



Final Council Vote on TPI-FMB May 21 Outcome Uncertain

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

After Hurricane Charley devastated downtown Fort Myers Beach on Friday the 13th of August 2004; the Great Recession plummeted property values; the failure of six previous developers; a Town Council election two years ago that essentially revolved around this issue; the Fort Myers Beach Local Planning Agency providing its majority approval; conflicting Town Staff reports; a unanimous first Council vote on April 10, and immeasurable debate, disagreement, dialog, public meetings and angst, the five Fort Myers Beach Town Council members will make their final decision on the controversial TPI-FMB Downtown Redevelopment Proposal in Town Hall on

[Cont'd pg.8](#)



Rendering of TPI-FMB project viewed from Crescent St. and 5th Street, showing resort entrance. Courtesy of TPI Hospitality.

“An Honor To Serve You!” Cereceda Recalls Town’s Beginning

By Gary Mooney
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“1995 was a pivotal year for Fort Myers Beach, and a challenging one, as we incorporated the Town,” said Council member Anita Cereceda to a packed house at the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at Charley’s Boathouse Grill on Thursday, May 10. Cereceda, who owns The Pier Peddler, Local Color and The Islander gift shops & boutiques, became, upon incorporation, the Town’s first Mayor, serving on Town Council

through 2000, before being elected again in 2014 and in 2017.

“I had nothing to do with incorporation, as that was led by a group called the Civic Association under Ted Fitzsimons, a wonderful person of whom I have fond memories, as he passed away about 10 years ago. Opposing incorporation oddly enough was the Chamber of Commerce, and a few of us managed to stay in the middle, as I saw both sides. What worried people was that incorporation would result in more government, and many people still worry about that 22 years later!”

[Cont'd pg.5](#)

EITA Forum Talks Code Enforcement Proactive Versus Complaint-Driven

By Gary Mooney
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Roughly 75 people and a live Facebook audience watched the May Estero Island Taxpayers Association (EITA) meeting on the Town of Fort Myers Beach’s controversial new policy of proactive Code Enforcement on Wednesday evening, May 16 at the Beach (First) Baptist Church, cohosted by the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce. Beverley Milligan, EITA Executive Director, and Jacki Liszak, Executive Director of the FMB Chamber, introduced the panel of Anita Cereceda, member of Town Council; Rexanne Hosafros, Attorney and past Town Vice Mayor; Amy Loughrey, co-owner of Distinctive Beach Rentals; Joe Orlandini, island developer & owner of MoJoe’s Café; Rae Spole, co-owner of Sun Deck Inn & Suites; and Jessie Titus, owner of Fort Myers Beach Realty and a previous Local Planning Agency member.

“We hope to educate ourselves tonight on Code Enforcement,” said Milligan. “The Town has a relatively new and sophisticated Town Manager in Roger Hernstadt, who is a long-time politician who worked for a lot of other Towns throughout his career and knows how to manage this issue. We asked him or another Town representative to join us, but since Council will

address this at its Management & Planning Session on Thursday morning, June 14, he did not feel it appropriate to participate at this time. We encourage everyone to attend that meeting and provide suggestions and positive feedback, so Council can base their decision on our input.” Beverley then gave a brief history of the Town’s Code Enforcement policy, stating that the current written law dates back to 2013.

“Something is broke and needs fixing, but I don’t know how to do that,” Titus admitted. Loughrey added, “Town staff are driving up and down the streets. We notice Code Enforcement officers outside of people’s homes with open laptops, comparing properties to previous photographs, to look for changes. Code Enforcement used to work Monday through Friday, so people knew they could make changes on Saturdays and Sundays, and now we see them out taking pictures on Saturday nights at 9 p.m., under the direction of the Town Manager and Council.” “I have not been on Council for a while now,” recalled Hosafros, “but I remember Code Enforcement started with the Noise Ordinance based on Friday night problems, so not about building but noise issues.”

ANXIETY VS. PROTECTION

“This is creating a lot [Cont'd pg.12](#)



Early Wednesday morning, workers removing a palm tree at an undisclosed location on Fort Myers Beach discovered buried treasure in the sand under the tree! Silver U.S. coins from the 1930’s were discovered. Photo by Mark List.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

SIDEWALK SPEED LIMIT?

I just found out (Town Council) intends to either injure or kill me. I need to ride my electric bike in the street. I did not make the decision not to have bike lanes and make the sidewalks huge. That was the town's doing.

I have a car that can go 140 mph. Yet I only drive it a max of 25 mph on Estero Blvd. My E bike can only go 12 mph and I need to pedal assist like crazy to make it go that fast. I do realize some of the new and more expensive bikes can go 25 mph. Yes, very dangerous on a sidewalk.

So I suggest a 10 mph speed limit on the sidewalks. It will not be hard to tell when someone is zipping along at a high speed.

I would love to ride a regular bike, however I had hip surgery and sometimes I just cannot do it. Don't tell me to walk because that hurts more.

I'd like to see my grandkids grow up. Please help me do that.

Don Hirhager
Fort Myers Beach

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

I am disabled and ride a power assisted bicycle to get around on Ft. Myers Beach so when the new law prohibiting power assisted bicycles on the sidewalks and beach went into effect I tried riding on the street.

Without exception I was in fear for my life as every car and truck bullied their way around me as if I was just in the way. A few intentionally squeezing me against the high curb or off the road completely (no bike lane). After riding only a mile I got off the road and broke the law by riding my power-assisted bicycle on the sidewalk on the return mile.

I went to the Town of Ft. Myers Beach offices to inquire about an accommodation for my disability that would allow me access to the sidewalks and beach.

I asked to speak to the ADA coordinator for the Town of Ft. Myers Beach about an accommodation.

They were polite but had no clue what or who an ADA Coordinator was or the procedure for making any disability accommodations. I asked if they needed more time to look into my request and they said yes and would contact me.

I have not received a call or email follow up from the Town of FMB yet. That was two weeks ago.

I'm sure I'm not the only person, disabled or not, with concerns about the new ordinance, lack of bicycle lanes and lack of proper signs explaining the bicycle/traffic lane to drivers.

Just throwing cars, trucks and bicycles (without a bicycle lane) on the same road is unthinkable from a safety standpoint for everyone.

Quoting a Town Council member regarding the ordinance, TOO BAD!!

The ordinance 18-02 makes it impossible for a disabled person to access the sidewalks and beaches.

Tom Nielsen
Fort Myers Beach

BEACH WEDDING

Originally we are from Erie PA. We have been residents for five years, now. I fought a little breast cancer when we came this year (all is good for now). Fortunately we were able to have our wedding here on the beach at our home on April 8th 2018!

Joe and Carol Pugliese





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Beach Botany by Jim Rodwell



BEACH LEAVENWORTH'S TICKSEED

Leavenworth's Tickseed, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*, a member of the Asteraceae family.

A slender perennial that can grow to a height of five feet. An erect main stem grows from a taproot with fibrous roots. Secondary stems grow parallel to the main stem. Stems are glabrous, rounded and extremely narrow, around 1/8" in diameter. Leaves are opposite and widely spaced on the stems. Leaf shape is linear and margins are entire.

Flower heads grow in the leaf axils. Flower structure is the typical Aster Sunflower with yellow ray florets surrounding a black disc made up of perhaps 100 tiny tubular disc florets. There are eight ray florets each with three fused petals. Flower diameter is around 1". As many as two dozen flowers may be in bloom at the same time. Seeds are distributed by the wind.

I found this leavenworthii in the grasses of a coastal strand in the northern part of the beach. Just a small plant with a few flower heads. Tough growing on the beach.

Guest Commentary: Watch For Manatees

by Patrick M. Rose
Aquatic Biologist, Executive Director
Save the Manatee Club

Although Save the Manatee Club works in almost all areas of manatee protection, we focus on the prevention of manatee injuries and deaths from human activity. This includes manatee deaths from boat collisions, which have been record-setting in recent years. Even though no boater would want to intentionally harm a manatee, collisions with boats continue to be the single greatest threat to manatees. Every day, many manatees come within an inch of losing their lives from a collision with a boat's hull and/or propeller, and still more manatees sustain non-lethal injuries from boat hits.

As we all become more informed about the threats to the manatee's long-term survival, we can become better stewards. It is the boating community, especially, that plays a pivotal role in safeguarding manatees and conserving and enhancing their aquatic habitat, which is why we produce and distribute numerous free boater resources. At savethemanatee.org/boatertips, you can find information on boating safety classes, speed zone maps, and boating and angling guides. You can also get manatee protection tips, and request our free boater banners, dock signs, decals, waterway tips cards, posters, and brochures. We have also produced some excellent videos to better inform boaters. They illustrate just how dangerous our waterways are for manatees – and humans, too.

Over the years, we have successfully advocated for critically-important boat speed zones and manatee sanctuaries, and although hundreds of thousands of acres of Florida's waterways are now protected, the majority of the manatee's habitat remains unregulated. And habitat that is regulated suffers from a lack of enforcement for those boaters who will not voluntarily slow their speed in important manatee waters. Currently, with over one million boats on Florida's waterways, we must rely heavily on boaters to voluntarily comply with speed zone laws in the absence of a greater enforcement presence for those

careless boaters who endanger both manatees and their fellow boaters.

So I call on all boaters to become advocates for manatee and aquatic habitat conservation, including the protection of both the quality and the quantity of our waters, because we all need clean, abundant water to survive! Before going out on Florida's waterways, know your route and where manatees are likely to be found, then stay alert and keep a lookout for them. Obey posted speed zones, and call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) to report an injured or orphaned manatee.

It will take all of us working together to make the waters safer.

For additional free resources, visit savethemanatee.org/freematerials



During Hurricane Charley a manatee washed ashore into Times Square. Islanders kept her wet and carried her back to sea on a sheet of plywood. Photo ISP archives

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Cereceda Recalls Town’s Beginning, Cont’d from pg.1



Anita Cereceda, Fort Myers Beach’s first Mayor, fondly recalls the Town’s earliest days at the Chamber luncheon. Photo by Gary Mooney.

She recalled that the original Town Council “was an interesting mix, as three members favored incorporation and two of us were either against it or neutral. We literally had no idea what we were doing, so I bought a copy of ‘Robert’s Rules of Order,’ but that was what made it so exciting! It was a period of dramatic change and a lot of work and planning and tremendous community building for not only that first Council, but really the Town’s first ten years, where we had many work sessions to build the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. For me, it was a magical time, where we experienced an uptick of hopefulness and excitement.”

Cereceda said that while there were frustrations, “I only seem to remember the good moments and funny stories, like the first time I met the Town’s original Town Manager, Marsha Segal-George. She is tall and always impeccably dressed, with her hair just so, while my hair was huge and all over the place, wearing purple Birkenstocks and a toe ring! We just looked at one-another, each thinking, ‘What am I going to do with her!?’ We had no Town Hall or offices yet, so when we interviewed John Gucciardo to become the first Assistant Town Manager, it was on a bench outside of Dairy Queen in Times Square! We were all in the same boat, so there was such camaraderie. Perhaps the best part was we did not know what we did not know, so learning it together was wonderful!”

THAT MAYBERRY FEEL

In comparing the Town then to now, “Today we are undergoing another period of tremendous growth and change, but are still small enough that you know the guy who owns the marina or barbershop, so it still has that Mayberry-type of feel. That said, we are losing our little

cottages in favor of large mansions, so there is a changing physical character. We are on the verge, I believe, of soon approving a major downtown redevelopment that will have a tremendous impact on the Town, that may spur additional redevelopment and hopefully make people clean up their act a bit, because when your neighbor adds a new coat of paint, you tend to do the same thing.”

When asked about her current Council role, where she is often the minority vote and dissenting voice, Cereceda said, “I may have a different point of view, but regardless of the vote, we as Council are a united group. It is unusual for me, however, to be a dissenter, as I am a unifier and collaborator by nature, but being the ‘No Vote’ isn’t necessarily bad, and for right now that is me. Two Council seats come up next year, with the other three in 2020, so everything may change again. If anyone has time to devote to the job, I encourage you to run, as you will impact your life and those around you, as it is an exciting way to serve your neighbors and community. Sometimes you find yourself thinking, ‘What the heck am I doing here?’ but mostly I cannot imagine anything better.” As to her personal feelings about Fort Myers Beach, Cereceda said, “My Dad used to tell me to remember that I am not the smartest person in the room, and to listen to what others say, as they may have better ideas, and that helps you to make better decisions.”

“I love this town, and every time I come over those bridges, there is still a jump in my heart! I love it in the good times and bad, I love what I do, I love what we accomplish together, and it is an honor to serve you!”

