



Town Council OK's TPI-FMB

Monday's Meeting
Long Day Ends with Deviations for Property Swap on Table

By Gary Mooney
 gary@fortmyersbeach.news

On Monday, April 9, 2018, the Town of Fort Myers Beach Council finally heard the long-awaited TPI-FMB Downtown Redevelopment Proposal, after almost three years on the drawing board. Tom Torgerson, Chairman of the Board of TPI Hospitality and several company representatives presented the TPI-FMB case before council. Following nearly nine hours, while the two sides did not agree on a final plan, they parted company for the night with a prospective property swap in exchange for an increased height and density deal on the table. Both sides decided to sleep on the details and reconvene Tuesday, April 10, at 9 a.m.

Prior to the meeting, residents packed the roughly 75 Council Chamber seats by 8:20 a.m., with approximately 50 more people watching in an adjacent tent set up by the Town. Before the main event, Council passed its Consent Agenda, and then unanimously continued to Monday, June 4, the Second & Final Hearing for the Dock & Shoreline Structures Ordinance.

The TPI-FMB portion began at 9:16 a.m., with the TPI Hospitality team providing a detailed description of the 290-room development proposal, with most of those on the bay side of Estero Boulevard and a water park component and a restaurant/bar on the Gulf side, with its four requested deviations for density, height, floor area ratio and landscape buffer zone that took roughly two hours.

CURVEBALL

At the start of the presentation's third hour, TPI-FMB spokesman John Gucciardo surprised Council and all in attendance by stating, "We are throwing a last-minute curveball, as we continue to evolve the process." He and TPI Hospitality Chairman of the Board Tom Torgerson then explained that TPI-FMB, through design changes, could lower the bayside resort building height from roughly 65 feet to 54-1/3 feet, reduce the rooms to 254, eliminate the rooftop events area, 5th Street business meeting building, and the gift shop at the former Ocean Jewels building at the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge that is now home to the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce. The Gulfside hotel unit would come down 16-2/3 feet. Gucciardo called these measures "a huge positive step toward addressing some of these concerns," as an excited buzz hummed from the audience.

"We are able to make this reduction because we will turn the meeting location building into a surface parking lot, so we no longer need the 5th Street pedestrian bridge," explained Torgerson. "With less rooms, we can reduce the car stackers in the parking garage. The Chamber of Commerce Building that was to be our gift shop goes away, to become landscaping or a waterfall, for a 'Feel Good' entry to the island. These features move into the main resort building, allowing us to remove 36 rooms. With less rooms, we can increase the amount of water park patrons who are not resort guests from 225 to 325 people. We have been quietly working on this for the past three months, as a clear path to attain what the community wants." When Council reconvened after lunch, Town Staff was asked to make its presentation, but contract employee Community **Cont'd pg. 6**

Tuesday's Meeting
IT'S UNANIMOUS!
FMB Council Approves TPI-FMB Project

By Gary Mooney
 gary@fortmyersbeach.news

Pigs Fly! Bigfoot Exists! A Monkey Types Hamlet! FMB Town Council Unanimously Approves TPI-FMB!

OK, maybe those first three seem nearly impossible, but on Monday morning, April 9, the Town of Fort Myers Beach Council unanimously approving the TPI-FMB Downtown Redevelopment Proposal seemed no less so. By early Tuesday afternoon on April 10, however, after almost a decade-and-a-half of seemingly endless community debate and dialog following the downtown area's devastation from Hurricane Charley in 2004, and more than 12 hours of conversation and questions over a two-day **Cont'd pg. 7**



Audience members thank Town Council following its unanimous TPI-FMB vote.

Overarching Goal Restore FMB Arches to Host Two Events

By Gary Mooney
 gary@fortmyersbeach.news

While the attention of Fort Myers Beach residents this week centered on whether there would be a new development in their future on the south side of the Matanzas Pass Bridge, a local group continues their efforts to replace a piece of the community's past on the span's north end! Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches, Inc., hosts a landscaping event to rejuvenate one of the last original stone arch elements on Thursday, April 19, then has its

first large-scale fundraiser with a music festival at Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café on Saturday evening, May 5, at 4 p.m.

Developer Tom Phillips built the stone arches in 1924 as the intended entrance to a housing subdivision that never came into existence. They remained there until their 1979 demolition to construct the Matanzas Pass Bridge. To several generations of islanders and visitors, they were the ultimate "Welcome" symbol, as the minute you passed through them, you knew you were on Fort Myers Beach, with children for

decades climbing over the top of them as a local ritual!

Phillips assembled the arches with such durability that they survived the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 that scoured a trench right next to them to form Hurricane Pass, creating San Carlos Island. While they withstood the forces of nature, the arches could not survive manmade wrath. The Matanzas Pass Bridge footprint was so large, to make it high enough for boats to sail underneath it, that the arches were physically in the way and had to come down.

"We are **Cont'd pg. 19**

Iconic Topps Grocery to Soon Close

By Gary Mooney
 gary@fortmyersbeach.news

To a generation of Fort Myers Beach islanders and visitors, Topps Supermarket has been the friendly neighborhood grocery store just across from the beach. Its 22-year run sadly ends, however, the latter part of this month.

"We had a 20-year lease when we first opened in 1996," related Dave Carney, who co-owns Topps with his wife, Debbie. "That came with several extension options, but the owner of the shopping center, who lives in Tampa, took measures to break that, and it takes a ton of money to battle that in the courts. We fought as long as we could, even trying to buy the property at one time, because we had bigger plans, but eventually you bow to the inevitable. It's sad, as I intended to stay another 20 years, so my kids could retire from here, too."

This will close the book for Dave on a lifetime in the grocery business. "I started when I was 14 years old, cleaning up the meat cutting area in a family-owned grocery store in Hamburg, New York. I married at age 18 and we had our first child when I was 19, so I needed a career, got involved with an upstate New York grocery chain called 'Tops,' and worked my way up."

MAY I HAVE A "P," PLEASE?

That association led to the store's unusual name. "The simple truth is, when we first opened, money was so tight we couldn't afford all the letters in a sign that had a big name, so we needed a short one! I worked for Tops Markets for about 20 years, and remained good friends with one of the owners, so I asked, as I wanted to be honest and **Cont'd pg. 10**

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

WEEKLY RENTERS IMPORTANT

I am a regular reader of the Sand Paper. I greatly appreciate how the editorial staff keeps the community up to date with council proceedings and actions. That is a primary responsibility of a free press – to keep our political leaders accountable and residents informed. I am concerned when I read about short-term renters vs. long-term residents. This council is looking at this issue once again to decide if further regulation is needed. I would propose that the council should first look at the definition of all residents of Fort Myers Beach. Many of us consider ourselves residents even though we may only live here for a few months or even a few weeks of the year.

I am a property owner on Fort Myers Beach. I am at the stage of life where I can visit many times throughout the year but cannot stay for extended months. I consider Fort Myers Beach my second home though and I would suggest the economy of Fort Myers Beach would not survive without the many of us who visit weekly. Without short-term renters and visitors many restaurants and service industries would fail. What would full-time residents and property owners do then? It takes all of us to keep Fort Myers Beach alive and economically viable.

My track from a weekly visitor to now a local property owner is similar to many.

We should welcome our weekly visitors with open arms. They help keep our favorite restaurants, tiki bars and all our other service industries in business. They eventually may be the buyer of a local home keeping our local real estate values up. Reasonable guidelines can be established and owners held accountable by their own community associations. More government regulation and fees is not the answer. Especially if it curtails short-term renters and the life cycle of Fort Myers Beach.

John Tuttle
Indiana

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Ft Myers Beach Community Foundation wishes to thank the entire beach community for supporting its two major fundraisers this year: Lights Camera Auction at Diamondhead Beach Resort and the Style Show at Fish Tale Marina. On May 9th, the Foundation will follow its annual tradition of distributing charitables and academic scholarships raised largely from these events. The Foundation would like to thank Diamond-Head Beach Resort and Fish Tale Marina for hosting these events. In addition, fashions at the recent style show were provided by the Fish Tale Ship Store, Palmetto's and Local Color. The overwhelming response to these fundraisers is very much appreciated and speaks to the support provided by the entire beach community. The Foundation welcomes new members and anyone interested in obtaining more information or joining

the Foundation can contact Jan Falkum at janfalkum@gmail.com or visit the website at www.fortmyersbeachcf.com

Alicia J Steinhagen
Fort Myers Beach

NO ACRONYMS

I have asked several other residents what the Acronym TPI-FMB stands for. I have not found anyone who knows what it means with the exception of Fmb Ft Myers Beach. I love reading the sandpaper with the exception of when acronyms are used with no explanation at the beginning of a subject.

Larry Cude
Fort Myers Beach

Editor's note: TPI-FMB is not an acronym. It is the name of TPI Hospitality's Fort Myers Beach project.

CRUISER APPRECIATION DAY THANKS

The Anchorage Advisory Committee for the Town of Fort Myers Beach and Matanzas on the Bay co-sponsored the 11th Annual Cruiser's Appreciation Day Saturday April 7. The event showcases the Town's 70-ball mooring field and facilities, and thanks the boaters who use it. The day was a huge success and could not have happened without the help from the following people and businesses:

Thanks to the following businesses and people for donations to the raffle: The Pierside Grill, Bonita Bill's, Matanzas Inn Resort, Nervous Nellies, Skye's Restaurant, Matanzas on the Bay, Local Color, Fish House Restaurant, Shipwreck, The Lani Kai, Castaways, South Beach Grille, Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, Zushi Zushi, Mom's Café, The Beach Pub, The Sand Bar, Fresh Catch, The Goodz, Hair Etc., Joanne Shamp, Sea Dog Tours, Ray's Pizza and the Key West Express.

Thanks to Scotty for his great music.

Thanks to Tony, Dave, Kathy, Jan, G and all the other folks at Matanzas on the Bay and Matanzas Inn who helped plan, set up, cook and serve food and drink.

And thank you, Sand Paper, for your promotion and coverage of Cruiser's Appreciation Day.

Katherine Light, Chair
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Town of Fort Myers Beach

Letters cont'd pg.12

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Beach Botany by Jim Rodwell



COCO PLUM

Coco Plum, *Chrysobolanus icaco*, a woody evergreen shrub, can grow into a 15' tree. Icaco grows natively on coastal strands and dunes. When any of its branches touches the sand, it will root creating a large dense mound. The rooting helps to stabilize the beach. High salt tolerance also helps the plant to survive. Branch bark is colored grayish to brown. Leathery leaves that point upward are arranged in an alternate order on the branches. Leaf shape is oval or circular in shape. Length is 1" to 4" and width 1" to 3". Margin is entire.

Small white flowers with five petals and one to two dozen stamens grow in inconspicuous clusters in the leaf axils. Flower structure consists of cluster of three attached flowers, one in the middle and two on either side. This is called a cyme inflorescence. Flower is about 1/4" in diameter. Blooming occurs all year. The fruit is a white to purple drupe. A drupe is a fleshy berry with a thin skin and a shell around a single seed. The drupes are rather large being as much as 2" in diameter. The fruit is edible. Makes a good jelly.

Concert Series Finale Features Local Artists

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Annual Winter Concert Series brings in regional and even national musical acts to the Fish-Tale Marina Propeller Lounge at 7225 Estero Boulevard (behind Santini Marina Plaza), to entertain beach residents and visitors. It concludes its 6th season in a homegrown fashion, however, with the Local Artists Showcase on Thursday, April 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. **Sheena Brook**, made famous by her appearances on "The Voice," with island musical icon **Jo List** singing just before Sheena, and "The Pearl Street Band" opening the show.



Sheena Brook will perform at the Friends of the Arts final concert April 19th. Photo provided.

"When the Winter Concert Series first began, most of our entertainers were island musicians," said Janeen Paulauskis, series spokesperson, "so this performance in a way brings us back to our founding roots. Sheena represented



Jo List, shown here performing with the King Band in March, will be singing at the Friends concert. Photo by Bob Layfield

Fort Myers Beach so well on 'The Voice' last year, and the ever-popular and beloved island legend, Jo List, has quite a following of her own and everyone just loves her! 'The Pearl Street Band' is gaining a big reputation as well. As for the headliners, Sheena and Jo are quite simply as talented as any singers in the country, so people will really enjoy this concert."

Opening the Local Artists Showcase is "The Pearl Street Band," made up of island musicians Mike McMillian, Ed Summers, Bob Williams and frequently Bill Veach, who are acoustic entertainers that specialize in original Americana music or unusual covers.

The Winter Concert Series benefits the Fort Myers Beach Friends of the Arts that promotes creative arts on the island, including the visual, sound, and taste varieties. It sponsors four large-scale events each year, with the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival, Sustainability Dinner and Paint the Beach Plein Air Art Festival joining the Winter Concert Series. Become a member of the Friends of the Arts through its website or at the concert. Tickets to the Local Artists Showcase are \$25, available at FMBarts.org or by calling 239-463-3600 x 3.

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Bay Oaks Closings Rec Center Renovation; Pool Pump Down

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

April is a month of closures for the Bay Oaks Recreation Center; one planned and the other not!

"The Bay Oaks Recreation Center will close from Wednesday, April 18, through Friday, May 18," said Sean DePalma, Director of Parks & Recreation for the Town of Fort Myers Beach. "This is a scheduled closing for several renovation initiatives. We specifically selected this timeframe because we just concluded our heaviest visitation with the end of Season, and we will be back up in time for Summer Camp that begins in early June."

