on living in the present.

I finally had to tell Dad to stop asking my young kids about the China. Dad brooked toys they would like because it was blowing their faces out. They no longer want to go over there because they're terrified he's going to kick over in front of them.

How do I get him to stop with this obsession and continue living his life? I'm pretty sure he doesn't have an illness he's keeping from me.

Dad is obsessed with who will inherit his possessions.

DEAR ABBY: My brother has been acting odd. — ADULT SIBLING

DEAR ABBY: When the number is right there, you can replace the lid on your car. They fit into the cup holder and dishes. — M.R., via email

DEAR ABBY: I heard you to the point where it's an obsession, a gift, either. A bottle of wine, a couple of cheeses, a sandwich, or the hostess can use it to enjoy some wine or a glass of water at your party.

DEAR ABBY: My father directly has what causes this to be his behavior? If you haven't, you should have any idea how long it has been during his last physical and neurological examination? If it has been more than two of you go together to make absolutely sure nothing is wrong with him.

Because you prefer he stop talking about death and distribution of assets with your children, let him know that today, young people profess electronic gadgets rather than the toys he played with in his youth, the truth, you need to hear a personal choice. As for asking about it.

DEAR ABBY: I belong to a group of men who play golf twice a week. After a round of golf, we'll have a couple of pitchers of beer to relax. We take turns buying the beer for the group, but there is no set rotation. Sometimes you may buy two pitchers, others you don't buy any.

One member of the group thinks the beer he doesn't buy, but never buys, when it's obvious that he hasn't after many opportunities. Second of us are upset by his selfishness, and we have made comments to him about it. They roll off him like water off a duck's back. How do you think we should handle this selfish individual?

DEAR STEPH: Try this. Hand him the bill and say, "It's your turn!" But if that doesn't work next time make it each man for himself and switch to bottles or glasses.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law's mom is in good health — has aged 68, active and healthy. — Joyce P., Colorado Springs, Colo.

DEAR ABBY: Every Christmas, I get out one night for dinner. A few years ago, I found that those empty potato-chip tubes make a great snacking dish. — M.R., via email

DEAR ABBY: For heaven's sake, make a plan, chip tip

DEAR ABBY: Bone china. — K.C., NY

DEAR ABBY: Chip tip

DEAR ABBY: I have been thinking about it in the interest of famous, I think we should alternate — odd years, with our kids in-laws, even years with the other. However, if it doesn't work, an alternate might be to invite everyone — including the kids — to spend Thanksgiving at your home. If you haven't talked to your son and daughter-in-law about it, you should.

DEAR ABBY is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Unspoken rules

DEAR ABBY: There are some unspoken rules that every guest should adhere to when visiting friends or family. I would like to help with dinner and cleaning. In fact, I've noticed my host in some significant way. When you are invited out one night for dinner. — M.R., via email

DEAR ABBY: I live in a condo high up in a nice area. I have a nice balcony, which I use mostly to grow tomatoes, aloe and rosemary. I have all usable water and am not allowed to overwater.

I learned from a friend who grew up in a condominium that there is a common calendar, checkbook and bank statements. It gets done important events that these condominium residents have left over by driving to a meeting or event. — M.R., via email

DEAR ABBY: Snack attack

DEAR ABBY: I'm thinking of asking my kids to help me clean up!

DEAR ABBY: Phone book, address, plus check or money order for $7.95 (US funds) to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send name, address, plus check or money order for $12.95 (US funds) to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Aware of the importance of the human body, I use mostly to grow tomatoes, aloe and rosemary. I have all usable water and am not allowed to overwater.

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Eight planet found in faraway solar system, matching ours

By MARCIA DUNN
Los Angeles Times

Google on Thursday to reapply this year.

The Pentagon spent millions of dollars on a program to scour the skies for unidentified flying objects, according to documents obtained by The Times.

By TRACY LYN
Los Angeles Times

Wary of Trump, some foreign-born tech workers choose Canada, not Silicon Valley

Pentagon spent $22 million research, reports say

Petra Axolotl knew her

"These are coming in the

Los Angeles Times

by a longtime friend of...
Oklahoma State hands No. 19 Florida State first loss of season

COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Tigers 71, Gators 69

Clemson rallies past No. 22 Florida

Still unbeaten

Saturday's win over Florida put the Tigers No. 22 and just 1½ points back in the ACC race. Now, Clemson has a chance to play against his brother Terron, a Bucs safety T.J. Ward, shown against Minnesota earlier this season, will have a chance to play against his brother Terron, a Bucs running back, on Monday night.

By STEVEN WINE

Miami Dolphins’ running back Kenyan Drake (22) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game Denver Broncos in Miami Gardens.

Miami Dolphins running back Kenyan Drake (22) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game Denver Broncos in Miami Gardens.

After five consecutive losses, the Dolphins (0-7) have won two in a row. They might make the playoffs with a wild-card team if they sweep their final three games, including Sunday at Buffalo.

By STEVEN WINE

Miami Dolphins running back Kenyan Drake (22) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game Denver Broncos in Miami Gardens.

Miami Dolphins running back Kenyan Drake (22) runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game Denver Broncos in Miami Gardens.

We had a little bump in the road this season, but it was fixed and we had two free throws to help seal the victory.

Before that, with the Tigers trailing 66-67, Redden redeemed a missed 3-point attempt by Florida’s KeVaughn Allen and threw a football-style pass from one free-throw lane to the other, hitting Thomas on the run for an easy score.

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Speer, the co-writer of two NBA basketball games, Loren- zen Wright, proves at the casket of Lorenzen Wright during the unveiling ceremony in South Memphis. The ceremony was held Tuesday, July 23, 2013. Lorenzen Wright was a former Memphis Grizzlies player who was found dead in a South Memphis house in July 2010.

**SPORTS ON TV**

- **NBCSN — FIS World Cup, 6 p.m.** SKIING
- **ESPN2 — Global Casino, 7 p.m.**
- **FOX — Regional coverage, 4 p.m.**
- **NBC — PNC Father/Son, Orlando, Fla., 1 p.m.**
- **ESPNU — San Francisco at Georgia Tech, 9:30 a.m.**
- **FS1 — Iona at St. John’s, 1 p.m.**
- **ESpn — San Francisco at Memphis, 5 p.m.**
- **BASKETBALL**
- **WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
- **Mega Millions Jackpot**: $229 million
- **Powerball Jackpot**: $75 million
- **LOTTO**: $1 million
- **MILLIONS**: $1 million
- **ANNIVERSARY JACKPOT**: $1 million

**Mega Millions**

- **Dec. 11**: 2-16-30-40-53
- **Dec. 15**: 1-4-9-2-5
- **Dec. 16**: 4-0-7

**Powerball**

- **Dec. 11**: 15-26-35-41-63
- **Dec. 15**: 13-14-22-41-42
- **Dec. 16**: 6-12-32-38-45

**Lotto**

- **Dec. 11**: 1-2-4-15-28
- **Dec. 12**: 3-5-9-10-14
- **Dec. 13**: 1-4-9-27
- **Dec. 14**: 1-2-5-15-28
- **Dec. 15**: 6-7-12-20-27
- **Dec. 16**: 2-11-13-21-32

**LOTTO**

- **Dec. 16**: 6-2-3-40-51
- **Dec. 17**: 1-7-18-21-28
- **Dec. 18**: 1-2-22-43-45
- **Dec. 19**: 2-3-4-45-57
- **Dec. 20**: 5-6-7-8-21
- **Dec. 21**: 1-2-6-15-16
- **Dec. 22**: 5-9-10-20-30
- **Dec. 23**: 1-2-3-14-25
- **Dec. 24**: 1-2-16-21-32
- **Dec. 25**: 3-4-7-12-26
- **Dec. 26**: 5-6-13-15-26
- **Dec. 27**: 5-6-13-20-26
- **Dec. 28**: 1-2-5-17-21
- **Dec. 29**: 2-3-4-20-30
- **Dec. 30**: 1-2-3-14-25
- **Dec. 31**: 2-3-4-15-20

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **NBA: Lorenzen Wright**

NBA: Lorenzen Wright

**Richardson scores 26 points, Heat beat Clippers**

Cleveland has won 17 of its last 18 games, but the season is far from over.

**RICKLES, 111, THINKER?**

Carmelo Anthony gets the chance to prove he is as good as New York Knicks get the win for Anthony, another 11 of that. He will be joined by the Memphis Grizzlies in the first-round series with the Memphis Grizzlies. He has said that he has earned a chance to prove he is a star.
The Rams have lost four disappointing postseasons in a row. TheSCI BOWL

The Cowboys won despite shooting 30 percent in the first half, and they held Michigan State to 18 percent from 3-point range.

Cofer scored a career-high 22 points for Florida, and sophomore guard Keion Davis had 10 points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

BIG PICTURE

Eight players had two or more turnovers for Temple, and they committed 15 turnovers overall.

Kumado finished with 12 points, and his offense was at about the same level of difficulty as Cofer.

FSU

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Bears (4-9) at Lions (7-6) 
When: Sunday, 4:05 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Bears by 1
Series record: Bears lead 97-3-5
Last meeting: Lions beat Bears 27-24, Nov. 13
Last week: Bears beat Bengals 27-24; Lions beat Buccaneers 24-21
Notes: Detroit has won their last eight games against Chicago.

L.A. Chargers (7-6) at Chiefs (7-6) 
When: Sunday, 4:05 p.m. ET, NBC
Opening line: Chiefs by 5
Series record: Chiefs lead 59-46-2
Last meeting: Chiefs beat Chargers 24-10, Dec. 4, 2016
Last week: Chiefs beat Texans 31-13; Chargers lose to Raiders 28-15
Notes: Chiefs are 4-1 in their last five games.

Eagles (11-2) at N.Y. Giants (2-11) 
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
Opening line: Eagles by 2.5
Series record: Giants lead 27-24, Sept. 24
Last week: Eagles beat Rams 43-36; Giants lost to Cowboys 23-7
Notes: Second Nick Foles era begins with QB Carson Wentz out with season-ending knee injury.

Bengals (5-8) at Vikings (10-3) 
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Bengals by 10
Series record: Tied 6-6
Last meeting: Bengals beat Vikings 41-24, Dec. 21, 2014
Last week: Bengals lost to Browns 23-17; Vikings saw 2-11-0 AFC North record.

Texans (4-9) at Jaguars (9-4) 
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Jaguars by 9
Series record: Texans lead 15-12
Last meeting: Jaguars beat Texans 29-7, Sept. 10
Last week: Texans lost to 49ers 29-16; Jaguars beat Seahawks 30-24
Notes: Texans have lost three consecutive overall and five straight on road.

Cardinals (6-7) at Redskins (5-8) 
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
Opening line: Redskins by 6
Series record: Redskins lead 78-46-2
Last meeting: Cardinals beat Redskins 31-23, Dec. 4, 2016
Last week: Cardinals beat Bills 27-19; Redskins lost to Titans 13-10
Notes: Redskins have won seven in a row at home vs. Cardinals.

New Orleans 9 4 0 .692 370 263 5-1-0 4-3-0 7-3-0 1-1-0 4-1-0
NORTH
Tampa Bay 4 9 0 .308 264 312 3-3-0 1-6-0 2-7-0 2-2-0 0-3-0
EAST
New England Patriots 3 5 0 .600 318 242 2-3-0 3-2-0 7-2-0 2-2-0 2-2-0

PATRIOTS: DOUBTFUL: WR Matthew Slater (concussion), HB Liz利owski (ankle).
MIAMI at BUFFALO — DOLPHINS:
OUT: S Jerron Johnson (hamstring), LB在 Calabria (concussion), CB压s Demetri Goodson (ankle).
QUESTIONABLE: CB Demetri Goodson (ankle).

Buccaneers 24-21
Series record: Buccaneers lead 97-73-5
Last meeting: Bucs beat Titans 31-17, Oct. 2017
Last week: Bucs lost in Seattle 26-16; Titans lost to Rams 35-32
Notes: Buccaneers have won more divisional games than any other team this season.

Games of the Week
For broadcast information on teams of area interest, check TV/radio listings.


Dolphins (6-7) at Bills (7-6)
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Bills by 9½
Series record: Tied 6-6
Last meeting: Dolphins beat Patriots 27-20; Bills beat Colts 24-17.
Notes: Dolphins swept NFC East rival last year.

Patriots (10-3) at Steelers (11-2)
When: Sunday, 4:25 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Patriots by 3½
Series record: Tied 15-15
Last meeting: Patriots beat Steelers 31-17, Jan. 22 for AFC championship
Last week: Patriots beat Chargers 23-0; Steelers lost to Bengals 17-7
Notes: Winter has been a factor the past five games.

PATRIOTS: QUESTIONABLE: TE Rob Gronkowski (back), TE Phillip Supernaw (ankle).


TITANS (8-5) at Steelers (3-10)
When: Sunday, 4:25 p.m. ET, CBS
Opening line: Titans by 2½
Series record: Titans lead 6-5
Last meeting: Titans beat Steelers 31-17, Oct. 28, 2013
Last week: Titans lost to Texans 23-12; Steelers lost to Ravens 30-16
Notes: Titans are one of four teams in AFC West to never win in five all-time trips to Minnesota.

PATRIOTS: OUT: TE Rob Gronkowski (back), TE Phillip Supernaw (ankle).

Cowboys (7-6) at Raiders (6-7)
When: Sunday, 4:05 p.m. ET, NBC
Opening line: Cowboys by 3½
Series record: Cowboys lead 6-5
Last meeting: Cowboys beat Raiders 31-17, Dec. 11, 2016
Last week: Cowboys lost to Cardinals 31-27; Raiders lost to Chiefs 26-18
Notes: Cowboys have won four of six meetings since the 2014 season.

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Stafford-led Lions top Bears, stay in playoff picture

Associated Press

DETROIT — Matthew Stafford threw six touchdown passes and avoided mistakes, allowing the Detroit Lions to stay in the playoff picture with a 20-10 victory over the Chicago Bears on Saturday night.

The Bears (6-8) have won two straight and need to close the regular season with two more wins to keep postseason hopes alive.

The Bears (6-8) have lost six in a row, including a third-round playoff loss to the Lions last season.

Stafford threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to T.J. Jones with 11:50 left in the first half after Fox chose to punt on fourth-and-6 from the Chicago 41. He threw a 9-yard pass to Eric Ebron for a 20-0 lead early in the third quarter after Darren Sproles’ first of two interceptions in the game.

Stafford was 21-of-33 for 257 yards and didn’t turn the ball over for the first time since Week 12.

The Lions scored 12 points before halftime. Chicago rookie Mitch Trubisky had season highs in completions (31), yards passing (393) and interceptions (two) including one to Xavien Howard for a 46-yard return.