Turtle Trot Draws Crowd



It was a perfect day for a run last Saturday as some 350 eager runners took to the trails, bridges and beach for the 13th annual Lovers Key Turtle Trot 5K fun race. Perfect temp, slight overcast and gentle breezes were in store for the runners as the race, sponsored by Friends of Lovers Key (FOLKS) and the Fort Myers Track Club, departed the start line at 8:00 a.m. and continued through 5K of scenic trails, bridges and flats, with a finish at the Beach Pavilion where welcoming snacks, drinks and well-deserved awards awaited. It was a family fun event with skill levels all the way from serious time trial

competitors to mom and pop just walking the course with kids of all ages in their Race Day shirts made possible by over a dozen area business sponsors. At the finish line awards were presented in over 17 different categories. Winners included: Best Male time: Jordan Maham, 18.02; Best Female time: Beth Schadd, 22.10; and Best Senior time: Rocky Madden 28.03. So on your mark, get set and plan for next year, which will be the 14th annual Fun Race. FOLKS and the Track Club hopes to see you there.

New Chamber Members



The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce welcomed new members at its May membership luncheon held at Charley’s Boat-house Grill on Fort Myers Beach. From the left are Chamber Chairman John Gavin of Gavin’s Ace Hardware; **Jessica Hernstadt**, Attorney (offering estate planning and probate services, 305-495-3333); **Steve Bray**, Home-Tech

(offering service agreements for HVAC, plumbing, electrical and major appliances, 239-565-3111), **Beth Phillips**, Southwest Florida Symphony Patron Relations Manager (239-418-0996), and Sherry Mearns, Member Services of Fort Myers Beach Chamber. See www.fortmyersbeach.org for more info on Chamber events and membership benefits.

Peter Pan Takes Flight At Beach School



Peter Pan, Wendy, Captain Hook and all the Lost Boys came to life on the Beach Elementary stage last week as the Fort Myers Beach Elementary School put on their Spring Play, "Peter Pan." A spring tradition at the Beach School, students practiced for weeks preparing for two

performances presented in the Dolphin cafeteria/theater on May 10 & 11. This year participants included 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Directing the play were Heather Lodovico, Lori Zamniak and Tammy Benton. Photos Sarah List.




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Conservation Café

Mound House Program Educational & Fun

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

A half dozen people gathered at the historic Mound House on Saturday morning, May 12, to savor a continental breakfast while enjoying the always-entertaining Dexter Norris discuss "Spiny Skins," about the types of marine animals found on Fort Myers Beach.

"Break in with questions at any point," encouraged Dexter, the biologist, naturalist and environmental educator for the Mound House, "as this is to be a conversation and not a breakfast lecture. The really cool scientific name for these animals is 'Phylum Echinodermata'; if you break that down, it means 'hedgehog' and 'skin.' You can usually recognize these by their radial symmetry, that includes such well known animals as sea stars, sea urchins, sand dollars, and sea cucumbers. All of these are in salt water, and they are great at regeneration. They have asexual reproduction, without needing a mate, so they are quite plentiful in the oceans."

Sea stars in particular specialize in regeneration. "They not only grow back an arm," Dexter explained, "but if you divide them by each arm as well as getting a center chunk of their body, you can grow five new sea stars, so you get five for the price of one! You see a lot of these on our beach or even kayaking. Many people call them star fish, but they are not fish at all. Sea stars are carnivores and scavengers that feed on clams and oysters, and digest them by turning their stomachs inside-out, as they do not have a mouth or teeth, so they are really impressive."

Urchins get their name from their hedgehog-type appearance, with Dexter pointing out that there are some in our area but "they are not super-common, and you can get a good prick if you step on one. They decorate themselves with little snail or clam shells attached to their body, either as camouflage or maybe just to look good!"

Sand dollars are in the same class as



Join Dexter for the next "Conservation Café" on May 25 to discuss "Coyotes." Photo Gary Mooney

sea urchins. "When you break them open," Dexter said, "you find three bits – these make that shaking noise you hear when you dry them out and rattle them around – that are the boney parts of what people think of as their mouth that they use for a scraping mechanism for algae. They have no backbone as they are an invertebrate."

Dexter calls sea cucumbers "the least attractive of them all, but then everybody has some family member like that," to great laughter! "The nicest term you could give this guy is to call him a slug, but that phrase was already taken! They are basically hollow tubes and fairly good at regeneration. They are kind-of gross when they fight or are in flight mode because they expel their intestinal tract from their body, shooting it out like spaghetti, then can regenerate their guts."

SCARE YOU INTO CELIBACY

There are 7,000 different species worldwide of the Phylum Echinodermata, Dexter related, "and most are doing well, with only a couple on the endangered species list. There are a few uses, however, that threaten their sustainability that are just weird. Some sea cucumbers disappear because people use them as a natural Viagra, if for no other reason than they look phallic, so they must be good for your sex life, but if you actually take an unbiased look at them, they would scare you into celibacy! They are food in places, like China, even though they are not a tasty thing to chomp down on. Some urchins and cucumbers are quite colorful, making them highly prized in the aquarium trade. For some reason that no one quite knows, sea stars are wasting away in the Pacific Northwest. This is a huge concern for sure, because everything interconnects in the natural world."

He reminded everyone it is illegal to take live shells: "This is still new in many people's lifetimes; that you can't kill something just to collect it. There is a big movement with tourism to collect the most beautiful shells, but only do so when they are dead."

"Conservation Café" returns on Friday, May 25, with "Coyotes" at 9 a.m. Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for all others, with advanced registration required. The Mound House, Estero Island's oldest standing structure, and now a museum, offers educational programs each month. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 & up, \$8 for students with IDs, \$5 ages 6 to 12, and 5 & under free, with Town residents receiving a 50% discount. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mound House is at 451 Connecticut Street, with additional parking at 216 Connecticut; for information or reservations, call 239-765-0865 or see www.moundhouse.org.

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Final Council Vote on TPI-FMB May 21 Outcome Uncertain, Cont'd from pg.1

Monday, May 21 at 9 a.m. Torgerson Properties, Inc., known as TPI Hospitality for 40+ years and now employee-owned, includes over 40 hotels and restaurants. Tom Torgerson, former owner of TPI Hospitality and currently Chairman of the Board, first brought a plan for redevelopment of approximately 5 acres of downtown Fort Myers Beach to the public in November 2015. While that plan, Grand Resorts, never reached the Town application point, the new TPI-FMB plan application was submitted to the Town of Fort Myers Beach in March 2017.

Although Council provided a unanimous 5 to 0 vote for the First Reading and Public Hearing for the TPI-FMB Ordinance at its April 10 meeting, this merely forwarded the issue to the May 21 session for the potential Second Reading and Public Hearing. While the initial vote was unanimous, Mayor Tracey Gore and Council member Dennis Boback seemed reluctant supporters, the former over resort room density and the pedestrian bridge to span Estero Boulevard, while the latter on building heights, saying, "I don't want to be the person who blocks that Gulf view from the Matanzas Pass Bridge, and I won't do it!" The TPI-FMB design team felt they could reduce the bayside building to 52 feet, with the possibility of 50 feet, three inches; and the beachside one to 50 feet. Town staff had its own issue, over resort parking spaces. TPI-FMB stated it needed 366 spots, while the Town issued three different

reports, indicating required parking spots from 371 to 601 to over 800. TPI-FMB began its April 9 Council presentation by surprisingly reducing its requested room number from 292 to 254. "We did not expect this," Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp said to TPI-FMB Board Chair Tom Torgerson. "You upped your game and have my attention. Throw in the deed to the Ocean Jewels building property, so the Town has control over it, and SOLD!" This structure, at the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge, now houses the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce. "I would like to get this done," said Torgerson, quickly agreeing to her request.

Council then addressed the 254-room density. "I don't want to overwhelm the small town character of Fort Myers Beach" explained Shamp, "but I can provide the rational to support this by several aspects in the Comprehensive Plan. There are also several public benefits this provides that are not likely to be replicated, such as the donation of Ocean Jewels that has a tremendous benefit, to which I can award density."

STRONG THREE VOTES

Shamp then stated to the TPI-FMB contingent and public: "The applicant needs to know you have a strong three votes for this," referring to herself, along with Council members Bruce Butcher and 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."

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

Following that, Town Manager Roger Hernstadt reassured Council that "we will do our best to put in this document all the positions you took. If we do find a conflict we cannot work through with the applicant, we can bring it back to the second meeting with you to resolve. Any of those issues should be resolved in front of the public." Gore then said to Torgerson, "Don't you let us down!"

At its May 7 Council meeting, Cereceda asked Hernstadt if there would be any TPI-FMB surprises at the May 21 session, with him replying, "We are working on TPI

conditions, as it is our intent to go over everything with them. There are a couple of issues that will come as no surprise to you. We will make our determination on these as best we can, but anything we don't agree on, you need to know what these are. I would not say there are, but we have language in there to help protect the Town, if they say oranges and we say apples. Parking needs to work for us."

Shamp discussed two issues of concern: that the Crescent Street corridor not one day become a canal marina for the resort, and that TPI-FMB be a "Good Neighbor" during the site preparation and construction phases.

Meanwhile Tom Torgerson told supporters via email last week that after negotiations with Town staff, TPI is not expecting to need to "renegotiate items we agreed upon with Council." He also said that Town staff had informed him that an opposition contingent planned to attend the May 21 hearing and ask Council to renege on the agreement or deny it. He asked supporters of the project to attend the May 21 meeting and speak during Public Comment.



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Editorial

TURNING POINT

Is our Town at a turning point in its growth into a mature sustainable community? Or are we on the precipice of a fall into the abyss of Miami-esque development and the end of our small-town lifestyle?

All depends who you ask these days.

On Monday, May 21, 2018, the five elected members of our Town Council will hold the Final Hearing for the TPI-FMB downtown redevelopment project. A month ago, they unanimously approved sending the project to this second hearing. Three members indicated then that they supported approval of the project. Two expressed reservations but voted to move it to the Final Hearing.

Just because the vote was unanimous at the first hearing does not mean it will be in this final hearing and this is the only vote that matters. Your voices are important, so plan to show up and let council know what you want for the future of Fort Myers Beach.

Our Town is overdue for some redevelopment. Those empty storefronts downtown have been empty a very long time. If this project is not approved, they'll stay that way for another very long stretch. No business is going to purchase commercial land at today's prices and put a small, elevated penny-candy or art store on it, just as very few people are interested in purchasing a 60-80 year old 500 sq. ft. cottage and building a new elevated 500 sq. ft. cottage on the site. The economics of land values just don't allow it.

It's time to get real and stop the magical thinking that we can somehow sustain a village of old buildings and quaint cottages. This is not the Island that time forgot. People who live here, buy here want a comfortable home, with space and more than one bathroom. They want new commercial options. They don't want a downtown that looks more ghost town than vibrant commercial district.

There's nothing wrong with waxing nostalgic for those old days of a slower lifestyle, old cottages and the places that were here when we were all much younger. Everybody enjoys a trip down memory lane. But we can't live in a memory and our economy is hurting as a result.

A favorite Island pastime is complaining about how big new homes are these days. Yet, new home construction must follow the building code that our council controls. It's time to stop the hand wringing and do something.

We have the opportunity to preserve some of those cottages, but Council needs to make it a priority and work to establish a historic cottage village before they are all gone. Recognizing them is not enough; we need to save some of them. Council also holds the key to the size and design of new homes on our Island in the Land Development Code (LDC) and it desperately needs review. Council recently asked the LPA to look at some of the "glitches" in the LDC. The LPA plans to do a more holistic review, assuming Council allows that. If not, then the hand wringing over lost cottages and big houses will continue until we have no more cottages left to save.

TPI-FMB, if approved, will offer our Town a turn in the direction of a vibrant beach town. Watch how fast other properties are cleaned up and refurbished in our downtown if TPI-FMB is approved. Our beach town can hold onto its unique character without being stuck in the past. Let's move forward and that starts Monday with the Final Hearing for TPI-FMB.

NO RETREADS

During the First Hearing April 9-10, TPI-FMB and Town Council laboriously negotiated detailed changes to the TPI-FMB ordinance. We hope those changes appear in the ordinance for Monday's Final Hearing.

Why wouldn't they?

Experience has shown that when our Council is working on an ordinance, the Town Manager has a tendency to "forget" what council agreed to and place the same thing in front of them again and again. We experienced that with the newsrack ordinance. We don't know if the manager is unable to recall council's decision or hopes council will make a different decision the next time or is following direction from a Council member who wasn't happy with the first vote.

