



Council Reacts to Water Crisis Algae Outbreaks “Far From Natural”



Mote Marine sign at FMB beach access providing Red Tide information. Photos by M. Layfield

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The effects of a persistent Red Tide bloom and blue-green algae related to Lake Okeechobee water releases continued to effect Fort Myers Beach this week. The Fort Myers Beach Town Council returned from its summer break that began on June 18, hosting its first public meeting since the twin outbreaks of Red Tide and blue-green algae on Tuesday, August 7. Four Council members and Town Manager Roger Hernstadt addressed the issue; with Anita Cereceda on an excused absence, though she participated in an earlier part of the session via Skype from Spain.

Mayor Tracey Gore joined the session roughly two hours late, as she attended the Lee County Board of County Commissioners meeting that morning, joining her fellow Lee County

Mayors to ask that the Commissioners extend their local State of Emergency over the area’s water quality issues, persuade the State of Florida to extend its State of Emergency and request a Federal one from the President. “Let’s be real, however – this is a bigger problem than our little Town can resolve, even if we sign resolutions all week long, so we need the right people in office to fix the system. Our area mayors are the greatest group to work with, and they are so concerned about our communities. We are trying our hardest, and anyone who says the opposite, it’s just not true.”

Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp thanked Gore for her time and support of water quality and her work with other Lee County mayors. “Town Council should go on record to provide you with the authority to act with the other mayors, to sign any necessary proclamations, without

having to wait for two weeks to return to Council to give you permission to join in on all of these things; would that be helpful to you?”

“Other mayors have permission to do certain things, like sending messages to the Governor or President,” agreed Gore. “We take our lead from Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane, who has all sorts of connections on this. He has been doing this for a long time, and we need to continue to act all year long, even when the water improves, before we find our backs up against it again, no matter what it takes.”

“Today, I am asking for us to declare a State of Emergency for the Town of Fort Myers Beach, and to sign off with the other mayors to request that the Governor hold more water to the north of Lake Okeechobee, send more water south, and seek funding to reimburse businesses for their losses

Cont’d pg.14

Bay Harbour Hearing Marina Village Seeks Zoning Approval

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Fort Myers Beach Town Council provided its unanimous approval for the new Margaritaville Resort on May 21. The equally-as-controversial Bay Harbour Marina Village, for 1195 Main Street on San Carlos Island, faces its next hurdle, before the Lee County Hearing Examiner, on Wednesday, August 15, at 1500 Monroe Street in Downtown Fort Myers, at 9 a.m. If necessary, this will continue on Thursday and Friday, August 16 & 17, at 9 a.m., with the public welcome to attend.

The Lee County Hearing

Examiner will hear the request by Bay Harbour developers Jack Mayher and Nick Ruland to convert the area’s zoning to Destination Resort Mixed Use Water Dependent Future Land Use (DRMUWD FLU). “I have no idea if the Hearing Examiner will conclude the case in one day or take all three,” said Mayher. “This zoning request is directly from our conversations with the Beach Area Civic Association (BACA), as it is a category that already exists on San Carlos Island. We worked with BACA very closely over the past 18 months, to find compromises with which everyone can live.”

BACA formed

Cont’d pg.7



Beach kids gathered at Bay Oaks for the End of Summer Bash. More photos on pg.22

Pastor Ivan Corbin Joins Beach Methodist FMB His Third Island Parish

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

“I was at Merritt Island for five years,” chuckled Ivan Corbin, the new Pastor at the Beach United Methodist Church, “and I was at Key West for seven years, so being at an island church in not foreign to me! Whoever said, ‘no man is an island’ never followed me from assignment to assignment!”

Pastor Ivan grew up in Holland, Michigan, but his family moved to Zephyrhills. “I was so excited, because I always loved the beach, but I was disappointed

that the nearest one was 75 miles away, and it was unbelievably hot in the summer. My calling came while in the First Church of the Nazarene in Zephyrhills, and I fought it a little bit but not a whole lot, and everything subsequently confirmed it. I originally studied architecture in college, but soon shifted to the ministry, first transferring to Kentucky Wesleyan College, where I fell in love with basketball and became the mascot, ‘Wesley P. Anther,’ because we are the Panthers! Next came the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, and that was scary at first,

Cont’d pg.4

Comp Plan Game-Changer Council Counters LPA Decisions

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Fort Myers Beach Town Council returned from its summer break in an unusual session, rotating in-and-out from to 3 to 5 members, with only 4 ever at the actual dais. In between its musical chairs, the panel made a divided decision to approve a Rezoning Ordinance that, according to a Local Planning Agency (LPA) member who spoke before the roughly 30 people in attendance, may forever change home reconstruction on Fort Myers Beach.

Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Council members Bruce Butcher and Dennis Boback flanked her, with Mayor Tracey Gore at first absent, attending the Lee County Board of Commissioners meeting with area mayors, asking that Board to extend its State of Emergency over the region’s water quality crisis. Hovering over them all in council chambers was the face of Anita Cereceda, on the room’s gigantic television screens, resembling something out of “The Wizard of Oz” without the pyrotechnics, as she participated in the first portion via Skype from Spain. Shamp began on a somber note, calling for a moment of silence for slain Fort Myers Police Officer

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Letters to the Editor

FIGHT BROWN WATER

Perhaps because I'm a resident of just two years, no matter how much I love FMB and how happy I am living here, I have no idea how everyone is so overjoyed about Margaritaville and all the plans for downtown, when our beautiful Caloosahatchee River regularly carries of billions of gallons of brown, tainted water released from Lake Okeechobee into the Gulf of Mexico coating the very shore where Margaritaville will be located with dead fish, stench, and God knows what bacteria, with no one but a very small group of valiant local citizens fighting this travesty. (Where are politicians when we need them?)

When I walked along the beach in June, I was wondering why TPI wasn't pulling out as are tourists cancelling their vacations and fishing trips left and right. By burying our heads in the contaminated sand and not facing up to and attacking the travesty of what is happening in front of our very eyes leaves us vulnerable to a catastrophe worse than Charley. Denial is not the answer.

Mary-Ann Tirone Smith
Fort Myers Beach

VOTING NOT THE ANSWER

I must take issue with Alice Mack's Letter to the Editor ("Vote This Year," Island Sand Paper August 3, 2018).

I'll tell you what "voting" gets you – A Mad-Hatter's Tea Party of domineering amateurs now running Town Hall, here on FMB!

And how about that new Town Manager they hired, Wow!! What a piece of work he is! That's what voting gets you!

The ongoing problem being, is the questionable quality of candidates we are given to vote for, wether it's on a local, county, state or federal level. Most, if not all, candidates we are presented with in any election, make promises that ring hollow, and rarely ever come true. The only exception to this, that comes to mind in recent times, is Donald Trump, wether you like him or not! But of course, he's not a career politician.

When I'm presented with candidate choices I don't believe in, nor trust, I won't vote for the "lesser evil" I believe (the letter-writer) was absolutely wrong in saying "not" to vote for 3rd party candidates, that's exactly what we need to do to keep the other two corrupt parties in power, honest!

I also take issue with her broad-brushed biased characterization of "right wingers!"

I am a "Bill of Rights" conservative, who happens to believe in women's rights to choose, and I don't have a religious bone in my body!

But lastly, if you're not happy with the choice of candidates given

you in any election, remember these infamous words declared by radical activist Abby Hoffman, "Show your contempt! And don't vote." Amen Brother!

But if you think you can do better, run for office!

J.D. Burdge
Fort Myers Beach



THANK YOUR CLEAN UP CREWS!

Thank you to all involved in cleaning up the red tide mess on our beach. The beach was empty, except for the beach clean up crews! Photo taken Friday, August 3, 2018 by Geoffrey Allespach.

Geoffrey Allespach
Fort Myers Beach

CORRECTION:

In the "Short-Term Rental" story in the August 3, 2018 issue, the council vote total cited was wrong. The Short Term Rental Ordinance was passed May 7, 2018 with a 3-2 vote, Cerededa and Boback Against.

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FLORIDA CLOVER ASH

The Florida Clover Ash, *Tetrazygia bicolor*, is a long-lived perennial that is only found in the pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County. Bicolor is a multi-trunked woody shrub that can grow into a 20-foot tree. Curved lanceolate leaves are arranged in an opposite order on the branches. Leaves are 4 to 8 inches in length. There are three lengthwise veins on the leaves. A main vein and two lateral veins. Leaf color is a dark glossy green on top and sliver below. Margins are entire.