Drake, a third-round draft pick from Alabama, had a career-high rushing total in the second game for the Packers, and his 35 attempts gained 114 yards. He also had two catches for 79 yards. He finished his speed with runs of 26 and 31 yards, and a 47-yard catch.

“Even when we don’t quite block it tight, it makes it work,” Gase said. “He has good size that, he just gets a little bit of green grass and seems to go pretty good distances.”

Drake’s emergence has validated Gase’s much-maligned decision to trade 2016 Pro Bowl running back Jay Ajayi at the deadline.

Ajayi surpassed 200 rushing yards in consecutive games last season, but Drake is the better receiver, and with 17 targets in the past two games, he has showed he can handle the workload of a featured back.

“X’s confidence is being held in this offense with his ability to catch the ball out of the backfield,” said quarterback Jay Cutler, who has played better with Drake in the lineup.

He breaks tackles in the hole, he cuts back well, he uses it well. He’s becoming one of those complete backs that you can’t be held to a lot with.”

While Drake has revived an offense that ranked 13th in the NFC’s worst for much of the season, he has brought playmaking ability to an up-and-down defense.

The 2016 second-round draft pick from Baylor had the first two interceptions of his career in last week’s win over Denver, and added two more against Tom Brady, who has thrown only six all season.

Howard shadowed Brandin Cooks, who leads the Patriots in yards receiving, and held him to one catch.

“It’s confidence,” said Cutler. “It’s really getting up there,” Gase said. “He has had two really good games in a row. It’s good to see him really feeling it. If we get him one-on-one at all, that helps us.”

Thanks in large part to Lloyd, Miami has five takeaways in the past two weeks after totaling only eight in the first 11 games. The Dolphins say Howard’s play is starting to match what he does in practice.

“He can tell me it’s so and so, and he’s making sense of things on the field since he got here,” Tagine said. “I think that hard work and perseverance and persisting is paying of. I’m definitely happy for him.”

Bucs

If feels great. This is what I love to do,” he said. “I feel like I got here. I’m on the outside, and I’m pretty sure that’s what I can ask for.”

MCCOY, DAVID

Harry Reed was one of the offensive players that the Falcons couldn’t stop.

Both McCollum and David, who nominated Van Horne, were in attendance as their teams practiced on Saturday.

As if containing Julio Jones and the Falcons’ offense wasn’t challenging enough, the Bucs have to try to do it Monday night without perhaps their top two defensive players in DT Gerald McCoy and LB Lavonte David.

Buccs coach Dirk Koetter on Saturday ruled both out for Monday’s game, with McCoy (knee) and David (hamstring) not practicing during the week.

Cib Barnett was all smiles with his team in the final practice of the season.

The Falcons beat the Bucs 24-13 two weeks ago in Atlanta, with Jones going off for 233 receiving yards, the most ever by a Bucs opponent, as well as two touchdowns. Jones has one touchdown caught in his other 12 games this season.

Atlanta will be without two key parts of their running game, with RB Tevin Coleman (knee) and G Andy Levitre (triceps) ruled out for Monday night’s game and will have RB Devonta Freeman, who missed the first Bucs game with his own concussion injury.

BUCS

AP PHOTOS

Miami Dolphins cornerback Xavien Howard (25) celebrates after intercepting a pass by New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady during the first half of an NFL football game Saturday in Foxborough, Mass.
It’s time to get ready for the flu

Flu-fighting tips

Remedies that can help cold sufferers feel better

Safe ways to deal with sinus pressure

Chicken soup is good for more than the soul

Women’s hands really are colder than men’s, scientists confirm

What’s your limit on holiday salt?

It’s time to get ready for the flu

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Chicken soup is good for more than the soul

Women’s hands really are colder than men’s, scientists confirm

What’s your limit on holiday salt?
What’s your limit on holiday salt?

It’s the time of year when food takes center place. You may find yourself packing plates high with mashed potatoes or snacking on stacks of chips. From family gatherings to treats in the office, high-sodium snacks and foods are everywhere. Too much salt can lead to problems for some people with high blood pressure or heart failure. But what’s too much? “Salt, unfortunately, will help absorb fluid, absorb water and it keeps it in your body,” said Dr. Stephen Kopecky, a Mayo Clinic cardiologist.

He said sodium can cause issues for people with high blood pressure and heart failure. “The heart doesn’t pump blood adequately to meet the body's demands, so if you then overload the heart with more fluid and more salt, then it has a hard time pumping,” said Dr. Kopecky.

People with kidney disease should watch their intake too. So if you’re on a low-salt diet, the American Heart Association recommends your daily intake be less than 1,500 milligrams. That’s a little less than three-quarters of a teaspoon. Regular intake is 2,300 milligrams, or “just under one teaspoon.”

And how do you handle big meals when you don’t know how much salt is in the food? Well, if it tastes salty, don’t eat much.

Visually Impaired Persons of Charlotte County Inc.

folds, hands the reigns to Lighthouse of Manasota

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Visually Impaired Persons of Charlotte County Inc.

folds, hands the reigns to Lighthouse of Manasota

After more than 30 years of providing services to the visually impaired residents of Charlotte County, the volunteer Board of Directors of Visually Impaired Persons of Charlotte County Inc. (VIP) unanimously agreed to dissolve the organization in October, 2017. The group had found it increasingly difficult to generate funds to maintain and expand services, and provide the level of quality they wished to provide. VIP has donated its remaining funds to Lighthouse of Manasota to enhance current services provided in Charlotte County.

The Lighthouse of Manasota, provider of no-cost rehabilitation training for the visually impaired, is staffed with university trained and certified instructors providing training tailored to the needs of each individual, in an effort to foster independence, productivity and improved quality of life.

Services include: Independent Living classes with adjustment to vision loss, kitchen and cooking safety, marking clothing, money and medications, Assistive Technology training for iPhones, iPads and specialized software, Orientation & Mobility offers white cane training to navigate the home and community safely; and much more.

“This generous gift will allow the Lighthouse of Manasota to expand its existing services currently provided in Charlotte County,” said Lisa Howard, CEO of the Lighthouse. “It includes opening our own facility for classes, and a Peepers Low Vision Store in Charlotte County in the near future.”

The Lighthouse of Manasota currently offers Independent Living Classes at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County.

For more information and class schedule, call the Lighthouse in Charlotte at 941-764-0136.
It's important to know who to trust with your family's health because you want the very best. Fawcett Memorial Hospital has been serving the community since 1975 and has been recognized as an America's Top 100 Hospital for the third year in a row by Healthgrades, putting your community hospital in the top 2% in the nation for clinical excellence.

We continue to deliver high quality care while ensuring the best patient experience possible. We strive to make each patient encounter an opportunity to heal, with care and compassion and with a dedication to excellence.

As always at Fawcett, it’s our family caring for yours.
Having Problems

Few things can be as uncomfortable as the common cold. In their book "Colds: A Guide," authors Arliss, and Ronald Eccles say the common cold has been around since the ancient times. More than 200 species of rhinoviruses can contribute to colds, but the rhinovirus is the most common. Colds produce a bevy of symptoms including runny nose, congestion and sore throat, so it should come as no surprise that sufferers want to find relief fast.

Colds typically last for a week or more. While there's no cure for the common cold, according to The Mayo Clinic, there are some remedies that can help cold sufferers feel better more quickly.

- **Hydration:** One of the best things to do when you have a cold is to get adequate rest. Your body's immune system is working overtime to combat the cold virus, and restricting activity can help it direct efforts where they're needed most. Keep away from strenuous activities, and spend more time relaxing or sleeping to let your body do its job.
- **Hydration:** Consuming plenty of clear fluids can reduce congestion and encourage that you do not get dehydrated. Plus, warm beverages can be soothing to an irritated throat. Avoid coffee, caffeinated sodas and alcohol, which can exacerbate dehydration.
- **Saline rinses:** Intra-nasal saline sprays can help loosen mucus that is clogging the nose and sinus cavities, allowing it to flow out. This makes allowing your nose more effective and may help prevent post-nasal drip. Avoid prolonged use of medicated decongestant sprays. They may work well, but they can cause rebound congestion that's worse than the original stuffiness.
- **Vitamin C:** Vitamin C will not prevent colds, but it could help in other ways. Taking vitamin C before the onset of cold symptoms may shorten the duration of symptoms. Vitamin C also may provide benefits for people at high risk of colds due to frequent exposure, offers The Mayo Clinic.
- **Soup and tea:** Soup is an easy-to-digest meal that provides many of the necessary remedies for a cold, including warm broth to hydrate and soothe, antioxidants rich vegetables and protein to help fuel the body's recovery process. In 2000, Dr. Stephen Rennard of the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha actually tested if chicken soup clinically makes people with colds feel better. He found that chicken soup inhibited neutrophils, immune cells that cause congestion. Decaffeinated tea also may help you stay hydrated and relieve many cold symptoms.
- **Reinfection:** Use cleaning products that are effective at killing viruses. Around the house to prevent reinfection and cold relapses. Also, avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth between cleaning.

Cold can be a nuisance. Most medicines will help relieve symptoms but cannot make colds go away faster. Natural remedies can help the body's immune system work at its best and lessen the severity of a cold.

### Safe ways to deal with sinus pressure

Provided by MCC

Sinuses are bony, hollow, air-filled cavities inside the face and skull. They are located in the low-center of the forehead, behind the eyes and in bones behind the nose. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center says the sinuses lighten the skull and protect the cavities inside the face and skull. They are located in the low-center of the forehead, behind the eyes and in bones behind the nose. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, using these devices improperly can increase one's risk of infection. CBS News says that neti pots have even been linked to the deadly Naegleria fowleri, which is otherwise known as the “brain-eating” amoeba.

The key to preventing infection is to only use previously boiled, sterile or distilled water to irrigate. Tap water is not adequately filtered, says the FDA, and may contain low levels of organisms that can stay alive in nasal passages and potentially cause serious infections. Those who are concerned about nasal irrigation safety may be wise to skip neti pots and use pre-packaged, sterile saline solutions that are bottled for the purpose of alleviating congestion. However, when prepared water is used in a clean neti pot or other device, these methods can be sinus healthy.

### Sinus Institute

The Florida Department of Health, local partners and organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, strongly recommend babies exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of life and continue to breastfeed for one to two years.

There are a variety of programs and resources to empower breastfeeding moms. Health professionals and peer counselors provide a range of services from night after birth at the hospital to breastfeeding support groups in the community as noted below:

- **Nebrody Valley:** M.tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., WIC in partnership with Lactation Love Breastfeeding Support Group, 4143 Woodmore Park Blvd., Venice. Contact: Arielle Ball, DOH-Sarasota, WIC and Nutrition Services, Arielle.Ball@FLHealth.gov or 941-685-3324.
- **Second Wednesday each month, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., North Port Library conference room, 13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port. Contact: Jamee Thumm, Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, jamee.thumm@gmail.com or 941-373-7070, ext. 307.

### commuters

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### Alzheimer’s support groups

The Alzheimer’s Association holds monthly caregiver support groups for spouses, adult children and family members who want to come together and share insight with others in similar situations. RSVP is not required to attend. For questions or to find the nearest office, call 941-235-7470.

### Alzheimer’s Caregiver

The Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group Meet meets from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Tuesday every month at The Springs at South Biscayne, 6235 Hoffman St., North Port. Call 941-426-8349 to register.

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Flu-fighting tips to keep you and others healthy

A study published in the American Journal of Therapeutics showed that carnosine, a compound found in chicken soup, can help strengthen the body’s immune system and help fight off the flu in its early stages.

**Foods**

Food can be used to fend of the flu. Common foods that many people already have in their pantries can be powerful flu-fighters. Garlic, for example, contains compounds that have direct antiviral effects and may help destroy the flu before it affects the body. Raw garlic is best. In addition to garlic, citrus fruits, ginger, yogurt, and dark leafy greens can boost immunity and fight the flu, according to Mother Nature’s Network. The British Journal of Nutrition notes that dark chocolate, for example, contains compounds that have direct antiviral effects and can help destroy the flu before it affects the body.

**Stop germ proliferation**

Germs can be spread easily between persons through direct contact and indirect contact with surfaces sick individuals have touched. Doctors recommend staying home for at least 24 hours after a flu-induced fever has dissipated. Well individuals should avoid contact with sick people.

Frequent hand-washing with soap and water can stop germs from spreading. When soap and water is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers can help. People also should avoid touching their eyes, noses and mouths after being in public places or around someone who is ill.

**Rest and restore**

Those who feel symptoms coming on should begin drinking more liquids to keep the respiratory system hydrated and make mucus less viscous. Remember to get adequate sleep, as a tired body cannot effectively fight the flu virus.

People of all ages should take steps to protect themselves from the flu.

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**Health insurance sign-up deadline extended in Florida**

(AP) — Floridians have two extra weeks to sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

The Trump administration shortened the enrollment period this year by six weeks. It was supposed to end Friday, but federal authorities granted Florida an extension due to the busy hurricane season.

Florida has led the way in the number of sign-ups for years. Federal health officials say more than 1 million people in the Sunshine State have signed up so far this year. More than 4.6 million people have enrolled this year nationwide.

Health counselors say they're trying to combat rumors and misinformation this year under the Trump administration. The shorter sign-up period also has been hamstrung by reduced budgets for outreach, marketing and the navigators who help people sign up for insurance.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

* Stroke support group
  
  A stroke support group will be held at 1 p.m. on the last Friday of each month at Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Executive Dining Room, 21298 Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte.

* Substance abuse support group
  
  The Substance Abuse support group meets at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Lifeworks Substance Abuse Services, 4678 Tamiami Trail, Suite 105, Port Charlotte. Contact George at 941-979-5023 for more information.

* Veterans support
  
  The members of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church are providing some of the support and discussion that our veterans deserve. On the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m., they will be at the American Legion Post 113, at 3436 Indiana Road, in Rotonda West. Veterans are invited and encouraged to meet with them there. The church can be reached at 941-697-1747 or gulfcoveumc@centurylink.net, and their website is http://GulfCoveChurch.com.

* Women’s cancer support group
  
  Celebrate Life women’s cancer support group meets at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda. There typically is a speaker. Lunch at a Punta Gorda restaurant follows the meeting. Contact either Diane Mahye at 941-575-7246 or Sara Benson at 941-575-6765 to learn a little more about Celebrate Life.

To submit information about your support group, email the details to FeelingFit@sun-herald.com.
It’s the most wonderful time of the year — the time when the flu makes its presence known in the United States. You may not have given influenza much thought, but that is because health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have been doing it for you. They say the virus had been lying low through October, but that’s changed since early November.

So far, the dominant strain of influenza A is H1N1, which usually produces more misery. It’s also the type that’s less vulnerable to flu vaccines. Even so, health experts recommend that you get your annual flu shot (or nasal mist), if you haven’t done so already. “If you’re not sure about the flu, here’s a look at where things currently stand, according to experts from the CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. They published an update Thursday in the journal’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

7,039 That’s the number of flu specimens that have been confirmed by laboratory tests between Oct 1 and Nov 25. It may sound like a lot, but it’s a small fraction of the nearly 144,000 samples that have been tested.