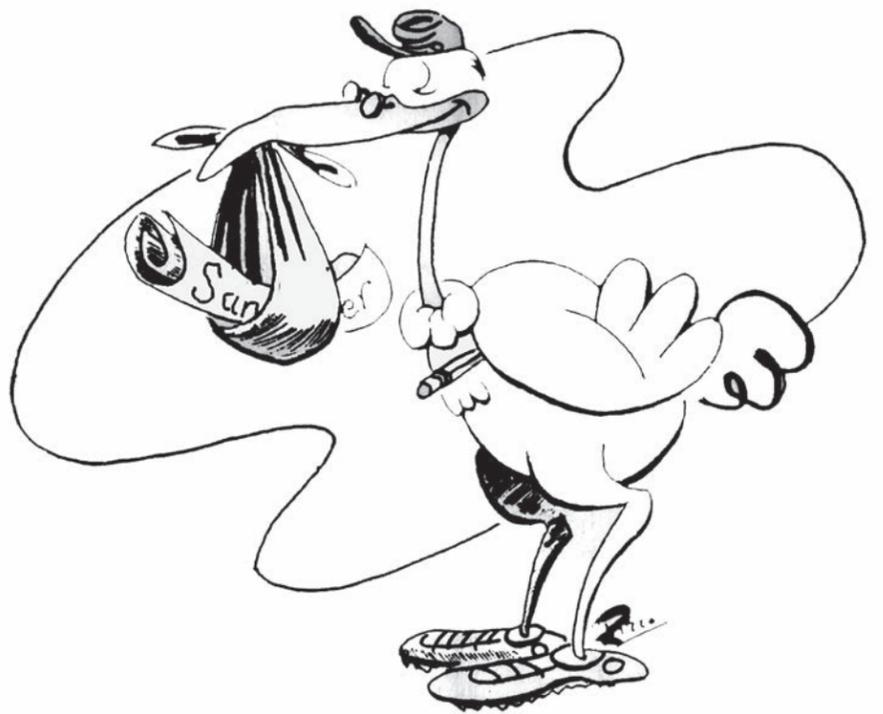
We sincerely hope that our Town Council and TPI-FMB do not face that problem on May 21st. This is much too big an issue for the future of our Town to be playing control games.

If they do find themselves going over the same ground again, we hope that the members of our Town Council find the courage to call the practice out. Under our Town Charter, the Town Manager is tasked with carrying out the decisions of council as a whole, not the wishes of individual members or his own preferences.

Council's time is valuable and being asked to debate the same things over and over is a waste of that time.

Let's move our Town forward.

Missy Layfield
Editor



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Bob Layfield, Publisher
Publisher@fortmyersbeach.news

There is nothing new under the sun but there are lots of old things we don't know. Ambrose Bierce



Missy Layfield, Editor
Editor@fortmyersbeach.news

We live in a Newtonian world of Einsteinian physics ruled by Frankenstein logic. David Russell



Mike Buster, Circulation Manager
c/o Info@fortmyersbeach.news

Disconnecting from change does not recapture the past. It loses the future. Kathleen Norris



Mark List, Production Manager
Production@fortmyersbeach.news

When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he is trying to run away, it's best to let him run. Abraham Lincoln



Sarah List, Photographer
info@fortmyersbeach.news

To freely bloom - that is my definition of success. Gerry Spence



Sandy Sandness, Advertising
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The here and now is all we have, and if we play it right it's all we'll need. Ann Richards



Gary Mooney, Lead Writer
info@fortmyersbeach.news

I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way. Carl Sandburg

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TDC Forecast No Clouds, Only Sunshine Ahead

By Bob Layfield
publisher@fortmyersbeach.news

In 1982, Lee County citizens voted by referendum to form a tourism organization that would promote Lee County's off-season vacation assets in the United States and abroad. A two-percent tax on short-term accommodations was approved to fund the new Lee County Tourist Development Council (TDC). In the past 36 years, that 2% tax has grown to 5% and is widely known as the "bed tax."

The TDC defines itself: "The Tourist Development Council is a nine-member Council appointed as an advisory committee to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). TDC members oversee the entire tourist development tax fund, provide direction on programs and budget and review the expenditures of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) quarterly."

While taxing districts with

a heavy tourism load would like to be able to tap into the bed tax to cover some of their increased costs related to tourism, bed tax revenue is restricted by county statute to be used as follows: 53.6 percent for tourism advertising and promotion (VCB operations and Lee County Sports Development operations); 26.4 percent for beach and shoreline improvements and maintenance; 20.0 percent for stadium debt service (for the CenturyLink Sports Complex and JetBlue Park), as well as major maintenance for both.

For fiscal year 2016-2017 this totaled \$39,756,881 in collected tax revenues.

The TDC meets monthly, providing the VCB an opportunity to report monthly tax collections, travel data, reports from research providers and other relevant tourism information.

MARCH BED TAX UP 10.6%

March bed tax collections

reflected a solid 10.6% increase over the same month last year, and year-to-date coming in +11.7% over the prior year. Airport travel and average daily rates were up 10.2% and 8.5% respectively. The data suggests a solid month and fiscal year so far for visitors staying in accommodations that collect the tax. Despite any known or suspected negative weather, water conditions or road construction, bed tax collections are one indicator of a strong visitor base.

FMB FEATURED FOR SEASHELL DAY

VCB Executive Director, Tamara Pigott reported that plans are being finalized for the June 21 National Seashell Day celebration to be held on Fort Myers Beach this year. Last year the event captured national attention last year with the local beach broadcast of Good Morning America morning television show. This year, pending

permit final approval, the event will focus on breaking the Guinness Book of World Records for a human seashell formation using 1,000 participants. Pigott promised more details would follow.

Jeff Mielke, Executive Director of Sports Development, provided a 1st quarter report on the events and impact of the Lee County Sport Development, along with its partners consisting of the VCB, Lee County Parks & Recreation & Lee County Sports Housing Bureau. Mielke reported that historically, January to March have not been primary months for marketing and recruiting of sporting events and tournaments to the area, because of the heavy visitor traffic to the area already. That said, events during this period generated the following staggering impact on Lee County:

Hotel Room Nights Sold	34,504 rooms
Event Participants	15,809
Event Spectators	22,565
Direct & Indirect \$ Impact	\$24,960,098.00

Leading events included team training, camps and tournaments in swimming, softball, baseball, figure skating, soccer, gymnastics, basketball & volleyball. These activities included athletes from youth, high school, collegiate and adults up to seniors.

Mielke reminded taxpayers that many of these events take place due to the three world class stadiums in Lee County: Jet Blue Park, CenturyLink Sports Complex & City of Palms Park.

Another report of interest to visitors and residents alike was the Beach and Shoreline Funding approval for fiscal year 2018-2019. Twenty projects totaling \$9,009,913 were approved. Fort Myers Beach fared well with an award of \$1,340,970 for beach access and interpretive signage and replacement of utility vehicles to service the beach accesses and purchase of new utility vehicle to handle watering native plants at beach accesses. These plants provide natural aesthetics to the beach accesses, but primarily exist to provide significant beach erosion control from wind and storm activities. In addition, \$405,015 was approved to replace the boardwalk at Matanzas Pass. Lastly, the Friends of Lovers Key State Park were awarded \$87,916 for interpretive signage for the FOLKS Welcome & Discovery Center Exhibit.

Fort Myers Beach Town Manager Roger Herstadt's announcement to the TDC that on May 21st, Town Council would most likely give final approval to a downtown Fort Myers Beach development that would add over 250 rooms to the island was met with applause from the audience.

The next meeting of the TDC is on June 14, 2018 and will include a review of rider data and next year's funding of LeeTran to continue the free downtown trams added this year to the trolley system on Fort Myers Beach. Originally scheduled to end in mid-April, the free trolley service has been extended to run through the end of May.

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VIEWPOINTS

TURNOUT IS FAIR GAME

By Bob Franken

It's not something he does very often, but this time President Donald Trump was telling the truth when, in his rambles before the gun nuts -- aka the National Rifle Association Convention in Dallas -- he pointed out that the upcoming midterms will be determined by voter turnout.

Turnout is always the be-all and end-all when it comes to any election, but it's particularly vital in this one. The Democrats will get the chance to demonstrate whether they can abandon their usual backbiting and lethargy, and instead channel all the anti-Trump horror into crowds at polling places.

Donald Trump is not even on the 2018 ballot. It's a race to control Congress, but he recognizes that if Dems take over the GOP-majority Senate or House, his presidency is in deep doo-doo. The opposition will be empowered to constantly harass him and even impeach him if the stars align.

He is well-aware that he needs to create more passion on the right, even for those in the party who are less than enthusiastic about him. They are even less enthusiastic about the Democrats, who are doing everything they can to overcome the divisions that invariably define them.

Already, the D's are bickering over whether they'll stick with Nancy Pelosi as speaker of the House if they take over. The R's demonize her nonstop, so many candidates in her party are running away from Pelosi as hard as they're running for their congressional seat. If they can't channel their anti-Trump frenzy into voter turnout, then in the words of Rep. Jim Clyburn, a member of Pelosi's leadership team, "If we're still in the minority, all of us have got to go."

It is not overstating it to argue that this election, as much as any in our history, will define the United States of America. Even though he's not on the ballot, his fellow countrymen and women will be deciding whether to reject or accept Donald Trump's record as president after nearly two years of racism, misogyny, outright stupidity and autocratic tendencies, as well as his constant lying. Is such a person the one who should continue to lead this country? It's the first chance since Trump had his election handed to him by the feckless opposition, with a little help from his friend Vladimir Putin, for the citizens of the United States to make it clear what we stand for.

And it's not just one campaign, it's 470 for Congress alone -- all 435 House seats are up for grabs and 35 in the Senate. That probably will make it difficult for the Russians to steal all of them.

But those other adversaries of U.S. democracy, the big-money contributors, will be spreading their financial poison over most of the races. Already they are dumping huge amounts. Through hook and crook -- mainly crook -- they can pay for misleading ads that smear anyone they decide they need to oppose.

Still, the wild card is the wild man. Donald Trump is impervious to scandal with those in his base. If the opposition can't match their turnout, it will be the scandal that indelibly stains the nation.

Bob Franken is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who covered Washington, D.C., for more than 20 years.

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ROSENSTEIN HAS BOTCHED THE MUELLER PROBE

By Rich Lowry

Rod Rosenstein is doing a star turn as principled defender of the law, but he's performed abysmally as deputy attorney general, and President Donald Trump would be fully justified in firing him.

The leaked questions that special counsel Robert Mueller wants to ask Trump in a prospective deposition are, if accurate, a sign that Mueller has spun out of control on Rosenstein's watch.

The questions (drafted by Trump's legal team after consultations with Mueller's investigators) suggest a free-floating investigation of the president's motives, undertaken by a subordinate of the president. This is unlike any special counsel investigation we've ever seen and represents a significant distortion of our system.

Per the questions, Mueller wants to know how Trump reacted to news stories in The Washington Post. What he thought of FBI Director James Comey during the transition. How he feels about his attorney general.

These questions grow out of an obstruction-of-justice probe centered, as far as we can tell, on Trump's exercise of the legitimate powers of the presidency.

What makes Mueller different is that his predecessors were given the mission of investigating specific alleged crimes. As my National Review colleague Andrew McCarthy has repeatedly pointed out, Rod Rosenstein mentioned no crimes in his initial order to Mueller, a violation of the special counsel regulations.

This amorphous, wide-ranging guidance appears to have allowed Mueller to effortlessly slide from an amorphous, wide-ranging investigation into Russian meddling into an amorphous, wide-ranging investigation into obstruction of justice. (Rosenstein followed up later with a more specific memo to Mueller.)

Now, judging by the leaked questions, obstruction is the lion's share of Mueller's work. Absent smoking guns that we aren't aware of (always possible), this is bizarre and disproportionate.

We now have an extensive obstruction investigation carried out by investigators who haven't been obstructed. There's been an intense focus, for instance, on Trump's Oval Office discussion with then-FBI Director Comey about going easy on Michael Flynn. But as Andy McCarthy also notes, no one went easy on Flynn, who pled guilty to lying to the FBI.

Regardless, current Justice Department guidance says the president can't be indicted. If Mueller takes heed, he is limited to indicting underlings and writing reports on his findings, with Congress the most important consumer.

This means Mueller is, in effect, the lead investigative counsel for a prospective House impeachment committee. It's an important position, just not one that should be housed within the executive branch.