Capital improvement projects during the closure include installing a new surface and absorption membrane for the gymnasium floor and fitness rooms; professionally refurbishing and updating the strengthening and cardio equipment, along with bringing in some new pieces; repainting the fitness center and touching up the entire facility; relocating and increasing efficiency to the makeshift storage areas; modernizing the pickleball nets for easier set-up and break-down; updating the gymnasium sound system to better accommodate larger assemblies and public meetings; and other smaller steps to keep the building current and clean.

"We will update the scoreboards as

well," added Sean, "but that may not be complete by the reopening due to their electrical component, to make sure we get it right the first time. These renovations will allow us to host more basketball tournaments, and already have one scheduled for the first weekend in June. Tournaments will put more heads in Fort Myers Beach hotel beds, especially during summer, when hotels, restaurants, and shops are always looking for more customers!"

To celebrate the renovation's completion, Bay Oaks will host a Grand Reopening ceremony on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 10 a.m., with a Ribbon-Cutting at Noon. "We will have games and activities and food vendors," offered Sean, "so it will be a fun event for the entire family."

The unplanned closure is the Fort Myers Beach Community Pool. "Our main circulation pump failed on Friday, April 6," Sean said. "We are working with the Town's Financial Department to obtain a new pump and to get that repaired as soon as possible, but unfortunately, that may not occur until around the end of April." The Bay Oaks Recreation Center & Pool are at 2731 Oak Street; for information call 239-765-4222 or see its link on the Town of Fort Myers Beach webpage at www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov. Gary Mooney

Estero Island Garden Club



On April 9th, the Estero Island Garden Club held its annual Spring luncheon at the Lani Kai with 38 members enjoying the time together. Eve Haverfield, founder of Turtle Time, Inc, gave an informative talk and reminded the club of the importance of conservation efforts since Sea Turtle season starts May 1st.

Outgoing President, Carol Kolar, was enthusiastically thanked for her 2 years of service, noting an increase in membership and fun meetings during her term. Shown here are Outgoing President Carol Kolar, center, with new Co-Presidents Carol Dallas (left) and Bonnie McClure (right). Additional officers are Margaret Schmidt and Polky Ashford as 1st Vice Presidents, 2nd Vice President Louise Close, Treasurer Elaine Whisler, Cheryl Walz Corresponding Secretary and Rebecca Hedges Recording Secretary.

The club was started in 1957 and is dedicated to beautification of the Island along with supporting the community. The next Garden Club meetings are April 16 and May 7 at 9 am at the Woman's Club. Newcomers and Snowbirds are always welcome. For more information call 978-460-1814.



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Monday's Meeting

Long Day Ends with Deviations for Property Swap on Table, Cont'd from pg.1

Development Director Jason Green declined, stating he would be happy to answer any questions. Town Consultant Bill Spikowski, who helped author the Town's Comprehensive Plan in 1999 and Land Development Code in 2004, who the Town hired in August 2017 to advise Council on TPI-FMB, stated his January 26, 2018 report did not make any recommendation to approve or deny the project, but did identify issues that may allow Council to approve legitimate elements.

FOR & AGAINST

With that, Council heard 41 Public Comments, with 24 in favor of TPI-FMB, 16 against, and one neutral. Of the 16 against, 9 were members of "The Voice of Fort Myers Beach" group, composed primarily of competing island hoteliers or their lawyers and consultants, while the vast majority in favor identified themselves as Town residents and voters.

Of those favoring TPI-FMB, Doris Grant said that she and her husband met "with Tom Torgerson on several occasions and gave him input he took whole-heartedly and that he added to the project, and is greatly appreciated by all." Former Town Mayor Ray Murphy stated that during his six years on Council, he "heard 150 cases and I never saw a plan with this level of participation by a developer like this one. This is your legacy, so do it!" Another former Town Mayor, Dan Hughes, who currently serves on the Local Planning Agency (LPA) that approved the TPI-FMB plan at its February 13, 2018 meeting by a 5-2 vote, said, "For 23 years, Council routinely approved the LPA



A packed Town Council Chambers readies to hear the TPI-FMB presentation.

decisions. Our expert consultant (Spikowski) concluded that this plan does not violate our Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with our Land Development Code."

On the other side of the debate was Bob Boykin, a Voice member and co-owner of the Pink Shell Resort, who said, "You should honor the code, so I know the next time I come here that you are reliable." Douglas Young, a voting resident said that he appreciates TPI's strategy of negotiating with themselves, "If they go a few more rounds, they might have something! We want to see that area redeveloped, but we don't want to see the Town become Miami Beach." Christine Patton stated that only 17% of residents on Primo Drive and Palermo Circle have yard signs that support TPI-FMB, so "it is not overwhelming! You give this to TPI and every other developer will argue that they deserve the same."

SOLD!

The Council members then began their debate, with Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp telling the TPI-FMB contingency, "You really surprised us, but I appreciate that," before quickly focusing on the former Ocean Jewels property. "That location is important in the Comp Plan, as we envision a gateway there. Are you open to that conversation?"

Mayor Tracey Gore wondered how the Town would stop other developers from requesting additional height and density if Council approves TPI-FMB. "I have trouble imagining any other property that could offer these benefits," replied Spikowski. "The real benefit is they will provide the legal condition that no one can ever build on the beach parcel in

perpetuity, and no one else would do that, so if you give up something that is really valuable, you get slack on the other parts. I don't see anyone else doing this at all."

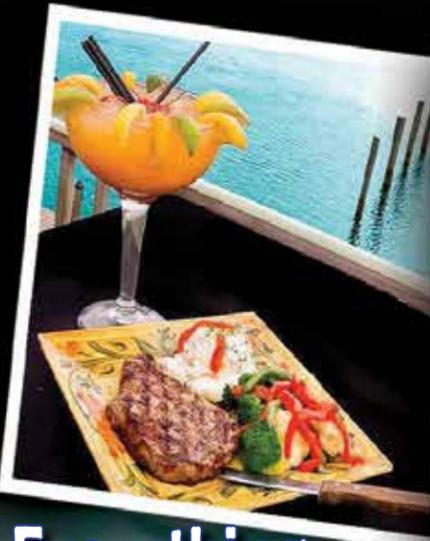
"The intent of incorporation was just for this; I take this very serious," said Shamp, before breaking down in tears. "The intent of incorporation," stated Council member Anita Cereceda, the Town's first mayor, "is exactly for this, so we make these decisions about whether to let TPI-FMB build this, rather than someone else making this decision for us." "And I voted against incorporation," added Gore!

"This is a beautiful plan, but we need to be judicious," said Shamp, as tears flowed again, with Council member Bruce Butcher reassuring her, "You want to make this beautiful and that is what this is about; you get rid of the blight."

Cereceda wondered, "What is the value of a beachfront parcel being open for perpetuity?" "That parcel gives us the opportunity to have this conversation, as most people will not do this," replied Shamp. "Now we have the opportunity to acquire the important location for a gateway to our Town." Gore said she is "getting more comfortable with this, but I need to find the language to stop this from going on anywhere else." Spikowski suggested writing Exceptional Circumstances like these into the Land Development Code, so it is clear in the future. "The language must make it impossible," said Gore, though Council member Dennis Boback countered, "Any future Council can change anything."

"We did not expect this," Shamp emphasized to Torgerson.

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Monday's Meeting

Long Day Ends, Cont'd from pg.6



Town Council listens to the TPI-FMB Downtown Redevelopment Proposal.

"You upped your game and changed it and you have my attention, with a lot more public benefit than when we arrived here at 9 this morning." Gore added, "You are selling it to me!" "They came here with some value to me," continued Shamp, "and they threw more value to me. Throw in the deed to the Ocean Jewel property, so the Town has control over it, and SOLD!" Torgerson replied, "When we adjusted our plan, we did not intend to give you that!" "I did not intend to ask," countered the now broadly-smiling Shamp. "I would like to get this done," said Torgerson, with Shamp reassuring Gore, "You understand

they will give us that Ocean Jewel property," and Cereceda adding to Shamp, "What I understand you to be saying is that you are all in," with she and Butcher breaking out into a celebration!

"We made some progress," agreed Shamp, with Gore adding, "I am still a little nervous about this; I will get home and get calls from everybody!" "Thank you to TPI," concluded Shamp. "It looks like we might be able to get this done!" With that, Council continued the meeting until Tuesday, April 10, at 9 a.m., adjourning at 5:38 p.m.

Tuesday's Meeting

FMB Council Approves TPI-FMB Project, Cont'd from pg.1

period, Council did the seemingly improbable by unanimously approving the redevelopment project.

Perhaps to many Town residents, Tuesday's vote was a foregone conclusion following Monday's marathon session of almost 9 hours. For Monday's meeting, people lined up outside the locked Town Hall doors at 8 a.m., with the roughly 75 Council Chamber chairs full by 8:20 a.m., with other 50 or so folks viewing the process in an adjacent outside tent and viewscreen. By the time Tuesday's session began at 9 a.m., however, residents filled less than half the Council Chamber seats, with the viewing tent empty.

Mayor Tracey Gore reconvened the Council session at 9:02 a.m., reminding her colleagues they were still considering the project's proposed height deviations from late Monday. Council member Dennis Boback stated that following Monday's meeting, he asked the TPI-FMB team if there were any way they could further reduce the bay side resort building's 54-1/3 foot height, to preserve the Gulf view from the top of the Matanzas Pass Bridge. "I don't want to be the person who blocks that Gulf view from the bridge," said Boback, "and I won't do it!"

The TPI-FMB team, led by TPI Hospitality's Board Chairman Tom Torgerson, indicated that if they moved rooftop equipment to the back of the structure, along with constructing architectural elements below the roof level, they could reduce the building height down

to a maximum of 52 feet, with the possibility of 50 feet, three inches, reducing their height deviation request to 6 feet, 10 inches.

Town Manager Roger Hernstadt reminded Council that since it will make its final decision based on the two-meeting Ordinance process, "it is important that you all tell us what you want to approve or not, and that is why we will have several weeks between the two meetings, to write these things up in a sufficiently legal manner, to show it to you at the second hearing, to resolve these issues and set policies. It is only fair to give TPI-FMB the chance to produce that number for you to evaluate at the second hearing."

THE BERLIN WALL

Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp and Council member Bruce Butcher both indicated that they hoped that changes to the resort building would not leave it devoid of character. "I do not want a big old wall without balconies and plants," said Butcher. "I do not want you looking at the Berlin Wall!" "I agree with the objective," added Shamp, "but would hate to end up by limiting ourselves so that it will look like any other building in any other town, just for a few inches. I am not trying to tie the architect's hand, who spent his entire career getting to learn what the community wants." Council reached a consensus to agree on a deviation of 6 feet, 10 inches, with four stories and a maximum height of 52 feet.

While not **Cont'd pg. 8**

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Tuesday's Meeting

FMB Council Approves TPI-FMB Project, Cont'd from pg.7

needing a height deviation for the Gulf side building for the waterpark feature, with a restaurant and bar on the 2nd floor and 30 hotel rooms on the 3rd & 4th floors, Torgerson informed Council the design team would attempt to lower that structure to no more than 50 feet, down from 52 feet, 4 inches.

Council then turned its attention to the TPI-FMB density request of 254 rooms. "I don't want to overwhelm the small town character of Fort Myers Beach" explained Shamp, "but I can provide the rationale to support this by several aspects in the Comprehensive Plan, and want to state these out loud, such as those related to redevelopment patterns in areas subject to being destroyed by storms. There are also several public benefits this provides that are not likely to be replicated by any other property that this offers to the public, such as the donation of the Ocean Jewels property to the Town that has a tremendous benefit. These are the Town's visions in both the Comp Plan and Old San Carlos Master Plan that has a very specific public benefit, to create an entry feature at the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge and traffic control and sidewalks, to which I can award density."

NOT GOING TO PICK YOUR POCKET TODAY

She then told the TPI-FMB team, who unexpectedly donated the Ocean Jewels building at her urging the prior day, "I am not going to pick your pocket as hard today as I did yesterday! This is my personal justification that meets my other emotional feelings on judicial

planning, to reduce potential future overbuilding." The Ocean Jewels property at 1054 Fifth St, currently housing the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce, was purchased by TPI-FMB in 2016 for \$2 million according to the Lee County Property Appraiser

"I am still struggling with 224 rooms on the bay side," said Gore, with Butcher replying, "I am not struggling!" With that, Council agreed on that number, with Gore and Boback doing so reluctantly. At this point, Shamp addressed the TPI-FMB contingent and audience: "The applicant needs to know you have a strong three votes for this," referring to herself, Butcher and Council member Anita Cereceda. "There are two on the fence, and maybe we will all agree, but I feel strongly it must be done this way, and there is a lot of work ahead, but I don't want you to worry that we will come back in a month and find that Joanne Shamp changed her mind." "I am thrilled you said that," said Cereceda. "It is important for everyone to know that the actions we take today, we will follow through with next month." "I respect (contract Community Development Director) Jason Green, (Town consultant) Bill Spikowski and Roger Hernstadt too much to have them spend the next month of their time on this and have it all be a waste," said Shamp.

With that, Council worked through Floor Area Ratio, Streetscaping, the Pedestrian Bridge, Future Land Use Map, Gulfside Beach Club & Beach Access Points, Traffic, Property Development Regulations, Schedule of Uses, Parking Circulation and Loading, Rental



Tom Torgerson throws Town Council a "Curveball!" Photos by Gary Mooney

of Beach Furniture & Personal Watercraft & Parasailing, Signage, Alcohol Consumption on Premises, Stormwater Management and Concurrence.