90 percent That’s the percentage of influenza A virus samples that were subtypep and found to be of the H3N2 variety. The other 10 percent were H1N1. Researchers of the 2009 “swine flu” outbreak.

Influenza is the most common strain of flu in Australia during its 2017 flu season, which just ended. Preliminary estimates from health authorities there suggest the flu vaccine did a poor job of protecting people, with an effectiveness of just 10 percent. Last week, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health warned that Americans could be in for a similar situation.

“In recent past seasons in which A(H3N2) viruses predominated, hospitalizations and deaths were more common, and the effectiveness of the vaccine was lower,” the CDC experts reported in this week’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

5 That’s the number of “novel” viruses that have been found in people for the first time. All five of these viruses are strains of influenza A, and all of them appear to be variants of flu that are known to circulate in pigs. The people who were sickened with them were from Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska and Ohio. Three of the five victims had recent, direct contact with pigs; the others were exposed to sick people, raising the possibility of limited human-to-human transmission.

PROVIDED BY MCC

Chicken soup is good for more than the soul

By KAREN KAPLAN

Cold season never seems to take a year off. Experts estimate that colds are so widespread that very few humans escape infection. Some people come down with colds more than once a year. That should not come as too great a surprise, as there are now thought to be more than 200 different strains of cold. For the past 50 years, researchers have studied hundreds of viruses, and have come up with an estimated number of molecular techniques to look at the viral genome, researchers found a third incarnation of the common cold. Two years ago, after development of molecular techniques to look at the viral genome, researchers found a third incarnation of the common cold. A study in the journal Chest defined phytonutrients, or phyto-ingredients that provide phytonutrients. While some profess that homemade chicken soup remains one of the more popular comfort foods, a study in the journal Chest found that chicken soup appears to inhibit neutrophil chemotaxis, which is the movement of certain immune cells to mucus membrane surfaces. As a result, mucus production is inhibited and cold symptoms are reduced. Chicken soup may also contain onions and garlic, which are believed to have natural antibacterial or antiseptic properties. An easily digestible comfort food, chicken soup also can help reduce inflammation, which often results as a result of certain immune cells to mucus membrane surfaces. As a result, mucus production is inhibited and cold symptoms are reduced. Chicken soup also can help reduce inflammation, which often results as a result of certain immune cells to mucus membrane surfaces. As a result, mucus production is inhibited and cold symptoms are reduced.

Cancer support group

Fawcett Memorial Hospital, an HCA affiliate, now offers a cancer support group for cancer patients, their families and caregivers. Each month the group meets the last Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Research has shown that social support has benefits for cancer patients, those recovering from treatment and their family and loved ones by reducing anxiety and stress, emotional distress and depression, fatigue and the experience of pain while improving mood, self-image, ability to cope with stress and feelings of control. In addition, having a support system can help with recovery and adjusting to life after treatment. The support group allows those experiencing a cancer diagnosis to connect with the emotional aspects by providing a safe place to share their feelings and challenges while allowing people to learn from others facing similar situations.

Cancer patients and their family members are encouraged to attend. Active participation is not required, listeners are welcome. Physicians and other health professionals will periodically speak to the group on cancer related topics. For more information or to RSVP please call Fawcett’s oncology navigators at 941-624-8318.

Cancer support group

The First United Methodist Church offers a faith-based cancer support group to all adult cancer survivors and their caregivers. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at 507 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. For more information, New participants are always welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of their cancer type, church affiliation or faith base. Please contact Jane Sheppard via email at jane@sheppard@rocketmail.com with questions or to indicate your interest in becoming part of this group as a participant, facilitator or resource.

For more information on this and other ministries at First United Methodist Church, visit our website at www.whatist.it.com or call the church office at 941-639-3842.

Chicken soup remains one of the more popular cold remedies. Cold, many commercially made soups fit the bill as well. The salt, steam, vegetables, chicken protein, and soothing broth combine to form a worthy adversary to the common cold.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Cancer support group

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We participate in the following:

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Is ‘man flu’ real?
Medical science delivers comfort to helpless male snuffers

By MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

We’ve all seen him: The man who strides boldly into high-stakes negotiations, risks serious injury to win a pickup basketball game and fearlessly confronts things that go bump in the night, yet is brought low by a tiny virus. He snivels pitifully, wallows in his misery and tests the most forbearing caregiver with his abject helplessness.

The diagnosis often comes with a roll of the eyes. It’s “man flu,” an infectious disease that requires the assistance of not just parents but also affect parents, who often need to be administered as often, but parents should still ensure kids’ are up-to-date with their shots.

School-aged children who lack colds or the flu from their classmates can quickly spread those colds to their classroom mates, who might also spread the colds further when they go to work. Preventing the spread of colds and flu at school is a team effort that requires the assistance of not just parents, but also teachers and students. Still, parents might be the first line of defense when it comes to preventing the spread of cold and flu at school.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 38 million children miss school due to illness each year. Those last lost days can affect students who miss lesson plans, but also affect parents, who often must take days off work to tend to their sick children.

While there’s no way for parents to protect children from catching a cold or the flu this school year, they can take various preventive measures to increase kids’ chances of staying healthy and achieving perfect attendance.

• Make sure kids are immunized and that their immunizations are current. Vaccinations bolster kids’ immune systems. That’s important, as kids’ immune systems are naturally less mature than adults’, making them more vulnerable to germs and viruses.

• Keep kids home when they are sick. Parents don’t want their children to miss school, but kids who are suffering from colds or flu should be kept home. This prevents the spread of colds and flu to classmates and teachers, and time to rest at home may help youngsters recover more quickly.

• Teach kids to avoid common germ spots. Germs can be lurking anywhere, but some spots seem to make more welcome homes for germs than others. Studies have shown that kids were most likely to encounter germs in schools’ water fountain spigots and on plastic cafeteria trays. Teach kids to never put their mouths on fountains and to avoid eating any food that might fall onto their trays in the cafeteria.

School-aged children are susceptible to colds and flu when spending time in the classroom. But parents can reduce their youngsters’ cold and flu risk in various ways.

Reduce kids’ risk of getting colds at school

SUPPORT GROUPS

Caregivers Support Group
Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21077 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte, hosts a caregiver support group from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The cost is free and is open to any caregiver dealing with a care-receiver with any debilitating disease. There are no requirements to join the group. For more information, contact Mike Boccia at 941-815-6077.

Courage Over Cancer
Gulf Cove United Methodist Church’s cancer care program, Courage Over Cancer, offers support and ministry to men, women, and families who are affected by cancer. Church and community members touched by this disease are provided with help and spiritual counsel that are specific to their needs as a cancer patient, caregiver, or loved one. This ministry is outreach of the program Our Journey of Hope which was developed by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. If you or someone you know could benefit from a friend to support them through this journey, contact the church at 941-697-1747 or GulfCoveUMC@centurylink.net. Gulf Cove UMC is located at 1100 McCall Road in Port Charlotte.

Is ‘man flu’ real?
Medical science delivers comfort to helpless male snuffers

By MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Provided by MCC

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School-aged children are susceptible to colds and flu when spending time in the classroom. But parents can reduce their youngsters’ cold and flu risk in various ways.
Women's hands really are colder than men's, scientists confirm

By ALLIE SHAN

STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Ladies, raise a gloved hand if your hands feel as frozen as Elsa's, especially in the winter.

Women's hands generally are colder than men's, and the old saying "cold hands, warm heart" may go a long way to explaining why.

Using thermal images, University of Utah researchers compared the hands of men and women, and found that women's hands typically run 2.8 degrees Fahrenheit colder than men.

Exposure to cold — whether it comes from taking a cold shower or a wintry walk outside — causes blood vessels in the hands and feet to contract, reducing blood flow there as the body seeks to protect the heart and other vital organs.

While this happens in men and women, the cold response is much quicker for women.

It's still a bit of a mystery why, but scientists suggest that differences in body size, composition and hormones are the culprits.

Women have more body fat and less muscle than men. The fat protects the vital organs, including the uterus, but it also restricts blood flow to the extremities.

Women also tend to lose heat faster from their skin because they're generally smaller than men.

That explains why so many women are shivering in office cubicles next to their male co-workers wearing short sleeves.

For most women, having cold hands, though uncomfortable, isn’t cause for concern — unless it is a symptom of a medical condition known as Raynaud’s.

Raynaud’s disease causes fingers and toes to feel numb and cold in response to chilly temperatures or stress, according to the Mayo Clinic. The condition causes small blood vessels that carry blood to the extremities to spasm and severely constrict, affecting blood flow. This can lead to tissue damage.

Women are five times more likely than men to have Raynaud’s. Symptoms include: icy fingers or toes, skin color turning white or blue with exposure to cold or stress, and red with stinging pain after warming up.

There are two types of Raynaud’s: primary and secondary. The secondary type is caused by an underlying condition and is less common. The primary type is linked to family history.

Fusion One offers beneficial exercises to those with Parkinson’s disease

By GREGORY WHYTE

CULTURAL CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

It is estimated that about one out of every 100 people over the age of 65 is affected by Parkinson's disease.

The disease, named after the English doctor, James Parkinson, is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system. For those with the disease, the dopamine producing cells (the basal ganglia) found in the midbrain, die. Nerve cells communicate with each other through chemical messengers (neurotransmitters) which they produce. The main neurotransmitter produced by the dopamine producing cells is dopamine. When these cells degenerate, less dopamine is produced. This, in turn, will make communication between the cells less efficient. It is this inefficiency in communication that causes the tremor and uncoordinated movements that are characteristic of Parkinson's disease.

Modern treatments focus on managing the early symptoms of the disease and make use of dopamine agonists, drugs such as Levodopa, diet, rehabilitation, surgery and deep brain stimulation.

In addition, those with the disease will be happy to know that a number of studies have shown exercise to be quite beneficial with regard to the management of the disease.

For those who do not have Parkinson's disease (PDE), exercise is important for maintaining fitness and good health. For those with PDE, exercise not only facilitates lessening of many of the problems that are normally associated with the disease. A recent study headed by Dr. Beth Fisher, a researcher at the University of Southern California, showed that people with PD who exercise move much better than those who did not.

A number of other studies show exercise to be important for combating depression, maintaining balance and mobility and providing a sense of well being. There is also some indication that exercise could help slow the progression of Parkinson's disease.

A program that has been helping people with PD manage the condition is Fusion One: a holistic system of exercises that integrates a vast number of important principles and techniques. These help to make the program one of the safest, simplest and most effective of its kind.

In addition to its many concepts and techniques, Fusion One makes use of a series of exercises that constitute three distinct forms: a lying form, a seated form and a standing form. It is through the use of these forms that the system is able to — safely and effectively — address the fitness and health needs of people of all ages and states of health.

Many of the benefits gained through the practice of Fusion One make it ideal for those with Parkinson’s disease. Consider the following: Through a unique blending of deep (diaphragmatic) breathing, visualization (inner awareness) and a gentle and, at times, prolonged assumption of its exercises, Fusion One offers those with PD a tool for managing stress and depression. Also, the exercises of Fusion One are known to improve coordination and facilitate high degrees of flexibility and muscular strength.

For people with PD, falling is a concern. The effectiveness of the exercises of Fusion One in dealing with this problem is a direct result of their ability to improve balance through muscle strengthening, increased propriocep- tor functioning and improvement in posture and gait.

A number of Fusion One classes are available at the Cultural Center. These classes will prove helpful to those with PD and will also be beneficial to those interested in balance improvement, weight and body reduction, nutrition and healthy eating.

For additional information, call the Cultural Center at 941-625-4175, ext. 263. You may also visit the center at 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Overeaters anonymous

Overeating a problem? Overeaters Anonymous offers free meetings at 10 a.m. Thursdays at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 24551 Rampart Blvd., Port Charlotte. Call 941-626-8909 for more information.

Ostomy support meetings

The Charlotte County Ostomy Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in Port Charlotte. For more information and assistance, contact Jerry Downs at 941-629-7588 or Gloria Patmore at 941-627-9077.

Lung Matters

Lung Matters support group meets from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Call Port Charlotte Rehab Center for locations and more information at 941-235-8011.

Neuro Challenge for Parkinson's patients and caregivers

Englewood, is welcoming Neuro Challenge, a self-help organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Neuro Challenge provides ongoing monthly support groups, educational programs, and individualized care, advising to help empower people with Parkinson's and their caregivers with A Better Approach to Parkinson's. They will meet in St. David's Park Hall every third Friday of every month at 10 a.m. Neuro Challenge serves Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties – there are an estimated 9,000 people with Parkinson's in the three county service area. For more information, call 941-926-6413, 941-474-3140 or go to www.neurochallengegroup.org. Neuro Challenge is happy to include people with other neurological illnesses — ie: MS; ALS; etc.

Food Addicts Anonymous

A 12-step program for those who wish to recover from food addiction. Group meets from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, at First Alliance Church, 20444 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte. For more information, call 941-380-6550.

Lung cancer support group

The North Port Lung Cancer Support Group meets from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at Sarasota Memorial ER in North Port along Toledo Blade Boulevard. The group is for people with lung cancer along with their caregivers. No RSVP nor charge is required. For more information, call or email Marc Cohen at 941-240-8989 or marccohen@aol.com.

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Bayfront Health Baby Place:
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BAYFRONT HEALTH PORT CHARLOTTE AND PUNTA GORDA

As the only maternity care provider in Charlotte County, Bayfront Baby Place at Bayfront Health Port Charlotte is honored to have welcomed thousands of newborns into the world and be witness to the growth of thousands of families. For North Port residents Curtis and Charleen, the Baby Place was there to welcome their first born, but that wasn’t the first time they had both set foot in Bayfront Baby Place.

“Our experience was definitely interesting but awesome,” said Charleen on the day leading up to the birth of her first child. “We checked in during the early hours on Sept. 7. Our nerves and stress levels were pretty high as Hurricane Irma was approaching as a direct hit to the west coast of Florida. And, with being first time parents, we had plenty of questions.” However, Charleen added that the nurses and staff truly made her and her husband feel at ease.

“They coached us through labor, were at our side the entire delivery, and after she was born, made sure everything was going well and that we were adjusting comfortably to the baby and her needs. They really had such a positive and calming demeanor making sure baby and I were both healthy and that the hurricane was an afterthought.”

What makes this day even more special is that Amelia Charlotte, born September 7 at 8:29 p.m., came into this world in the same hospital as her parents Curtis and Charleen some 30 years prior.

“Bayfront was the perfect place for us to deliver our baby as my husband and I were both born in that same hospital, formerly St. Joseph’s Hospital, back in the 80’s,” said Charleen. “We felt it was a special way to bring our baby into the world in the same place that both of our parents brought us into the world.”