Bicolors' inflorescence is a panicle where flower pedicles branch and then branch again. The flower's calyx has five fused green sepals. A corolla with five white unfused petals rests on the calyx. At the center of the calyx is a greenish throat with an extended female style. Flower diameter about 1/2 inch. There are 8 to 10 yellow male stamens in a claw-like cluster that dangle over the style. Showy flowers bloom in spring and summer. Fruit is a purple berry.

Tetrazygiabicolor is categorized in the Melastomataceae (Melastome) family. The genus *Tetrazygia* has only one species, *bicolor*. This species is on the State threatened list. The specimen in the photo was found in Everglades National Park.

Pastor Ivan Corbin Joins Beach Methodist FMB His Third Island Parish, Cont'd from pg.1

because I had never lived in a large city, but wanted to stretch myself. While there, I met Daddy King, the father of Martin Luther King, Junior, who taught that 'preaching is hard and preaching is hollering!'"

Joining Pastor Ivan is his wife of 34 years, Debbie. "Our wedding anniversary is on Saturday, August 18. Oddly enough, I am marrying a couple that day, so our anniversary celebration will have to wait for another day! We met once prior, but oddly enough, did not remember each other until we crossed paths again at Candler, when that clicked in. She was a year ahead of me at school, as Debbie studied the ministry as well, though she is not ordained. We rediscovered each other in November, were engaged by February, and married that August. We got engaged in a Shoney's parking lot, as we had a table right by the door, and I did not want people standing there looking at us, so I escorted her outside. Ironically, our daughter and son-in-law own a house right down the street from that Shoney's at Stone Mountain. Debbie has ended up being a staff person just about everywhere we have gone, as she has fantastic technical skills, and it may end up being that way here too, as the former Pastor's husband filled that role, so we obviously need someone. I don't like the phrase that you get two-for-the-price-of-one with us, but jumping in to help is something she enjoys."



Pastor Ivan Corbin began his ministry at Beach United Methodist Church in July. Photo by Gary Mooney.

They are the parents of two grown children. "Christopher is himself studying for the ministry, and he and his wife are parents to our only grandchild, Louisa. She is just shy of 2-years-old, and we miss her so! Debbie visited in May, and I just returned in July. They live in Pierre, and South Dakota is a wonderful place to explore. Rachel is our daughter, and she is married to Nick, and they have our granddog, Hooch the Pooch!"

US 27 & US 41

Pastor Ivan has had numerous assignments over the years, including Boca Raton, Fruitland Park near Leesburg, Land O' Lakes, DeLand and Hunter Creek near Orlando, along with Merritt Island and Key West. "I joke that I could write a book about

servicing in every Methodist church along US 27, and now I think I have to add US 41! Each has its own interesting experiences. When at Hunter Creek, an imagineer for Disney was our praise leader and Disney's professional musicians played for us. While in Key West from 1988 to 1995, I was at what was known as the 'Old Stone' United Methodist Church. Believe it or not, there were five Methodist Churches on that small island back then! I was Pastor for its 150th anniversary, then facilitated its merger with Key West United Methodist, so I had the unusual distinction of being the last Pastor at the old church and the first at the new one!"

Grace United Methodist in Merritt Island brings strong memories. "Our claim-to-fame there is we were in the shadow

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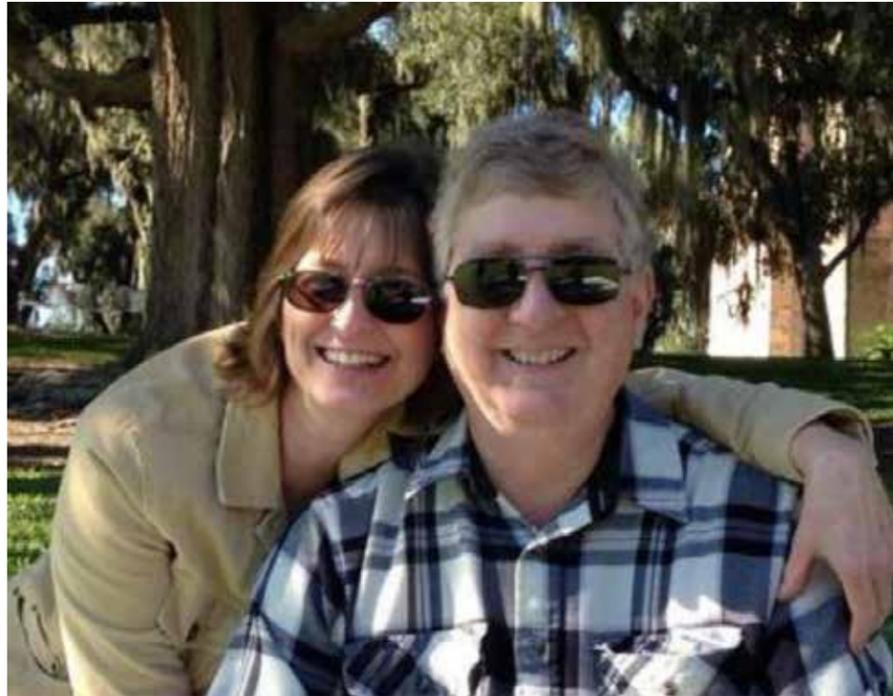
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Pastor Ivan Corbin Joins Beach Methodist FMB His Third Island Parish, Cont'd from prev pg.

of the Kennedy Space Center, so we were full of active and retired rocket scientists, meaning I can truly answer the old joke about how many rocket scientists it takes to change a lightbulb or paint a door! When the United States shut down the space shuttle program, we saw the retired fleet fly right over our house, on the backs of 747s. We showed launches on projector screens, even doing the countdown together in the middle of services. During my final one, there was an unmanned Space X launch, and a big part of my service that day involved blasting off to new adventures. For some reason, the rear screen that I would look at wasn't working, and as I spoke, I saw a look of horror over the faces of my congregation, so I looked behind me, to the front screen, and saw the rocket blew up! We later laughed at the irony, as that was not the message I wanted to send!"

LIFE'S A BEACH

Pastor Ivan learned of his assignment to Beach United Methodist while on an educational trip to Israel. "We were at the beach by the Sea of Galilee when I received the telephone call that we going to the beach of Fort Myers Beach. I already knew that Pastor Jeanne Davis was here and was near her mandatory retirement age, so I was excited, as she and I knew each other from school together at Candler, though she was several years older than me."



Pastor Ivan and Debbie Corbin. Photo provided

He acknowledged that "it is a challenge to follow someone who has been here for 22 years. I never, however, to try to fill the shoes of the person I follow, and in Jeanne's case, that would be even more difficult, as she preached in bare feet! You don't replace that person, but build upon what they already established. I feel fortunate I am a man, because a female pastor following such a beloved female pastor might be more difficult. I actually think her retirement may be tougher for her than me succeeding Jeanne, as I have my own pattern, while she has to formulate a whole new life

in retirement. Her personality is magnetic, and you can easily see why people are drawn to her, but I hope folks here will accept me. I understand we arrived at the beach community at a difficult time with the water issues, but together we will get through this."

GOOD LONG RUN

This is not Pastor Ivan's first Fort Myers Beach experience. "While growing up in Michigan, we vacationed in Florida every other year. In 1967, our parents brought us to the Pink Shell Cottages for two weeks, with the motel and

swimming pool across the street, and that is where I first began to swim. We were here for Father's Day, and I walked to a gift shop and bought Dad an ashtray, as almost everyone smoked then. I had enough money for the ashtray, as it was the only thing I could afford, but not to cover the tax, so the owner told me to take it, but to promise to return to cover the balance, and I did. Looking back, that was an excellent example of how my family raised me. Mom and Dad actually bought property near the original Golden Gate Estates development, and we took a small private plane ride to look it over. Much later, we discovered we are distant cousins to Oscar Corbin, the former Fort Myers Mayor, after whom is named the City Hall. He was originally from Kentucky, very close to my first church, so life is funny."