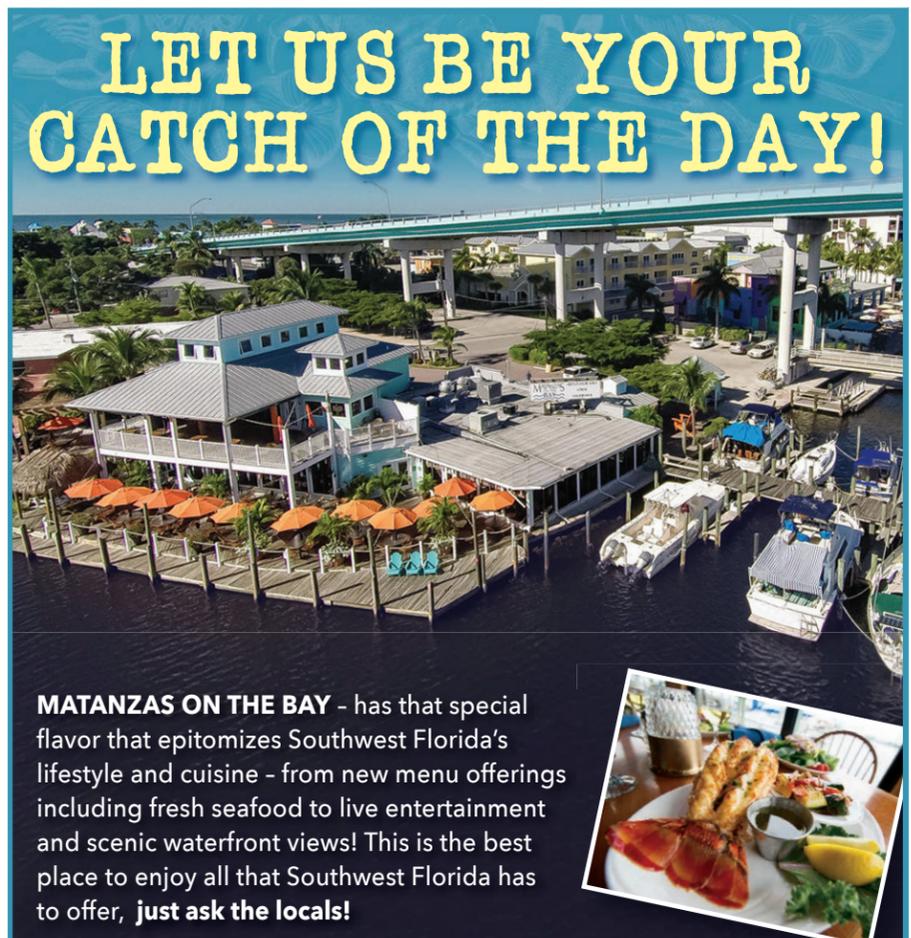
Rod Rosenstein is ultimately responsible for the state of this investigation. On the merits, he should be fired and replaced by someone willing to exercise proper oversight of the special counsel.

A more practical lever would be to push for Rosenstein to recuse himself. As a party to the firing of James Comey, he shouldn't be overseeing a probe in which he's a witness.

To this point, the White House posture toward the Mueller investigation has been to cooperate and hope it goes away, when a root-and-branch legal and constitutional challenge to Mueller's work is now what's called for.

Surely, Mueller will want to ask questions about such an effort, too -- because he's the unbounded investigatory ombudsman of the Trump era.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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EITA Forum Talks Code Enforcement Proactive Versus Complaint-Driven, Cont'd from pg.1

of anxiety in the Town, and it really shouldn't," Cereceda said. "I know people feel very intensely about this, but we are trying to protect the good nature of the Town. Don't expect me to speak negatively about Town Council because we need Code Enforcement to protect the integrity of our streets and neighborhoods, and how they look. Some residents feel this is an overreach in some cases, but this law is in place for a reason and has been in place for quite a while. When I drive down 'Alligator Alley' at 90 miles-per-hour and get a ticket, I grouse about it, but I also slow down for a while. Drive down Estero Boulevard and you can see this Town is changing, so this is an effort for the Town's protection."

Titus and Loughrey both said people should be able to do routine maintenance without acquiring a Town permit or worrying about a \$500-a-day fine. "When we want to replace a commode or paint a dining room wall, sometimes we are told we need a permit, and other times we hear we do not," said Titus, "so that creates confusion." Cereceda responded, "It is ridiculous to think you need a permit for those things; I have painted and repainted the interior of my house many times and never acquired a permit. People stress to me we should run Code Enforcement on a 'Common Sense' approach, but 'Common Sense' is a very subjective term!"

PEOPLE LIE

Rather than employing 'Common Sense,' Hosafros said the Town Code should be more specific, so Code Enforcement officers can consult it and see which 20 or 30 violations require citations, which can be less invasive and which can be much less invasive. Cereceda responded, "That is a good idea!" Sprole said she wishes "someone would communicate with us, rather than just coming up and saying, 'Here is your ticket!'" Orlandini said he wants the Town to offer verbal warnings, in a friendly approach, rather than issuing citations that require appearances before the Special Magistrate, "I think I might hold the record for tickets from the Town, as well as Code Enforcement hearings," drawing hearty laughter from the crowd.

Hosafros stated that when she was on Council, "We would have months when we would not have any infractions. The Magistrate is under contract, meaning we pay for that whether there are any hearings or not, and a Town this size should have some violations." Cereceda said, "The Town goes like this, and always has since Day 1," making an up-&-down wavy motion with her hand. "We have periods with low enforcement, then high, like we have now, and at some point in the future, it will go the other way again." Orlandini responded, "I get more than my share, and some are not justified. I had to appear before the Magistrate over a bogus 'Stop Work Order' the Town issued over the wrong property,



Jacki Lyszak introduces the EITA panel, from left: Rexanne Hosafros, Jessie Titus, Anita Cereceda, Joe Orlandini, Rae Sprole and Amy Loughrey.

and that is frustrating. In a friendly approach, you could take care of that in a simple way rather than wasting everyone's time." "In Code Enforcement's defense," countered Hosafros, "a lot of people lie!"

PARKING ISSUES

Milligan shifted the topic to parking infractions in the Town Right-of-Way.

Titus pointed out that when you enter the island, the first thing you see is a huge "No Parking" sign, with Sprole adding, "We want

people to enjoy our community, so why can't the first thing they see be a big beautiful positive sign?" Cereceda stated that she addressed that at the last Council meeting, using as an exaggerated example the former sign on the Fort Myers Beach pier that said, "No Fishing; No Shark Fishing; No Ice Cream Cones!" It was humongous, listing everything prohibited on the public beach, and a lousy first impression. (Those signs) set the wrong tone; (they) should say, 'Welcome to Fort Myers Beach, and by the way, do not park in our Right-of-Way.' I don't

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EITA

Cont'd from prev. pg.

personally have a Right-of-Way issue, but feel this will be a very difficult issue for the Town."

Sprole stated that her Sun Deck Inn opened in 1968 and employed Right-of-Way parking that entire time, so when Code Enforcement ticketed her property, "That was a punch in the gut, so it is hard not to be emotional over this!" Orlandini said he wonders why the Town discourages Right-of-Way parking rather than saying, "All visitors are welcome! We have such little parking as it is, so why don't we make it easy for people to come to our businesses?" Cereceda pointed out that "parking is a HUGE source of revenue for this Town!" Loughrey stated, "The Town is coming after businesses now, will they come after homeowners next?"

COUNCIL NOT THE ENEMY

Liszak stated that many island businesses cannot afford parking agreements with the Town for Right-of-Way spaces. "If you charge \$1,000-per-space-per-year, while we are facing substantial flood insurance increases, you will lose businesses. I have been Chamber Director for a year-and-a-half, and for my first year, my phone never rang over this; now I get calls all the time because people are frustrated, so we must find a way to have a reasonable conversation about this, to benefit our members and residents and businesses, as they are all upset."

Loughrey commented that it was puzzling that Town Council does not seem to respect the opinions of the majority of its residents, saying, "We show up and we talk and nobody listens, and that is frustrating!" drawing long applause from the audience. Cereceda replied, "You must stop assuming that Council are your enemies! These are decent human beings, so take the time to have genuine conversations with them, and not at Council meetings when you are on the three-minute clock, but outside of Town Hall where you can speak to them at length. We are in this period of change, but I encourage you not to be discouraged, because who would have thought we would approve TPI-FMB by a 5 to 0 vote and yet we did. I don't have any answers for you right now, but promise we will talk about these things at the June 14 Management & Planning Session for sure! This Town incorporated because we are scrappy people, but I don't think that anything positive ever comes out of a fight, but through compromise."

When an audience member stated that once the Town turned 21-years-old, she hoped that it would start making adult decisions. Cereceda replied, "What kind of decisions do most 21-year-olds make – not the best! I am not saying to back down, but be persistent."

Fire Board Approves Estero Warning Light

By Missy Layfield
 editor@fortmyersbeach.news

The only decisions made during the Fire Board's near-record 18 minute meeting on Tuesday night was to approve monthly checks and an easement for Lee County to operate a new traffic signal to be placed in front of Station 31 at Donora Blvd.

Fire Chief Matt Love explained to the four board members present (Chair Carol Morris was absent) that during construction, the old signal that stopped traffic when station equipment was pulling onto Estero Blvd., was removed. Lee County will pay for the replacement signal, but needs the easement to install and maintain the system. The board approved the easement 4-0.

Love presented the Chief's April Report which included a report of 273 incidents or calls for service, 76% of them EMS, 15% Good Intent, 7% Service and 2%



Fire. (Good Intent calls include situations where someone calls 911 and it isn't actually an emergency. Service calls are not EMS or fire related.) Year to date calls total 1305.

April staff service anniversaries with the Fire District include: Lt. Cody Chilson – 11 years; Firefighter Chris Armiger – 3 years; Firefighter Joseph DeCastro – 1 year; Firefighter Michael Jordan –

1 year; Firefighter Natalie Leon – 1 year and Executive Assistant Angie Snyder – 5 years.

New district staff includes Michael Annunziato – Facilities & Logistics Manager, Nancy Rossback – Administrative Assistant and six new firefighters: Firefighter Rojo, Firefighter Roger, Firefighter Gaudet, Firefighter Lorenzo, Firefighter Martin and Firefighter Hernandez.

The district's Collective Bargaining Agreement with District 3 of IAFF Local 1826 was posted for members this week. If approved by union members, the board will vote June 5 on ratification of the contract.

The next meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners is Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 1pm at the Fort Myers Beach Public Library.

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Guest Commentary: Journalists - Activists for Truth

By Bruce Raynor

President Trump has prompted a new era of attacks on journalists, emboldening other politicians across the country and around the globe to follow suit.

These assaults on the credibility of the news media have already had an alarming impact: Two months before the 2016 presidential election, Gallup found that Americans' trust in mass media fell to its lowest levels in the history of its polling.

But Trump is just the latest in a long line of threats to effective journalism.

Across the country, many communities lack a single newspaper that uniquely serves their area. The growth of these news deserts has been worsened by the influence of Facebook and Google in the advertising industry, and by billionaires who buy news outlets and then gut them.

As financial incentives change, journalists are asked to produce content that will attract clicks and advertisers, instead of stories that expose corruption, spotlight the marginalized, or alert the public to injustice and abuse.

These times call for renewed recognition and support for journalism dedicated to serving the common good. And for the past 68 years, that's precisely the kind of journalism the Sidney Hillman Foundation, which I lead, has dedicated itself to honoring.

Named after Sidney Hill-



man, who founded and led the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the awards have come to be known as the "People's Pulitzers."

The winners of the 2018 Hillman Prize — who were honored this month — are uncovering the truth and creating change on some of the great issues of our times, from labor abuses to war crimes to white-collar drug trafficking.

Take, for example, the relentless reporting from USA TODAY journalist Brett Murphy, who documented an extensive network of abusive lease-to-own contracts from port trucking companies. Those deals turned tens of thousands of mostly immigrant truck drivers into modern-day indentured servants.

Workers have been trying to organize for years with the Teamsters to correct these abuses, and Murphy's work helped spur immediate changes.

It prompted internal audits by major retailers — including Target, Home Depot, and Walmart —

to ferret out abusive port trucking companies in their supply chains. And it spurred the introduction of federal, state, and local legislation to improve safety conditions for port truckers.

And consider a joint investigation by reporters from 60 Minutes and the Washington Post that exposed a war within the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Justice Department over whether to hold the powerful drug industry accountable for fueling the opioid epidemic.

The report forced the Trump administration's would-be drug czar — Rep. Tom Marino, who helped pass a bill making it harder to crack down on companies that sold opioids to suspicious pharmacies — to withdraw his nomination. And it prompted investigations by Congress into the DEA's failure to aggressively pursue the worst offenders in an epidemic that's claimed 200,000 lives and counting.

From Nazi Germany to the modern-day Philippines, the first sign of a foundering democracy has always been the erosion of a

free press.

This is why our nation's founders enshrined the right to a free press in the very first amendment to the Constitution, and why today we must amplify the work of journalists who force transparency on powerful institutions from City Hall to Capitol Hill, despite increasingly strong headwinds.

Since 1950, the Hillman Prizes have recognized journalists whose reporting exemplifies Sidney Hillman's belief that a free press was essential to a fair and equal society. These journalists are activists for the truth and accountability that underpins our democracy — and in this moment, we must be advocates for them.