Following this, the Town Manager reassured Council that "we will do our best to put in this document all the positions you have taken today and yesterday. If we find a conflict we cannot work through with the applicant, we can bring it back to the second meeting with you to resolve it. Any of those issues should be resolved in front of the public, as were all these issues today." "Roger is correct," added Town co-counsel John Turner. "This has been an extremely hard and complicated process for everyone. We would only need to meet to discuss any of these issues prior to the second meeting in an emergency situation, and I do not foresee that."

"DON'T YOU LET US DOWN!"

Spikowski estimated that to properly settle issues and prepare the final documentation would take

at least one month, "even with our best efforts, as a lot of things can happen." Upon consulting upcoming meeting dates, Council asked the TPI-FMB representatives if Monday, May 21, would work and received a positive reply.

Shamp then made a motion with the numerous changes, setting the second hearing for Monday, May 21, at 9 a.m., Boback seconding. Shamp then stated, with a few tears, that, "(former Town Mayor) Ray Murphy yesterday moved me about his statement over the improvements his Council made for Times Square and Old San Carlos Boulevard. Look how lucky we are to be here right now, and I am very proud to be here right now!" Cereceda added, "We are bringing a public benefit, to accomplish the goals in the Comp Plan, to preserve the view corridors and create a gateway and the view from the top of the bridge. We will put that on record so when we leave today, everyone will know what we did!" Gore said to the TPI-FMB team, "This has been very emotional for me today, and I wanted you to have a 5 to 0 vote; now I will stop crying!" Cereceda concluded, "This has been an extraordinary effort!"

Council Chambers broke out into applause, then each Council member in a roll call vote cast an affirmative vote. Another round of applause occurred, with Gore saying to Torgerson, "Don't you let us down!" She then called a Recess, with the audience coming to the dais as one, to offer Council members congratulatory hugs and handshakes! Following the recess, Council concluded routine business, with the historic session adjourning at 2:44 p.m.



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Editorial

BRAVO, FORT MYERS BEACH!

Our town took a major step forward this week. Our elected Town Council members voted unanimously to approve the TPI-FMB downtown redevelopment project. The project will revitalize the downtown area and replace the blight that currently greets residents and visitors with a Key West style resort and beachfront waterpark.

Those that complain that this approval will open the floodgates of overly large development have no leg to stand on. Unless a future developer has property that fits a long list of very narrow criteria and a few acres of beachfront that they'll encumber with zero density, it won't happen. Besides, there hasn't exactly been a long line of developers interested in building commercial space on Fort Myers Beach lately, has there?

The approval also came about as a result of TPI-FMB's willingness to compromise. And donate a property they paid \$2 million for a couple years ago, to the Town for governmental uses – welcome sign, traffic mitigation, etc. The sour grape, knee jerk response by some people to paint that generous donation as a bribe, says more about them and their motivations than the Town or TPI.

We probably have the short-term rental ordinance to thank for this, at least in part. When the first hearing for that ordinance was held last month, a realtor group promoted a 'write your council' automated email effort that resulted in council mailboxes filling up with cookie-cutter messages opposing the ordinance. Some council members indicated at that hearing that they did not believe those sending the messages were residents and they therefore ignored them. Interested citizens of Fort Myers Beach learned from that experience and knew they had to convey their opinion personally so that all five council members heard them and knew who was speaking to them.

Residents sent emails and letters to council members. They spoke up at the hearing, asking council to approve the TPI-FMB project. Residents contacted council members, identified themselves as residents and voters and urged them to vote yes. That wave of public opinion grew to the point that it was impossible to ignore. The true voice of Fort Myers Beach was heard loud and clear.

This experience can act as a unifier for our community. It has rekindled the fire of residents to improve our Town, to move forward and make our community the best it possibly can be. We urge residents to stay involved and participate in future community decisions.

We want to thank residents, the Town Council and TPI Hospitality for working together to move our community forward.

Missy & Bob Layfield

GLOBAL TRADE WARS HURT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Normally, it's easy to ignore what's happening in Washington, as it's often much ado about nothing. However, a March decision by the Department of Commerce to enact heavy tariffs on Canadian newsprint, hits right here at home in your local newspaper box.

A single U.S. newsprint manufacturer in Washington State, Northern Pacific Paper (NORPAC) lobbied for the tariffs. NORPAC, the only mill that will benefit, employs 260 workers and is owned by a New York hedge fund. Other U.S. newsprint manufacturers declined to join the request for tariffs.

In contrast, the U.S. newspaper publishing and commercial printing sector employs more than 600,000 in locations throughout the United States, according to letters from Congress to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. One letter was from 34 representatives of both parties while another letter was signed by one independent and seven Republican senators.

The tariffs will hurt more than the printing industry, though. The U.S. newspaper publishing sector employs more than 175,000 people in small towns and major cities across the United States, according to the News Media Alliance.

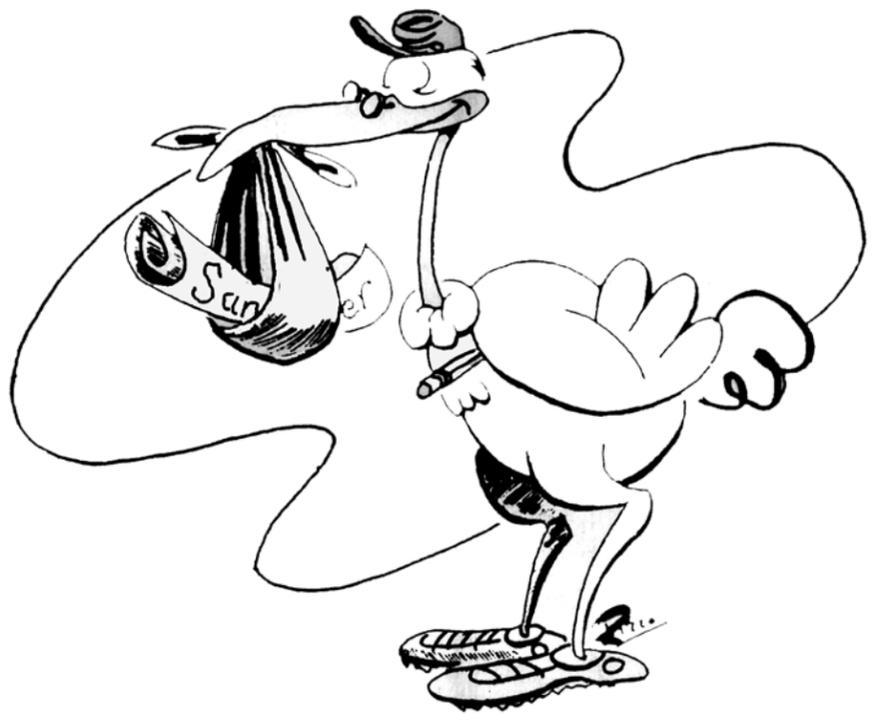
The alliance points out that demand for newsprint has been in steady decline in the United States, but the reason isn't unfair trade. Rather, there has been a well-documented decline in the daily newspaper industry over the last 10 years as newspapers, particularly large metro papers, have lost a significant portion of their print subscriber base to digital alternatives for news and information. Community print newspapers remain a vital part of their communities.

Congressional representatives noted in their letter, "People in small towns all over America still depend on their local newspapers. These petitions threaten to put those newspapers out of business and cut off rural and small-town America from their local news."

These tariffs will force those small-town publishers to cut costs and likely will lead to more job losses in both the newspaper and newsprint industries, a result that runs counter to what is intended by U.S. trade law.

Trade wars can be quite complicated, leaving unintended losers picking up the pieces.

By David Phillips
Bluff Country Newspaper Group
Spring Valley, MN



YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR OVER 17 YEARS



Bob Layfield, Publisher

Publisher@fortmyersbeach.news

You have no control over what the other guy does. You only have control over what you do. A. J. Kitt



Missy Layfield, Editor

Editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Those who agree with us may not be right, but we admire their astuteness. Cullen Hightower



Mike Buster, Circulation Manager

c/o Info@fortmyersbeach.news

Man is born to live, not to prepare for life. Boris Pasternak (



Mark List, Production Manager

Production@fortmyersbeach.news

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia. Charles M. Schulz



Sarah List, Photographer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

May I never miss a sunset or a rainbow because I am looking down. Sara June Parker



Sandy Sandness, Advertising

info@fortmyersbeach.news

In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different. Coco Chanel



Gary Mooney, Lead Writer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

An intelligence test sometimes shows a man how smart he would have been not to have taken it. Laurence J. Peter

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Iconic Topps Grocery to Soon Close, Cont'd from pg.1



is the risk you take. We needed to open as fast as we could, to bring in money, and did so in two weeks, by working 24/7."

Being an independent grocer is a constant challenge, Dave explained. "You have to operate on low costs, be your own advertiser and do everything yourself! Big chain stores have people for everything, and when something goes wrong, they do not have to pay for it out of their own pocket or worry about making payroll, so they don't lose any sleep over those things. When a bad thing happens, there is a magic pot of corporate money and all they have to do is go get some! Over the years, I almost filed for bankruptcy several times, including once when I was even in the lawyer's office, but each time found a way to make a deal with our vendors. Estero Boulevard construction made things tough the past few years, but before that, we had our two best years ever."

Ever since the word got out about their closing, longtime customers tell the Carneys how much they will miss them. "This includes a steady stream of former employees," he added, "especially those who worked here as kids, for many of them as their first job, as they got to be more of a part of a family than stuck in a corporate structure. Quite honestly, locals supported us from Day #1, even moreso when Publix first located down the street. As soon as they opened, rumors started that they would put us out of business, but they never did!"

GIVE, NOT TAKE

Dave will most miss "talking to the customers and our staff, as well as running a business. Sure, there are headaches, like when something breaks or someone falls or the lawyer calls, but that is life. We know everyone on the island, and they know us and our employees. After the hurricanes, we gave away water and bread and other items as best we could. We always told anyone who needed a helping hand to come in and ask for a sandwich or whatever, as we would rather give it to you than have you steal it."

As for their future, "We have a beautiful home in Alva, on 25 acres, with three dogs, but if I don't stay busy, I'll go nuts, so Debbie says not to count me out just yet! She, on the other hand, volunteers a lot, between our church and medical facilities, so she stays busy. If you are a good person, everything turns out all right. That will be true for our employees, as they are such fantastic workers and wonderful people. I worry about them, of course, but recommend them all, as they are the best."

As the business days wind down, "we are running a big '50% Off' sale this week," Dave said. "Then we'll begin to close everything down the week of April 16. Depending on how that goes, we may close or continue into the week of April 23. Once we reach a certain point, I will just probably donate everything that is left to the food pantry and lock the doors."

Dave appreciates all the community support, now and throughout the years. "Our loyal customers have been with us the entire ride. The beach has a bright future, with a lot of good things happening, so hopefully that continues, and we wish everyone well."

avoid any lawsuits and adding the second "p" was an agreeable alternative."

Prior to Topps, the grocery was a Winn-Dixie location. "I was at our former store in Punta Gorda," Dave recalled, "and a friend told

me Winn-Dixie was closing its Fort Myers Beach store, that it was a great location, they were making a big mistake and I should look at it. Well, a lot of people have brilliant ideas, especially when they don't have to do any of the work, but I

took a ride here and fell in love with the place. I opened discussions with Winn-Dixie, and convinced them to sell all their equipment here to me at a low price. After that, I borrowed every penny I could and maxed out our credit card, as that

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VIEWPOINTS

THE 'VACATION' DISAPPEARING ACT

By Bob Franken

Does anybody know or care where Laura Ingraham is "vacationing"? Ingraham, who has been a mouthpiece for right-wing nastiness for decades, recently had gravitated to a perch at Fox News (where else?) to do the venomous schtick that has brought her fame and fortune. But then she crossed the teeny-bopper.

Not just any teeny-bopper. This is David Hogg, the extremely telegenic Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School senior and survivor of the shooting massacre there on Valentine's Day. He's a founder of the Never Again MSD movement and a leader of the outpouring of young people who are dragging adults into action on gun control. Hogg speaks for hundreds of thousands of people with a quick wit that Laura Ingraham cannot match. Those who get crazed every time someone even slightly wants to restrict their killing machines went bonkers about Hogg and a movement he leads that has spread out from Parkland, Florida, to the world.

Unfortunately, the best slime they could find on him was that his applications had been rejected by a few colleges. (Never mind that he had been accepted by others.) That made him fair game for attack. Make that foul game. Ingraham became a loud voice of the Hogg trolls. What followed was a huge backlash. Hogg shot back with a call for an advertiser boycott, and he got one. Advertisers bailed on Ingraham faster than you can say "bottom line."

Talk about hitting her where it hurts. Ingraham wasted no time going into grovel mode. She tweeted: "On reflection, in the spirit of Holy Week, I apologize for any upset or hurt my tweet caused him or any of the brave victims of Parkland." Then she headed off to vacation. David Hogg rejected the apology.

One can only assume that she did not hightail it to the Mar-A-Lago bunker where Donald Trump was spending his time off as usual. It's a welcome reprieve from an administration that is coming undone, to some extent. Those with even a molecule of experience in government are looking for an escape hatch, while those who are embarrassments are shoved aside, only to be replaced by others who are more embarrassing, grossly unqualified or card-carrying fanatics. For President Trump, the most qualified in his mind are those who are the least qualified, as long as they do good TV.

So Robby Jackson -- the chief White House doctor who poked and prodded Donald Trump and then did an on-camera briefing on the physical, which impressed Trump -- is now his choice to head the severely troubled Department of Veterans Affairs. While Jackson is highly regarded as an M.D., he has no management resume. With 360,000 employees, the VA is largely an unwieldy disaster that has defied the best efforts of several reformers who possess outstanding credentials.