Pastor Ivan wanted to address an inaccurate rumor he frequently hears – that he is here only on a temporary appointment as Beach United Methodist Pastor. "I think that is occurring because another beach church does have a temporary appointment, so people confuse us. We are becoming Mound House members and volunteer around the island, and meeting wonderful new people, like fulltime residents do! Debbie and I intend to be here for a long time, to build upon what Jeanne accomplished over 22 years, so we anticipate a good long run in this community."

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Bay Harbour Hearing Marina Village Seeks Zoning Approval, Cont'd from pg.1



Bay Harbour Marina Village plan showing site plan with townhouses along canal. Source: February 2018 submittal to Lee County Community Development.

in November 2015 to oppose the original Bay Harbour proposal, with 100 or more people jamming its initial meetings, almost all in opposition to the development over too much density into too small an area. Over the past year, however, BACA meeting attendance has dwindled to a dozen or less attendees, with most seemingly in support of or neutral to the concept.

Despite working closely with BACA, Mayher expects some opposition at the Hearing Examiner meetings. "I think, however, we will have many more people in support. As this plays out, more people accept that San Carlos Boulevard and Main Street are full of empty structures and older building stock. Change is inevitable and part of life, because if you are not growing, you are dying, and if you live in a dying

neighborhood, your property values plummet, leading more residents to realize that Bay Harbour will revitalize and renovate the entire community. Building stock does not last forever, and a lot of what is currently there has outlived its time. New buildings will bring a big epiphany to the entire island."

HEARING EXAMINER, PART I

Bay Harbour Marina Village on March 24 received a 5 to 1 approval from the Lee County Local Planning Agency (LPA) to convert the 7.47-acre site from Industrial & Suburban Future Land Use to DRMUWD FLU, among other items. "That was to receive approval for the Comprehensive

Plan Amendment," said Mayher, in explaining the difference between the two meetings, "while this is for Zoning. Lee County Commissioners forwarded the LPA approval to the State government on May 2, and once it receives approval there, it comes back to the Lee County Commissioners for their final determination."

In 2015, Bay Harbour initially proposed a 175-foot-high, 14-story residential building with 113 rental units, 38 for "workforce" or "moderate income" housing, with a 286-space boat barn, 29 wet slips, a 520-space indoor-outdoor parking garage, four two-story residential townhouses, and rooftop amenities such as a pool, restaurant, garden, and children's play area. The Oak & Main Streets site was home for years to Compass Rose Marina, until Hurricane Charley destroyed that in 2004. The Lee County Hearing Examiner in late 2016 issued a scathing 53-page report against the project, stating it was too dense and out-of-character with the island's working waterfront heritage. Shortly thereafter, the Lee County LPA did not recommend it, as it was inconsistent with the Lee Plan based in the Coastal High Hazard Area. Bay Harbour then asked Lee Commissioners, who agreed, to remand it back to Staff, while concurrently filing an application to rezone the property.

Bay Harbour since then modified its proposal to 113 residential units; 37 for "workforce" or "moderate income" housing; 15 canal houses as an additional buffer from existing residential neighborhoods, 30,000-square-foot of commercial office, retail and

mini-storage; a marina with 29 wet and 286 dry slips; 4,000-square-foot of civic space; and 200 public parking spaces; with a maximum height of 145 feet.

"These compromises are the result of working closely with BACA," Mayher explained. "We discovered we had a lot in common. We still do not agree on everything, but in working with the BACA Board and Focus Group, we are much closer than many thought possible, and I can say without hesitation that all our conversations have been most cordial, without a single cross word. When zoning is done, we will continue to work with BACA every step of the way."

MARGARITAVILLE & WATER QUALITY

The Fort Myers Beach Town Council's unanimous approval of the Margaritaville development is softening opposition to Bay Harbour, Mayher felt. "Margaritaville will be great, and will revitalize Fort Myers Beach, and more people here realized this community would look even worse-for-wear once that shiny new resort is complete. Hurricane Charley ravaged both neighborhoods over a decade ago, and it is time to revitalize. Margaritaville will be a huge new economic engine for Fort Myers Beach, and Bay Harbour can do the same for San Carlos Island."

Jack is undeterred by the recent water quality issues. "Something must be done at the State and National government levels, as this is a potential economic and environmental catastrophe for Florida, where

Cont'd pg.11

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Comp Plan Game-Changer Council Counters LPA Decisions, Cont'd from pg.1

Adam Jobbers-Miller, who gave his life in service to the community and was laid to rest the previous day.

Shamp suggested that Council move up an agenda item to accommodate audience members there for the "Discussion of the Settlement Offer in Shanosky and Steck Versus the Town and Florida Department of Environmental Protection" over the proposed reconstruction of the Hercules Drive replacement dock. "The two petitioners will receive a Department of Administrative Hearing in these chambers on Thursday, August 23," said Town Attorney John Turner. "They propose a settlement where the Town can rebuild the dock, but at 24 rather than the original 49 feet, arguing the longer one is a navigation hazard. You can accept this, make a counter-offer, or reject it for trial on August 23." Three neighbors addressed Council, all favoring the rejection of the settlement.

Butcher stated that "it sounds like the two homeowners are asking for this hearing to reduce the pier to 24 feet, but the majority of the people on that street protest that, and the Judge may say 'OK' to 49 feet." Cereceda suggested a 44-foot counter-offer and asked for a show-of-hands from the neighbors, but no one agreed, prompting her to say, "then I am going with the neighborhood," receiving a trans-Atlantic round of applause! "Clap for me, too," said Shamp! "All docks there are 44 to 54 feet and are not navigation hazards, so why would this one be? I see no reason to



Anita Cereceda may have been in Spain, but her Skype projection dominated the Town Council Meeting. Photo by Gary Mooney.

delay this, so let's get this done, go forward with the hearing, and reject this settlement." Council then did just that with a unanimous 4-0 vote. After more applause, most of the audience exited, with Shamp recessing Council at 10:25 a.m., to await Mayor Gore's arrival.

APPLES VS. ORANGES

Mayor Gore reconvened Council at 11:05 a.m., under "Public Hearings," for the 2nd & Final Reading for Dullard Rezoning Ordinance for 764-768 Estero Boulevard that Council postponed on June 18. The Dullard Family wants to construct a single family home plus a three-unit multi-family

dwelling utilizing Pre-Disaster Buildback Provisions from the Comprehensive Plan (CP), with Land Development Code (LDC) deviations for height, stories, and interior square footage, among other items. The lot currently holds 2 duplexes and a single family home totaling 3,570 sq. ft. The request was to build a single family home plus a three unit building totaling 9,250 sq. ft. according to Deviation 2 of Ordinance 1 8-10. Jason Green, the Town's contract Community Development Director, stated that staff favors the proposal, but the LPA met three times on this issue, before denying it 5 to 0 at its May 24 meeting.

"I like this project," said Cereceda, "but cannot overcome the Pre-Disaster Buildback in our Comp Plan. This will set a precedent, making approving it a bad decision, as the Comp Plan blocks this. The LPA tried three times to do that and could not." "We

recently approved TPI-FMB from 84 to over 200 room," countered Gore, "and that did not set a precedent." Shamp added, "You all know my love of the Comp Plan, so I struggled with this, but I evaluate this project's positive impact on the neighborhood, so for that reason, I will approve it." Gore agreed, "If we allowed TPI-FMB to do this, we must allow our residents to do that, too," with Cereceda countering, "That is apples to oranges! If the Pre-Disaster Buildback blocks it, it blocks it!"

LPA member Jane Plummer addressed Council: "Commercial and residential are not the same. Pre-Disaster Buildback is there to safely improve existing properties, not to extend them sand-to-sand, so what you do today does set a precedent. If you allow this, take the Pre-Disaster Buildback out of the LDC. Like you, we loved the project, but couldn't approve it with the Pre-Disaster Buildback in there, without destroying that provision. I hate to think of the number of units we turned down that will now come back, as this changes the entire ballgame. I am just really shocked!" Butcher was unswayed, "This sounds like a winner to me!" "Sometimes the LPA and Council just see things differently," added Gore. "This will have smaller square footage and less buildings than today, so it is actually smaller." Shamp said, "The real intent of the Comp Plan is to do what is best for each neighborhood." Boback, however, stated that he has "all kinds of concerns! It is a great project but does not meet the Comp Plan and LDC so I am not in favor." Council then approved the Rezoning Ordinance 3 to 2, with Boback and Cereceda Against, with Cereceda exiting the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Cont'd pg.11



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Editorial

ALGAE CRISIS NOT SIMPLE OR NATURAL

Everybody wants a simple answer. Is the water safe? Is Red Tide still here? Are there any dead fish on the beach? When will this be over?