Bruce Raynor is president of the Sidney Hillman Foundation. Courtesy of OtherWords

Photo: Shutterstock

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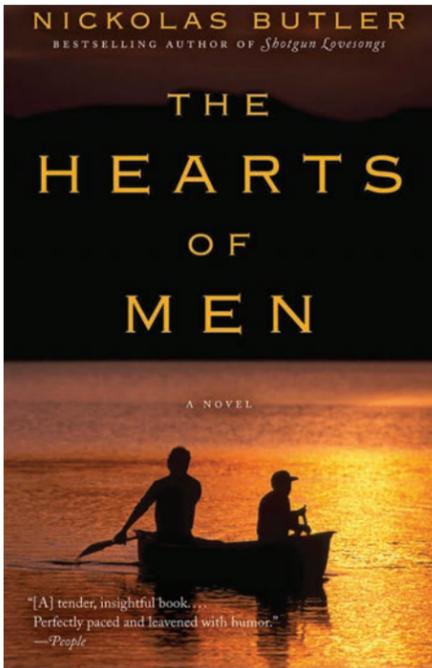
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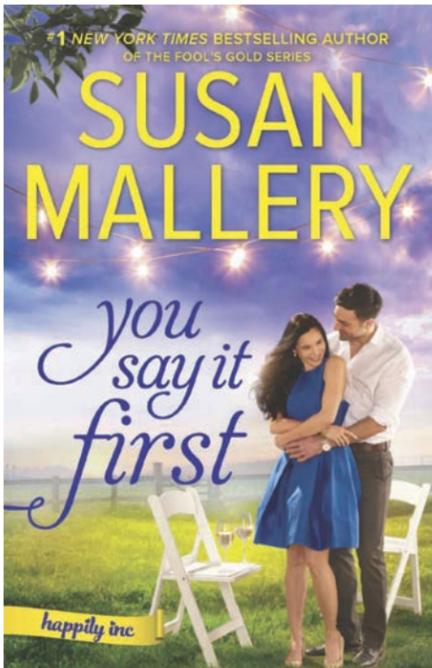
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Library Treasures

By Dr. Leroy Hommerding
Beach Library Director



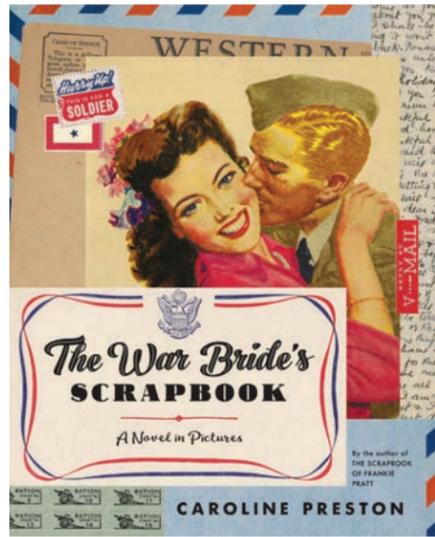
The Hearts of Men, by Nickolas Butler (BUT), is a novel of a young scout whose life experiences lead him to the Vietnam War and an eventual return to his childhood camp, in the role of scoutmaster. Bravery in the face of challenge, strength of character and spirit are driving forces. Over a lifetime of cold and warmhearted experiences, deep scars are mended and relationships evolve.



You Say it First, by Susan Mallery (MAL), is a love story about a wedding planner and a sculptor. The highs and lows of their creative life is the perfect design for love. The novel is an amusing and heartwarming addition to Mallery's many successful and entertaining works.

Love and Other Consolation Prizes, by Jamie Ford (FOR), is inspired by a true story. The setting for the novel is the 1909 World's Fair where a Chinese American orphan is auctioned as a fair prize. The boy is awarded to a madam who sets him up to be the houseboy in her brothel. His story begins in Victorian Seattle and continues on into forty years of bittersweet life experience. Charming and gripping are regular reader emotions during this read.

The War Bride's Scrapbook, by Caroline Preston (PRE), is an enchanting wartime love story of Lila and Perry Weld. Their love



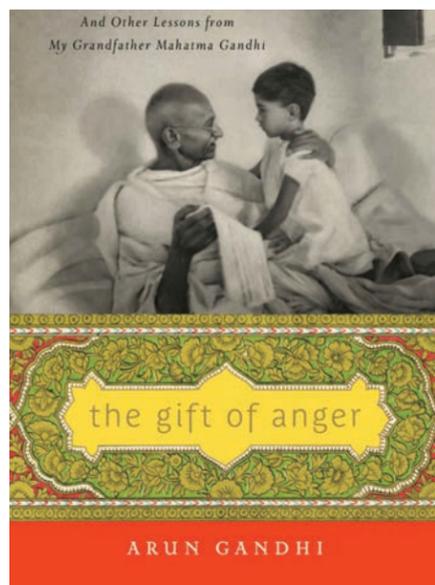
blossoms and blooms in this rich and multilayered novel. The difference between this story and so many other novels is that author Caroline Preston illustrates with original vintage full color scrapbook style. The author is inspired by collecting old scrapbooks and her work in Harvard's archives.

In his previous work author Andrew Keen has warned his readers of



the risks and pitfalls of our new virtual world. In his new book, **How to Fix the Future** Keen (Science, Keen), he writes about his many international experiences searching for positive workable solutions. Social responsibility, competition, digital literacy, regulation and education are his focus for creating a safe and strong future.

The Gift of Anger: And Other Lessons from My Grandfather Mahatma Gandhi is a first hand account by Author Arun Gandhi



(Philosophy, Ethics, Gandhi). As a child he attended his Grandfather

Gandhi's Ashram Sevagram for two years. This rich experience enabled him to harness his anger and see it as a gift to motivate him and help him bring about good. This has prompted the eleven valuable life lessons found herein dealing with self-discovery, identity, anger, depression, loneliness, friendship and family. The reader is also able to get a rare, three-dimensional portrait of the person behind Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Mithu Storoni 's book, **Stress-Proof: The Scientific Solution to Protect Your Brain and Body** (Psychology, Storoni) is extensively researched yet easily understood information. Dr. Storoni writes about new stress prevention solutions and strategies. Translating cutting-edge scientific finds into clear and simple advice can help reduce the impact of stress on our bodies and minds.



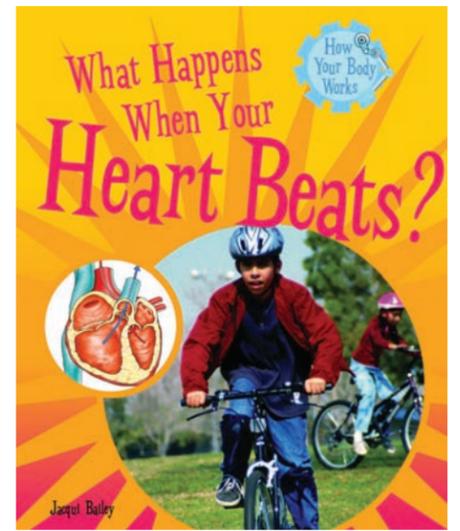
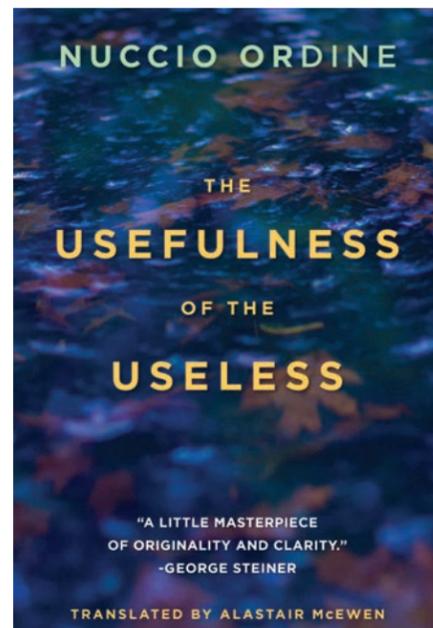
MEDITATION FOR FIDGETY SKEPTICS

MEDITATION for Fidgety Skeptics

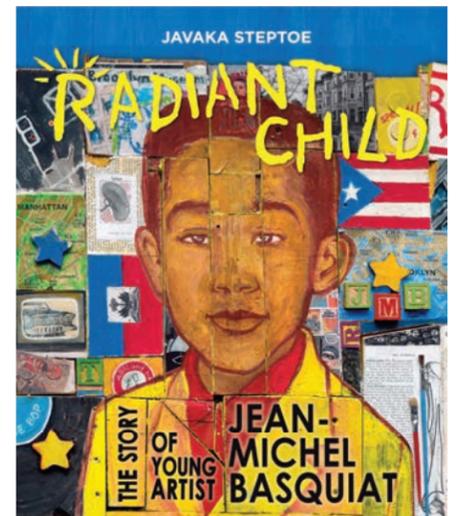
A 10% HAPPIER HOW-TO BOOK

Author Dan Harris' book, **Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics** (Personal Growth, Harris), introduces the process of creating a meditation practice. His book is helpful as it is written specifically to avoid common rookie mistakes. Many try meditation and give up for a variety of reasons. Harris helps solve the mysteries and elusiveness of enjoying the benefits of meditation.

In **The Usefulness of the Useless**, author Nuccio Ordine (Philosophy, Ordine) invites the reader to consider the value of life's minor thoughts and activities. In suggesting that our curious, creative, experimental moments have hidden value, Ordine supports his research by writing about classic philosophies that illustrate and support this idea.



Power Kids Press series, **How Your Body Works**, is a set of scientific children's books by author Jacqui Bailey (J 612.1 BAI). Each book includes easy "See for yourself!" experiments, glossary, key word index and the publisher's web address with current links. This series was designed to inform curious children about the facts of their own body. The six titles are, **What Happens When You are Born and Grow?**, **What Happens When You Eat?**, **What Happens When You Move?**, **What Happens When You Use Your Senses?**, **What Happens When You Breath?** and **What Happens When Your Heart Beats?**

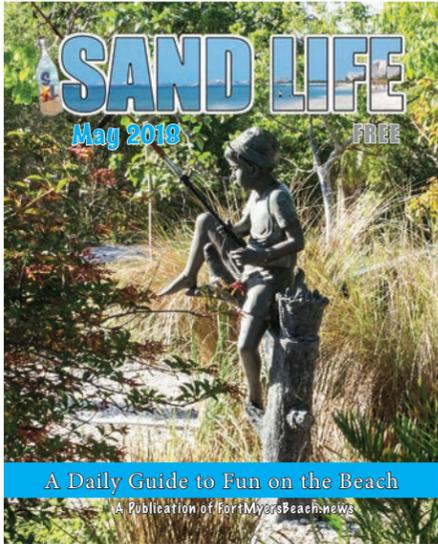


Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (J 740.92 STE) is a biography written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe. The artist Basquiat grew up having many influential people throughout his art career with the most important being his mother, who this book introduces. Basquiat's mother encouraged him to learn and create; details of their bond are shared throughout the story. Basquiat's mother inspired him predicting that one day he would become a famous artist.

The Impossible Clue, by Sarah Rubin (J M RUB), is the tale of Alice Jones, a successful junior detective, code maker and crime breaker. Her detecting skills are put to the test when a scientist who invented a cloaking invisibility suit disappears. Little Alice Jones is on the case, and most middle-schoolers will be along for the adventure!



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!

LITTLE LEAGUE

Fort Myers Beach Little League will close out the season with Closing Day on SA May 19 beginning at 8:30am. Tee-Ball and Minor Softball Thunder

will play at 9am; Minor Cubs will play at 10am; Senior Baseball and Major Storm Baseball will play at noon and Junior Storm at 2:30pm. Come on out to Bay Oaks fields and cheer on our players! Noon ceremony

MEDICARE 101

Current and future Medicare beneficiaries are invited to attend a free presentation about the ins & outs of Medicare at Chapel by the Sea on TU May 22 at 9:30am in Silver Hall. Advance registration is not necessary. The Florida Dept of Elder Affairs SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program provides free, unbiased information and assistance for Florida Medicare beneficiaries year-round as they evaluate health care options. This presentation will cover the basics of Medicare Parts A, B, C & D and cover the options available. For more information about this presentation or to receive one-on-one Medicare counseling from SHINE, contact 866-413-5337.

MEMORY FADING?

Join Beach Library Reference Librarian Cletus on TU May 22 at 10:30am at the Beach Library for some helpful tips on how to remember those things that you frequently forget. Free. Pre-registration required by calling 239-765-8162.

BAY OAKS PLANNING

The Fort Myers Beach Department of Parks & Recreation invites everyone to attend a planning session on TH May 24 from 6-7:30pm at Bay Oaks. Help decide the future of Bay Oaks and Parks & Rec events, activities and department plans. Come fill out a survey at this interactive session. Parks & Rec needs YOU to be there

BIKE SAFETY EVENT

Come to the Bay Oaks Rec Center on SA May 26 from 10am - 12pm to learn about Bike Safety, join a Bicycle Club and meet with a bike mechanic. In addition there will be an 8am Bonita Road Ride and a 9am FMB Fun Ride beginning at Bay Oaks. Enjoy Bike Demos, FREE kids' helmets, a bike rodeo, ice cream and more! For more information call 239-765-4222.