Trump also has created quite the uproar by booting out H.R. McMaster as national security adviser and appointing John Bolton. Bolton is considered to be, how shall we say it, a warmonger.

Soon, he'll be taking his hard line into foreign affairs, and soon, Laura Ingraham presumably will be taking hers back to Fox News. Don't expect her to learn any lessons. As for Trump and his gang, the best lesson they can learn would be a smack down on Election Day.

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AMAZON ISN'T A VILLAIN

By Rich Lowry

President Donald Trump gets results. His attacks on Amazon have tanked the company's stock.

It's hard to think of a more pointlessly destructive act of presidential jawboning in our history. The online retailer is a jewel of our market economy that has delivered more choice and convenience at a lower cost.

The backdrop for Trump's animosity is that Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post, which, like much of the major media, is unrelentingly hostile to the president. The bias of the Post is nothing new, nor should it be taken out on the underlying business of its owner.

Trump's anti-Amazon jag can be put in the same bucket as his tariffs against China -- Trump being Trump, unleashing in accord with his gut instincts and animosities.

The similarities end there. The difference is between targeting the Chinese regime and a great American company, between lashing out against mercantilism and against a capitalist success story, between berating an adversary of the United States and an adversary of his own.

If there wasn't Amazon, someone would have invented it, or at least the basic model of leveraging new technologies to transform retail. Beginning in the late 1980s, the advent of big-box retailers brought a productivity revolution to the industry. Now, e-commerce is challenging the big-box retailers in their turn. This is how the American economy works.

Trump has two specific complaints about Amazon. One is that it is ripping off the U.S. Postal Service, costing the U.S. government billions of dollars. Perhaps a better deal can be extracted -- a recent study by Citigroup concluded as much -- but the Postal Service says its arrangement with Amazon is profitable. The second is that Amazon doesn't pay sales taxes. This once was true, but Amazon now collects sales taxes in all states that levy them.

The larger case against Amazon is that it is killing off traditional retailing, while accruing too much power for itself. While brick-and-mortar retail is in decline, less than 9 percent of retail sales are done through e-commerce, with Amazon accounting for less than half of that.

No one is forced to buy from Amazon. Customers go there because they find it easy to use and cheaper than the alternatives. Amazon isn't pocketing huge profits. Instead, it is doing what companies should do: innovating, then plowing the proceeds into more investments (Amazon is much more than an e-commerce company). Its fulfillment centers are wonders of productivity and hold the promise of as-yet-unforeseen transformations in other businesses.

Michael Mandel of the Progressive Policy Institute points out that online shopping saves consumers the time involved in driving to a store and looking for a product -- and shifts all that (unpaid) labor to (paid) workers in its fulfillment centers and drivers. These jobs provide, he writes, "decent pay for a high school graduate, in a fast-growing tech-related industry, which requires a mixture of physical and cognitive skills. Many of them are full-time jobs with full benefits. They aren't easy jobs, for sure -- but neither are manufacturing jobs."

In short, there are many scourges in American life. Amazon isn't one of them.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2018 by King Features Synd., Inc.



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LETTERS to the EDITOR

TRAFFIC PATTERN

With town councils approval of TPI-FMB, it is imperative now more than ever that the FDOT proposal to create a circular traffic pattern around the resort by making Crescent, Fifth and the portion of Estero from the base of the bridge to Crescent one way counter clockwise. Preferably this should be done BEFORE construction for the resort begins. Additionally Pedestrian traffic crossing over the bridge to the beach should be routed north at the base of the bridge to enter the downtown area of San Carlos by passing under the bridge, or along the north side of Fifth to the south side of Crescent then out to Estero.

Kirk Whitacre
Fort Myers Beach

TPI LISTENED TO ISLANDERS

I am writing this letter with regards to Mr. Ustruck's letter ("Neighbors Support Project=Irony," Island Sand Paper, March 20, 2018) commenting on the irony of our 5 Decide group being neighbors of Mr. Torgerson.

I am treasurer of 5 Decide and became involved mainly to get the facts out about TPI project. I and my other neighbors were removed from the Voice of Fort Myers Facebook page for questioning the facts being posted. Therefore, we decided to start our own site to get the real facts to the public.

As a resident, I was unhappy with the first proposal TPI put forward, Mr. Torgerson was my neighbor at that time and I expressed my concerns. He listened and his new proposal is evidence he hears us.

The North End of the island has been slowly degrading over the past 10 years. It's time for a change and I support TPI because it's the change we need.

Trading high rises on the beach for more density on the bay is great for our island to name one of many trade offs Mr. Torgerson has given us.

There is no irony, just concerned united neighbors tired of watching the paradise I decided to retire to become an embarrassing eye sore.

Pat Duclos
5 Decide
Fort Myers Beach

Guest Commentary What's Happening in District 3?

There has been a great tourist season in Lee County amongst much activity particularly on Fort Myers Beach.

To begin, while reading local papers I noticed a letter to the editor from Edie Foster regarding the need for new signage near San Carlos Boulevard and Pine Ridge Road for the Park & Ride Trolley. The recommendations was to place new signage on Pine Ridge Road so visitors could be directed to the recently opened Park & Ride facility and a new sign be placed at the intersection of San Carlos Boulevard and Pine Ridge Road that would shorten the left turn line.

After reading the editorial, I forwarded the suggestion to the appropriate Lee County staff who determined that better directional signage was indeed needed in both locations. Staff will be reviewing the LeeTran directional signage next week and evaluating the effectiveness of the signs, their placement, and make any suggestions that will be beneficial to the public.

Along with that suggestion there has been overwhelming support from visitors and residents alike for the open air tram which provided a free service to move people (not cars) in the downtown area of Fort Myers Beach. Lee County launched this test pilot program in February to see if there would be acceptance during peak season and whether programs like it could be expanded in other areas in Lee County. With its success there was an additional need to monitor its usage during non-peak season, perhaps looking at either expanding the service or the time. Lee County Transit (LeeTran) has announced that they will be extending their seasonal service routes, which includes the Fort Myers Beach Tram, which runs from Bowditch Point Park to Matanzas Pass Preserve. The Beach Tram, along with the Beach Park & Ride Trolley (490) and Beach Trolley (410) will continue its free services until May 30th. Again, we welcome any suggestions or comments.

No doubt the biggest conversation regarding activity on Fort Myers Beach is the Estero Blvd. project, current status, future plans and expectations. Although the work is steadily moving alongside work from the Town of Fort Myers Beach, expectations should remain the same as the project progresses further south. Lee County DOT crews are working tirelessly and motorists should expect travel lane shifts and some intermittent lane closures when necessary.

Here is an update on that project:

Segment 1- Crescent Street to Lovers Lane: Complete

Segment 2- Lovers Lane to Strandview Avenue/Publix: Underway with completion scheduled for December 2018. In an attempt to expedite the project, we've consolidated the latter segments.

Segment 3 and 4- Strandview Avenue/Publix to Albatross Street: Being negotiated now, with a Notice to Proceed to the Board of County Commissioners anticipated October/November 2018.

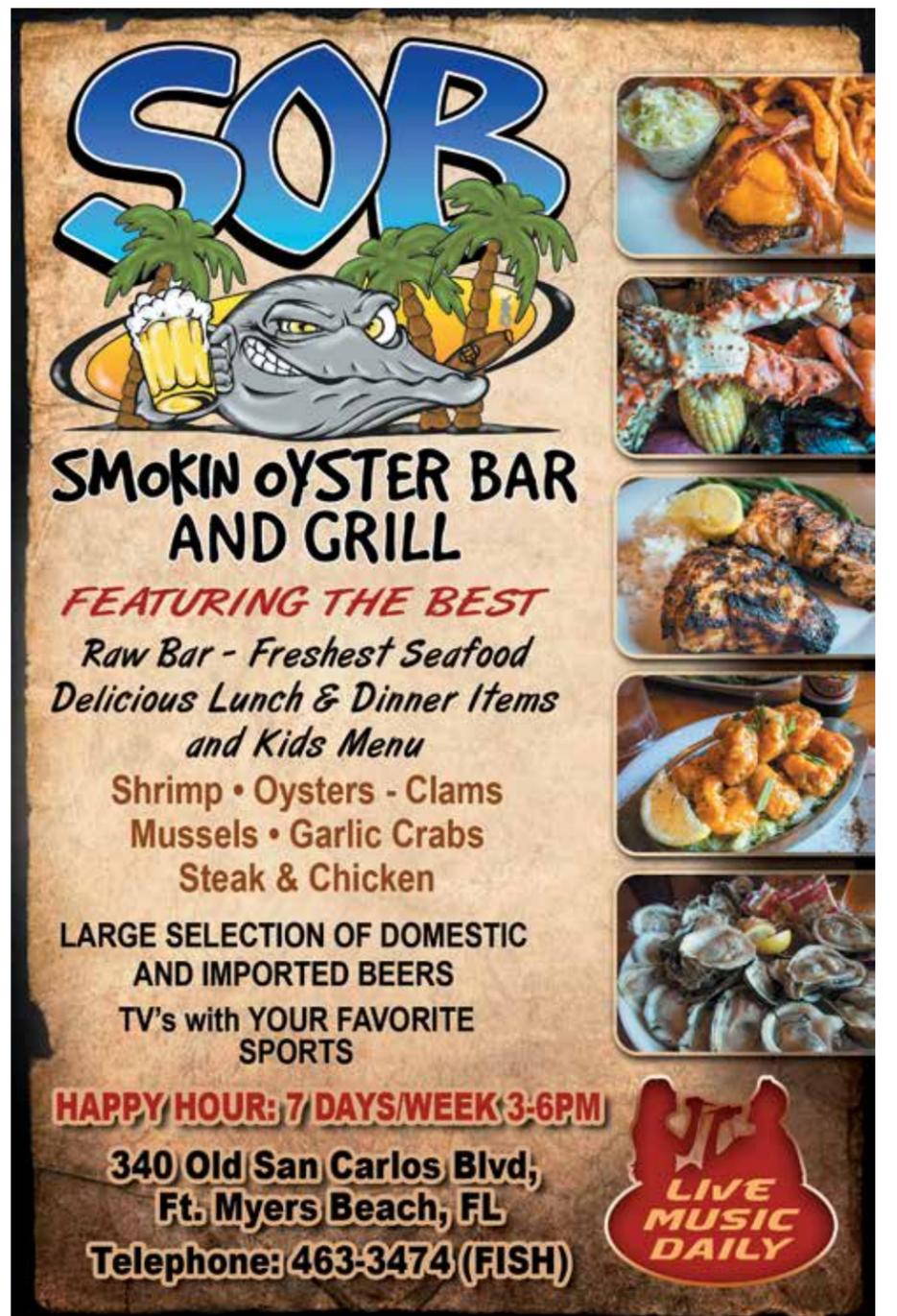
Segment 5/6- Albatross Street to end of island: Should begin early/mid 2020 such that the entire project can be completed by the end of 2021.

We hope you find this update helpful. As always, if you require assistance or have any suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact your District 3 office at (239) 533-2223 or via email at dist3@leegov.com .

Larry Kiker
District 3
Lee Board of County Commissioners



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Mound House the Place to Be on Back-to-Back Saturdays

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Mound House is the historic and cultural treasure of Fort Myers Beach, but for two upcoming Saturday evenings, it transforms into the community's outdoor entertainment place-to-be, with the inaugural "Music on The Mound" on Saturday, April 21, and the 2nd annual free "Movie on The Mound" on Saturday, April 28!

"During our 2016 Strategic Planning, we talked about hosting special events, to reach a wider audience," said Alison Giesen, the Director of Cultural Resources for the Town of Fort Myers Beach and Mound House Director. "In considering musical ideas, I immediately knew I wanted Sheena Brook to be our first entertainer! We initially met when her wife, Summer Stockton, served on the Fort Myers Beach Town Council. Sheena is a great talent, and we are also familiar with her from the annual 'Island Hopper Songwriters Festival' and 'The Voice.' I also knew she had a lot going on at that time, with many wonderful opportunities."

Alison was later meeting with Nancy MacPhee, of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau that is instrumental with the 'Island Hopper,' when they ran into Sheena. "Nancy said Sheena would be a terrific person to perform at the Mound House," Alison recalled, "and I said I would love to have that happen, and that led to her 'Music on The Mound' appearance. I am thrilled she is our first performer!"

The evening is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with Sheena performing from 6 to 7. "I encourage people to get your tickets early," reminded Alison, "as it is an intimate performance with limited space. Contact us for tickets at 239-765-0865 or buy them at the Museum Store that is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are just \$10 for Mound House members and \$15 for non-members."

Proceeds go to the Mound House Summer Scholarship Fund to benefit local beach kids, "and that makes this concert even more exciting," Alison said. "JewBan's food truck, that serves a mixture of Jewish and Cuban food, will be here, as will be Momentum Brewhouse, for your food-and-beverage pleasure. We will have fun things to do before Sheena comes out, like a giant Jenga and lawn games, with the Museum open and the 'Island Hopper' folks handing out SWAG to promote the Festival."

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

One week later, on Saturday evening, April 28, the Mound House hosts with the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival its free family "Movie on The Mound," featuring the smash Disney hit, "Coco!" The 2017 movie won Academy Awards for Best Animated Picture and Best Original Song, with "Remember Me." It starts at sunset, with family activities beginning at 7 p.m. and light refreshments for purchase.



The Movie on the Mound, a popular part of the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival, will be held at the Mound House on Saturday, April 28 at sunset.