Since then, the name has changed and the department has seen cosmetic upgrades, but Amelia very well could have spent her first couple hours and days in the same room as her mother and father spent theirs.

Charleen said she would definitely recommend Bayfront Baby Place to others. Her whole experience was positive, including the pre-natal education and support services offered even after she returned home.

“My husband and I took advantage of the CPR and childbirth and breastfeeding courses that were provided to us free of charge at Bayfront. The classes really covered all bases and answered all questions to where we left feeling so much more at ease with the entire process and what was to come. Since delivery, I have also utilized the lactation consultant on staff. She took the time to answer all of my questions and helped guide me in the right direction to having a successful breastfeeding experience after we brought Amelia home.”

Curtis, Charleen and now Amelia are three that make up the thousands that were born at Bayfront Baby Place, and Bayfront Health looks forward to continuing to share in the stories and in making memories with families in the community.

“Between the hurricane and having our child in the same hospital that we were both born, we have such a unique but wonderful story to tell our child when she grows up and hope that maybe one day she will have her baby there too.”

To learn more about Bayfront Baby Place, visit www.BayfrontCharlotte.com.

Bayfront Health
Port Charlotte
Conference Center,
2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte.

Breastfeeding Class. Taught by a Registered Nurse, this class will guide expectant mothers through the breastfeeding process and what was to come. Since delivery, I have also utilized the lactation consultant on staff. She took the time to answer all of my questions and helped guide me in the right direction to having a successful breastfeeding experience after we brought Amelia home.

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Breastfeeding Class. Taught by a Registered Nurse, this class will guide expectant mothers through the breastfeeding process and what was to come. Since delivery, I have also utilized the lactation consultant on staff. She took the time to answer all of my questions and helped guide me in the right direction to having a successful breastfeeding experience after we brought Amelia home.

Curtis, Charleen and now Amelia are three that make up the thousands that were born at Bayfront Baby Place, and Bayfront Health looks forward to continuing to share in the stories and in making memories with families in the community.

“Between the hurricane and having our child in the same hospital that we were both born, we have such a unique but wonderful story to tell our child when she grows up and hope that maybe one day she will have her baby there too.”

To learn more about Bayfront Baby Place, visit www.BayfrontCharlotte.com.

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To learn more about Bayfront Baby Place, visit www.BayfrontCharlotte.com.
**Age-related voice changes**

**BY MARY SPREMULLI, MA,CCC-SLP**

**SPECIAL TO FEELING FIT**

Our voice is as distinctive as a fingerprint, and it reveals all, your age, or at least how old you sound to your physical and emotional well being, and mood. An “old” or sick sounding voice is on an otherwise vibrant older person can be a distraction to listeners who are secretly wondering what’s wrong with your voice.

Presbylarynges ("old larynx") is the term many ear, nose and throat doctors use when diagnosing a voice problem in an older patient. A visual exam of the larynx may reveal age related changes to the vocal folds which can include: stiffness and bowing, thinning due to reduced muscle mass and/or medications, or drying of the mucus membranes. These physical changes will result in voice symptoms of: breathiness, weakness, hoarseness, difficulty projecting and vocal fatigue.

Once patients are reassured that there is nothing seriously wrong, they may elect to pursue a course of voice therapy treatment conducted by a speech-language pathologist.

The voice therapist will conduct a thorough clinical assessment that will include some acoustic measures and will also administer various screening tools that will help better understand how the patient is using their voice on a day to day basis in a variety of settings.

Voice therapy usually consists of approximately eight out-patient treatment visits, during which time patients are instructed in vocal function exercises designed to increase strength and coordination of the muscle of the larynx. Respiratory muscle patterns are also essential to healthy voice use, and so exercises for the breathing muscles, which may include use of a respiratory muscle trainer are also commonly used.

When weakness is present in the vocal folds, a patient may compensate with strained voice patterns leading to excessive muscle tension in the larynx, so exercises must focus on shifting voice placement higher and more forward focusing the sensation of voice in the face.

Evidence indicates that physical conditioning, even in the absence of disease processes, plays an important role in maintaining vocal functioning as we age. Tony Bennett celebrated an album shortly after his 90th birthday, giving testimony to the fact that a trained voice can continue to perform well throughout a lifetime.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 941-204-1515 email: info@voiceaericsdvd.com or visit www.voiceaericsdvd.com.

Mary Spremulli, MA,CCC-SLP is owner of Voice Aerics, a private practice offering speech, voice and swallowing evaluation and treatment for adults. Medicare and most insurance accepted.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**NAMI Family Support Groups**

Port Charlotte: The National Alliance on Mental Illness will have a Family Support Group meeting from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte. This is for family members and caregivers of individuals with a mental illness. For more information, contact Karen at 941-456-3100.

Naples: The family support group meets from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month at 900 State Blvd., North Port. The National Alliance on Mental Illness family support group is a peer-led group for family members and caregivers of adults living with mental illness. All meetings are free and confidential. For more information, call 941-725-9889 or visit the website at namisarasotacounty.org.

Venice: The family support group meets from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Venice Health Park, 1201 Jacaranda Blvd., room 1283. The National Alliance on Mental Illness family support group is a peer-led group for family members and caregivers of adults living with mental illness. All meetings are free and confidential. For more information, call 941-376-9311 or visit the website at namisarasotacounty.org.

Port Charlotte Pulmonary Hypertension & Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group

The group meets from noon to 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at 900 State Blvd., Port Charlotte. RSVP Linda Milo at 941-255-5043.

**Sex Addicts Anonymous**

Sex Addicts Anonymous is a 12-step support group for those who are struggling with sexual compulsion and/or emotional dependency. No dues or fees. The group meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. Mondays in Englewood and 7 p.m. in Port Charlotte. For more information, call 941-222-0539 or email saaenglew@gmail.com.

**Voice Aerics class**

Sponsored by Neurolife Foundation for Parkinson’s, Voice Aerics with Mary Spremulli is held the fourth Thursday of the month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 5600 Peace River Road, North Port. Voice Aerics is a whole body voice strengthening program combining vocal function with movement. The class provides education about speech and voice changes associated with Parkinson’s, an introduction to vocal function exercises, and a setting for vocal interaction, support, and communication. There is no fee for classes.

No prior speech therapy is required to join, and classes will focus on: vocal function exercise, speech practice, and methods to improve communication for people living with Parkinson’s. To learn more, call 941-204-1515.

Note: December’s class will be held on Dec. 21 due to the holiday.

**Port Charlotte Voice Aerics**

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<td>Work Weekends</td>
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**CNA’s Needed for 180 Bed Rehab Facility**

NEW: $1,000 Sign OnBonus for CNA’s APPLY ONLINE @ www.carehealthcare.vilus.net

**Seize the sales with Classified!**

**CNA’s, HHA’s and Caregivers**

Find New Clients by Advertising Your Services in the Senior Directory Every Thursday in The Sun Newspapers.

This Feature Publishes in Charlotte, Sarasota, and Desoto Counties, 150,000 Readers! Call 941-367-9311 for more information

**Caregiver to Elderly Lady in Wheelchair**

41 yrs. Work Weekends Thursday-Sunday Light Housekeeping, Port Charlotte Area 941-620-9872

**Port Charlotte Lung Transplant Support Group**

The family support group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 900 State Blvd., Port Charlotte. RSVP Linda Milo at 941-255-5043.

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NEWS & NOTES

Lee County Homeless Coalition observes Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day
As a tribute to at least 22 homeless individuals who have lost their lives while living on the streets or in shelters in Lee County this year, the Lee County Homeless Coalition will host its 21st annual Candellight Vigil on Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. The community is encouraged to gather on the steps of the Old Lee County Courthouse located at 2210 Main Street in Fort Myers to mourn those who have passed. The memorial event is also intended to educate and inspire the public to support the community’s need for more affordable housing, shelters, living wages and accessible health care.

The Candelight Vigil will include remarks by Lee County Homeless Coalition representatives, Janet Bartos, executive director, and Neil Volz, Board Chair. An opening prayer will be presented by Rev. Phillip D. Reed II, of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Taps will be performed by Harvey Chartier, Commander Victor Paul Harvey Charter, Commander Victor Paul Church. Music will be provided by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Choir.

The Lee County Homeless Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of community and faith-based service providers, local businesses, people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, and other advocates committed to ending homelessness. The Coalition’s mission is to advocate, educate and promote awareness of community and faith-based service providers and to support the Coalition’s efforts to end homelessness.

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Lee Health’s Wellness Centers — Cape Coral is hosting monthly Brain Booster workshops beginning Jan. 9, and subsequently meeting on the second Monday of the month from noon to 1 p.m.

Brain Booster workshops help people of all ages learn more, retain information and maintain mental health. Using math and spelling activities and games, participants have fun and connect with others while working on their memory. The workshop is unique each month, which challenges and encourages participants.

In addition to the monthly program at the Wellness Center — Cape Coral, Sarah Mitchell, certified health & wellness coach and health & wellness coordinator at the Lee Health Wellness Centers will be offering the Brain Booster workshop in locations throughout the community. Upcoming dates, times and locations include:

Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 9 and April 3, 10 a.m., North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 200 N. Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers.

Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19 and April 25, 10 a.m., HealthLife Center at Coconut Point, 21390 Fashion Drive, Suite 105, Estero.

There is a $5 fee per Brain Booster workshop. For more information, please call 239-424-3231.

Chronic Pain

Self-Management workshops

Would you like to learn how to better manage chronic pain conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, back pain, headaches and more?

Lee Health is pleased to announce a free six-week workshop, entitled “Chronic Pain Self-Management” — a research-based program developed by Stanford University.

Information presented in the workshop can help you become empowered to improve your quality of life. Learn how to more easily manage your medications; understand the role of exercise; manage symptoms of stress, pain and fatigue; and make smarter decisions related to health eating. Participants will also receive a copy of the book “Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Pain.”

Sessions will be held on:

- Tuesdays beginning Jan. 9, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Brookside Bonita Springs, 2605 S. Bay Drive, Bonita Springs.
- Wednesdays beginning Jan. 10, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Windsor of Cape Coral, 431 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral.

Seating is limited and registration is required. Please call 239-343-5026 for more information.

We have your convenience in mind with 12 locations to better serve you.

Lee Health Wellness Centers host Brain Booster workshops

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“Top Hospital” bestowed on Golisano Children’s Hospital

For the second year in a row, Lee Health’s Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a Top Children’s Hospital by The Leapfrog Group. Only 10 children’s hospitals in the country — four in Florida — earned this prestigious distinction, which highlights each hospital’s commitment to patient safety and quality care of children.

The selection of Top Children’s Hospitals is based on the results of the 2017 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including inpatient care management, medication safety, and infections and injuries. The rigorous standards are defined in each year’s Top Hospital Methodology.

“We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated caring team of quality nurses and physicians that look after our children’s health in this community. We earned this award because of their commitment to quality and safety of children every day,” according to Dr. Alex Dineshman, Acute Care Medical Officer of Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida.

“It is an honor to be among this elite group of children’s hospitals in the nation to earn the Top Hospital honor from The Leapfrog Group,” says Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer, Golisano Children’s Hospital.

“Our mission has always been to keep children close to home for the medical care they require. This Top Hospital endorsement from The Leapfrog Group shows that the care is not just available, but that it is leading-edge, safe and of the highest quality. To earn this presti- gious award two years in a row reflects our continued commitment to maintain the highest level of care,” says Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer, Golisano Children’s Hospital.

“We are proud to recognize Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida as a 2017 Leapfrog Top Hospital. This designation is a testament to the extraordinary dedication to patients and the local community. The entire staff and board deserve a round of applause!” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of Leapfrog.

In July 2016, Golisano Children’s Hospital moved into its new, child-friendly and state-of-art facility located next to HealthPark Medical Center, the new seven-story facility encompasses 300,000 square feet including Level II and Level III neonatal intensive care units, a Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, dedicated pediatric emergency services and a state-of-the-art Pediatric ICU.

To see the full list of institutions honored as 2017 Top Hospitals, visit www.theleapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.

Harry Chapin Mobile Pantry

The Harry Chapin Food Bank Mobile Pantry is at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church on the First Tuesday of every month. It is free to anyone. If any of your family is in need of food assistance, please come by. The truck distributes a variety of items, including dried and canned goods, fresh produce, bread, and frozen protein items. Stop first at the registration table to complete a short form. The church is located at 1100 McCall Road in Port Charlotte. For more information, please visit www.gchfbc.org or call 941-697-1974 or GulfCoveUMC@ centurylink.net.

Reversing Lifestyle disease through plant based nutrition

Join The Yoga Sanctuary, 112 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda, for this lecture with Dr. Jamil Dulaney from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 20. Dr. Dulaney is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology, has been a private practice cardiologist in Punta Gorda for 25 years. An emphasis on plant based nutrition education, she has successfully been able to help improve quality of life from patients and see their lifestyle diseases disappear. Cost is $15 per person. For more information, please visit www.yogasanctuaryofbg.com or call 941-505-9642.

Adjustment to Vision Loss classes to begin

The Lighthouse of Manasota, provider of no-cost rehabilitation training for the visually impaired, is offering a free 8-week class at the Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte on Thursdays starting Jan. 11.

Adjustment to Vision Loss offers help to those affected by low vision or who have visual impairments. Training includes skill training to continue enjoying a healthy, happy and independent life. Topics include vision aids, magnification and other devices. There is practical instruction for daily living such as kitchen safety, labeling foods, pouring and eating skilled tasks. There will be an emphasis on using money, coins and medications. The weekly class will meet on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Jan. 11 to March 1. Another session of classes will be held from March 15 to May 3. There is no charge for the program. For information and registration, call 941-764-0316.
Divas Half Marathon & 5K Florida West Coast

Approximately 1,200 participants donned bright pink feather boas, puffy tulle tutus and sparkly tiaras and hit the streets of Punta Gorda on Dec. 10 for the Divas Half Marathon & 5K Florida West Coast. This event has been called the most fun and glam women’s running series in the nation and draws participants from all over Florida. The event kicked off at exactly 8 a.m. with runners and walkers bundled up in the chilly morning air from Laishley Park.
In a year of head-snapping shocks and a whip-fast pace of news developments, who has distracted us, soothed us or explained it all for us in a way we could process? The USA TODAY Life staff has chosen 10 people who have helped rescue us from the appalling headlines of 2017.

What has turned out to be the story of the year in entertainment has been anything but entertaining, and there appears to be no end in sight to a torrent of allegations of sexual harassment and assault. But there have been highlights, particularly among those who have taken up the mantle of fighting against injustice, on screen or off. And while we may not all agree on the political infighting, we can at least agree that goodness, good humor and a grinning royal engagement occasionally saved the day.