BRIDGE

Every FR the Senior Bridge group meets from 12:30-3:30pm at Chapel by the Sea Silver Hall. Cost is \$4, snacks included. All are welcome. 239-463-3173

MOUND HOUSE KAYAK TOURS

Enjoy the beauty of the back bay with a Kayak Tour at the Mound House. All paddling equipment is provided and museum admission is included in these tours. Weather permitting. Reservations are required for all tours by calling 239-765-0865.

Mangroves by Kayak Tour is offered at 8am on WE May 23, TU May 29, FR June 1 and WE June 13. This tour explores the winding mangrove creeks and hidden backwaters of Estero Bay. Guided by Dexter Norris, Mound House Environmental Educator. \$45

fee. (Members \$15)

Sunset Kayak Tour is offered FR May 25, SA June 9 and TH June 14 at around 7pm. Exact time available on registration. Explore the tidal creeks and mangrove tunnels in the backwaters of Estero Bay. Experience the estuary's abundant life in the quiet of twilight. \$50 fee. (Members \$25)

Family Fun Kayak Tour is offered SA May 26, SA June 2 & SA June 16 at 9am. This tour designed for parents and their children ages 6 & up, offers instruction on land before heading out at an easy relaxed pace. Paddlers look for wildlife, including birds, manatees and dolphins as they paddle through the mangroves of Estero Bay. \$25 ages 13 and up; \$15 ages 6-12. (Members \$10)

SUMMER CAMP

The last school day for Lee County students is May 30. Bay Oaks and Ostego Bay Marine Science Center are offering Summer Camps this summer. Bay Oaks camp is offered June 4-August 3 for ages 6-13. Cost beginning at \$75/week for members and \$100 for non-members. Scholarships available. To register call 239-765-4222. Ostego Bay camp is offered at the Marine Science Center for ages 5-16 in June and July. Cost is \$275/week. To register call 239-765-8101 or visit www.ostegobay.org

FREE TRAM CONTINUES

The Free Beach Tram will continue to run from Bowditch Point Park to Matanzas Pass Preserve until May 30. LeeTran routes 490 (Park & Ride), 410 (Beach Trolley) and 150 (Bonita to Lovers Key) will also continue a seasonal schedule until May 30. To view

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AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND

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ACMA 6TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

The Americana Community Music Association will celebrate 6 years of original Americana Music Concerts & Songwriting with an Anniversary Show on SA June 30 from 7-9:30pm at the All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, 2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. Founding ACMA members will perform during this special night of music. ACMA musicians were the featured performers during the Lovers Key Songwriters at Sunset series. In the past year ACMA musicians have performed over 90 times, sharing their original songs and the stories behind the songs.

SEW N SEWS

Each TH from 10am-2pm a group of volunteers gathers at Chapel by the Sea to work on various mission projects. All are invited to join them whenever they can. No sewing skills required. Bring a bagged lunch to eat during a lunch break at noon. For more information call 239-463-3173.

BEACH LIBRARY

The Fort Myers Beach Library is a great place to visit. Browse the library's many collections, find a new author or sign up for some time on the library's computers. Head to the 3rd floor to view the artwork of the artist of the month or stop in the Friends Used Book Store. The Library is open MO-FR 9am-5pm; SA 9am-1pm. 239-765-8162. Some upcoming programs include:
 TU May 22, 10:30am – Memory Improvement, pre-register
 WE May 23, 10:30am – The Moth II – More True Stories

MOUND HOUSE

A unique archaeological and historical site on Fort Myers Beach located directly on Estero Bay, the Mound House offers a variety of programs for local residents & visitors. Open TU, WE & SA 9am-4pm at 451 Connecticut St. Overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Call for costs, reservations and additional information. 239-765-0865. Upcoming programs include:

SA May 19 – 11am Guided Tour; 1pm – Shell Mound Tour.

TU May 22 – 9am - Guided Beach Walk at Newton Park; 10am & 1pm – Guided Tour; 11am & 2pm – Shell Mound Tour.

WE May 23 – 10am – Tools of the Calusa; 11am & 2pm - Shell Mound Tour; 1pm – Guided Tour.

FR May 25 – 9am – Conservation Café; 7pm – Sunset Kayak Tour.

SA May 26 – 9am – Family Fun Kayak Tour; 10am – Archeology of the Mound House; 11am & 2pm – Shell Mound Tour; 1pm – Guided Tour.

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK

Guided nature programs are offered in the park. All programs require registration, are free with park entry and take place at 10am. To register call 239-463-4588. Upcoming programs include:

FR May 25 – Kayak Tour

FR June 1 – Sea Turtle Talk

FR June 8 – Sensational Sharks

KIWANIS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fort Myers Beach Kiwanis Club invites students in the 33931 zip code area to apply for \$2,000 scholarships that can be used for tuition, books, room & board at the vocational technical school, college or university of choice. Applications available at fortmyersbeachkiwanis.org. Applications and all required materials must be postmarked by July 16.

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



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BONITA SPRINGS	
NESTS.....	11
FALSE CRAWLS..	9
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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

There is a critical need for blood donations in SWFL. 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

Government Meetings

Monday, 5/21	9:00am	Town Council (TPI-FMB Final Hearing; Change Order for Estero Blvd.)
Tuesday, 5/22	9:00am 6:30pm	Historic Advisory Committee Library Board, 2755 Estero Blvd., FMB

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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Bay Oaks Reopens Planning Session & Bike Safety Events in May



The fitness room sports new cardio equipment.



Bay Oaks members will find a newly painted Fitness Room with a new floor and updated strength equipment. *Photos provided.*

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

May is a month of rebirth for the Town of Fort Myers Beach Parks & Recreation Department. "The Bay Oaks Recreational Center closed on April 18 for significant renovations," said Sean DePalma, Director of Parks & Recreation. "These include a new surface and absorption membrane for the gymnasium floor and fitness rooms, updated strengthening and cardio equipment, repainting the fitness center, modernizing pickleball nets and updating the gymnasium sound system and scoreboards,

with its reopening on Friday, May 18. We selected this timeframe to match the start of off-season, while allowing us to be back up for Summer Camp that begins in early June."

Parks & Recreation is in the midst of its Long-Range Planning Program, with a Public Engagement Session at Bay Oaks on Thursday, May 24, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. "We want to gain the public's insight for future events, activities and growth of the Department, including Bay Oaks," explained DePalma. "Our facilitator, Michelle Marchand Canseco, will ask open-ended questions to draw out your opinions. There will also be a survey for everyone to fill out,

so this is very much an interactive session. The more input we obtain, the better we will serve you, both in the near-term and long-range timeframes." Long-Range Planning began with an in-house forum on May 3 and concludes with a wrap-up in June.

The Department will host the "Bicycle Safety Awareness Event" at Bay Oaks on Saturday, May 26, from 10 a.m. to Noon. "There will be bicycle demonstrations, safe riding tips, giveaways including free bike helmets, opportunities to join a Bicycle Club and speak to a professional mechanic and a bike rodeo on an obstacle course, with ice cream for everyone," said

DePalma. "Come early with your family to take a group bicycle ride to Bonita Beach Road at 8 a.m. or on Fort Myers Beach at 9 a.m. As this is National Bike Safety Month, the Town is actively advocating bicycle safety, especially with its recent Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan, as well as to navigate our many roadways that remain under construction. This is a free program that does not require reservations." The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is at 2731 Oak Street; for additional information, call 239-765-4222 or see its link on the Town of Fort Myers Beach webpage at www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov.



The new Bay Oaks gymnasium floor will be open for play when Bay Oaks reopens Friday, May 18.



Funnies Page



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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High Tea with Dad

A little girl is serving her father tea while her mother is out shopping. The mother comes home and the father says, "Watch this!" The little girl goes and serves the mother tea. The mother turns to the father and says, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"

Life After Death

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, Sir," the new recruit replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Funnies Page



COMMUNITY COMICS



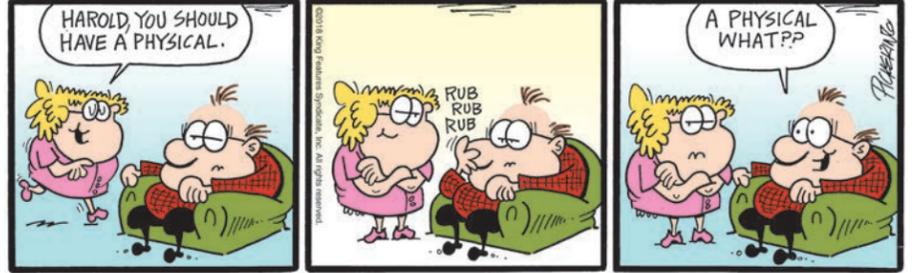
"I know you're proud of them honey but the last time you showed up at the beach like this you cost me a fortune at the dermatologist and caused three CPR runs for the Ft Myers Beach Fire Dept."
Eric M. Huntsman

"Jazz Vancooser don't own a pair of shorts baby, I'm from New York City."
Thomas Tom Kat Fahey

Jazz: "Im going to see the Clanton Gang tonight @ Lani Kai!"
Chic: "Im an A200 fan"
Keith Clanton

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



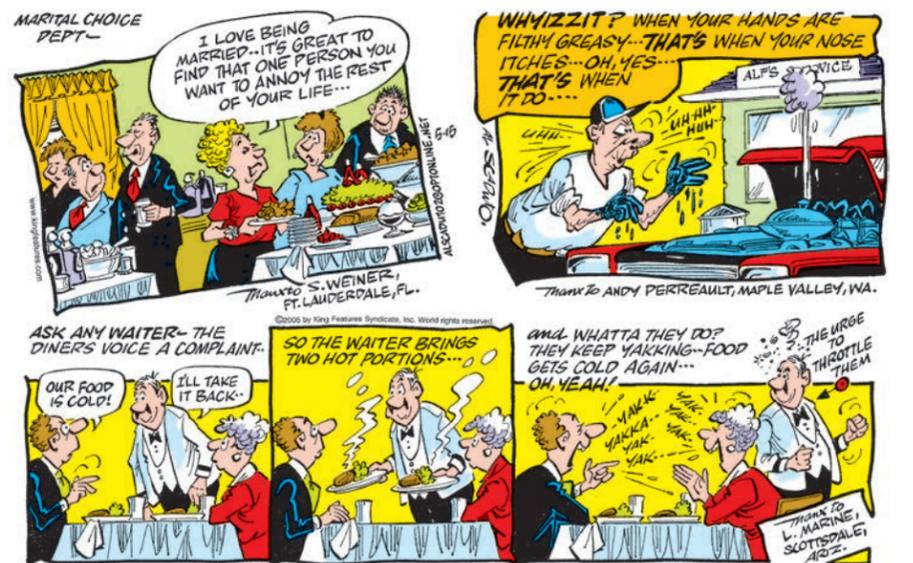
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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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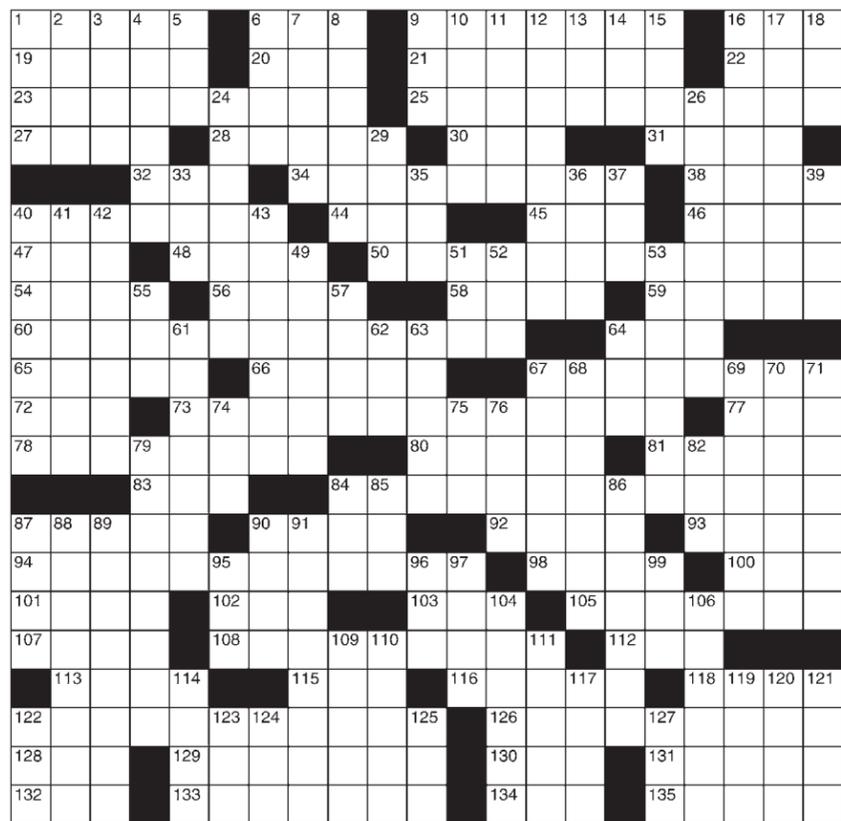
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Super Crossword