The Museum will close, with the Museum store open.

"We are excited to work with the Film Festival for the second year now," related Alison. "We partner with Fish-Tale Marina on Mound Key Boat Trips, and they are big Film Festival sponsors, and it seemed to them the Mound House was a natural fit for the free Family

Film. We readily accepted, as there is nothing better than watching a movie outside by the bay! This is great exposure, to attract people who have never been here before, while allowing us to better serve our community, so we all really hope families enjoy the free event. The Mound House is such a diverse venue; I recall when I first began,

I had all these visions about all the kinds of things we could host that would be wonderful to bring to the community, as there is just something special about coming to the Mound House."

Alison reminds everyone to "bring blankets, lawn chairs, and bug spray. Puppies are always welcome, but we prohibit coolers! For the movie night, bring flashlights for walking back to your car, though we will have some lanterns on the grounds. Park in our overflow lot at 216 Connecticut Street or by the corner at the Beach Baptist Church."

The Mound House is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays through April 28, then reverts to its offseason schedule of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The Mound House is at 451 Connecticut Street, with additional parking at 216 Connecticut. For information call 239-765-0865 or see www.moundhouse.org.

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Sands of Time

A Walk through Estero Island History Discover and Preserve Local History: The Estero Island Historic Society

By Janet Sallian
info@fortmyersbeach.news

For an island whose history of human settlement dates back thousands of years, Fort Myers Beach has only a quarter-century record of systematically preserving and sharing its past, thanks to the Estero Island Historic Society.

WHAT HAVE WE LOST IN THE SANDS OF TIME?

Shell mounds that once dotted the island, created over centuries by Calusa Indians, were casually destroyed, their contents used as fill, in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The mounds' shells and small artifacts, now known to be archeologically significant, served as fill for subdivisions carved out of swampland, or paving material for Estero Boulevard and other island streets.

Traces of the Spanish explorers who visited this area in the 1600s, and of pirates such as Black Augustus who followed, have long since disappeared under sand or seawater. There are still whispers about buried treasure somewhere on Estero Bay's mangrove islands.

Fishing shacks built in Estero Bay by Cuban fishermen in the 1700s, and by early 20th-century homesteaders, have vanished,



Aerial view of Matanzas Pass Preserve on left and Bay Oaks on right. Circa 1950's-1960's.

victims of both weather and changing uses of our waterways. Dozens of unique cottages, plus the iconic stone archway that once marked the entrance to Fort Myers Beach, now exist only on antique picture postcards.

The Koreshan Unity built a small, thriving religious community on the southern tip of Fort Myers Beach starting in 1894. After the Koreshans moved inland to Estero, their beachside house on the south end of the island disappeared in storms. The tomb of this cult-like group's founder, Cyrus Teed, was washed into the Gulf of Mexico during a hurricane, erasing all traces of the island's first community.

These early eras and artifacts would have faded from our collective knowledge if not for the preservation and education work of the Estero Island Historic Society. The EIHS was started in 1991 by a group of islanders who recognized the value of preserving the history of their island community, and wanted to educate others about it.

Some members of the past and current EIHS Board grew up on Fort Myers Beach in the 1930s to 1950s, when it was a small village concentrated on the northern half of the island.

To these people, history is no abstract concept; it is part of their lives. They are equally fascinated by, and dedicated to sharing and preserving, what remains of the early history of this area.

FINDING A HOME FOR OUR HISTORY

In 1993 Lee County officials procured land at the entrance to the Matanzas Pass Preserve at the bottom of Bay Road. The 5th cottage built on Fort Myers Beach, by the Davison family in 1921, was donated as a museum and headquarters for the two-year-old Estero Island Historic Society.

The cottage had to be moved from its beachside Mango Street location to its new home on

Bay Road. That required significant funds and logistics, as did the renovation and refitting of the structure.

Fort Myers Beach residents pitched in and dug deep. They joined up as EIHS members, and donated funds that were matched by the



The Historic Cottages, 2005, home of the Estero Island Historic Society.

Lee County Historic Preservation Assistance Program. Reckwerdt Plumbing donated all the plumbing fixtures and labor.

The Historic Cottage, as it was dubbed, moved to its new site on August 2, 1995. After extensive work, the Estero Island Historic Society and Nature Center officially opened on May 5, 1997.

The EIHS needed still more

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Sands of Time

space. Laughing Gull Cottage was donated and moved from its beachside perch on Seaview Avenue to the Historic Cottage site in 2002. It now serves as the EIHS library, media room and Board meeting room.

The Estero Island Historic Society serves three main missions: archival, educational and historical. It holds videotaped recordings of over 80 local oral histories. Standing displays in the Historic Cottage show how this community evolved from a sparsely populated barrier island to the popular tourist destination it is today.

COME BY TO VISIT!

The quieter period from mid-April through November is an ideal time to visit the Historic Cottage and sample local history. Drop by 161 Bay Road between 10 a.m. and noon any Wednesday or Saturday. Browse through the cottage museum, packed with artifacts, photos, books and descriptions of days gone by. Volunteers will be happy to provide a tour and answer your questions.

You can purchase note cards with charming watercolor renderings of Fort Myers Beach cottages, a woven afghan with images from the area's past and a number of books on local history.

For a fascinating glimpse into local and regional history and ecology, plan to attend a public meeting of the Historic Society. On the second Monday of November, January, February and March, the EIHS holds an open meeting (free of charge; donations welcome) at 7 p.m. in the 3rd-floor Community

Room of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library. In December,



Opening of the Historic Cottage in 1997. Photos courtesy of the Estero Island Historic Society.

everyone is welcomed to a holiday Open House at the festively decorated Historic Cottage.

The EIHS invites seasonal residents and visitors to join the Historic Society for modest annual rates of \$10 per individual or \$20 for a family. Lifetime membership costs a mere \$100. To inquire, contact Russ Carter, EIHS President, at 239-233-3571, or by e-mail at wechoose@yahoo.com

Above all, discover the unique history that makes Fort Myers Beach far more than a lovely tourist destination. Thanks to the Estero Island Historic Society, a many-layered past still lives today.

DAZZLE YOUR FRIENDS WITH LOCAL LORE!

Become a Fort Myers Beach history expert! Here is a sampling of the facts you can learn at the Historic Cottage:

Q: According to archaeologists, when did the first settlers arrive on Mound Key in Estero Bay?
A: Around A.D. 100.

Q: Who was the first European recorded as landing on or near Fort Myers Beach?
A: Juan Ponce de Leon on May 24, 1513.

Q: What is the origin of the name Matanzas Pass (the strait between the north end of the island and San Carlos Island)?
A: Matanzas means massacre in Spanish, and historians believe many local Calusa Indians were slaughtered near here by the Spanish.

Q: For whom was Bowditch Point (northernmost tip of the island) named?
A: Naval Officer Nathaniel Bowditch, author of a well-known nautical reference book.

Q: In what city was Fort Myers Beach's original county seat?
A: Key West

Q: Who was the most famous (or infamous) local pirate?
A: Jose Gaspar, for whom Gasparilla Island is named.

Q: What does Estero mean in Spanish (Estero Island, Estero Bay)?
A: Estuary.

ESTERO ISLAND HISTORIC SOCIETY SEEKS CURATOR

Do you have experience in curation, archiving, museum work or historical documentation? Do you enjoy learning and communicating about local and regional history, both human and natural? If so, please consider applying to serve as the volunteer (part-time) Curator for the EIHS.

The Society has a wealth of materials, documents and artifacts related to Fort Myers Beach history that have been carefully maintained by a volunteer Curator who is stepping down.

This position is ideal for a retiree or part-time resident with a background in organizing and managing exhibits, and organizing document/photo storage and curation. Depending on the candidate's skills and experience, this part-time volunteer position can include:

- conceiving, developing and implementing exhibitions;
- performing scholarly research; and
- assisting with fund-raising and donor cultivation.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leroy Hommerding at the Fort Myers Beach Public Library at 239-765-8165 or by e-mail at leroyh@fmb.lib.fl.us

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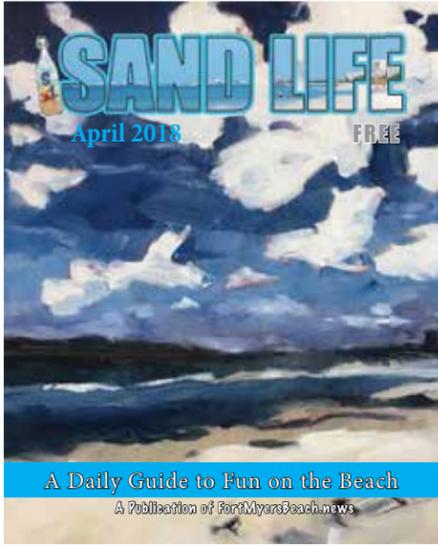
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AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND



Each week Around & About features community announcements and events held by charitable and non-profit organizations that are open to everyone. Check the events listed here and pick up a copy of SAND LIFE entertainment magazine!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church hosts its monthly Spaghetti Dinners on SA Apr 14 from 5-7pm. The entire community is invited to share this meal together. On the menu will be Spaghetti & meatballs, Spicy Sausage and Peppers & Onions, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert and beverages. Tickets \$10 adult/\$5 Public Safety personnel/kids 10 and under free.

GARDEN CLUB

The Estero Island Garden Club will hold meetings on April 16th and May 7th at 9:00 am. The meetings are held at the Women's Club, 175 Sterling Ave., FMB. All are welcome; for more information call 978 460 1814.

CAR SHOW

Parrot Key Caribbean Grill hosts

two car shows each month, on the 1st and 3rd MO through the end of April. Next show Apr. 16 from 4-7pm. Stop by to see some cool hot rods, classic cars and custom trucks. Have a great car? Arrive early for parking and registration. Free to show; free to look. For more information visit MyParrotKey.com or call 239-463-3257.

BUNCHE BEACH BIRDS

Join a naturalist guide to explore the mud flats of Bunche Beach on SA, April 14 at 7:30am. Bunche Beach offers an amazing opportunity to view shorebirds, shells and possibly a manatee or dolphin. Bring camera, shoes that can get wet, bug spray and drinking water. Bunche Beach, 18201 John Morris Rd. Meet on the beach. Free with paid parking. Leeparks.org for more info. 239-707-3015

TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Estero Island Taxpayers Association will meet on TU Apr 17. Social time begins at 6pm with the meeting at 6:30pm at the Beach Baptist Church. This month's topic of discussion will be Community Development with Guest Speaker Town Manager Roger Hernstadt and other Town staff. The Town is bringing permitting in house and will no longer send permitting through Lee County. Hernstadt will discuss what this means for our community.

MINI-MASTERS GOLF

The 6th annual Fort Myers Beach Mini-Masters Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce, will take place on TH Apr. 19 from 3-8pm at Jungle Golf. This is your chance to become

a legend on FMB! The first tee time will be 4pm. Prizes, raffles and even mulligans! Survivors will enjoy the 19th hole at Pinchers Crab Shack. Open to the public. 5-player team entry is \$150. Gallery tickets to just watch are \$5. Sponsors are still needed. For more information call 239-454-7500 or email events@fmbchamber.com.

LOCAL ARTIST SHOWCASE

The Fort Myers Beach Friends of the Arts Winter Concert Series will wrap up the season with a spectacular closing concert on Thursday, April 19 from 7-9pm at the Fish-Tale Marina Propeller Lounge with several outstanding local musicians. Headlining will be Sheena Brook, who was seen on The Voice last season. Also performing will be Jo List, whose musical talent is well known among Islanders and the Pearl Street Band, featuring a number of local musicians. Tickets are \$25 and available at FMBArts.org or by calling 239-463-3600.

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Keep Lee County Beautiful will host the 20th annual Great American Cleanup at over 25 locations throughout Lee County on SA April 21, 2018 from 8-11am. Local sites include FMB Elementary School, Bowditch Point Park and Dog Beach. The FMB Community Foundation will assist at the school site, provid-

ing gloves and bags to all volunteers. Help make a difference in the community and environment! Volunteers can register at klcb.org.

MUSIC ON THE MOUND

Make plans now to attend Music on the Mound featuring Sheena Brook on SA Apr 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Mound House. Bring your chairs or blankets. Food and beer available. No coolers allowed. Parking at 216 Connecticut St. or Beach Baptist Church. \$15 non-members/\$10 MH members. Tickets available at the gate or by calling 239-765-0865.

BONSAI

The Bonsai Society of Southwest Florida, Inc. will conduct a public auction of bonsai trees, pots and related materials beginning at 10am on SA Apr 21 at the Berne Davis Garden Center, 2166 Virginia Ave. in Fort Myers. A free buffet lunch will follow the auction. The public is invited; free parking available on Larchmont Street, just east of the Edison Home Garden Shop. For more information, contact Sam Wollard at sswollard4@aol.com.

FILM FESTIVAL

The Fort Myers Beach Film Festival will be held April 25-29. Opening Ceremony will be held at 2pm on WE Apr 25 at the Beach Theater. Independent films, selected by the Film Festival Committee will be shown

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AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND



at 3, 6 & 9pm from WE-SA. The Festival concludes with the Awards Ceremony at 2pm SU Apr 29 at Fish Tale Marina, followed by screenings of winning films at 3 and 6pm at the theater. The Free Family Movie on the Mound will present "Coco" at the Mound House at sunset on SA Apr 28. For more details see fmbfilmfest.com.