Rose McGowan
Commandant of #RoseArmy

She was best known as an art-house darling, a star of the Scream films, who played a witch on Charmed in the early aughts. Now she’ll be known as one of the women whose tweeted accusations of rape by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein helped bring down the powerhouse producer. She also helped to kick-start the #MeToo movement that led to the fall of others and new attention to the no-longer-hidden problem of sexual harassment in the workplace.

For decades McGowan, 44, kept publicly silent about what she says Weinstein did to her in a hotel room in 1997. But once The New York Times and later The New Yorker revealed she was one of several women who accused Weinstein, McGowan went public.

“We are all Me Toos. I have been silenced for 20 years,” she shouted, fist raised, in a fiery speech greeted by cheers at the Women’s Convention in Detroit on Oct. 27. “I have been slut-shamed. I’ve been harassed. I’ve been maligned. … We are one massive collective voice, that is what #RoseArmy is all about. … No more will we be shunted to the side. No more will we be hurt. It’s time to rise. It’s time to be brave.

“Name it. Shame it. Call it out. … It’s time to clean house!”

See PEOPLE, Page 2U

And the entertainment world definitely needed the pick-me-up.
Oh, baby, it's getting colder outside. The holiday season is in full of movies to watch celebrating Christmas (and we'll get to see those, but before we reach the peak of that season, it's worth revisiting some of Hanukkah or winter, or both.

Here are five of our favorite movies to watch or re-watch at home to take a break from the hectic holiday season. Films that will keep you warm inside and make you feel a sense of coziness and warmth as the temperature outside begins to drop.

**Chill with wintry flicks this weekend**

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Kelly Lawler
USA TODAY

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**People**

Continued from Page 1U

Gal Gadot

Superhero didn't let down her duds

On screen, Gadot was everything we love about Wonder Woman: a tough warrior who samples ice cream and coos to her cats, a worthy match for her opponents yet strong enough to lift mountains and kick ass in a misbegotten world. Off screen, Gadot describes the Israel she's a first-generation immigrant from and her powerful streak. Gadot never deviated from Wonder Woman's message of kindness and strength that they cried foul at the subtle sexism that she's hospitalized — put the spotlight on interracial couples and family dynamics in different cultures. Nanjiani kept it real with his romance and on his *Twitter feed with insightful and often scatological humor and drinking to make it unsafe for family gatherings. Stream it on or try it tonight, or, probably more accurately, do it if you want to get a good laugh.**

Winter isn't just for cute penguins anymore. It's also a time for the scariest, most dangerous, as represented in this horror film starring Josh Hartnett about a town in Alaska where there's a month of darkness — every winter and then. When and there's darkness, the vampires come.

Rent it on Amazon, Google Play, iTunes, Vudu or YouTube.

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** Corrections & Clarifications

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**March of the Penguins** warmed our hearts.

"Art, genre and comedy are important pieces of the conversation and can often incite cathartic moments for all of us," he said. "Most women are strong, they're very loving and all the time and where it should be. Kumail Nanjiani

Comedy's next big thing

"Power and strength are qualities that are familiar with many men," Gadot told USA TODAY in May. "And when they have this quality, then automatically they're (written as) colder. ... But in real life, it's not true. Most women who are strong, they're warm and inclusive." Fans now feel such a deep bond with the strong-willed, often humorless women who cried that they feel sad about the subtle sexism she endures in Justice League.

Ronan Farrow

Weinstein’s worst nightmare?

What is said to print is dead. NBC News loss became The New Yorker’s gain after network news turned down the Weinstein exposé the former MSNBC host had been researching for 10 months.

The funny Hitchcock

Continued from Page 1U

To any of the many women I had already been researching for 11 months, I felt moved to say: "In terms of the gravity of the situation that the former MSNBC host had been researching for 10 months, I felt moved to say: "I won’t put into the book (that has not been done yet) all the stories that I have in some place," Atwood, 77, told USA TODAY in April. “I didn’t intend to be personal, I intended it to be a teaching moment."

Whether we were weathered, we were certainly battered by H.K. and Ed’s Emmy-winning adaptation of the penguin, which takes place in a totalitarian landscape where women are enslaved.

 abstract’s work has been on our books for winter, seeking years for its moment. This year was that moment, and Blanchett’s became the first streaming series to nab the Emmy top prize.

Contributing Brian Truitt, Erin Jes-...
Gift guide: You’ll get a charge out of these accessories

Sarah Sekulas Special to USA TODAY

S martphones, tablets and laptops run out of juice at the worst possible moments. You know, just as you are about to order that Uber ride, or when you’re on the last chapter of a page-turner. It’s frustrating to say the least. Never fear, though. A bevy of innovative new travel products do double (or more) duty, keeping you warm or organizing your gear while providing a charge on the go. Now the loved one you give one to will have enough juice to send you a gracious thank-you text. (All prices correct at publication.)

**Solgaard Lifepack**

This is the backpack of all backpacks. Solar-powered and anti-theft, it has a slew of awesome features, including the ability to charge your smartphone up to six times on a single charge. There’s a retractable combination lock with cable and a rain cover to boot. There are cret pockets, drop-proof laptop storage, a bottle opener, loads of secret pockets and a built-in micro USB cord in the center pouch. It’s made of stainless steel, this sleek leather-charging-clutches/all-gifts

**Ventev Wireless Charging Car Kit**

This handy wireless charging car kit holds your smartphone in place while it charges. The spring-loaded dual arms make for easy, one-handed docking. It works with any smartphone that uses Qi, PMA, fast wireless charging technology and comes with a tangle-free cable and rotating vent clip that fits most vehicle air vents.

**Alldock Medium Bamboo Case**

This modern-looking charging station has a four-port USB charger that will power up your tablet, phone, e-reader, Fitbit wearables, Apple Pencil and Apple AirPods. It also serves as a stand. So if you are cooking up a meal, you can easily glance at recipes via your tablet or phone. Available in two sizes and comes in walnut or Chinese bamboo options. To display and charge your Apple Watch, you can purchase the docking mount add-on.

**QBracelet**

Be ready to charge your iPhone at any given moment with this bracelet that contains a lightning plug that works with iPhones 5 and up. Made of stainless steel, this sleek accent piece is made for men and woman, comes in two sizes and holds its charge for 30 days.

**EverPurse Kate Spade Harmony Tote**

There are times when you need to cram a laptop, sweater, lunch, flats and a phone into your bag. For those times, this classic Kate Spade tote sold exclusively by EverPurse is a must-have. The fact that it also charges your phone makes it that much better. Here’s how it works: 1) Slip your phone into the charging pocket. 2) Once you get home, place your bag on the wireless charging mat to recharge the purse and 3) Voilà, it recharges in about six hours. It’s scratch-resistant, sturdy and guaranteed for life.

**Hayden Leather Charging Clutch**

When you don’t need a full-on purse but rather a wallet-size bag, this leather clutch is a solid option. At first glance it might look like any other clutch. But it’s not. Its superpower? The built-in battery that refuels your smartphone. A bonus: You also can detach the wrist strap for a different look.

**The Bigger Carry-On Away Suitcase**

How many times have you roamed the airport in search of an available power outlet and had no luck? This lightweight suitcase solves the problem. It sports a built-in battery, which means you can charge anything that’s powered by a USB cord while you wait for your plane. It can charge an iPhone as many as five times on a single charge. Plus, it’s scratch-resistant, sturdy and guaranteed for life.

**Ravean Heated Down Jacket**

Not only does this jacket keep you toasty (thanks to heating panels), it charges your phone and other portable devices with lightweight, rechargeable batteries. You can get up to 10 hours of battery life with the removable batteries. Perfect for adventure travel or just sitting in a chilly airport. It rolls up easily and takes up barely any space in carry-on luggage. Add some detachable, heated gloves and you’re good to go...

**MightyPurse Trio Bag**

This roomy, cross-body leather purse has a built-in micro USB cord in the center pouch. It’s made up of three pieces that can be separated and used as three bags.

**Triostone**

This modern-looking charging station has a four-port USB charger that will power up your tablet, phone, e-reader, Fitbit wearables, Apple Pencil and Apple AirPods. It also serves as a stand. So if you are cooking up a meal, you can easily glance at recipes via your tablet or phone. Available in two sizes and comes in walnut or Chinese bamboo options. To display and charge your Apple Watch, you can purchase the docking mount add-on.

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Sometimes the most memorable part of a football game has nothing to do with the action on the field. College stadiums are often attractions themselves, says ESPN announcer Adam Amin, who has visited hundreds of campuses during his career, and posted on the Insta- gram, @adam_amin.

“There’s so much tradition and history at these places. When the scenery’s particularly impressive, we certainly take a moment to appre- ciate it.” With college bowl season in full swing, he shares some travel-worthy venues for next season.

Levi’s® Edwards Stadium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Wasatch Mountain peaks loom over this edifice, which opened in 1964. “It’s an intimidating place, but from the broadcast booth, there was a moment when the sun went down, and there was no one in the stadium but us,” Amin says. The huge field, which holds more than 60,000 fans, is tucked in the Wasatch Front, a playground for winter-bound college football. gboupartowns.net

California Memorial Stadium, University of California, Berkeley

This California coliseum on the Na- tional Register of Historic Places sits from its location, tucked into the Berkeley hills overlooking San Francis- co. “It’s a really cool mixture of greenery and woods in a kind of a tree-lined val- ley,” Amin says. Indeed, some specta- tors sit outside the gates and watch customers at the post office. Two windows; one day cards with post-office-provided rubber stamps of Santa, wreaths and holiday cards on sale. Postmark, “It’s special.” King said. “It’s special.”

Kanen Memorial Stadium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amin worked a Tar Heels game over Thanksgiving weekend in 2016, and was impressed by the Carolina pine trees and campus buildings surrounding the stands. “There’s so much greenery and foliage, and we had the perfect day to be there. The lushness of that campus comes through even from the stadium itself,” gboupartowns.net

Albertsons Stadium, Boise State University

While best-known for its artificial turf, Amin says the Mountain West Conference field is just as memorable for its location in Idaho’s capital city. “The natural beauty of Boise itself is on display just right outside. The whole valley is a tree-lined, and the stadium is right in the middle. It’s a very underrat- ed city,” gboupartowns.net

Sun Bowl, University of Texas-El Paco

This arena is so close to the southern border that Amin recalls catching a game on Mexican Independence Day and seeing fireworks on the other side of the Rio Grande. “It’s right on the border. From the booth, you can see out the back and see Mexico.” The stadium has been home to a lot of great football.” ut athleticsthis Pacosports.com

Fairouz Field, University of Missouri, Columbia

Many football stadiums don’t really have a sense of place, Amin says, but Mizzou is an exception. “There’s a lot of tradition at Missouri. There’s blue skies and trees, and it’s essentially in the middle of the campus.” Thus, there’s the story of the rock “M” in the northern end zone, built in 1927 by freshmen with ma- terials leftover from the stadium’s con- struction. mboupartowns.net

Folsom Field, University of Colorado-Boulder

Amin says the slick, recently expand- ed arena matches with the rugged views of the Rockies. “It’s a kind of a cool juxtaposition. There’s a college football arena built in the Rockies, but there’s still some beautiful, scenic scenery,” gboupartowns.net

Neyland Stadium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

For Amin, the home of the Volunteers has a special place in his heart. “The first big game I called in my career was at Tennessee.” Although it’s located near the Tennessee River, he says the most notable arena view is of the fans in the stands. “It’s a great place. And it’s an homage to the school colors by forming a white and orange checkered pat- tern in the stands. artsports.com

It’s Christmas every day in ZIP code 32709

Anita and Jaan Gaal prepare cards at the post office. Siblings Ellis Grace, Silas and Major Jordan stamp cards.

CHRISTMAS, Fla. — Whenever you live, Christmas — is around the corner. If you’re in Central Florida, Christ- mas is just around the corner. If you’re in the big city, Christmas is down the road, too. To be more exact, it’s just around the corner from the 25-story hills overlooking San Francis- co. “It’s a really cool mixture of greenery and woods in a kind of a tree-lined valley,” Amin says. Indeed, some specta- tors sit outside the gates and watch customers at the post office. Two windows; one day cards with post-office-provided rubber stamps of Santa, wreaths and holiday cards on sale. Postmark, “It’s special.” King said. “It’s special.”

“Welcome to Christmas,” says a Christmas-centric names: Bethlehem, Luke and Matthew. Others salute Sun- tzu’s four-legged team — Comet Street Intersects with Cupid Avenue, Justice Street with St. Nicholas Avenue. There’s not a tiny reindeer in sight, but eight or more horses are in a field where Cupid Avenue ends.

A sign explains that the tree is “a symbol of love and good will; the Christmas tree, nativity scene, a huge field, which holds more than 60,000 fans, is tucked in the Berkeley hills overlooking San Francis- co. “It’s a really cool mixture of greenery and woods in a kind of a tree-lined valley,” Amin says. Indeed, some specta- tors sit outside the gates and watch customers at the post office. Two windows; one day cards with post-office-provided rubber stamps of Santa, wreaths and holiday cards on sale. Postmark, “It’s special.” King said. “It’s special.”

Christmas for almost 20 years.

On Dec. 6, King, who lives in Port St. John, and another clerk handled cus- tomers at the post office.

“Everyone comes in with a holiday mood — everybody wants that Christ- mas postmark,” King said. “It’s special.” Lindsey Jordan and her family, Chu- bioptures.com

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Picture of four people at a Christmas post office.

“Everyone comes in with a holiday mood — everybody wants that Christ- mas postmark,” King said. “It’s special.” Lindsey Jordan and her family, Chu- bioptures.com

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Yule love these five tales like the dickens

By Cynthia Hand
The Afterlife of Flatiron, 288 pp.
Jocelyn McClurg, Brian Truitt and Mary Cadden
Scrooge (Christopher Plummer) in "The Man Who Invented Christmas."

While writing "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens (Dan Stevens, left) goes on a journey with his character Ebenezer Scrooge (Christopher Plummer) in "The Man Who Invented Christmas."" — ERIY BAYYIN

Charles Dickens knew a thing or two about Christmas stories, and they remain a holiday tradition into the 21st century. USA TODAY unmaps new five holiday novels for grownups, tweens, and twinnings, including two graced by the ghostly presence of Mr. Dickens himself.

Mr. Dickens, and His Carol
By Samantha Silva
Flatiron, 208 pp.
"To the season, happy fans for a A Christmas Carol, for getting Scrooge, if you'll pardon the expression, First a movie, The Man Who Invented Christ-" — McClurg

"...we're in November 1843 and the increasingly popular Dickens is nearly as humble as Scrooge himself. Dickens is mired in debt and his latest work, Martin Chuzzlewit, is a bust. His infatuated wife has left London with their ever- growing brood. His publishers are de- murring a Christmas hit. But wait, in the lovely, elusive Eleanor Lovejoy, a mysterious woman who may be a onewor- her? Marley, wink-wink, might know.