INTRO TO POE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Iraqis, e.g.
 - 6 Yank's Civil War foe
 - 9 "View of Toledo" artist
 - 16 Road sign no.
 - 19 — Haute, Indiana
 - 20 Fruit eater in Genesis
 - 21 "Naked" rodent
 - 22 Byronic "before"
 - 23 A second time
 - 25 When you get there
 - 27 Flat-topped rise
 - 28 Choose to participate
 - 30 Nosh, say
 - 31 Like a desert
 - 32 "Sister Wives" airer
 - 34 Lots of
 - 38 Greater than
 - 40 President Nixon
 - 44 Snatch
 - 45 RV hookup
 - 46 Zlich
 - 47 Love of Lennon
 - 48 What jailbirds are behind
 - 50 Color akin to navy
 - 54 Pop singer Lovato
 - 56 Journalist Paula
 - 58 Dimwit
 - 59 Lock plates
 - 60 Cold, cloudy conditions, say
 - 64 See
 - 77-Across
 - 65 Declaration at the door
 - 66 Spock player
 - 67 Has a printed price of
 - 72 Secretive U.S. org.
 - 73 "Since the subject has come up ..."
 - 77 With
 - 64-Across, of equal status
 - 78 Olympic skater Witt
 - 80 Packaging abbr.
 - 81 Ugly beasts
 - 83 Puppy's bite
 - 84 "Seems suspect to me"
 - 87 Dimwit
 - 90 Singer with the 2001 hit "Thank You"
 - 92 Kemo — (the Lone Ranger)
 - 93 Simon or Diamond
 - 94 Meditated on
 - 98 Guitar great Lofgren
 - 100 "Botch- —" (1952 hit song)
 - 101 "What —!" ("He's the best!")
 - 102 Balkan repub.
 - 103 Shag, e.g.
 - 105 Get flushed
 - 107 Actor Michael of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
 - 108 Cowardly
 - 112 Day, in Peru
 - 113 Shed tears
 - 115 Rap's "Dr."
 - 116 Arsenal
 - 118 Take apart
 - 122 "Such is life"
 - 126 One may seek respite
 - 128 Family cat, e.g.
 - 129 Stephen, French-style
 - 130 & so forth
 - 131 Huge name in insurance
 - 132 Voting "yes"
 - 133 Least lax
 - 134 With
 - 135-Across, poem whose first line is found among this puzzle's 11 longest answers
 - 135 See 134-Across
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Quark locale
 - 2 Actress Russo
 - 3 Oval portions
 - 4 Respiration
 - 5 Briny deep
 - 6 Lop a crop
 - 7 Best Musical of 1980
 - 8 Gentle
 - 9 Kiwi relative
 - 10 Trotted
 - 11 Twilight, old-style
 - 12 1995 Leslie Nielsen comedy
 - 13 Long span
 - 14 Avis offering for the better?
 - 15 Other, in Peru
 - 16 Restorations
 - 17 Exchanged for the better?
 - 18 Slippery sort
 - 24 Flip out
 - 26 Jail cell parts
 - 29 Linguist Chomsky
 - 33 Testing spot
 - 35 Osaka sash
 - 36 Off-limits
 - 37 Slangy "OK"
 - 39 Actress Charlotte and others
 - 40 Tennis champ Andy
 - 41 Notion about motion
 - 42 Charges
 - 43 Enticed
 - 49 Aussie miss prez
 - 51 Post-WWII
 - 52 Fish-fowl link
 - 53 "Yes, it's also included"
 - 55 "— so sure!"
 - 57 Put a label on
 - 61 Second draft
 - 62 Pull along
 - 63 "Laughing" mammal
 - 64 Greek letter
 - 67 Guy keeping the peace
 - 68 Smidgen
 - 69 Refrain
 - 70 Former
 - 71 Grappled, in dialect
 - 74 In the know
 - 75 Amp (up)
 - 76 Summers, in French
 - 79 Painkillers
 - 82 Fired thing
 - 84 Altar words
 - 85 Carpooling lane abbr.
 - 86 Misleading sort
 - 87 Apple debut of 2010
 - 88 Person with a pet pooch
 - 89 No longer fazed by
 - 90 Editor's mark
 - 91 Pin-ons worn by staffers
 - 95 Not refined
 - 96 East ender?
 - 97 Repents of
 - 99 — Lankan
 - 104 Not stay dry
 - 106 Queasiness
 - 109 Norway's currency unit
 - 110 Wails in lamentation
 - 111 Performs, in the Bible
 - 114 Virgil, e.g.
 - 117 Indy 500, e.g.
 - 119 Tube fan's punishment
 - 120 Desert hill
 - 121 "The Good Earth" wife
 - 122 87-Down user's buy
 - 123 Suffix with Seattle
 - 124 Pewter part
 - 125 In place
 - 127 Lt. Tasha on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"



BARSIDE

(George)




What happened to the good old days, when men were gentlemen and ladies were ladies like, manners?

Now when a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing, either the car is new or the wife is!

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.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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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: I equals O

VGDP K PYZCKPTD BQZDC QDKAAM
GKQX BI KTTIRJAZCG CIRDBGZPU,
Z'X CKM GD'C JYBBZPU GZC JDCB
EIIB EIQVKQX.

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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!



Snide

DUNKIN

Shield

ENDDF

Secret

VECTOR

Brief

MORFIN

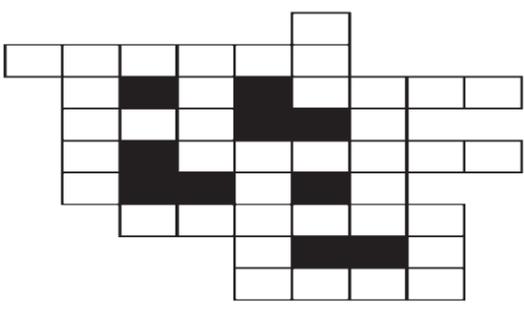
"Now remember, your _____ is no reflection on your future with the company."

TODAY'S WORD

FEAR KNOT

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

- TTA
- ♥ ANAMUL
- BRITO
- ♥ TSMU
- ♥ REASHO
- UDM
- HOMT
- HEALT
- ♥ AHS
- BAMMLE
- OLERM
- ♥ ITDE



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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Extra Inning Innovation or Devastation? Miracle Plays First Game Under New Rule

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

Major League Baseball in 2019 will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its inception in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Fort Myers Miracle, the Single A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, are now in their 26th season. On Sunday, April 29 they played an historic game that may soon usher in the most significant change the game has seen since its 1869 founding.

On that afternoon, the Miracle and the Daytona Tortugas, appropriately the Single A team of the Cincinnati Reds, completed nine innings tied at 2, leading to extra innings in a format no one here had yet seen. Under a new rule, implemented to speed up the pace of play, each team began their extra frame with a runner already on 2nd base!

Officially, professional baseball made this monumental change for several reasons: to reduce the number of pitchers used in extra innings; the corresponding shortage of pitchers available for the following games; eliminating the use of position players as pitchers; and the transfer of pitchers between affiliates caused by extra inning games. Unofficially, however, some say baseball is experimenting with this radical shift because of the short attention span of Millennials, who cannot tear themselves away from their cellphones long enough to pay attention until a game comes to its natural conclusion!

GETTING TO 2ND BASE

The initial 9 innings flew by in a spiffy 2 hours and 20 min-

utes, with the Miracle scoring twice in the 2nd, and Daytona matching that in the 7th. TJ Friedl began the top of the 10th on 2nd base for the Tortugas, as he made the final out the previous inning. The first batter hit a grounder to Miracle shortstop Nelson Molina, allowing Friedl to advance to 3rd base, then relief pitcher Sean Poppin uncorked a wild pitch to score Friedl in a completely unexciting manner, with the Miracle escaping further damage. In the bottom of the 10th, the Miracle's Luis Azzaez started on 2nd base, as he made their previous last out. Jared Foster laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Azzaez to 3rd base, before Travis Blankenhorn shot a single to right field to retie the game.

The Tortugas started the 11th with another runner on 2nd base, retaking the lead, again in a totally boring way, with a passed ball and sacrifice fly. In the Miracle half, Caleb Hamilton began on 2nd base, with Molina bunting him to 3rd before pinchhitter Lewin Diaz pounded a long home run to right center for a 5 to 4 Miracle victory, sending the roughly 1,500 fans home happy!

I am a baseball purist who played softball until five years ago. I have Undergraduate and Master's degrees in History, so the traditions of America's Pastime mean a great deal to me. While I should have been on the edge of my seat during extra innings, I spent most of the two additional frames complaining about how much I hate this new rule! While Daytona did score a run in each, they did so without even one infield single, making both seem more a gimmick than real



Another beautiful Southwest Florida evening saw the Fort Myers Miracle in action at Hammond Stadium at the CenturyLink Sports Complex. Photo by Gary Mooney.

baseball. Although the Miracle's first RBI came on a base hit, what set the table seemed like another cheap run as well. In reality, Lewin's blast was the only significant hit of extra innings, and that still would have won the game in the 11th, only by a 3 to 2 rather than the inflated 5 to 4 final score.

This innovation in fact worked against one of its stated official reasons, as not only did it not save any pitches, but the pitchers already in the game had to immediately throw more stressful ones, with the potentially winning runner already on 2nd base. At least this concept did not inflate their Earned Run Averages, as the additional runner does not count against them, being considered the same as an error, though neither team receives one.

I do not believe this rule leads to any added excitement from the fan perspective. Had Miracle pitchers held Daytona in check in either extra inning, it is easy to imagine that Fort Myers could have scored the winning run just as the Tortugas did in the 10th, with a

passed ball and sacrifice fly. Sure, fans would shout with joy and players would charge the field to congratulate each other, but that would pale in comparison to the sheer excitement and electricity that ignited the crowd when Diaz launched his game-winning Home Run!

LET'S PLAY TRUE!

Since the Miracle won, that tempered my anger and disappointment, but as a new era for baseball – you can have it! As for me, the late great Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks said it best when he said, "Let's Play Two" – meaning games – but to paraphrase Mr. Cub, "Let's Play True Extra Innings!"

The Miracle this weekend begin a 6-game homestand by hosting the St. Lucie Mets from Friday through Sunday, May 18 to 20, before taking on the Bradenton Marauders of the Pittsburgh Pirates organization from Monday through Wednesday, May 21 to 23. Friday offers post-game fireworks, Saturday has the Joe Mauer Bobblehead giveaway, and Sunday is "Youth Baseball Day" with kids in their team shirts receiving a free ticket, pre-game catch on the field, and running the bases after the game. Monday is "Dollar Dog Days"; Tuesday "2-for-1" tacos, domestic beers, and sodas; and "Winning Wednesdays" features prizes from the Miller and Moulton sports broadcasting team.

Tickets range from \$7.50 to \$12 and are available at www.milb.com, the stadium box office that opens 90 minutes prior to each game, or by telephone at 239-768-4210, with a \$2 processing fee. Monday through Friday contests start at 7 p.m., Saturdays 6 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m., with parking \$5-per-car. Hammond Stadium is at CenturyLink Sports Complex at 14100 Six Mile Cyrus Parkway in South Fort Myers, roughly a 15-minute drive from Fort Myers Beach. The Fort Myers Miracle – The Best Game in Town!