TASTE OF THE BEACH

The 23rd annual Taste of the Beach will be held on SU May 6 on Old San Carlos Blvd. Restaurants will offer samples of their signature dishes for purchase and compete for Taste of the Beach Award honors. Gates open at 11am. Food will be served until it runs out or 4pm. Admission is \$5 for adults and children over 12. Children under 12 are free. Food tickets are \$1 each with an average food serving \$5. Live entertainment included.

BRIDGE

The Woman's Club of FMB invites all bridge players to join them every TU & FR beginning at 9:30am for a day of social

bridge. Players rotate throughout the day competing in six rounds. Bring a bagged lunch and enjoy good company and great bridge. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/members. Proceeds support community activities. Coffee, iced tea and water served. For more information, call Claire Langer 239-292-1900. FMB Woman's Club, 175 Sterling Ave, FMB.

LIONS' SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fort Myers Beach Lions are soliciting candidates for their 2018 "WE SERVE" scholarships. Cash awards for college or vocational educational assistance are given to local students who demonstrate ability, need and a solid record of community service. Applications for this year's students can be found on the Fort Myers Beach Lions Website: fmbliions.com. Please make sure you receive an e-mail confirmation after you send in the application. All completed applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2018.

DONATE BLOOD NOW

The spring season creates a critical need for blood donations. Can you help? Do you have 45 minutes to spare to save a life? Drop by the Lee Health Blood Center at Summerlin Crossings, 15880 Summerlin Rd, Suite 113 anytime MO - FR 8am-4:30pm. On WE they're open until 7pm! All blood donated at Lee Health Blood Center saves lives right

here in Lee County. Questions? Call 239-343-7122

PROTECT OUR TURTLES

Be on the lookout for nesting turtles on our beaches. Turtle season is May - October. Beachfront homeowners are asked to do their part to protect our nesting and newly hatched turtles. Turtles are disoriented by lights shining on the beach. Shield your outdoor lights, or replace the bulbs with Amber LED bulbs. Turtles cannot see amber lighting but humans can. Find lights here: bit.ly/turtlelites. If you rent out your condo or home near the beach during turtle nesting season, leave instructions to close the drapes after sunset to prevent light from shining on the beach. Ask renters to remove or

stack beach furniture close to the building. Remove all beach litter. Fill in any holes that are dug on the beach when you leave for the day. Your actions can mean life or death to endangered sea turtles. For more information on sea turtles visit TurtleTime.org.

MARKET SEASON

Three open-air markets will continue through the end of April on FMB:

-TU 8am-noon; Fort Myers Beach Farm & Art Market in the Nervous Nellie's parking lot through April.

-TU 8am-1pm; The Santini Market at Santini Plaza through April.

-WE 9am-2pm; Beach Baptist Market at Estero Blvd and Connecticut

Government Meetings

Tuesday, 4/17	9:00am	Local Planning Agency
	6:00pm	Fire Board
Wednesday, 4/18	9:00am	Anchorage Advisory Committee
Thursday, 4/19	9:00am	Bay Oaks Advisory Board

All meetings take place in Town Hall, 2525 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, unless otherwise noted. Meeting times are accurate as of press time. Town meetings can be confirmed at fmbgov.com.

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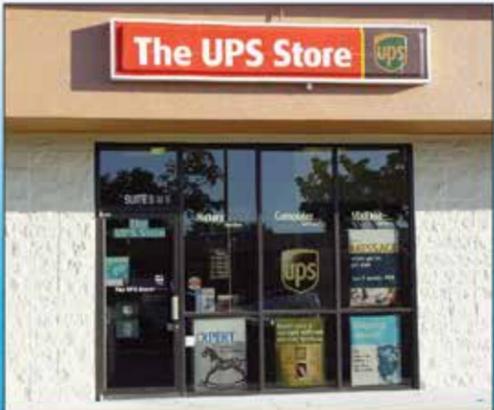


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Featured Business this Week:
The UPS Store



The UPS Store at Summerlin and San Carlos Blvd has a variety of services available beyond the normal package shipping for this busy holiday season. Matt Ponzio and his staff also want everyone to know they can do wide format printing and photo enlarging, print posters, banners and photos or pictures on canvas, and can provide the finished canvas prints stretched and ready to be hung or framed. They have a 12-color printer in the store. This permits full color printing, folding and binding including newsletters and booklets. You can avoid the Post Office as they are an Authorized USPS Postal services provider so they can ship postal, DHL and of course UPS. For the convenience of locals and visitors, they provide mailboxes that have a real street address not a PO Box address. As a Pack and Ship Guarantee Store, this service means if they pack your shipment and it get lost or damaged you will get reimbursed for your declared value plus the expense for the packaging of your shipment. For all your shipping needs, including large items like furniture and even cars and boats, visit the UPS Store and Summerlin and San Carlos.

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Restore FMB Arches to Host Two Events, Cont'd from pg.1



The Phillips Stone Monument will receive some TLC on April 19.

trying to construct the restored arches at San Carlos Boulevard and Main Street on San Carlos Island, near where the original ones stood," said Ray McDonald, President of Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches, Inc., "but we understand the Florida Department of Transportation may recommend installing a new traffic signal there, and that would most likely preclude having them on that spot. We plan to build them in a modular fashion off-site, then move the sections to our eventual location. The restored arches can't be an exact duplicate of the original, as they must be as tall as an Interstate bridge to accommodate modern truck traffic, and as wide as the current San Carlos Boulevard. We do hope to incorporate, however, elements of the original arch, as much of that stone still exists at various places around Southwest Florida."

PHILLIPS STONE MONUMENT

The group's first program celebrates the last large remaining remnant of the arch, when South High School's Future Farmers of America chapter conducts a landscaping event to rejuvenate the historic Phillips Stone Monument at

796 San Carlos Drive, at the corner of San Carlos Drive and the west end of Main Street, by the LeeTran parking lot, on Thursday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m. This will include the placing of a plaque as well as new non-invasive and native plant landscaping, with the program free and open to the public.

A little over two week's later, Restore FMB Arches first major fundraiser, "Rock The Arches Music Festival," will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café at 702 Fisherman's Wharf, appropriately under the Matanzas Pass Bridge, from 4 to 9 p.m. "This has been two years in the making," said Ray. "We realized in late 2016 we could not accomplish our goal as a private enterprise, so we became a non-profit, and sought sponsors, a venue, and musical entertainment to throw a big event that would be free with donations and a heck of a raffle. We have 19 sponsors that donated prizes, ranging from gift certificates up to three-night resort stays. 'Bad Latitude' is the headliner, with people calling them the future of the Fort Myers Beach music scene and a premier rock & roll band. David & Jenny along with John Sherman entertain as well. We chose Cinco De Mayo purposely, as the arches are of a

Spanish style, so what better date than that!"

While fundraisers are terrific and fun, "We can never accomplish our goal as a privately-funded organization," rationalized Ray, "but will need government support, as we will not be able to restore the arches without the help of the Florida Department of Transportation, the Town of Fort Myers Beach and the backing of Lee County. We have nearly 650 members in our group, though, so we still intend to raise as much of the money as we can, with as little financial support as possible from taxpayers."

FAMILY TRADITIONS

Ray feels that the effort to restore the Fort Myers Beach arches "is important to many people, particularly beach residents, whose grandparents loved the arch, and they want their grandchildren to experience this tradition as well. One person I can think of knows their great-grandfather helped to build the original one, and their mother cried when they tore them

down. I can personally relate to that, as my mother cried when they came down, too! She passed away in 2016, so to me, this is like bringing them back for her and a lot of other people to whom they meant so much, as we want them to look exactly the same way, only bigger and better!"

To volunteer or learn more about the project, go to Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches on Facebook. To contribute, come to Bonita Bill's on Saturday, May 5, from 4 to 9 p.m., or purchase raffle tickets from "Bridgette's Place" in the Indian Creek Plaza at 17284 San Carlos Boulevard, suite #104.

As opposed to the arch's 1979 demolition, "This time we have time on our side," explained Ray. "Back when they came down, it was a race against time, and there was even one County Commissioner who tried to delay their destruction, but word did not reach the subcontractor in time, so we lost that race, but now Lee County tells us we have time on our side, to make sure we do this right, to rebuild them."



South Fort Myers High School students will plant native landscaping around the Phillips Stone Monument on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. Photos by Gary Mooney.

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Funnies Page



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



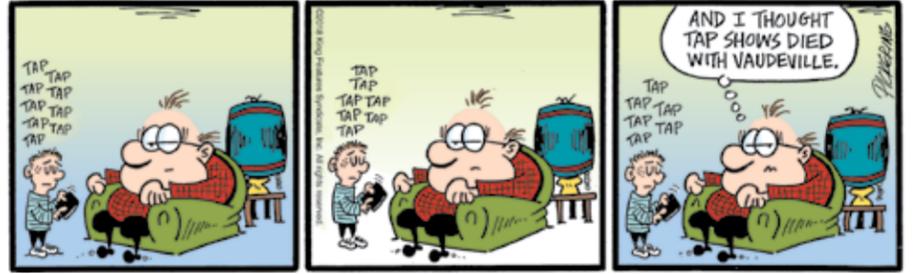
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I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

What's a pirates favorite letter?
You think it's R but it be the C

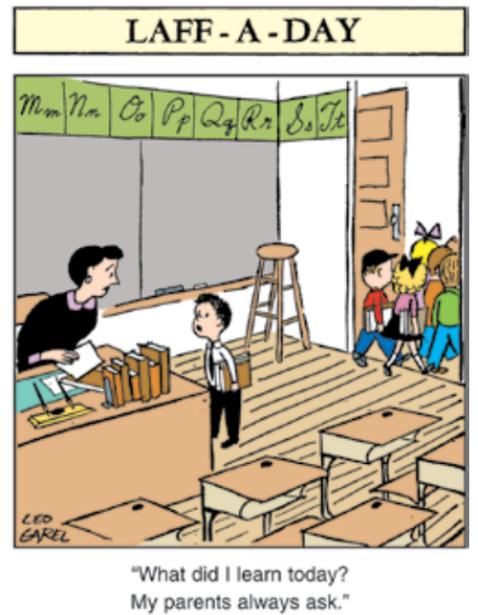
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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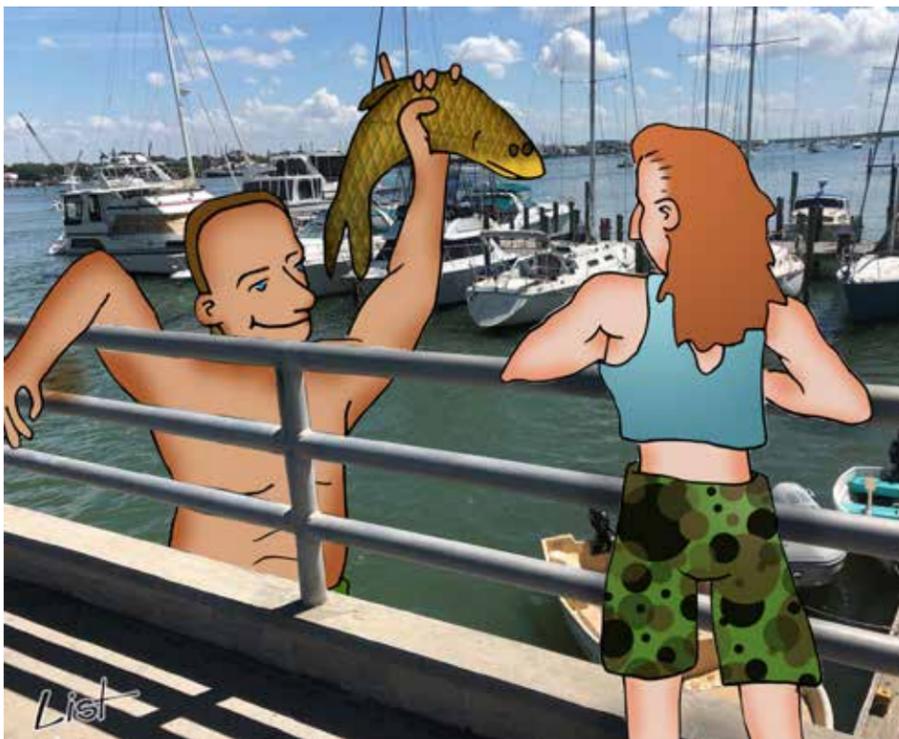
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Funnies Page



COMMUNITY COMICS



"Mirror mirror on the wall, greatest mullet of them all."
Eric M. Huntsman

"FMB, where Mermen offer fish to lucky visitors!"
Chris Doyle

"Let's mullet over!"
Wils Murphy

"I appreciate it honey, but that's not my sandal."
Patrick McGuire

'My, what a big FISH you have, Mr. Ocean Man!'
Keri Hendry Weeg

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



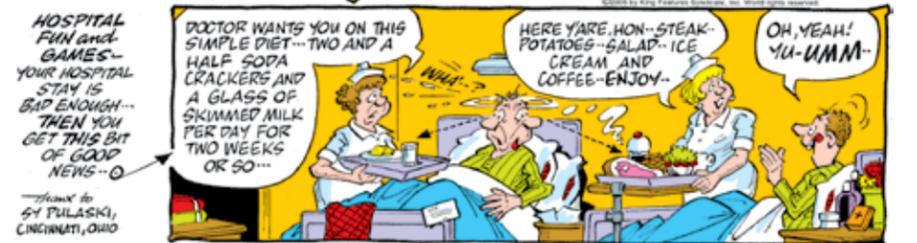
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



Every weekend I draw a cartoon and put it up on my FB page, and ask my friends to contribute captions for the cartoon. I also ask they vote for the ones they think are funniest ('Like' as many as you like). (The uncaptioned cartoons can be found on the FB pages of Mark List.)