— McClurg

The Noel Diary
By G. Neri
"...they head off to not only find lost relatives but also redemptive paths. It's a heartwarming tale..." — Mary Cadden

To Kill a Mockingbird
By Anna Enning Hoblin
"...the novel that cast to the Oscars."

The Last Noel
By Richard Paul Evans
"...the Christmas Hero as anayo" — Truitt

Pupcakes: A Christmas Novel
By Anne England Hoblin
"...a messy story and sudden move to Memphis, Brydie Benson finds herself as a former wife, a former bakery owner and a soon-to-be former house guest of her best friend, Elliott. Bry- di's chances of a festive holiday sea- son do not look good. Enter an over- weight and drooling Teddy Roosevelt to the rescue. That would be Teddy Roosevelt, the pug, and his elderly owner, Pauline Neu- man, who needs a house- and dog-sit- ter after she moves into assisted living. Through caging for Pauline, Brydie slowly returns to a life of happiness that included handsome doctors and a talent for baking for a canine clientele. Neuh- man's tale (of) self-discovery, popu- lated with a cast of characters is both heartlifting and life-affirming. Readers are in for a treat. — Mary Cadden

The Noel Diary
By Richard Paul Evans
"...the Christmas Hero as anayo" — Truitt

Don't break out the candy-cane pickles but the Christmas Hero as a taxo's annual holiday treat is pretty to de- void of the season, other than a main character's name and parallel roads to- ward grace happening in December. In The Noel Diary (of), Jacob Chamber is a best- selling author who has to revisit a rough childhood and clean up the Salt Lake City home of his es- tranged, alcoholic mother after she dies. A mysterious woman named Rachel knocks on the door looking for her own mom who lived there when Jacob was a boy, and he is forced to find not only family rela- tives but also redemptive paths. It's a different type of love story for Evans as a predictable one, and he ex- plores complicated morals and emo- tions while warming your heart. — Truitt

USA TODAY LIFE • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017 • USA TODAY LIFE
**USA TODAY’s Jocelyn McClurg scoops out the best books on sale each week.**

**1 Queen Victoria’s Matchmaking: The Royal Marriages That Shaped Europe**
by Deborah Cadbury (Public Affairs, non-fiction, on-sale today; $26.99)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** By the 1890s, when she had more than 30 grandchildren, the queen of England was determined to expand her empire through marriage, but the royal kids didn’t always like love matches.

**THE BUZZ:** Off the mood for Season 2 of the popular PBS series Victoria (starring Jenna Coleman as the young queen), returning to Masterpiece on Jan. 14.

**2 My Brother’s Keeper**
by Donna Malan (Minotaur, fiction, on-sale today; $26.99)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** Mystery set in New Zealand about the trouble that ensues when a female ex-con asks a missing-people expert for help tracking down her 14-year-old daughter.

**THE BUZZ:** “Engrossing,” says Publishers Weekly.

**3 Happiness in This Life**
by Keija Parise (Penguin, non-fiction, on-sale today; $25.95)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** The poet offers a collection of poems, speeches and messages of the day in this book subtitled "A Passionate Meditation on Earthly Existence.”

**THE BUZZ:** During this holiday season, the poet's fifth to take form in an effort to spread joy and help readers find happiness.

**4 Eileen**
by Sara Makhijani-Alipour (Algonquin, fiction, on-sale today; $25.95)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** Debut novel set in rural northern England about the violence that erupts when a family living off the grid in the woods is confronted by a hooligan.

**THE BUZZ:** The book was a final for this year’s Man Booker Prize.

**5 Waking Up in Winter: In Search of What Really Matters at Midlife**
by Cheryl Richardson (WhipperCreek, non-fiction, on-sale today; $26.99)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** Richosion’s life coach and author of previous best sellers including Take Time for Your Life.

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**WHAT AMERICANS READING**

**1 The Book of Mormon: The Musical**
by Rick Elice; music by Thomas Kail; book by Robert L. Freedman; directed by Thomas Kail (Broadway, musical, on-sale today)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** New Broadway musical, allowing a dad to decide whether to accept the hedge-fund job offer that will make all the family’s dreams a reality — including their own (F) (D) (H)

**THE BUZZ:** "Such strong, funny, challenging moments that are often hilariously funny. Very little of the book is left untouched, but the musical promises to keep you on the edge of your seat." (BWW) (P) (H)

**2 The Story of Ferdinand**
by Munro Leaf; illustrations by Robert Lawson (Penguin, picture book, on-sale today)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** Children: Mr. Fish discovers he isn’t really glum after all (F) (H)

**THE BUZZ:** “Difficult to resist” (PW) (P) (H)

**3 The How Not to Die Cookbook**
by Michael Greger, M.D.; illustrations by Prose Artist, tweedledee studio, Doubleday (cooking, on-sale today)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** “Simple, scrumptious recipes for crazy busy lives” (F) (H)

**THE BUZZ:** “Every single recipe in this book is life changing. It made ‘I want to’ and ‘I need to’ into ‘I should’ and ‘I will.” (H) (P) (H)

**4 Life, the Universe and Everything**
by Douglas Adams; (Harper, science fiction, on-sale today; $29.99)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** (NF) (H)

**THE BUZZ:** “A great read and a good way of thinking about science, life and the universe” (PW) (P) (H)

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**THE REST**

**1 The Nation’s Most Popular Author**
by Steve Berry (HarperCollins, non-fiction, on-sale today)

**WHAT IT’S ABOUT:** "A collection of homilies, speeches and messages of the day in this book subtitled ‘A Passionate Meditation on Earthly Existence.”

**THE BUZZ:** “Prepare for Season 2 of Masterpiece’s ‘Victoria,' starring Jenna Coleman (with Tom Hughes as Albert), by reading Deborah Cadbury’s account of the queen’s match-making habits." (GAL) (G) (H)
**Wizard of Id**

- **Mort Walker's**
- **beetle bailey**

- **Hagar the Horrible**

- **Blondie**

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**Comics Page 2 D/E/N/C/V**

**www.sun-herald.com**

**The Sun / Sunday, December 17, 2017**
HARRY: HAVE YOU CHOSEN A GIFT TO GIVE SUE FOR CHRISTMAS?

TAYLOR: YEAH, I HAD AN IDEA.

HARRY: THEY'RE ON BAYBERRY.

TAYLOR: ANNI!

HARRY: WHAT'S THE BOOK?

TAYLOR: DR. WHISPERER.

HARRY: OKAY, THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

HARRY: THAT'S SOME AWESOME LET'S NOT SEE IT.

TAYLOR: WOAH.
THE PHANTOM
BY LEE FALK

NON SEQUITUR
BY WILEY

DENNIS THE MENACE
BY HANK KETCHAM

MARMAL
by Tom Armstrong
The Englewood Area Board of Realtors is proud to be the local voice for real estate since 1962.

The nonprofit organization is more than 800 members strong and a vital part of the Englewood community.

Only real estate licensees who are members of the National Association of REALTORS are properly called REALTORS. They proudly display the REALTOR logo on their business card or other marketing literature. REALTORS are committed to treat all parties to the transaction honestly and subscribe to a strict code of ethics. REALTORS are expected to maintain a higher level of knowledge of the process of buying and selling real estate.

As part of a three-tiered organization that covers the national, state and local levels, EABOR offers its members a steady stream of real estate news and information through its newsletters and general membership meetings. EABOR also offers a full schedule of continuing education in real estate courses. EABOR offers networking opportunities throughout the year.

In addition to serving its membership, EABOR also serves the Englewood community through fundraising, volunteering and encouraging members to make a difference.

EABOR’s mission statement is: To protect private property rights and help the Englewood Area Board of REALTORS maintain the highest standards of professionalism and integrity, and achieve the maximum level of success for their profession and community.

You are welcome to visit the Englewood Area Board of Realtors office, just off State Road 776 in Englewood East at 3952 N. Access Road, Englewood, Florida 34224.

Give us a call at 941-475-6656 or visit our website at englewoodareaboardofrealtors.com for more information about our organization and our members.
Kathi Obendorfer, officers, directors sworn in at EABOR annual banquet

By KIM PARKS
BOARD OF REALTORS

The members of the Englewood Area Board of Realtors held their Installation and Awards banquet at the Broadmoor Community Center in Rotonda West on Friday.

The board of directors for 2018 was installed and awards were handed out to recognize excellence in the real estate industry and exceptional community involvement.

Kathi Obendorfer was sworn in as EABOR president for 2018. She was also named Realtor of the year.

Rookie Realtor of the year was awarded to Sharon Badrian. The Community Service Award was given to Brian Faro. Vic Berger of Trustco Bank was honored with Business Affiliate of the Year.

EABOR'S 2018 officers include president Kathi Obendorfer; president-elect Mark Spurgeon; secretary Phil Van Der Heyden; treasurer Ray Eggermont; and past president Kevin Hyde. Directors are Pat Ottolini, David Haynes and Mary Smedley.

Following her swearing-in ceremony, conducted by Roger Piro of the National Association of Realtors, Obendorfer spoke to the membership about the importance of the EABOR mission and how members should think big in everything they do. She assured members that she is in office to help, and encouraged members to engage with each other and the community.

The evening's festivities included dinner at the newly opened Community Center at Broadmoor Park in Rotonda West, and music by Geri Van.

Learn more about EABOR and its involvement in the community by following them on Twitter and Instagram @EABORFL or find them on Facebook.
Realtors engaging with the community

One of the top goals for the Englewood Area Board of Realtors is to engage the community and be helpful in many ways.

Members of EABOR’s Outreach Committee and Young Professionals Network can be spotted picking up trash along highways, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, mentoring Lemon Bay High School students, and supporting local agencies like the Boys & Girls Club of Englewood, Kids Needs and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

At the same time, it’s hundreds of members are also assuming leadership roles in countless community and church and service organizations.

EABOR president-elect Kathi Obendorfer and president Kevin Hyde with kids from the Englewood Boys & Girls Club summer camp.

Kyle Arnold, Jim Benson, Brian Faro and Michelle Eberley of the YPN put on a bowling clinic with the Englewood Boys & Girls Club.

Traci Hamill, left, of Caliber Home Loans, and Matt Wojcik, chair of the Young Professionals Network, presents a donation to Leslie Edwards of Kids Needs.

Matt Wojcik and Chase Jacobson hang with their bowling partners from Englewood Boys & Girls Club.
The Englewood Area Board of Realtors’ Young Professionals Network has made it their mission to help clean up Charlotte County.

The members spend about two hours on scheduled Saturday mornings picking up trash along a busy street or road in the county.

“It’s a way for us to give back to our community and we encourage everyone to ‘Give a Hoot, Don’t Pollute,’” said Matt Wojcik, chairman of the Young Professionals. The group meets once a month to plan ways to network among their colleagues and to map out ways to give back to and engage in their community.

EABOR’S Young Professionals Network is led by Chair Matt Wojcik. For more information and to find out when the next Tech Check will be, call 941-475-6656 or find them on Twitter or Instagram @EABORFL.

Members of the Young Professionals Network celebrate another day of cleaning up Englewood. They are, from left, (front) Chase Jacobson, Pat Ottolini, Beth Cashman, Tara Erdman, Tricia Bonnell (back) Cindy Shivick, Charles Miller, Kathi Obendorfer, Matt Wojcik and Rick O’Neal.

ZPN members Chase Jacobson, Beth Cashman, Ashley Johnson, Traci Hamill, Matt Wojcik, Kathi Obendorfer, Rick O’Neal, Luz Serrano, Charles Miller and Mal Glidden volunteer to pick up trash on a recent Saturday.

Mal Glidden, Matt Wojcik, Rick O’Neal and Ashley Johnson fill some bags with roadside trash.
ENGLEWOOD — The Englewood Area Board of Realtors has welcomed Richard “RJ” Marshall as the new Chief Executive Officer.

Marshall comes to Englewood from Orlando, where he was the CEO of the Greater Orlando Builders Association. He has served previously as the CEO for the Realtors of South Central Kansas (along with the South-Central Kansas MLS), the Realtors Association of Prince William and the Southside Virginia Association of Realtors.

“Marshall has an extensive background in real estate association leadership,” said Kevin Hyde, president of EABOR at the time of Marshall’s hiring.

“That experience, combined with his outgoing personality and work ethic, makes him an ideal person to guide the association. In meeting with our search committee, his passion for our industry and his alignment with our vision and dedication to the Realtors profession was noticeable,” Hyde added.

Editor’s note: A version of this story appeared in the Aug. 5, 2017 Englewood Sun.
Englewood Area Board of Realtors: Building for a better community

The Englewood Area Board of Realtors has been a longtime supporter of Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity. It’s one of the ways the organization engages the community and gives back.

EABOR is committed to homeownership and their members work to make that dream a reality, a mission that is shared with Habitat.

Habitat is an international, non-governmental and nonprofit organization which was founded in 1976. It is devoted to building “simple, decent and affordable” housing.

Since 1987, Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity has helped over 360 Charlotte County families achieve the dream of home ownership. EABOR gladly helps to build homes that are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with zero-interest loans.

EABOR plans to continue supporting the CCH4H organization by volunteering labor on future builds.
PHOTO PROVIDED
BY EABOR

EABOR members working with Habitat for Humanity are, from left, Rick O’Neal, Charles Miller, Sue Freeman, Rich Freeman, Kevin Hyde and Laura Clifton.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KIM PARKS

EABOR’s Community Outreach Committee consists of, from left, (front) committee chair Brian Faro, Malcolm Glidden, Beth Cashman, Traci Hamill and Peggy Arnold, (back) Rick O'Neal, Robin Lindecamp and Tom Triboli.

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Why use a Realtor? 6 important reasons

Real estate is a big deal. For most Americans, a home is the most expensive purchase they’ll make in their lifetime. It’s a serious transaction with significant financial and emotional ramifications for the parties involved, and having proper representation is critical.

Here are six of the chief reasons:

1. **Fiduciary responsibility.** When you work with a Realtor, their fiduciary responsibility is to you. That means you have an expert who is looking out for your best financial interests, an expert who’s contractually bound to do everything in their power to protect you. That’s big — the value of that commitment cannot be overstated. “For more than 100 years, Realtors have subscribed to the National Association of Realtors’ strict Code of Ethics as a condition of membership,” says NAR President Gary Thomas. “Realtors have the expertise and experience to help sellers protect their investment and help buyers build theirs.”

2. **Complex, ever-changing real estate regulations.** Buying or selling a home is not like purchasing a plane ticket. Every home is different, and laws change every year and vary from state to state. Generally speaking, people purchase a new home every 7-10 years, and a lot can — and usually does — change between transactions. Realtors are immersed in real estate, and they must stay current with all the updates in regulations, laws, contracts and practices. Once you retain your Realtor, they put that knowledge to work for you.