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Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
F 18	High	5:30 AM	1.7	6:39 AM	Rise 9:42 AM	7
	Low	7:40 AM	1.6	8:09 PM	Set 11:40 PM	
	High	2:43 PM	3.3			
	Low	10:37 PM	-0.6			
Sa 19	High	3:33 PM	3.2	6:39 AM	Rise 10:45 AM	14
	Low	11:39 PM	-0.5	8:10 PM		
Su 20	High	4:33 PM	2.9	6:38 AM	Set 12:37 AM	24
				8:10 PM	Rise 11:48 AM	
M 21	Low	12:43 AM	-0.2	6:38 AM	Set 1:27 AM	34
	High	9:27 AM	1.8	8:11 PM	Rise 12:51 PM	
	Low	11:16 AM	1.7			
	High	5:50 PM	2.7			
Tu 22	Low	1:44 AM	0.0	6:38 AM	Set 2:13 AM	46
	High	9:51 AM	2.0	8:11 PM	Rise 1:52 PM	
	Low	1:36 PM	1.7			
	High	7:32 PM	2.3			
W 23	Low	2:40 AM	0.1	6:37 AM	Set 2:55 AM	57
	High	10:17 AM	2.2	8:12 PM	Rise 2:52 PM	
	Low	3:18 PM	1.3			
	High	9:17 PM	2.1			
Th 24	Low	3:28 AM	0.4	6:37 AM	Set 3:34 AM	67
	High	10:42 AM	2.3	8:12 PM	Rise 3:50 PM	
	Low	4:29 PM	0.9			
	High	10:45 PM	2.1			
F 25	Low	4:09 AM	0.7	6:37 AM	Set 4:12 AM	77
	High	11:07 AM	2.6	8:13 PM	Rise 4:46 PM	
	Low	5:24 PM	0.5			
	High	11:57 PM	2.0			

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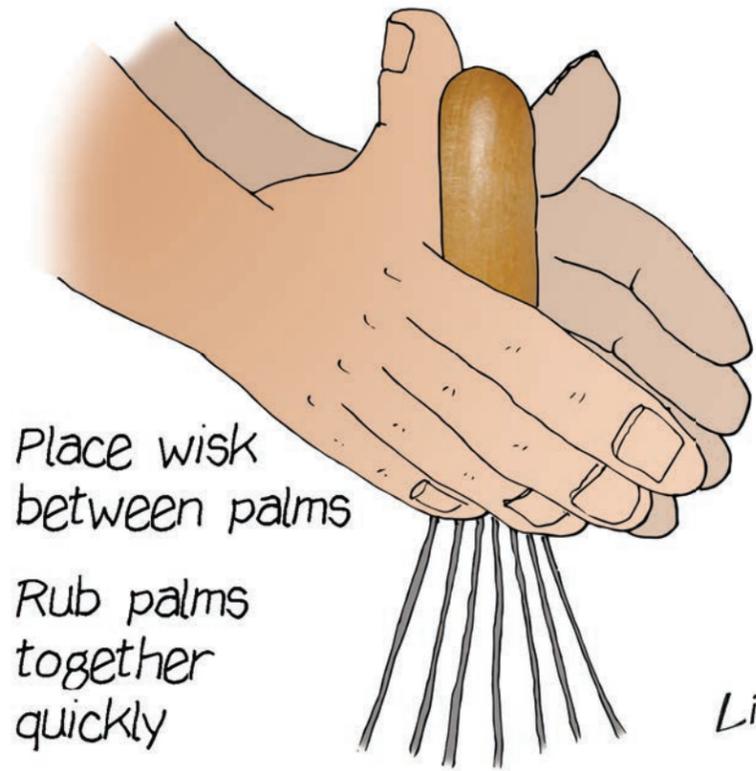
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



High-powered Hand Wisk



List

CryptoQuip answer

When a nuisance tries really hard to accomplish something, I'd say he's putting his pest foot forward.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Unkind;
- Defend;
- Covert;
- Inform

Today's Word
OFFICE

FEAR KNOT

answer

				H						
A	L	U	M	N	A					
A		O		S	M	U	T			
T	A	T				O				
H		H	O	A	R	S	E			
E			R							
			E	M	B	A	L	M		
				I				U		
				T	I	E	D			

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Coast Guard Open House Saturday Safe Boating Week May 19-25



Islanders are invited to visit the US Coast Guard Station Fort Myers Beach on Saturday, May 19 from 10am-3pm.

The Town of Fort Myers Beach recently proclaimed May 19th through May 25th as "Safe Boating Week." This proclamation is an important step in building awareness of the need to follow safe boating practices. The Town Council encourages citizens to learn and follow safe boating practices such as wearing a life jacket, taking a Safe Boating Class, getting a Vessel Safety Check, operating their vessels responsibly and saving consumption of alcoholic beverages for after the trip. Many water-related deaths can be prevented by simply wearing life jackets, especially when using paddleboards, canoes and kayaks. Every year, boating and water safety advocates around the world team up to promote the importance of safe boating and life jacket use during National Safe Boating Week.

Fort Myers Beach events begin with an Open House at the Coast Guard Station on Saturday May 19th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 719 San Carlos Drive, Fort Myers Beach (San Carlos Island).

Guests will tour several Coast Guard vessels at the station and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be available to answer recreational boating safety questions. Free vessel safety checks will be available for all registered vessels. No violations will be issued during the safety checks.



Guests will have the chance to board USCG rescue vessels.

The Lee County Sheriff Marine Unit, Fort Myers Beach Fire District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Safe Kids Lee County are also scheduled to be part of the Open House event.

There will be instruction in knot tying and a maritime environmental game. Kids will enjoy meeting 'Coastie', a remote-controlled low endurance class cutter. Free hot dogs will be served during the event.

The Safe Boating Campaign is led by the National Safe Boating Council, with support from boating safety advocates around the world. Encouraging boaters to always wear a life jacket, the campaign reminds boaters to make responsible boating decisions a daily habit, such as never boating under the influence, using an engine cut-off device, knowing navigational rules and more.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The auxiliary is the lead agency in recreational boating safety, saving countless lives and hundreds of thousands in property every day. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org



(Left) Coastie will be on hand to entertain the kids (Above) USCGC Marlin during a previous Open House. Photos by M. Layfield.



Beach Theater

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Deadpool 2 Early Screening Thursday May 17 - 7pm

Starts on **Friday May 18**

Doors open at 1:45 PM.



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

Foul-mouthed mutant mercenary Wade Wilson (AKA. Deadpool), brings together a team of fellow mutant rogues to protect a young boy of supernatural abilities from the brutal, time-traveling mutant, Cable.

Starring: Ryan Reynolds and Josh Brolin



Avengers: Infinity War
[PG-13] 2:00 5:15 8:45

The Avengers and their Super Hero allies must be willing to sacrifice all in an attempt to defeat the powerful Thanos before his blitz of devastation and ruin puts an end to the universe.

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Chris Pratt



Book Club
[PG-13] 2:45 4:15 5:45 8:30

Four lifelong friends have their lives forever changed after reading 50 Shades of Grey in their monthly book club.

Starring: Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen



Life of the Party
[PG-13] 3:00 6:00 8:45

After her husband abruptly asks for a divorce, a middle-aged mother returns to college in order to complete her degree.

Starring: Melissa McCarthy

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	MONDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
BEACHED WHALE 1249 Estero Blvd 463-5505	TYLER KLUSNER 6-9PM	BOBBY BLAKEY 6-9PM	TIMMY JOHNSON 6-9PM			JULIE SAVANAH 6-9PM	STEVE McDOUGAL 6-9PM
CASTAWAYS Santini Marina Plaza 463-4644	NEXX LEVEL 8-MIDNIGHT	MARTY STOKES 8-MIDNIGHT					ELECTRIC LIPSTICK 8-MIDNIGHT
SHUCKERS/COTTAGE Gulfshore Grill 765-5440	ROGER YOUNG 4-7PM TROUBLEMAKERS 9PM-1AM	CHRIS CASDIA 4-7PM BAD BANDITOS 9-1AM	CHRIS CASDIA 4-7PM TROUBLEMAKERS 9-1PM	STEVE FARST 4-7 3 CROOKED STEPS 9PM-1AM	WENDELL RAY 4-7PM BAD BANDITOS 9PM-1AM	SHEENA BROOK 4-7PM STEVE FARST 9PM-1AM	JOHN HOUSLEY 4-7PM THE NEW VINYLs 9PM-1AM
CRACKER BOX 16910 McGregor 466-4344							
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		TEQUILA TOM 5:30-8:30	CHRIS CASDIA 5:30PM	ANTHONY WAYNE 5:30-8:30PM	BOBBY BLAKEY 5:30-8:30PM
DOC FORDS 708 Fishermans Whf. 765-9660	HIGH VOLTAGE 6:30-9:30	STEVE FARST 6:30PM	DEB & THE DYNAMICS 1-4PM			GIRL MEETS BOY 6:30-9:30PM	KAPO KINGS 6:30-9:30PM
MATANZAS on the BAY 414 Crescent 463-3838	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	CLIVE LIVE 6-10PM	KEVON 12-4pm AND 6-10PM	SMOKIN BILL 12-4PM HIGH TIDE 6-10PM	CLIVE LIVE 6-10	SMOKIN BILL 6-10PM	MICHAEL ANTOINE 6-10PM	RaSHIMBA 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		FRANK TORINO 7-10PM					FRANK TORINO 7-10PM
PETE'S TIME OUT Time Square 463-5900				DAVE COLLATON 6-10PM	AARON SEYFFERTH 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	DEB & THE DYNAMICS 6-9PM	DAZZLING DELRAYS 6-9PM	LOVE HUNTER 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					JEFF GREENE 1-5PM CHRIS KEMP 7-10PM
SHARK BAR & GRILL 17979 San Carlos Blvd 313-6012	RAGADY LAPSEY 6-9PM	BAD LATITUDE 6-9PM	RUSTY WRIGHT BAND 6-9PM	RASHIMBA 3-6PM COLLABORATION BAND 7-10PM	MARY WINNER BAND 6-9PM	MARTY KEANE 2-5PM	LAURIE STARR DUO 3-6PM BRENDA'S KARAOKE 7-10PM
SOBs Old San Carlos Blvs 463-3474	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM	DAVE COLLATON 6-10	LEE HAGAN 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 6-10	DAVE COLLATON 6-10
SUNSET BEACH FMB TIMES SQUARE 463-1028	BARRY LAWRENCE 8-12PM	CHRIS KEMP 2-5PM CLIVE LIVE 8-12PM	BARRY LAWRENCE 1-5PM MIKE GLEAN 8-12PM		CLIVE LIVE 8-12PM		WENDELL RAY 8-CLOSE
SURF CLUB 1167 Estero Blvd 765-0644	JAMES GRAGG 6-10PM	THE REGULARS 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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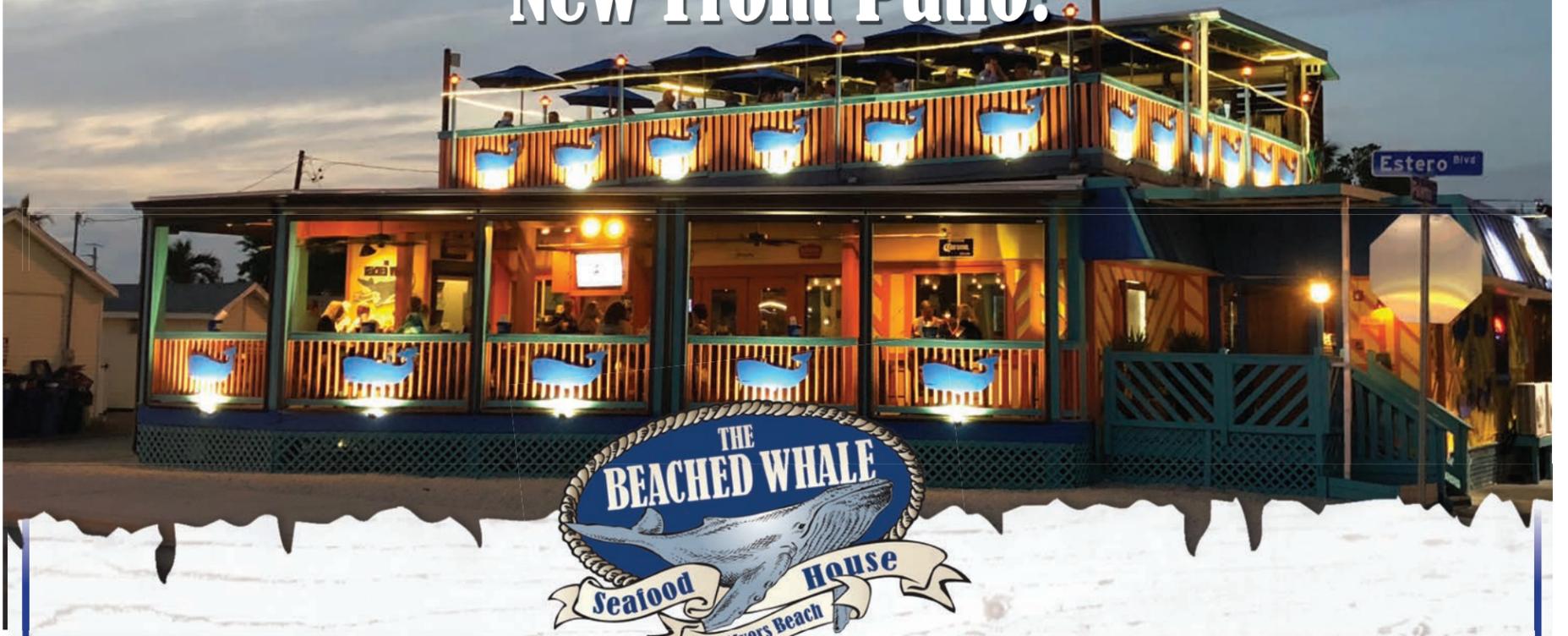
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