Lots of questions with no simple answer. Oh, we'd all love to be able to answer our visitors and residents with a simple reassuring answer. But our water crisis is not a simple, nor even a single problem. It's complex. As are the solutions.

The blue-green algae that came our way via Lake Okeechobee water releases has found its way into canals and bays connected to our estuaries. It's worse in North Fort Myers and Cape Coral canals where the salinity is lower than Fort Myers Beach canals. But we still have it here, floating in clumps back and forth with the tide in canals.

The Red Tide bloom coming at us from the Gulf of Mexico is a separate problem, a "natural" one, we're told. That's just code for "not our fault." Kind of like we're told that the nitrogen and phosphorus flowing down the river in those lake releases are "nutrients." A "natural" Red Tide would not last this long were it not for those "nutrients," that feed algae, both Red Tide and blue-green varieties. A "natural" Red Tide bloom would have died back last winter like most historical Red Tide events. It didn't, partially thanks to Hurricane Irma and the massive rainfall it brought, washing "nutrients" into the Gulf in enormous amounts, so the Red Tide bloom was primed for some really explosive growth this June when the Army Corps opened the gates and sent all that "nutrient-rich" water our way and out into the Gulf, where the Red Tide bloom just ate it up, expanding until it drifted right up to our shore, where it has stayed, bringing its dead fish, rays, dolphins, sharks, turtles, birds, crabs and a variety of sea life that many of us have never seen before.

While history assures us this bloom will end sometime and our beaches and water clear, but we don't know when. We don't know the long term effects of living with this much algae in our environment. Is there enough in the air to harm us?

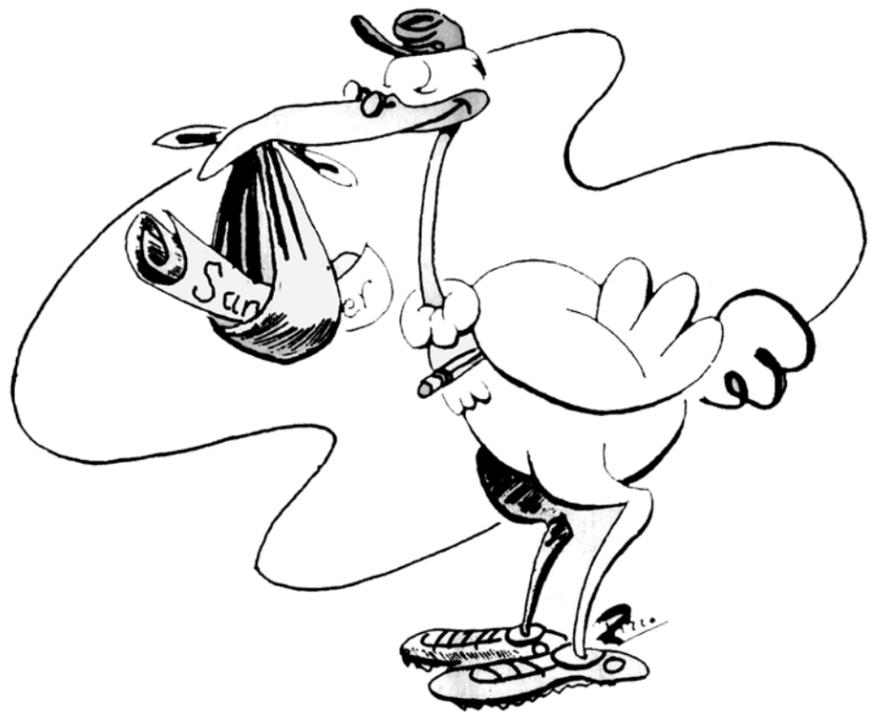
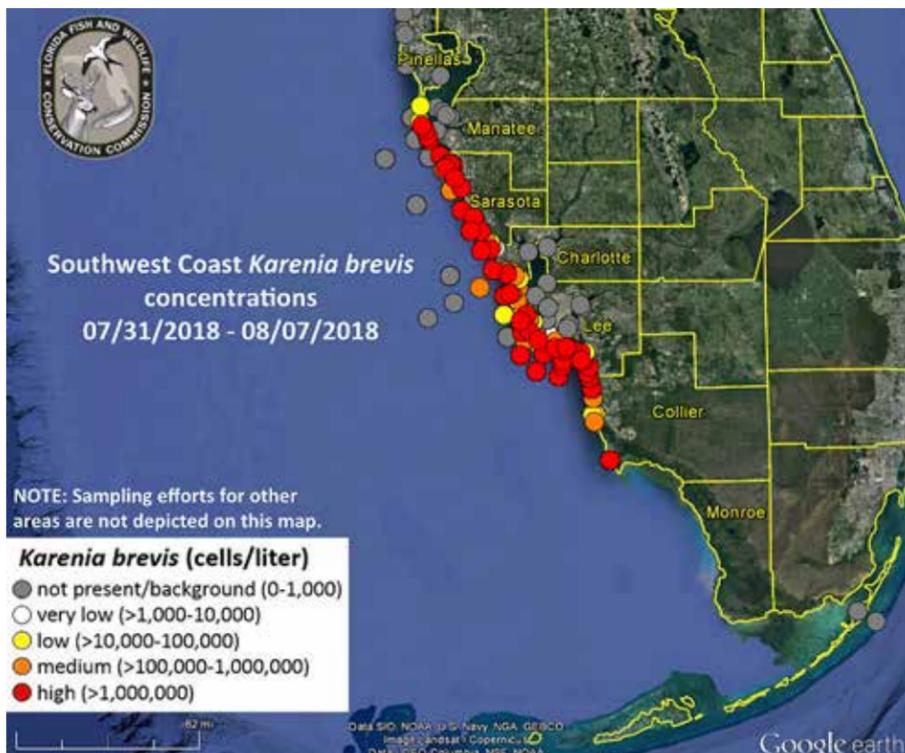
We don't know if the water or the beach sand itself is safe now. No one seems to be testing the beach sand that held all those dead fish and algae. It's green in some areas. Is that sand dangerous? We just don't know. We do know that common sense says that if you see dead fish or green sand on the beach, it's not a good day to be there.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) could help us answer these questions. Florida only needs to ask. So far, they haven't. Nor has our Governor pushed for a federal State of Emergency declaration to assist in algae response and recovery. Might that have something to do with the fact that our Governor is running for Senate and blaming the feds for our water issues? If the feds show up and actually help, that might ruin that campaign narrative. Would an elected official be so callous as to allow an area to suffer without answers to serious health questions just to further his campaign?

These are all critical questions. We need answers. It's time to bring in every federal resource available. People, sea life, jobs, businesses and the primary economic driver of our area, tourism, are all suffering. The time to pull out all the stops has passed.

Send help, now.

Missy Layfield
Editor



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Bob Layfield, Publisher

Publisher@fortmyersbeach.news

Most conversations are simply monologues delivered in the presence of witnesses. Margaret Millar



Missy Layfield, Editor

Editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead. Benjamin Franklin



Mike Buster, Circulation Manager

Info@fortmyersbeach.news

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. Mark Twain



Mark List, Production Manager

Production@fortmyersbeach.news

Whenever people agree with me I always feel I must be wrong. Oscar Wilde



Sarah List, Photographer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old. Edgar Watson Howe



Sandy Sandness, Advertising

info@fortmyersbeach.news

To imagine the unimaginable is the highest use of the imagination. Cynthia Ozick



Gary Mooney, Lead Writer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

Conscience is what makes a boy tell his mother before his sister does. Evan Esar

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The Island Sand Paper encourages all Islanders to submit original articles and photos. Publication is based on space and takes into account relevance and quality. The Sand Paper uses artistic license for humor and to amuse its readers. Nothing contained in this paper is intended to embarrass or offend anyone.

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Fire Board Considers Fee Increase

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

With just three members present for their August work session, the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners discussed a proposed Life Safety Services Fee Schedule and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget updates. Commissioners Ted Schindler, Larry Wood and Bob Raymond were present with Carol Morris and Ron Fleming absent. Vice Chair Schindler chaired the meeting.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Adam Jobbers-Miller a Fort Myers Police Officer killed in the line of duty recently. Several members of the Fire District attended his memorial service held earlier this week.