3. **Help finding the right home, beyond square footage and baths.** Browsing online is a terrific way to start a home search — in fact, almost 90 percent of people start their home search online. But when it’s time to buy, knowing all the pros and cons of a property can help you make the right decision. Realtors live and breathe real estate, and they can share information about a home that you wouldn’t otherwise know. For example, they can tell you about the perils of polybutylene piping (a plumbing material that’s prone to bursting), or the concerns with FRT plywood (a roofing material that can spontaneously combust in higher temperatures, like those in attics). Your Realtor can go beyond the aesthetics and tell you important details about homes you’re considering.

4. **Pricing and selling a home.** There are lots of sites where you can view price estimates for your home before you list it for sale, but you take a risk using them. In some markets, online estimates can be off by as much as 35 percent, and they often rely on tax records and data that can be as old as 6-12 months. Realtors know the local market, have access to the freshest sale data, and can price your house in line with the market to maximize your earnings. In 2012, sellers using an agent got $40,100 more. The median sale price for the 88 percent of sellers who worked with an agent was $215,000, versus a median sale price of $174,900 for the 9 percent of sellers who didn’t use an agent.

5. **Contracts and negotiations.** Finding the right home is the fun part. Then the real work begins. Today’s contracts can be 50 pages long — not counting addendums and riders. Realtors can help you navigate these complex documents and craft an attractive offer that makes sense for you. Plus, when it comes to negotiation, your Realtor is your advocate and can bring an objective voice to a very subjective situation.

6. **Following a code of ethics.** When you work with a Realtor, you’re partnering with a professional who operates according to a strict code of ethics. In place for over 100 years, the Realtor Code of Ethics ensures that consumers who work with a Realtor are treated professionally and ethically in all transaction-related matters.
EABOR chief executive officer RJ Marshall and several of the board’s officers were among the contingent of Realtors who attended the 101st Annual Florida Realtors Convention and Trade Expo at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. Realtors from around the state came to the convention and governance meetings Aug. 18-20, to discuss key issues that shape their profession and the state association. Members had a choice of more than 35 education sessions on topics like the latest trends in real estate and converting leads into business.

The expo had the latest technology and unique products to help agents, brokers and associations be more productive and efficient. The opening session included a talk by Daymond John, the founder of Shark Tank and FUBU, and the closing session featured George Blankenship, the marketing genius behind the extraordinary success of the GAP, Apple and Tesla.

The governance meetings were held to inform members on the progress that has been made this year in government affairs and legislative issues.

EABOR members who attended the convention included Kevin Hyde, Kathi Obendorfer, David Haynes, Michelle Finley, Melissa Mutkoski, Anita Gross, Sue Cooper and board administrative assistant Marcia Potts.

EABOR is a trade organization that exists to protect private property rights and has been the local voice for real estate since 1962.

Englewood Area Board of Realtors president Kevin Hyde and EABOR CEO RJ Marshall.
One way the members of the Young Professional Network give back to the community is by teaching people how to use their technical devices with free, one-on-one help.

The group, which is under the umbrella of the Englewood Area Board of Realtors, sets up periodic “Tech Checks” at the EABOR office.

At these Tech Checks, members volunteer to teach people how to set up and use their iPhones, tablets, laptops and other devices. They also help with privacy settings and internet security tips.

The Young Professionals Network exists to facilitate opportunities for involvement in Realtor Association leadership through education and networking. These well-attended Tech Checks are one more way the members engage with the community.

EABOR’s Young Professionals Network is led by Chair Matt Wojcik. For more information and to find out when the next Tech Check will be, call 941-475-6656 or find them on Twitter or Instagram @ EABORFL.

Marc Manna gives a presentation about internet safety at the Englewood Area Board of Realtors office.

YPN Chair Matt Wojcik successfully helps Daralyn Duquette.

YPN member Brian Faro, left, helps Steve Legge during a Tech Check session held recently at the board office to help members and the public with everything from setting up Instagram accounts to fixing hacked emails and rebooting a smartphone.

The tech session at the Englewood Board of Realtors office drew a full house on Aug. 29. EABOR’s Young Professional’s Network conducted the tech session. Marc Manna’s Englewood Tech provided support for the event.

Sponsor Manny Masony from M2 Strategic Solutions helps two attendees.
Lindy Couture gives students high fives during the Eagle Run at Englewood Elementary School.

Lemon Bay graduate Kelsie Ogilvie receives an award from Tom Catanzarite, former athletic director at LBHS. The Englewood community awards thousands in scholarships each year to its graduates.

Candace Dove tries to help ease her daughter Cheyenne's nerves as she checks out her new classroom at Vineland.

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1997 Kentucky Ave. Englewood, FL 34224
The Englewood Area Board of Realtors has welcomed dozens of new members to the organization this year.

By becoming a member, Realtors aren't just agents, they are professional members of the National Association of Realtors, which means they subscribe to a strict code of ethics.

EABOR is a trade organization that exists to protect private property rights. EABOR has been the local voice for real estate since 1962.

For more information, call 941-475-6656.

New members are welcomed to the Englewood Area Board of Realtors. The include, from left, (front) Marcia Krontz of Exit King Realty, Kate Stevens of Michael Saunders & Company, Cathy Moseley of Keller Williams Realty Gold, Mary Tamez of Wendy Reinhardt Realty Inc, Diane Martinez of Program Realty, Maria Claudio of Edgerton Realty & Development and Capri Wiedemann-Lasbury-Tracy Realty Inc. (back) Carl Traenker of Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty, Charlie Hamilton of Exit King Realty, Steve Kaplan of Gulf Coast International Properties, Ramon Martinez of Keller Williams Realty Gold, Mike Ayotte of Gulf Realty & Associates LLC, Jeffrey Ament of Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty and Victoria Madonna of Edgerton Realty & Development.
Beautiful parks grace Englewood lifestyle

CHARLOTTE COUNTY PARKS

• Ainger Creek Park, 2089 Placida Road, Englewood. Boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, fishing.
• Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Rotonda. Birding, nature trail.
• Anger Fishing Pier, 1385 Beach Road, Englewood. Fishing.
• Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Drive. Pool, walking trail, fenced dog parks, playground, football fields, cricket, picnic gazebo.
• Bay Heights Park, 1000 S. McCall Road, Englewood. Fishing, picnic tables, open space, boat ramp and launch.
• Bill Coy Preserve, 5350 Placida Road, Englewood. Birding, nature trails, canoe launch.
• Boca Grande Fishing Pier, 5810 Gasparilla Road, Gasparilla Island. Fishing.
• Butterford Waterway Park, 13555 Marathon Blvd., Port Charlotte (Gulf Cove). Fishing, boat ramp.
• Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Park, 1688 Gasparilla Road, Rotonda. Bike trail, walking trail, picnic tables, historic features.
• Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood. Birding, fishing, nature trails, picnic areas, playground, environmental center.
• Centennial Fishing Pier, 14021 Gasparilla Road, Placida. Fishing.
• C.G. Herring Park, 3406 Indiana Road, Rotonda.
• Englewood East Park, 11120 Sunnydale Ave., Englewood. Playground, basketball, horseshoes, barbecue grills, picnic tables.
• Gulfstream Park, 12873 Gulfstream Blvd., Englewood. Fishing, picnic tables.
• Oyster Creek Environmental Park, 2333 Placida Road, Englewood. Canoe/kayak launch, fishing, nature trail, picnic tables.
• Placida Fishing Pier, 13120 Pier Road, Placida. Fishing.
• Rotonda Community Park, 100 Rotonda Blvd. E., Rotonda. Open play fields, bike trails, tennis courts, nature trail, picnic shelter, barbecue grills, playgrounds.
• South Gulf Cove Park, 10150 Amicola St., Gulf Cove. Boat ramp, fishing, barbecue grills, picnic shelter, playground.
• Thornton Key Preserve, 8 Thornton Key Preserve, Englewood. Birding, canoe/kayak, nature trail.
• Tringali Park, 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood. Gymnasium, basketball, tennis, inline hockey rink, volleyball, picnic tables.

Veterans memorial, basketball, picnic tables, running track, playground, remote control car area.

For more about Charlotte County parks and amenities, go to www.charlottecountyfl.gov and click on “Parks” under “Popular Links” on the left.

SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS

• Blind Pass Beach Park, Uncrowded Englewood Beach is a great place to catch a Florida sunset.

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SUN PHOTO BY SANDY MACYS
World Champion powerboat racer speaks to local Realtors

By KIM PARKS
BOARD OF REALTORS

ENGLEWOOD — The members of the Englewood Area Board of Realtors recently held their annual business meeting to announce the 2018 officers and directors. The annual membership meeting is also held to give the outgoing board president the opportunity to recap the year in terms of accomplishments.

Kevin Hyde announced next year’s officers and directors. The new president is Kathi Obendorfer, secretary is Phil Van Der Heyden, treasurer is Ray Eggermont, MFRMLS director is Pat Ottolini, and directors are David Haynes, Mary Smedley and Mark Spurgeon.

Guest speakers included Gina Taylor from Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Charlotte County’s Supervisor of Elections Paul Stamoulis, and Erik Korzilius who spoke on recent wire transfer scams.

The featured speaker was Steven David, who is a 12-time World Champion in Unlimited Hydroplane powerboats, the fastest propeller-driven boats in the world. Steve currently holds the competition world record for an unlimited hydroplane, making him the fastest human on water for a competition lap.

When it comes to survival and perseverance, David walks the talk. His racing crashes, one in which he died and was resuscitated, and his wins have given him life lessons he shares to inspire success in others. David encouraged motivation.

“Make a commitment to make something positive happen every day,” he said. “Whether it’s sending a referral, making a sale, taking a listing, making a cold call, or stopping by for sale by owner … something, anything that will generate income.”

Editor’s note: A version of this story was published Nov. 9 in the Englewood Sun.

RJ Marshall, Paul Stamoulis and Kevin Hyde network during the EABOR annual meeting.

PARKS
FROM PAGE 13

6725 Manasota Key Road, Englewood. Swimming, trails, canoe/kayak launch, playground, picnic shelters, grills.

• Buchan Airport Community Park, 1390-1398 Old Englewood Road. Recreational airfield, large shaded playgrounds, picnic area and grills, community garden, community meeting room, open space, walking trails.

• Englewood Recreation Center Park, 101 N. Orange St., Englewood. Outdoor lighted basketball, practice softball fields, tennis courts, tennis practice, playground, shuffleboard, outdoor fitness structures, picnic tables.

• Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 S. River Road, Englewood. Multiple baseball and softball fields, soccer, tennis, indoor gym, weight room, locker room, playground, pickleball, indoor rental space, fishing ponds.

• Indian Mound Park, 210 Winson Ave., Englewood. Boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, picnic shelters, trails, historic features.

• Lemon Bay Park & Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. Indoor rental space, trails, picnic shelters, nature trails, fishing, birding, canoe/kayak, butterfly garden.

• Manasota Beach Park, 8570 Manasota Key Road, Englewood. Swimming, picnic shelters, boat ramp, docking.

• Manasota Scrub Preserve, 2695 Bridge St., Englewood. Nature trails, birding.

Visit www.scgov.net and click on the “Parks, Rec & Natural Resources” tab for more information.

FLORIDA STATE PARKS


• Maykka State Forest, 2000 S. River Road, Englewood. Hiking, birding, primitive camping, bike trails, fishing, hunting, canoe/kayak access, picnic facilities.

Visit www.floridastateparks.org and www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas for more information about state recreational lands.
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1811 Englewood Rd #273  
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(941) 460-9502  
David Lemonde, Broker  

M R Realty & Investment LLC  
590 Tamiami Trail Unit 2  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
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Elena Zinchuk  
Mark Radcliffe, Broker  

Manasota Key Realty Inc  
1927 Beach Rd  
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David Blake Lipstein  
Kelly Cannon  
Patricia Samuels  

McCall Real Estate  
263 Long Meadow Ln  
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Lynne Forwell  
Ronald Forwell, Broker  
Sherman Anderton  

Medway Realty  
4121 S Tamiami Trail  
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110 Nokomis Ave  
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Madeline Childers  
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Tom Childers  
Tracy Pierce  

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420 East Railroad Ave  
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Carol Stewart  
Dorsey Dumas  
Eric Knight  
Jane Vaughan  
Johns Knight  
Krista Potthast-Haynes, P.A.  
Margaret Norvell  
Michael McMillan  
Michael Saunders, Broker  

Lori Billera  
Matthew Wojcik  
Michael Marriner  
Michele Nolin Love  
Michelle Denton  
Nicole Mantha  
Nicole Moore  
Patricia Alexander  
Patricia Bieneman  
Patricia Bonnell  
Paul Cornuke, Broker  
Peggy Coates  
Penny Donald  
Phyllis Rollo  
Raeann Romero Martinez  
Ramon Martinez  
Rebekah McCracken  
Ricky Peitz, PA  
Ronald Zion  
Ronald DeNichilo  
Ryan Hesse  
Samira Badawi  
Scott Hesse  
Sheila Bell  
Sierra Powell  
Susan Costello  
Susan Crooker  
Teresa Diedrick  
Terrence Laucis Sr.  
Terri Hesse  
Terri Lynn Ratzel  
Terry Long  
Terry McNutt  
Thomas Wenck  
Tisha Shaw  
Tony Babington  
Torrey Mead  
Virginia Vigas  
William Thompson  
Yelena Shabliy  

Keller Williams Realty Gold  
3972 S Tamiami Trail  
Venice, FL 34293  
(941) 408-0600  
Paul Cornuke, Broker  
Tami Pocevic  

Key Realty, Inc.  
1201 S McCall Rd.  
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(941) 474-3228  
Arlene Knight  
Barbara Mooney  
Carolyn Schaeffer  
Christine Clayton  
Debra Walters  
Gary Miller  
Leslie Edwards, Broker  

KW Peace River Partners  
1675 W Marion Ave Ste 112  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 875-9060  
Amanda Mathern  
James Quinn, Broker  

Lantz Realty  
146 Island Court  
Rotonda West, FL 33947  
(941) 270-3409  
Rex Lantz, Broker  

Lasbury-Tracy Realty Inc.  
312 S. Indiana Ave.  
Englewood, FL 34223  
(941) 474-5585  
Amy DeMersman  
Capri Wiedemann  
Christine Howard  
Daniel Wyatt  
Franklin Castanien  
Jennifer Furey  
Judith Ann Canero  
Kathleen Hague  
Leah Lasbury  
Margaret Norton  
Mary Ellen Diez  
Nathan Tracy II, Broker  
Robert Skidmore  
Rosann Carey  
Stephanie Borchard  
Stephanie Trimboeli  
Steven Somma  
Suzanne Murray  
Thomas Trimboeli Sr  
Toddington Tracy  
William Drozda  

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David Blake Lipstein  
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Patricia Samuels  