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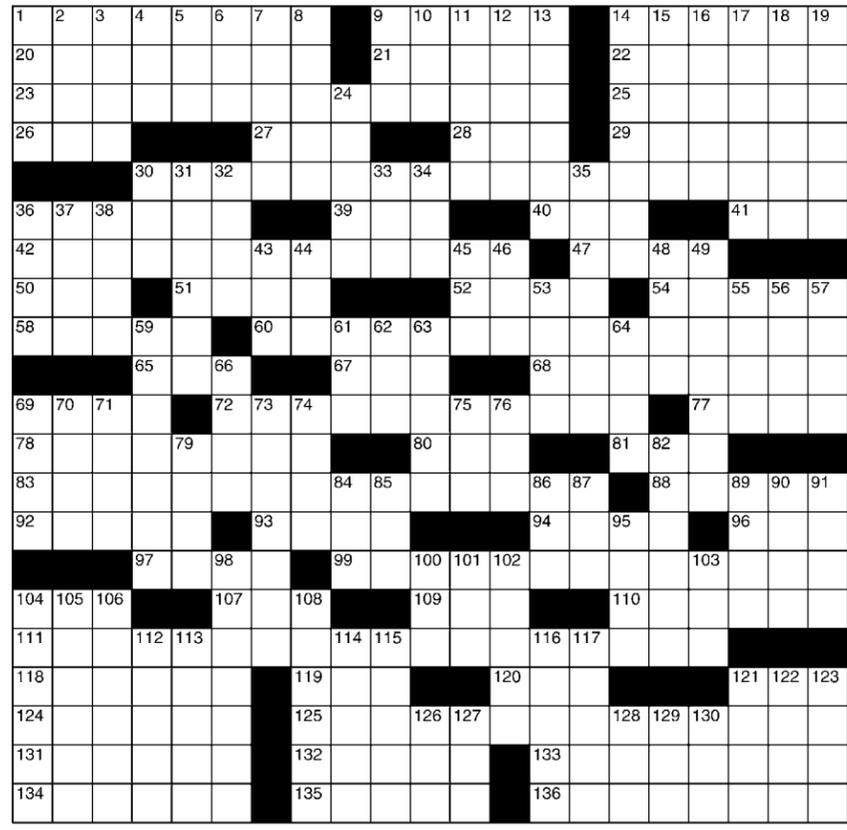
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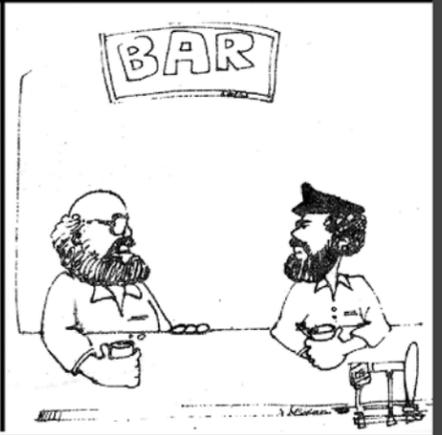
Super Crossword

COLLECTION OF SHADES

- ACROSS**
- 1 In addition to
 - 9 Like racist or sexist jokes
 - 14 Small country in Europe
 - 20 Kellogg's cereal
 - 21 As thin as —
 - 22 Gotten up from bed
 - 23 Certain Burgundy fruit
 - 25 Small
 - 26 Regular: Abbr.
 - 27 Bullring yell
 - 28 W-2 expert
 - 29 Belfast's county
 - 30 Cheesy Italian dish
 - 36 First emperor of Brazil
 - 39 Pigeon's call
 - 40 Airline serving Oslo
 - 41 Honshu coin
 - 42 Annual Calgary or Rochester celebration
 - 47 Suffix with 119-Across
 - 50 Jackie's #2
 - 51 Texter's "Then again ..."
 - 52 "— penny, pick it up ..."
 - 54 Still-life fruit
 - 58 Sam of "The Piano"
 - 60 Very shy sort
 - 65 Ending for cyan
 - 67 British rocker
 - 68 Most indigent
 - 69 Have too much of, for short
 - 72 The 1890s' nickname
 - 77 See
 - 71-Down
 - 78 Any of 12 pontiffs
 - 80 Two-base hit: Abbr.
 - 81 That gal
 - 83 What playing kids "go round"
 - 88 Expand upon
 - 92 Not as daft
 - 93 Hairy twin in the Bible
 - 94 Garr of film
 - 96 "Ni-i-ice!"
 - 97 —do-well (idle person)
 - 99 Suspect in Clue
 - 104 Charade
 - 107 — Fridays (restaurant)
 - 109 Wriggling fish
 - 110 Post-teens
 - 111 1951 Alec Guinness comedy
 - 118 Left fielder
 - 119 Tearful
 - 120 Tear's place
 - 121 Zero in comedy
 - 124 Ink-squirting creatures
 - 125 Whoopi Goldberg film that's apt for this puzzle
 - 131 Israeli money
 - 132 "St. — Fire"
 - 133 Least quiet
 - 134 Albanian city
 - 135 Jr.-year exams
 - 136 Singers Frank and Nancy
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Nile vipers
 - 2 Skewer
 - 3 Proceed on, as one's way
 - 4 Green prefix
 - 5 Enkindled
 - 6 Multiple-PC system
 - 7 Knock for —
 - 8 Expertise
 - 9 Pester
 - 10 NHL's Bobby
 - 11 Civil rights org.
 - 12 Robert Browning's "— Passes"
 - 13 Unclogs
 - 14 Ill feeling
 - 15 Circular gasket fitting
 - 16 Old crime boss Frank
 - 17 In error
 - 18 Dion of song
 - 19 Like a single-person band
 - 24 Do a spit-take, say
 - 30 Noted period
 - 31 Peter out, as a trail
 - 32 Present
 - 33 "— will not!" (firm refusal)
 - 34 "Mazel —!"
 - 35 Made do
 - 36 Intend (to)
 - 37 Ireland, to the Irish
 - 38 Ovid's 552
 - 43 Dawn goddess
 - 44 "Be quiet!"
 - 45 Invite
 - 46 Maui garland
 - 48 Verbalized
 - 49 No longer edible
 - 53 City of central Sicily
 - 55 Appeal
 - 56 For fear that
 - 57 Kin of -kin
 - 59 Tackles, e.g.
 - 61 Gun, as an engine
 - 62 Suffix with opal
 - 63 Tropical term
 - 64 Signs made by winners
 - 66 Runner Zatopek
 - 69 Chooses
 - 70 Qatari capital
 - 71 With
 - 77-Across, not closing early, as a store
 - 73 Inn in France
 - 74 Employs
 - 75 Taper off
 - 76 Gulager of "The Killers"
 - 79 Unblemished
 - 82 Flattop, e.g.
 - 84 Sharp knock
 - 85 Karel Capek sci-fi play
 - 86 Aves.
 - 87 "For — a jolly ..."
 - 89 Voodoo —
 - 90 Hype up
 - 91 Measures of resistance
 - 95 Gallivant
 - 98 French "Presto!"
 - 100 Atop, in odes
 - 101 Jewish cry of disgust
 - 102 Architect Saarinen
 - 103 Alehouse
 - 104 Maximally
 - 105 Overly stylish
 - 106 Person camping out, often
 - 108 Foot part
 - 112 "Don't — gift horse in the mouth"
 - 113 Quaking tree
 - 114 Writer Roald and actress
 - 115 Stalk swelling
 - 116 City south of Dijon
 - 117 "Vive —!" (French cry)
 - 121 Imitator
 - 122 Rick Blaine's love, in film
 - 123 Citi Field
 - 126 Folding bed
 - 127 Old spy org.
 - 128 Lapel insert
 - 129 D.C.'s land
 - 130 Slowing, in music: Abbr.



BARSIDE (George)

I was wondering what you do after your Nintendo game ends in a tie?

My guess is you ask for a Wii-match!

In Memory: Gary Worman: 1947-2007. Long time beach resident & Rock Pack Member, Gary often supplied the Sand Paper with humor gathered while drinking in any pub that would have him. Gary is now drinking in a better place. Through Bar Side, his memory lives on.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

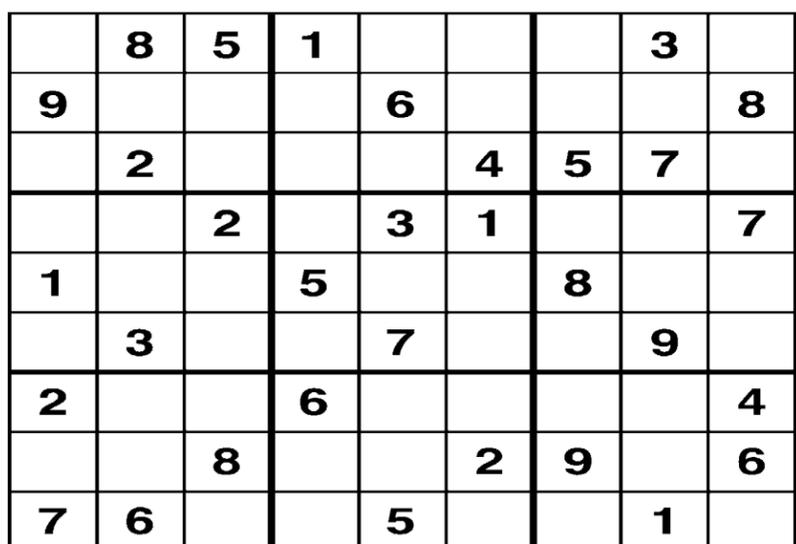
Clue: P equals V

OWBDM GFE'PD SOC TDPDMOU
 OCEUB YDPDMOKDT FV O
 WUAKSB, GFE'UU ZMFYOYUG YD
 WDDUAVK VF ZUOVD.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Outfit FISHRUN _ _ _ _

Pair POLEUC _ _ _ _

Keep TRAINE _ _ _ _

Pierce PARSE _ _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD

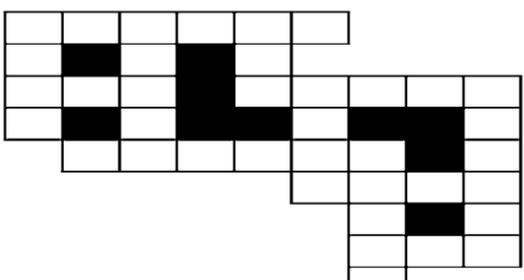
_ _ _ _ _

"It's my _____ . She had a sudden change of plans over the weekend."

FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

TSA
 TAUSHI
 POMET
 ♥ MASL
 TEDRAM
 ABC
 ♥ ATBS
 ♥ REDET
 ♥ SPI
 ICOBED
 HATCB
 TESC



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHER becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Full Circle Borrego Returns to Field of His Youth

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

Ramon Borrego may be the new manager of the Fort Myers Miracle, the Single A affiliate for the Minnesota Twins in the Florida State League, but neither Fort Myers nor the Miracle are new to the Venezuela native! Borrego enters his 22nd season with the Twins organization, having originally signed with them as an undrafted free agent player in 1995, remaining in their system from 1996 to 2002, then began his coaching career in 2004.

As a player, Borrego made his professional debut with the Gulf Coast League (GCL) Twins in 1996, which also play at the CenturyLink Sports Complex, hitting .357 in 19 games. GCL teams are made up of first-year players who play a 60-game season from mid-June to late-August, with an emphasis on skill development rather than competitive play. He performed so well he earned the first of his three opportunities with the Miracle, but hit just .196 in 16 games. He returned to the Miracle in 1999 with his playing career ending two seasons later. Borrego became a Twins minor league coach in 2004, rising to be the GCL Twins manager in 2010, going a combined 236--235, with his 2017 team winning the South Division title with a 35--23 mark.

"I have actually managed several of these Miracle players before, when they first began with

the GCL Twins," the new skipper related. "I am so proud to see how they are developing, not only as baseball players but as young men. I think they have a lot of trust in me, as they know I helped begin the careers of most of the current Minnesota Twins when they first started out in the GCL, as every one of these guys wants to one day play in the majors. It is my job to make sure they play hard on the field, and to do things right, both between the white lines and away from the stadium. To make it in baseball requires a lot of adjustments as you go along, and that is true of life as well."

Starting pitcher Brady Anderson, who played collegiately at Florida Gulf Coast University, played under Borrego two seasons ago with the GCL Twins. "I liked playing for him then and look forward to it now. He has a very laid-back style, allowing you to be yourself, but expects you to show up and to do your job, and will do anything for you to help you to get better."

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

There is a sense of déjà vu for Borrego at Hammond Stadium, 18 years after his final stint as a Miracle player. "I was standing in left field not that long ago, and a lot of memories from my playing days here flooded back. I recall particularly one game where I hit a walk-off double for us to win, then there



Ramon Borrego in his 1st season as Miracle manager.

was a big fireworks show after that, and all the fans and players went home in such a good mood, especially me! I loved being here as a player, and that is what makes it so exciting to be back as the manager."

The Miracle are home this weekend, hosting the Tampa Tarpons of the New York Yankees organization. Friday's game begins at 7 p.m., with the first 500 fans receiving a replica Miracle hat, with Happy Hour from 6 to 8 p.m., and post-game fireworks; on Saturday, the first 1,000 fans receive a Brian Dozier Bobblehead, honoring the Miracle alumnus and current Twins All-Star 2nd baseman, with the game at 6 p.m.; and Sunday, April 15, is "Youth Baseball Day," with kids in their team shirts receiving a free ticket, enjoying a pre-game

catch on the field, and running the bases after the game, with several Miracle players signing autographs before the 4 p.m. contest. Unfortunately, due to our extremely dry conditions, the Miracle may need to cancel fireworks on Friday.