FEE INCREASE

In recent months the board has discussed the need to hire a new inspector, plan reviewer and administrative aide to handle the plan reviews that Lee County no longer provides for the fire district, as well as the district's backlog of



Fort Myers Beach Ladder Truck 33 is due to be replaced next year.
Photo by M. Layfield.

fire inspections related to the Short-term Rental Life Safety Ordinance. The board has heard options to pay for new Life Safety staff which include increasing fees so those using Life Safety services, pay more for those services so they are subsidized less by district taxpayers. They've also approved a tentative increase in the tax rate from the current 2.5800 to a Truth in Millage (TRIM) rate of 2.6420. The final tax rate will be set during Public Budget Hearings in September. The

final 2018-2019 tax rate can be reduced from the TRIM rate, but not increased as per Florida statute.

Last month Fire Chief Matthew Love explained that fees are critical to funding the Life Safety (Prevention) Division. That division provides property-specific services like inspections and reviews, taking about 75% of their time, with community-wide services taking 25%. Ideally, he explained, funding for those services would be split 75% fees and 25% taxes. However, the

fire district currently funds only 7.5% of Life Safety services via fees and 92.5% from taxes. The proposed fee schedule aims to raise that to 30% from fees and 70% tax-funded. Love explained that the fees, new staffing and tax rate were all interconnected.

Ron Martin, Executive Assistant Fire Chief of Life Safety & Support Services presented the results of his extensive research regarding fees, saying that he found Marco Island Fire Department to be very helpful in sharing their data and experience, as well as most comparable to Fort Myers Beach, though he gathered information from a number of area fire districts.

Martin provided two examples of fire district related fees. One, a \$1,246,000 renovation of a 3500 square foot commercial space would currently face review and inspection fees totaling \$815. If proposed fees are adopted, the same project would pay \$2,766. In Marco Island the fees would be \$3,207 and in the South Trail Fire District \$1,448.

The second example was a complete renovation of a 1500 square foot residential condo. Current review and inspection fees would total \$275, with the proposed fees \$625.75

2018-2019 BUDGET

Finance options for reimbursing district reserves for the cost of Engine 32, recently put into service, and the cost of a new ladder truck were discussed by Finance Director Jane Thompson. She had inquired about the possibility of using a state loan pool and learned the district was not a candidate as it has limited income sources. She also spoke with commercial banks, learning that interest rates are expected to rise over the next 18 months. "If we can accelerate the financing of the ladder truck and combine it with the Engine 32 truck financing," she said, "we'll save on the interest rate on the combination loan of \$1,415,000."

Thompson also learned that the district should have no problem obtaining funding for Station 31, the district's original fire station that faces replacement or rebuilding in the next few years.

Love presented budget options to lower the tax rate. Postponing the debt on a new ladder truck would save \$127,000 but cost the district \$124,000 in additional interest, metal tariff fees and lost discounts. Moving monthly board meetings from Town Hall to the Library would save \$6,300. The board opted to delay funding for a new position for 2 months (\$57,740) and decrease the budget for legal fees by 50% (\$44,675). Combined, the savings would translate into a tax rate decrease of 0.0268 from the TRIM rate, or a rate of 2.6152 (\$261.52 per \$100,000 taxable value).

The board agreed to move the Fire Chief's annual evaluation to May to allow any new board members time to assess the chief's job performance. Three board seats are on the November ballot.

They also agreed to alter the meeting cancellation, job description and super majority vote policies, but an official vote on that was postponed until more board members were present.

The Fire Board will meet next on Tuesday, August 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Beach Library.

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Comp Plan Game-Changer Council Counters LPA Decisions, Cont'd from pg.8

NOT THIS BIG

Under Public Hearings: Council considered a request to reduce a 25-foot setback to a 15-foot setback for a new swimming pool and screen enclosure for 3188 Shell Mound Boulevard, that Town Staff recommended and the LPA unanimously approved at its June 12 meeting.

Gore said the parcel "by right can have a pool, but not this big a pool!" Boback inquired if the homeowner did due diligence prior to the purchase, as the conditions do not seem extraordinary to him, calling this "a serious intrusion into a residential area, so I cannot support this." "He wants to cram in a bunch of stuff in here, with residential all around," agreed Gore "I am worried you will have a blind spot to roadway traffic." Butcher disagreed, saying, "I am inclined to go with the program here, so I don't see a problem." "My concern is this is not a de minimis request," countered Shamp. "A large pool increases the impact on the surrounding neighborhood, it is fair to say they can have a pool; just not as big as they want, as this is not a hardship to them. Perhaps we can pass a variance they can or cannot use, that meets the existing nonconformity to satisfy the applicant." Following additional discussion, Council authorized an 18.8-foot variance that passed 3 to 1, with Boback Against.

In other matters, Council unanimously passed a Red Ribbon Week Proclamation, heard Advisory Committee Reports from the Bay Oaks Recreational Center and the Public Safety Committee, and unanimously approved its Consent Agenda to authorize a \$43,000 Boating Infrastructure Grant Application to upgrade the Matanzas Harbor Mooring Field; proclaimed August as Children's Vision & Learning Month; authorized \$25,000 to Crowder Gulf for Emergency Red Tide Debris Removal; and authorized a contract with Thompson Consulting & Rostan Solutions for Disaster Debris Monitoring by a 3 to 0 vote, with technical difficulties preventing Cerededa from participating.

THE 7 PERCENT SOLUTION

Council removed four items from the Consent Agenda, to individually address these. Under the Town Right-of-Way Resolution, Council passed 4 to 0 an updated version allowing businesses in existence prior to the Town's December 31, 1995, incorporation to continue to use Right-of-Way parking, while updating its Annual Permit Regulations and Fees for those after that date. It passed 4 to 0 Special Event Permits for the First Baptist Farmer's Market every Wednesday from October through May; a private wedding and reception on December 8 for Mound House and Newton Park rentals; and the Santini Farmer's Market every Tuesday and Thursday from October through April. Under the Administrative Agenda, Council approved 4 to 0 the

previously-scheduled 7% Water Rate Increase for the Town's drinking water line replacement, with Town Manager Roger Hernstadt commenting that "for an average waterbill, this equates to roughly a \$5-per-month increase." Under Town Manager Items, Mayor Gore and Hernstadt discussed the water quality crisis, and steps they and the Town are taking regarding the situation, including recommending the passage of a Town of Fort Myers Beach Local State of Emergency, details that appear in a related article in this edition of The Island Sand Paper, as well as confirming the Council's Meeting Schedule for the balance of 2018. Under Town Council Member Items, Council discussed an improved method to remove property liens, once homeowners pay the appropriate fines, to ensure prompt real estate transactions, with the meeting adjourning at 2:18 p.m.

Bay Harbour Hearing, Cont'd from pg.7



Aerial view of proposed Bay Harbour Marina Village. Courtesy of Lee County.

tourism is everything. You get a \$500 ticket for speeding in a No Wake Zone, yet they allow these conditions to occur, and that makes no sense, so I am hopeful that long-term solutions are already in the works."

Mayher said he hopes that "our public hearings will be

done by the end of 2018, that we will break ground in the fourth quarter of 2019, and open by Summer 2021, just shortly after Margaritaville. Together we will transform Fort Myers Beach and San Carlos Island into a gleaming new tourism mecca!"

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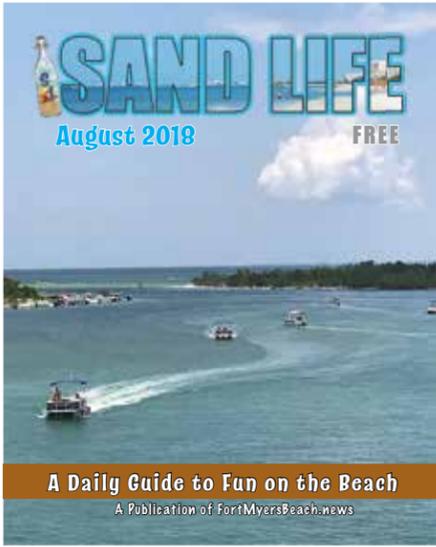


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AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND



OSTEGO BAY VOLUNTEERS

Ostego Bay Foundation invites all adults over 18 who are interested in volunteering at the Marine Science Center to attend a volunteer buffet dinner on TU Aug 21 from 6-8pm at Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café. Learn about the Science Center and the volunteer opportunities available. Everyone welcome. No need to have a background in marine biology. Volunteer opportunities include front desk, gift shop, tour guides, aquarium maintenance, curators and more. Space is limited and reservations required. Call Volunteer Coordinator Dan at 239-425-7914.