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Larry Seale  

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Tom Childers  
Tracy Pierce  

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Jane Vaughan  
Johns Knight  
Krista Potthast-Haynes, P.A.  
Margaret Norvell  
Michael McMillan  
Michael Saunders, Broker
Michael Saunders & Company
1200 S. McCall Rd.
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Charlotte Darnell
Cheryl Komosa
Christine Reid
Deborah Benson
Deborah Zor
Doris Fernandez
Elizabeth Burr
Ellen Baker
Erin Halstead
Harvey Long
James Callahan
James Luscombe
Joanne Pattona
Joni McLendon
Judy Davis
Kate Stevens
Kevin Mackin
Lorna Williamson
Marcia Cullinan
Mary Poggemann
Mary Smedley
Mary Stuart
Maryann Casey
Marybeth Tvaroch
Michael Cullinan
Michael Hollenbeck
Michael Saunders, Broker
Michael Williamson
Misty Raines PA
Mitchell Mesenburg
Pamela Neer
Randall McLendon
Reatha Valera
Robert Poggemann
Sharon de Silva
Sharon Rodgers
Shawna Wagar
Susan Gilmore
Susan Porter
Toby Delbridge
Yvonne Wolf

Neal Communities Realty, Inc.
5800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34240
(941) 328-1111
Dawn Bruner
John Neal, Broker

Nelda Thompson & Assoc.
1354 Manasota Bch. Road, Ste 4
Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 475-6027
Joann Schilp
Nelda Thompson, Broker
Phyllis Sharpe

Ocean Partners
335 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 627-6232
Bradley Geddeis, Broker
Robert Mauro

Palm Island Properties Inc
7092 Placida Rd
Placida, FL 33946
(941) 697-1445
Jamie Beckstead
Penny Hazen
Richard Brunette, Broker

Palm Island Vacation Rentals
7075 Placida Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 697-4007
Daniel Wootten, Broker

Paradise Exclusive Inc
8300 Wiltshire Dr Unit 3
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
(941) 698-0303
Alice Sheldon
Allyson Garcia
Andrew Hackleman
Anita Gross
Becky Jo Cole
Brian Faro
Brittany Essig
Candy Brooks
Chris Lee
Christina Sexton
Clark Browning
Corinne Ramirez
Courtney DeFilippis
David Ferryall
Dennis Tolton
Diana Headley
Eileen Scanlon
Elaine Mayo
Esther Maisch
Francis Colosimo
James Benson, Broker
Jason Vollmer
John Headley
Joseph Giraldi

Julia Lowder
Karen Rand
Katrina Towns
Kelsey Dutery
Linda DeCamp
Lore Mooren
Mark Dean
Mark Hamsher
Melissa Mutkoski
Michelle Eberley
Michelle Finley
Michelle Jakelis
Nathan Fugitt
Norma Kite
Robert Bauer
Robert Flaaskog
Robert Stevenson
Sandra Flaaskog
Shawna Lowbridge
Sondra Pinard
Susan Cooper
Susan Fraser
Tara Erdman
Tina Evans
Tom Wagner
Tracy Meyer
Wayne Sheldon

Parsley-Baldwin Realty Inc.
PO Box 605
Boca Grande, FL 33921
(941) 964-2700
Anthony Mauceri, Broker
David Hayden
Deborah Miller
Diane Rosano
Eleanore Young
Jim Reske
John Brandenberger
Kevin Hyde
Marco Meola
Nancy Hyde
Olivia Jones
Patricia Malone
Susan Reske

Peachtree Appraisals
3238 Albin Ave
North Port, FL 34286
(941) 426-5066
Raymond Krasinski, Broker

Pineapple Gulf Properties, LLC
350 S Indiana Ave
Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 473-0300
Barbara Luciano
Glenda McDorman, Broker
YELLOW STICKY NOTE

<table>
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<th>REALTORS LISTING</th>
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| Place In The Sun, LLC  
8501 Placida Rd Unit A3  
Cape Haze, FL 33946  
(941) 697-2175  
Hazel Klossner, Broker  
Lisa Boyle |
| RE/MAX Anchor of Marina Park  
150 Laishley Ct Ste 114  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 205-2004  
Jan Demers  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
| RE/MAX Anchor Realty  
8379 Gasparilla Rd  
Placida, FL 33946  
(941) 697-5606  
Catherine Alfords  
Charles Alfords  
Debra Campbell  
Jack McCarthy  
Kathleen Betancourt  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
| RE/MAX Anchor Realty  
14850 Tamiami Trail  
North Port, FL 34287  
(941) 429-3506  
Cathy Ledford  
Deborah Jones  
Patricia Estill  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker  
Sharon McLain |
| RE/MAX Anchor Realty  
394miami Tr #3115  
Pun1 Tata Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 639-1376  
Carlos Dasilva  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
| RE/MAX Palm Realty  
1808 Tamiami Trail Unt D2  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
(941) 743-5525  
Christy White  
Peter Rivera, Broker  
Sandra Morris |
| RE/MAX Palm Realty of Venice  
2095 Tamiami Trail South  
Venice, FL 34293  
(941) 451-2025  
Jack Budwitz  
Leonard Park  
Mark Allhouse  
Peter Rivera, Broker  
Woodley Watts |
| Real Estate Brilliance LLC  
7108 Mifflin St  
Englewood, FL 34224  
(941) 475-6699  
Jesse Bryl, Broker |
| Registry Realty  
8571 Amberjack Cir #202  
Englewood, FL 34224  
(407) 580-9630  
Craig Conlon, Broker |
| Resort Real Estate of CapeHaze  
8401 Placida Rd  
Cape Haze, FL 34276  
(941) 914-3336  
Clark Gillaspie, Broker |
| Riverwood Realty  
1680 El Jobean Rd, Ste 4  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
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Anita Baltierra  
Janice Fanstill, Broker  
Kim Powers  
Margaret Hoppe  
Maureen Winsor  
Theodore McDermott  
Virginia Smythe-Park |
| RMI Realty  
3521 Bay Ridge Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
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Regina Iacone, Broker |
| Sarasota Realty Assoc. Inc.  
787 Commerce Drive  
Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 232-3271  
Dane Hahn  
Roger Greig, Broker |
| South Gulf Cove Realty, Inc  
8264 Wiltshire Dr Unit A  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981  
(941) 698-1300  
Gary Miner, Broker  
Philip Van Der Heyden |
| Sun Realty  
3757 Tamiami Trail North  
Naples, FL 34103  
(239) 649-1990  
Gary Hicks, Broker |
| Sun Realty  
318 Tamiami Trail #216  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(239) 649-1990  
Gary Hicks, Broker  
Hope Sage  
James Tierney |

Registry Realty  
150 Laishley Ct Ste 114  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 205-2004  
Jan Demers  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
| RE/MAX Anchor of Marina Park  
150 Laishley Ct Ste 114  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
(941) 205-2004  
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Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
| RE/MAX Anchor Realty  
8379 Gasparilla Rd  
Placida, FL 33946  
(941) 697-5606  
Catherine Alfords  
Charles Alfords  
Debra Campbell  
Jack McCarthy  
Kathleen Betancourt  
Rebecca Dewey, Broker |
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14850 Tamiami Trail  
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Rebecca Dewey, Broker  
Sharon McLain |
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1808 Tamiami Trail Unt D2  
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Peter Rivera, Broker  
Sandra Morris |
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Peter Rivera, Broker  
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8401 Placida Rd  
Cape Haze, FL 34276  
(941) 914-3336  
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1680 El Jobean Rd, Ste 4  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
(941) 743-9663  
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Margaret Hoppe  
Maureen Winsor  
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3521 Bay Ridge Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
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Regina Iacone, Broker |
| Sarasota Realty Assoc. Inc.  
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| South Gulf Cove Realty, Inc  
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Philip Van Der Heyden |
| Sun Realty  
3757 Tamiami Trail North  
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Gary Hicks, Broker |
| Sun Realty  
318 Tamiami Trail #216  
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(239) 649-1990  
Gary Hicks, Broker  
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James Tierney |
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Robecca Wolfe
Thomas Winkler

Sunset Realty FL LLC
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Jean Wolke, Broker
Jeffrey Ray

SunState Realty, LLC
4414 N. Access Rd.
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Darin Waldeck II
Diane Warne
Mary Waldeck, Broker

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North Port, FL 34286
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Susan Chaney, Broker

SW Management & Realty LLC
12801 Commonwealth Dr #12
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Brian Matthews
Cassandra Walker
Chad McKinney
Dale Raterink
Danielle Jones
Derek Dowdy
Dolores Vasher
Dorothy Bruns
Dorothy Johnson
Douglas Winterbauer
Edna Martin
Gary Norlund
Heather Monroe
Henry Marrangoni
Hope Matthews
Imelda Langley
Jacqueline Yarnes
James Galek
Jeanne Talbott
Jeffrey Stiles
Jeremy Jones, Broker
Joseph McCarthy
Julie Starbuck
Karen Govorchin
Kari Barrick
Lester Sturrock
Louis Adorjan
Louise Bacher
Marie Sutton
Mary Sprague
Mary Ann Schmitt
Michelle Walker
Neil Aymond
Rexford Govorchin
Ronald McGuire
Ronald Stanek
Ronald Walker
Sandra Hilton
Tyler Griffiths

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Cell: 941-548-8299
www.BrettBarberandCompany.com

Toni Steigerwald
Realtor
941-548-8299

Deb Bean-Guinto
REALTOR®
New Home Consultant

Margo Grimshaw
REALTOR®
Broker Associate

Floridian
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www.EnglewoodAreaBoardofRealtors.com
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Cheryl Runzo
Cynthia Harrington
David Haynes, Broker
Elizabeth Macy
Frances Stanwix
Janie Flack
John Stanwix
Judy Giamborino
Keith Seibel
Kelly Eckman
Kim Brereton
Linda Pacinelli
Nichelle Kiehl
Patricia Boksia
Paul Brereton
Robin Johnson
Terry Smith
Wade Boston

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Dawn Havens
John Corcoran
Raymond Corcoran

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Linda Konings
Michael Vasher
Rebecca Paterson, Broker
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Mary Denise D’Angelo
Richard Skamser
Timothy Bronson

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Michael Mowery

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Peter Traverso, Broker

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Nathan Johnson, Broker

Tropical Breeze Realty
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www.englewoodareaboardofrealtors.com
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Kathleene Murray
Mark Fanstill
Patricia Stevens
Victoria Fanstill

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Blair Schneider
Jeffry Browne, Broker
Susan Whitworth

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Sarasota, FL 34239
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Frederick Millspaugh
Gary Benjamin, Broker

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John Dichazi

Michael Halpin
Stephen Veralli
Susan Gamble

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Joseph Thompson
Mary Tamez
Mary Woods
Michael Vernamonti, PA
Wendy Reinhardt, Broker

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Robin Williams, Broker

Wright Realty, Fla
400 Percheron Cir
Nokomis, FL 34275
(941) 536-5019
Rhonda Wright, Broker

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- Alterations
- Embroidery
- Home Decor

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www.sewingbylindalee.com

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QS QUICK SIGNS

3579 S. Access Rd #K
Englewood
sewfancy@aol.com

TITLE

Title Insurance
Real Estate Closings

3670 N. Access Road • Englewood, FL 34224
941-474-7781
### BUSINESS PARTNER LISTING

#### ACCOUNTANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State ZIP</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barco's Acting &amp; Tax Services</td>
<td>1861 Placida Rd #201</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34224</td>
<td>(941) 475-5461</td>
<td>Sharon Barco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercier CPA Associates PA</td>
<td>508 N Indiana Ave</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34223</td>
<td>(941) 474-9309</td>
<td>Julia Mercier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Wagner &amp; Assoc. LLC</td>
<td>33 S Indiana Ave</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34223</td>
<td>(941) 475-1976</td>
<td>Valerie Wagner</td>
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#### AIR CONDITIONING

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State ZIP</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbott AC</td>
<td>2614 Avenue of the Americas</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34224</td>
<td>(941) 474-4741</td>
<td>Andrew Abbott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Air Cooling &amp; Heating</td>
<td>121 N McCall Rd</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34223</td>
<td>(941) 474-0232</td>
<td>Kathy McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliffs AC &amp; Heating Inc</td>
<td>17324 Seymour Ave</td>
<td>Port Charlotte, FL 33953</td>
<td>(941) 629-2863</td>
<td>Jeff Eisaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Seasons Air Conditioning</td>
<td>1592 Market Cir</td>
<td>Port Charlotte, FL 33952</td>
<td>(941) 627-2132</td>
<td>Cozi Ingerham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Aire</td>
<td>PO Box 743</td>
<td>Boca Grande, FL 33921</td>
<td>(941) 964-1142</td>
<td>Kati Zickefoose</td>
</tr>
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#### ADVERTISING

<table>
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<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Englewood Sun Herald</td>
<td>120 W. Dearborn St.</td>
<td>Englewood, FL 34223</td>
<td>(941) 681-3001</td>
<td>Carol Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Home Magazine</td>
<td>200 E Venice Ave</td>
<td>Venice, FL 34285</td>
<td>(941) 207-1222</td>
<td>Linda Shinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Seasons Air Conditioning</td>
<td>1592 Market Cir</td>
<td>Port Charlotte, FL 33952</td>
<td>(941) 627-2132</td>
<td>Cozi Ingerham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grande Aire</td>
<td>PO Box 743</td>
<td>Boca Grande, FL 33921</td>
<td>(941) 964-1142</td>
<td>Kati Zickefoose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BANK/LENDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State ZIP</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMO Harris Bank Mortgage</td>
<td>1777 Tamiami Trail Suite 102</td>
<td>Port Charlotte, FL 33948</td>
<td>(941) 716-0281</td>
<td>Amy Smithling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caliber Home Loans</td>
<td>871 Venetia Bay Blvd., Suite 2</td>
<td>Venice, FL 34285</td>
<td>(941) 999-7765</td>
<td>Traci Hamill</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>(941) 209-4639</td>
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<td>Alles Lawn Service Inc</td>
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<td>(941) 697-4758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Alles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LODGING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weston's WannaB Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>985 Gulf Blvd</td>
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<td>Englewood, FL 34223</td>
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<td>(941) 474-3431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Carrithers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

**AUTO REPAIR**

- Lemon Bay Automotive
  - 4820 Placida Road
  - Englewood, FL 34224
  - (941) 697-5004
  - Owner: Fred Ciampi

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- Surge Protection
- Home Theater & Media Rooms
- Structured Wiring Systems
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Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 475-6464
Ian Fetigan
Brenda Meden

Englewood Community Hospital
700 Medical Blvd
Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 474-6571
Tiffany Briggs

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Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 474-5511
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(941) 629-3033
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Gratia Schroeder

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Beth Garcia

First International Title Inc
2828 S McCall Rd #216
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 460-3108
Lisa Guild
Robin Lindecamp

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