Following this weekend, the Miracle head out on a nine-game road trip, and return to Hammond Stadium on Thursday, April 26, to take on the Daytona Tortugas. Tickets (\$7.50 -- \$12.00) are available at www.milb.com, the stadium box office that opens 90 minutes prior to each game or by phone at 239-768-4210 (with \$2 processing fee). Hammond Stadium at the CenturyLink Sports Complex is at 14100 Six Mile Cyrus Parkway in South Fort Myers.



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Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
F 13	Low	5:53 AM	0.2	7:06 AM	Rise 5:45 AM	11
	High	12:38 PM	2.2	7:51 PM	Set 5:45 PM	
	Low	6:08 PM	0.6			
Sa 14	High	12:33 AM	2.3	7:05 AM	Rise 6:23 AM	5
	Low	6:21 AM	0.4	7:51 PM	Set 6:42 PM	
	High	12:52 PM	2.3			
	Low	6:45 PM	0.4			
Su 15	High	1:19 AM	2.2	7:04 AM	Rise 7:01 AM	1
	Low	6:47 AM	0.5	7:52 PM	Set 7:41 PM	
	High	1:09 PM	2.4			
	Low	7:23 PM	0.1			
M 16	High	2:05 AM	2.2	7:03 AM	Rise 7:40 AM	0
	Low	7:13 AM	0.7	7:52 PM	Set 8:41 PM	
	High	1:31 PM	2.7			
	Low	8:04 PM	-0.1			
Tu 17	High	2:54 AM	2.1	7:02 AM	Rise 8:23 AM	0
	Low	7:37 AM	1.0	7:53 PM	Set 9:43 PM	
	High	1:57 PM	2.9			
	Low	8:49 PM	-0.4			
W 18	High	3:48 AM	2.0	7:01 AM	Rise 9:08 AM	3
	Low	8:02 AM	1.1	7:53 PM	Set 10:45 PM	
	High	2:28 PM	3.0			
	Low	9:40 PM	-0.4			
Th 19	High	4:53 AM	1.7	7:00 AM	Rise 9:59 AM	9
	Low	8:25 AM	1.3	7:54 PM	Set 11:48 PM	
	High	3:04 PM	3.0			
	Low	10:39 PM	-0.5			
F 20	High	6:22 AM	1.6	6:59 AM	Rise 10:53 AM	17
	Low	8:44 AM	1.5	7:54 PM		
	High	3:47 PM	3.0			
	Low	11:47 PM	-0.4			

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Beach Happenings

Cruiser's Appreciation Day



Cruiser Appreciation Day drew cruisers, residents and visitors last Saturday afternoon for the annual event celebrating the Town's mooring field. The popular and highly rated 70-mooring ball field draws boaters year round. Matanzas Inn provides land-based services for those who use the field and annually hosts Cruiser's Appreciation Day, along with the Town of Fort Myers Beach and the Anchorage Advisory Committee. For more information on the mooring field, call Matanzas Inn 239-463-9258.



2018 Re-Entry Pass and CodeRed

It's time to register or renew your Hurricane Re-Entry Pass. All Fort Myers Beach residents and business owners who are not already registered for hurricane re-entry passes should submit a 2018 application. If you already have a PURPLE (Resident) or YELLOW (Business) pass, bring it to Town Hall to receive an updated 2018 sticker. Residents may receive up to 2 re-entry passes; business owners – 3 passes and Property Managers – 1 pass per 5 properties with a maximum of 5.

Re-entry pass registration or renewal can be completed at Town Hall Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. Applications are available online at fmbgov.com under Community > For Islanders > Emergency Operations, or pick up an application at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Blvd, FMB. The Town will no longer mail re-entry passes. They must be obtained in person.

Applicants must complete the application and bring supporting documents to receive a pass. Photo I.D. and proof of residency is required. Property owners, tenants and businesses should have two of the following: Driver's License, Vehicle Registration, Voter Registration, Utility Bill, Business Tax Bill, Company Letter, Occupational License or Lease.

The Town is encouraging all Town residents and business owners to update their CodeRed Notification Registration. The Town uses The CodeRed Notification system to notify those registered of important information during an emergency and precautionary boil water notifications. If your address or contact information has changed, you need to update your registration. Registration for CodeRed is on the Home Page of the Town's website at fmbgov.com, it is identified as a "button" on the lower left side of the page.



Beach Theater

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6425 Estero Blvd.
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www.FMBtheater.com

Coming to Beach Theater!! Ft Myers Beach Film Festival!! April 25-29

Starts on **Friday April 13**

Doors open at 1:45 PM.



Rampage
[PG-13] 3:00 6:00 8:45

A silverback gorilla, a wolf and a reptile grow to a monstrous size after a rogue genetic experiment goes wrong. Primatologist Davis Okoye soon joins forces with the military to prevent the mutated beasts from destroying everything in their path.

Starring: Dwayne Johnson and Naomi Harris



Isle of Dogs
[PG-13] 2:15 6:00 8:30

Isle of Dogs tells the story of Atari Kobayashi, 12-year-old ward to corrupt Mayor Kobayashi. When, by Executive Decree, all the canine pets of Megasaki City are exiled to a vast garbage-dump called Trash Island, Atari sets off alone in a miniature Junior-Turbo Prop and flies across the river in search of his bodyguard-dog, Spots.

Starring: (voices) Bryan Cranston and Edward Norton



I Can Only Imagine
[PG] 2:45 4:15 5:45 8:30

The film brings to life the true story behind the song of ultimate hope, 'I Can Only Imagine.' A transformed relationship with his troubled father inspired Bart Millard, the lead singer of the Christian band MercyMe, to write what is now the most-played radio single in Christian music history. The story beautifully illustrates that nobody is ever too far from God's love – or too far from an eternal home in Heaven.

Starring: Dennis Quaid and Michael Finley



Blockers
[R] 2:00 6:45 9:00

When three parents stumble upon their daughters' pact to lose their virginity at prom, they launch a covert one-night operation to stop the teens from sealing the deal.

Starring: John Cena and Leslie Mann

Ticket Prices: - Matinee - \$9.50 (\$12.50 3D) - Adult - \$12.00 (\$15.00 3D) - Senior (65) & Child (12 and under- \$9.50 (\$12.50 3D)

Buy tickets online! www.FMBtheater.com Like us on [facebook.com/BeachTheater!](https://www.facebook.com/BeachTheater/)

WHO'S PLAYING WHERE ON AND AROUND THE BEACH

CLUB	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
BEACHED WHALE 1249 Estero Blvd 463-5505	BOBBY BLAKEY 6-9PM	TOMMY VAN OYER 6-9PM	SAM DEARMOND 6-9PM			OBE GONZALEZ 6-9PM	TYLER KLUSNER 6-9PM
CASTAWAYS Santini Marina Plaza 463-4644	ROCKIN' HORSE 8-MIDNIGHT	ELECTRIC LIPSTICK 8-MIDNIGHT					
SHUCKERS/COTTAGE Gulfshore Grill 765-5440	ROGER YOUNG 4-7PM TROUBLEMAKERS 9PM-1AM	CHRIS CASDIA 4-7PM 3 CROOKED STEPS 9PM-1AM	CHRIS CASDIA 4-7PM TROUBLEMAKERS 9-1PM	STEVE FARST 4-7 3 CROOKED STEPS 9PM-1AM	BOBBY BLAKEY 4-7PM BAD BANDITOS 9PM-1AM	CHARLIE MOON 4-7PM STEVE FARST 9PM-1AM	JOHN HOUSLEY 4-7PM THE NEW VINYLs 9PM-1AM
CRACKER BOX 16910 McGregor 466-4344	CRACKER BOX BAND 7-10PM	JESSE ALLEN 7-10PM			JESSE ALLEN 6:30-9:30	BLUEGRASS JAM 6:30-9:30	FRANK & IRIS 6:30-9:30
DIXIE FISH CO. Fisherman's Wharf 233-8837	MARK WESLEY 5:30PM-9:30PM	MIKE O'NEIL 1-4PM ANTHONY WAYNE 5:30PM-9:30PM	MEGAN ROSE 4PM	BOBBY BLAKEY 5:30-8:30	CHRIS CASDIA 5:30PM	ANTHONY WAYNE 5:30-8:30PM	TEQUILA TOM 5:30-8:30PM
DOC FORDS 708 Fishermans Whf. 765-9660	BAD BANDITOS 6:30-9:30	3 CROOKED STEPS 1PM KAPO KINGS 6:30PM	DEB & THE DYNAMICS 1-4PM		STEVE McDUGALL 6:30-9:30PM	GIRL MEETS BOY 6:30-9:30PM	KAPO KINGS 6:30-9:30PM
MATANZAS on the BAY 414 Crescent 463-3838	WAYNE DELORIA 12-5PM DANIEL D 5-9PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 12-5PM MARY WINNER 5-9PM	GREG WATTS 12-5PM SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 5-9PM	SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	PETE BEARD 5-9PM	MARY WINNER 5-9PM
NERVOUS NELLIES 1131 1st St 463-8077	RASHIMBA 12-4 OLD SCHOOL CHARLIE 6-10PM	KEVON 12-4pm OLD SCHOOL CHARLIE 6-10PM	SMOKIN BILL 12-4PM HIGH TIDE 6-10PM	MICHAEL ANTOINE 12-4 SMOKIN BILL 6-10	TERRY CLEMSON 12-4 KEVON 6-10PM	HAZY, HOT & HUMID 6-10PM	MIKE GLEAN 12-4 MIKE GLEAN 6-10PM
OUTRIGGER 6200 Estero Blvd 463-3131	ALAN SMALL 5-8	MEAGAN ROSE & SMOKIN' BILL 2-5PM	SMALLTOWN 2-5PM		MEAGAN ROSE 5-8PM	ENDRE D 5-8PM	TWO HANDS 5-8PM
PARROT KEY Salty Sam's Marina 463-3257	ANGEL LEWIS PROJECT 7-10PM	FRANK TORINO 7-10PM		FRANK TORINO 7-10PM	GAITLIN 7-10PM	GAITLIN 7-10PM	FRANK TORINO 7-10PM
PETE'S TIME OUT Time Square 463-5900			DAVE COLLATON 6-10PM	DAVE COLLATON 6-10PM	FRANK THOMPSON 6-10PM	JAMES GRAGG 6-10PM	JAMES GRAGG 6-10PM
PIERSIDE BY TOWN PIER 765-7800	SHERRIN 1-5 JEFF WHIDBY 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 1-5 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 1-5 BILL ZINK 7-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 1-5 GREG WATTS 6-10	BILL ZINK 1-5PM JEFFREY WHIDBY 6-10	BILL ZINK 1-5PM MARY WINNER 6-10PM	BILL ZINK 1-5PM ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM
PINCHERS TIKI BAR 6890 Estero Blvd 463-2909	HALF STEP DOWN 6-9PM	ROCKIN' HORSE 6-9PM	DREAMKEEPER 5-8PM	SHAWN RUSSELL 5-8PM	SAM DeARMOND 5-8PM	AARON SEYFFERTH 5-8PM	N2L 5-8PM
SALTY CRAB 1154 Estero Blvd 233-8224	ANTHONY WAYNE 12-4 BERNIE HYLAND 4:30-8:30PM	AWESOMESAUCE 1-5PM AARON SEYFFERTH 6-9PM			BUSTED STUFF 5-9PM	BRIZZ & LADY3-6PM	JEFF GREENE 1-5PM CHRIS KEMP 7-10PM
SHARK BAR & GRILL 17979 San Carlos Blvd 313-6012	RAGADY LAPSEY 6-9PM	INCORRIGIBLES 7-10PM	OMARI BANKS 6-9PM	RASHIMBA 3-6PM COLLABORATION BAND 7-10PM	MARY WINNER BAND 2-5 DJ BRIAN SAVAGE 6-9PM	MARTY KEANE 2-5PM JACK MICHAELS 6-9PM	LAURIE STARR DUO 3-6PM BRENDA'S KARAOKE 7-10PM
SOBs Old San Carlos Blvs 463-3474	DAVE COLLATON 1-5PM ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM	ANTHONY WAYNE 1-5PM DAVE COLLATON 6-10	WILL KAISER 1-5PM LEE HAGAN 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 6-10	SHAWN RUSSELL 1-5PM DAVE COLLATON 6-10
SUNSET BEACH FMB TIMES SQUARE 463-1028	BARRY LAWRENCE 8-CLOSE	CHRIS KEMP 2-5PM CLIVE LIVE 8-CLOSE	BARRY LAWRENCE 1-5PM JENNY VE 8-CLOSE	MIKE GLEAN 8-CLOSE	CLIVE LIVE 8-CLOSE	DANNY D 8-CLOSE	WENDELL RAY 8-CLOSE
SURF CLUB 1167 Estero Blvd 765-0644	JAMES GRAGG 6-10PM	THE REGULARS 6-9PM			SHAWN RUSSELL 6-9PM		KARAOKE WITH CAM 6-9PM

Who's Playing Where Page is a free service for current Island Sand Paper Advertisers. ALL LISTINGS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE ADVERTISERS. ALL LISTINGS FOR THE MONTH ARE DUE ON THE 15TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WHO'S PLAYING WHERE. To qualify for listing, venue must have live music scheduled regularly on multiple days per week. CONTACT SANDY AT 463-4461 TO DISCUSS ADVERTISING OPTIONS!

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