RENEE'S CLOSET

A new school year has begun for Beach Elementary School. It's time to fill 'Renee's Closet' with all those things that students will need but their families may not be able to provide during this school year. Needed are children's size socks & underwear, also gift cards for Walmart and Target and of course checks made out to Beach Elementary School. Donations may be dropped off at the school or mailed to Renee's Closet, Beach School, 2751 Oak Street, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.

YOGA

The FMB Woman's Club is now hosting a Yoga Flow class every WE morning from 8-9am. Open to all. Bring a mat, plus towel, water, block and strap if desired. \$8 members; \$10 non-members.

POOL FUN

The Fort Myers Beach Community Pool is open 7 days a week from 10am-6pm. The pool is a great place to cool off on hot summer days for a nominal fee. The pool offers 7,000 square feet of cool, clear water, a lap pool with accessible lift, a shallow family pool with play structure and plenty of shade. A Water Aerobics class is held every MO, WE & FR at 9am.

ICE CREAM CONTEST

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida has announced the third annual ice cream "Flavor Event" at Royal Scoop, 2307 Estero Blvd, FMB on SA Aug 18 from noon-6pm. Three wish children finalists have created special flavors for the public to taste and vote on: Lala's Dream, Java Jitter and Chocولاتenator. Fifty percent of all ice cream sales that day will benefit Make-A-Wish. The winning flavor will be featured at the FMB Royal Scoop for a full year with 50% of its sales benefiting Make-A-Wish. Make plans to be there for this Ice Cream Flavor Event!

TALENT SEARCH

Creative Minds Records (CMR), a Fort Myers indie record label is hosting a CMR Talent Search Show on September 18 at approximately 7pm at Broadway Palm Theatre. Enter for a chance to win \$2500 plus a chance to sign a record deal. Artists may register and send a demo to CMRTalentSearch.com or call 239-980-5674. Submissions must be

received by midnight September 8. Artists selected to participate in the show will be notified by September 11. Attendance at the Sept 18 show is open to the public for \$10/ticket. Fundraising efforts will benefit The Lewis P. Tabarrini Children's Music Outreach Foundation.

BRIDGE

The Woman's Club of FMB invites all bridge players to join them every TU & FR from 9:30am to 2:30pm for a day of social bridge. Players rotate throughout the day competing in six rounds. Bring a bagged lunch and enjoy good company and great bridge. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/members. Proceeds support community activities.

WATER QUALITY LINKS

Lee VCB: <http://bit.ly/LeeRT>
SCCF Reports: recon.sccf.org
Lee County Algae Status: leegov.com/waterqualityinfo

TRILLIUM PIANO TRIO

Founded in 2003, the Trillium Piano Trio has been inspiring the local musical community for over a decade. Even if you don't know much about classical music, the trio's highly personal approach to their performance includes a signature talk that explains the stories behind each piece. TH Aug 16 at 7pm at Shell Point Retirement Community in the Grand Cypress Room. \$21. Call 239-454-2067 for tickets and information.

HANDS ALONG THE WATER

Fort Myers Beach Pier will be the site of a Hands Along the Water event on SU Aug 12 at 10am. Begun as a Facebook event with an emphasis on a peaceful gathering, this is NOT a protest or rally. Local events are planned on both the east and west Florida coast. The event is one of many along the Florida coast that day to show peaceful solidarity in defense of clean water and wildlife. Gather at the pier at 10am. At 10:15, for 15 min. participants will stand along the beach and link hands. Participants are urged to wear a mask if concerned about their health/immune system, wear shoes and a blue shirt. Do not bring signs/banners of any kind or pets. For more information search Facebook for Hands Along the Water Fort Myers Beach.

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AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND

FUNDRAISER FAMILY OF FM OFFICER

Recently Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller of the Fort Myers Police Dept. lost his life while serving as a police officer. The Nauti Parrot Dock Bar will hold a fundraiser for his family every Tuesday in August from 7-10pm during their Drag Queen bingo game. A Go Fund Me page, Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller Fund is also accepting donations.

FUNDRAISER CAPTAINS FOR CLEAN WATER

Parrot Key Caribbean Grill has created a tasty fundraiser to support Captains for Clean Water – a special cocktail called “Fish Kill” – 100% of sales will be donated. The cocktail will be available through the month of August.

ART GALLERY

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association Gallery is located at the corner of Donora and Shell Mound. (3030 Shell Mound Blvd.) The Summer Art Show is currently on display. Free admission. Gallery Hours: WE & TH 9am-noon. 239-463-3909. www.fortmyersbeachart.com.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Town of Fort Myers Beach seeks interested volunteers to serve on eight advisory committees that serve to advise Town Council: Anchorage Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board, Community Resource Advisory Board, Cultural & Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board, Local Planning Agency, Marine Resources Task Force and Public Safety Committee. If you'd like to get involved in our Town, you are invited to submit an Advisory Committee Application Form to the Town Clerk, either in person or by email

by 4:30pm Sept 7. Town Council will consider applications at their October 1 meeting. Find more information on what each committee does and the application form on the Town's website FMBgov.com under News > Calling All Islanders or via direct link: bit.ly/FMBadvisory

BEACH LIBRARY

The Fort Myers Beach Library is a great place to visit. Browse the library's many collections, use the computers, visit the Friends Used Bookstore or the artwork on the 3rd floor. The Library is open MO-FR 9am-5pm and SA 9am-1pm. 239-765-8162. Upcoming programs include:

TU Aug 14, 2:15-3:15pm, Dog Day, pre-register

WE Aug 15, 10:30am, Windows 10, pre-register

TU Aug 21, 10:30am, Book Discussion “The Lying Game” by Ruth Ware

TU Aug 28, 10:30am, Old Time Radio, pre-register

MOUND HOUSE

The oldest standing structure on Fort Myers Beach with a historical museum inside and beautiful grounds outside including an observation pier, kayak launch and amazing back bay views. Grounds open sunrise to sunset. Museum is open TU, WE & SA from 9am-4pm. Located at 451 Connecticut St. with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Call for exact times on kayak tours, costs, reservations and additional information. 239-765-0865. Upcoming programs include:

SA Aug 11–6:30am Sunrise Kayak Tour; 10am - Exploring Archeology; Can You Dig It?; 11am & 2pm – Shell Mound Tour; 1pm – Guided Tour

TU Aug 14 – 9am – Beach Walk

at Newton Park (beach conditions permitting); 1pm - Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Tour

WE Aug 15 –1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Tour

SA Aug 18 –1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Tour

TU Aug 21 – 9am – Beach Walk at Newton Park (beach conditions permitting); 1pm - Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – 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 Aug 17 – Walk on the Wild Side

FR Aug 24 – Bike Tour

Fr Aug 31 – Kayak Tour



FORT MYERS BEACH	
NESTS.....	66
FALSE CRAWLS...	148
HATCHED.....	29
BONITA SPRINGS	
NESTS.....	202
FALSE CRAWLS..	191
HATCHED	84

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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Date	Time	Meeting
Tuesday, 8/14	8:00am	Mosquito Board, 300 Lazy Way, FMB
	9:00am	Local Planning Agency
	3:00pm	Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB)

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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Council Reacts to Water Crisis Algae Outbreaks “Far From Natural”

Cont'd from pg.1



Dead fish continue to wash up on the beach. Crews pick up red drift algae and dead fish this week. Photo taken August 8 at Donora Blvd.

er Hernstadt stated that the Town in late July waived the Fort Myers Beach Community Pool admission fees, “because beach visitors and locals who couldn’t use the beach due to the heavy equipment necessary to clean it could go to enjoy the water in comfort, as a good alternative. Now, however, beach conditions are returning to normal, so we need to return to our regular pricing, as the pool is a revenue source, with Wednesday, August 8, being the last free day.”

FROM FLORIDA TO WYOMING

“We need to stop back-pumping polluted water into Lake Okeechobee right now,” said Council member Bruce Butcher. “Somebody needs to carry that message.” Mayor Gore said it is imperative that people who visit Southwest Florida contact their local representatives. “There are 535 people in Congress, so if you are from Ohio or Michigan or Idaho, you need to tell your congressman that this is a priority at a Federal level. If you visit here from Wyoming, get your local person to join the Florida congressmen to do something.” “When I see children out there, I get so worried about their health and the government needs to take action,” said Shamp. “This is beyond my comprehension; I am so angry.”

As Gore and Shamp made their comments, their voices broke with emotion, with Gore sighing in exasperation: “I just don’t know how we got to this level. I don’t know what else we can do; we can sign a million resolutions, but someone

needs to act at a higher level.” “We need a short and long-term hit list of actions,” said Butcher. “You can write your congressman all day, but the permanent solutions are 10 to 15 years down the road. To me, the C-43 Reservoir under construction is nothing but a big holding tank for algae, and when it turns from blue-green to purple, they will just release it down the Caloosahatchee River.”

“If this was a steel factory,” added Shamp, “and they pumped it into a lake, we would shut the factory down, but because it is not an industry like that, violators can backload pollutants into any body of water, so someone needs to say to them, ‘stop it – just stop it!’” Butcher added, “Our best solution is at the ballot box. Make sure we do not put anyone with connections to Big Sugar in the Governor or Agriculture Commissioner chairs this fall!” Council member Dennis Boback said, “They all take Big Sugar money!”

BULL SUGAR

“There are many voters who are looking for Florida candidates who support water quality for this August and November elections,” said Rae Ann Wessel, the Natural Resources Policy Director of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. “I refer them to a terrific website called www.bull-sugar.org/vote2018. It is set up in a cool way and they do a nice job with it! It has a great graphic where you can see checkmarks next to the terms “Democrat,” “Republican,” and “Water,” like on a ballot, with the check next to “Water.” It



Algae-green colored sand on the beach August 8 at Donora Blvd.

offers easy-to-understand advice for both Democrat and Republican candidates on various water issues for Governor, Attorney General, and Agriculture Commissioner, including those who are ‘sugar free,’ and will include Independent candidates once the closed primaries are over. They are one group that tries to assist voters in tracking down the sugar money, as campaign finance laws today allow contributions to flow through association industries or entities like the Florida Chamber of Commerce to candidates, so you can’t track it back to sugar, so this is a helpful guide.”

Wessel encouraged “turning up the pressure on those in or running for office, with in-depth

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Council Reacts to Water Crisis Algae Outbreaks “Far From Natural”

Cont'd from previous pg.



On Tuesday, August 7, the beach at the Pier had scant red drift algae, no visible dead fish and a few swimmers.

and stormwater requirements, and provide those answers to you on the campaign trail, and don't let them walk away until you get those answers.”

She reminded, “This is primarily a State of Florida responsibility, as the Federal Government through the Clean Water Act places the rules and regulations and stormwater initiatives and water treatment plans under the states, and all Florida has done over the past few years is roll back every layer of protection. As such, Florida should be concentrating on prevention, as cleaning up water takes up a lot of taxpayer time and money, and is horrible for the public health and our economy.”

EAA WATER FARMS

“We can clean the beaches and make them look great again,” Wessel continued, “but we just don't know the long-term health ramifications, as toxins can be in the sand for long periods of time. I would like to see us disperse Lake Okeechobee water over the 484,000 acres south of the lake. We pay willing landowners to hold water on their land, and keep it out from where we do not want it, to retain it at its maximum level, so the time has come to ask the government to start doing this on a large scale, to develop water farms in a big way in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), rather than paying for crop insurance and all that goes with that, rather than spending a lot of money cleaning up all this mess. In growing sugar cane, we have lost 9 to 25 inches of soil since the 1940s, as those farmers pump water underground 18 inches to grow it, so that type of agricul-

ture is horrible for the environment in ways that are independent of the water crisis, so ask office holders and candidates about the benefits of water farming in the EAA, and tell them that you support that.”

In the past three weeks, Wessel sees mixed results in the area's water quality. “In our simple scale of 1 to 10, with 1 the best and 10 the worst, I said back then that we were between an 8 or 9. For the blue-green Algae in the main stem of the Caloosahatchee River, I would actually say that we have seen an improvement up to a 3 or 4, though the cyanobacteria blooms in places like the backwaters and Cape Coral canals are still horrific, and there remains outbreaks as far west as the Sanibel Causeway and Back Bay. The Red Tide bloom, however, remains as bad or worse, definitely in the 8 to 9 category, though we have yet to receive the latest updates for this week.”

Wessel explained that “Lee County and Cape Coral are now working with contractors, to use suction trucks to pull out the blue-green Algae from the most polluted waterways, though the results remain uncertain, particularly over how these companies will dispose of the algae, as that is still an uncertain process. One theory is they will pump it into deep injection wells, down into the boulder layer, or they will clean the water, then bury the remaining material into landfills, and neither of those seem to be perfect solutions, and I don't understand why they do not consider incineration, so we will have to wait to see how that plays out, as at this point there is no definitive answer. That is the problem when you deal with situations like this on an emergency basis; you take ac-



Dead fish and clumps of algae float in a Fairview Isles canal this week.

questions about who is allowing backpumping and why, as the fact of the matter is that this does not seem to be happening in this crucial political cycle. We need to know why politicians do not hold agriculture up to the same stormwater standards as they do urban environments, why agriculture can get away with simply signing a Best Management Practices document and operate under the assumption they are regulating their industry safely, and why agriculture can fill up to 80% of the available storage area with polluted nutrient water, in taxpayer-funded facilities that require additional taxpayer dollars to clean up, and all of that spells trouble. We need candidates and elected officials who will pass and enforce water quality regulations

tions where you don't know the final consequences, because you need to do something fast for the general health and welfare of the population.”

Despite any recent improvements, Wessel described the Red Tide conditions adjacent to the islands as “gagworthy and tragic! It is frustrating as well, especially when you hear environmental organizations like the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Health describe the Red Tide bloom as a natural occurrence, when a bloom of this length, magnitude, and severity is anything but natural. No one in their right minds should be describing it that way – this is far from natural!”

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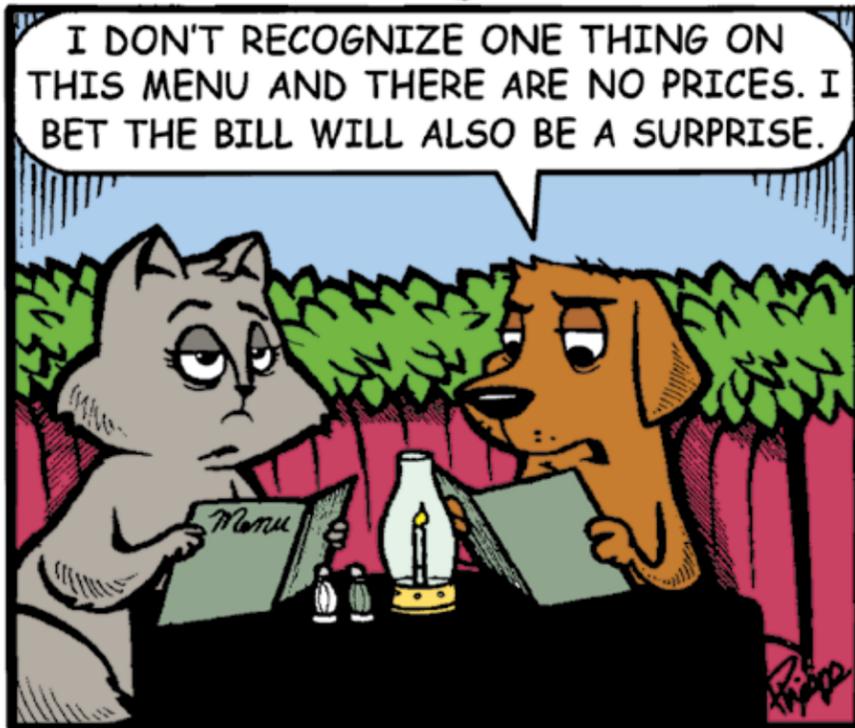


Funnies Page



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



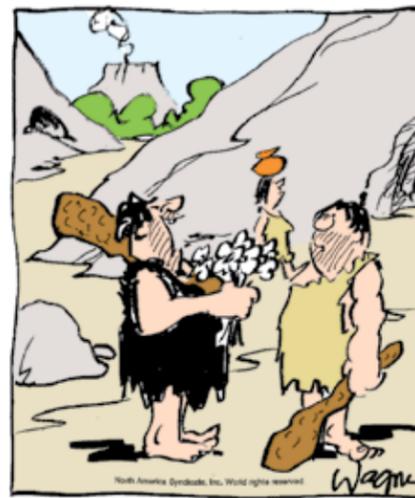
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



GRIN like BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY



"Nothing says 'ugh' like flowers!"



"I've got a hot tip for you on something that's been rising steadily all week!"

Just Wondering about stuff...

A total naked woman rushed in a taxi. The taxi driver turned back and stared at her so keenly. The woman asked the taxi driver, "Why are you staring at me that way, haven't you ever seen a naked woman?" The taxi driver replied, "No, I just wonder where you have my money."

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any..

My memory has gotten so bad it has actually caused me to lose my job. I'm still employed. I just can't remember where.

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Funnies Page



COMMUNITY COMICS

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COMICS

Each week I draw a cartoon and put it up on my FB page (Mark List) on Saturday morning, and ask all my FB friends to contribute captions for the cartoon. I also ask that everyone vote for the ones they think are the funniest. The ones with the most Likes by Monday or Tuesday get printed in the funnies pages that week. We do it simply for the fun of it.



"Poor Jerry!! From being fired at Ringling Brothers to four X's on America's Got Talent and now a street entertainer in Times Square, he just needs to accept that his bird and dead fish juggling act stinks."

Eric M. Huntsman

You are right, Hilda! He is a birdbrain."

David Sidler

"Look at him over there.....he's been collecting fish all day and "relocating" to the area pools.....I don't think that's the way to save them.... Well, he's trying!"

VickiLou Greenling

"We don't need no steenking bait! We got steenking water!"

Mike Popeye Dearden

"I got a bird and a fish, how much?"

John Allender

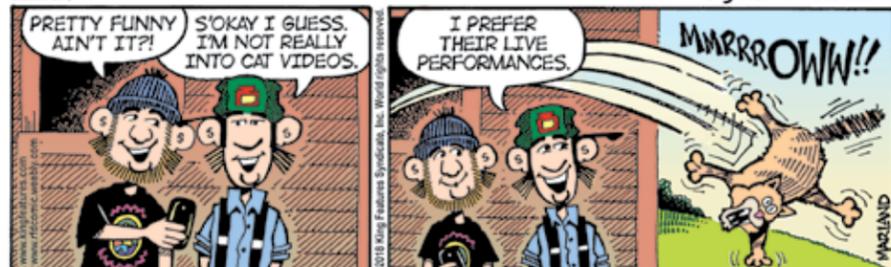
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



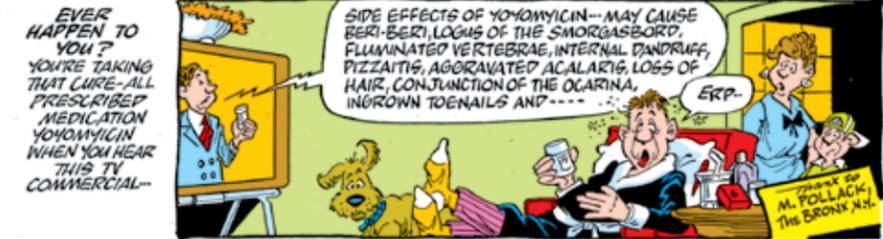
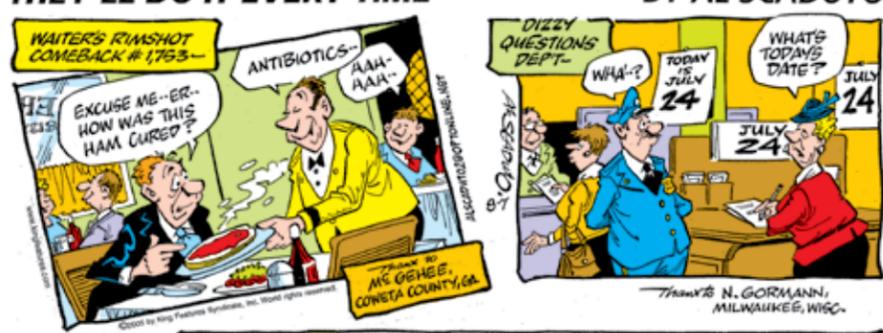
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



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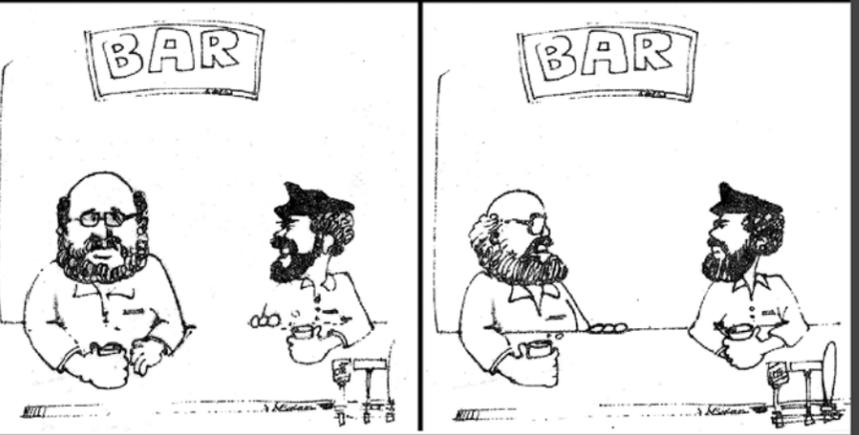
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Super Crossword

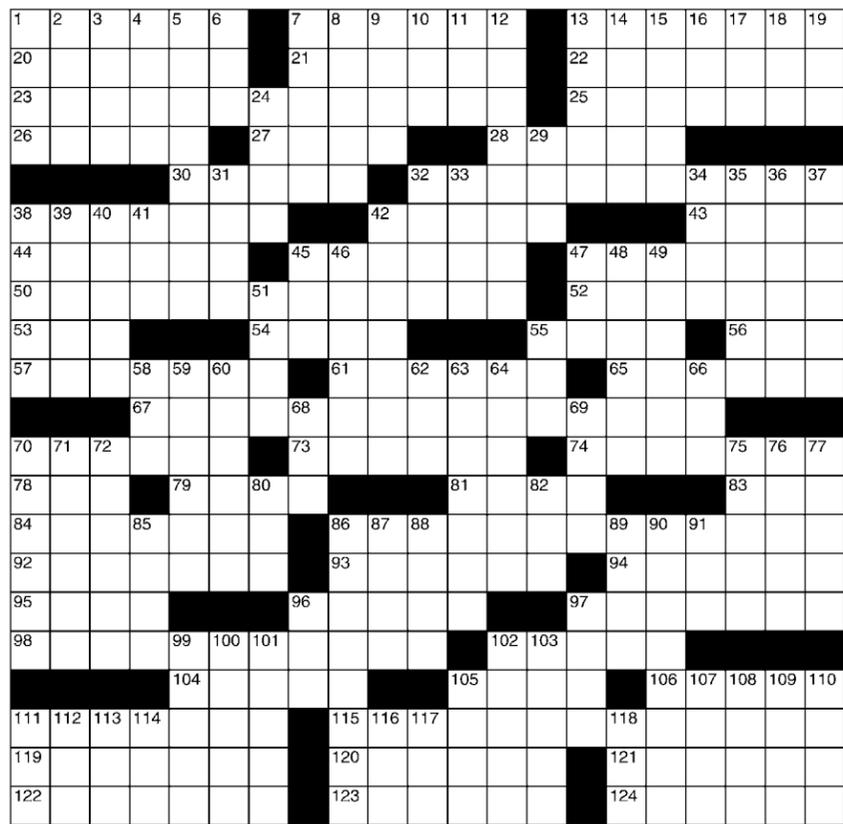
SEEING THINGS

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Brand of taco shells | 1 Sea menace | 85 Its capital is Vientiane | 1 Sea menace |
| 7 Serapes, e.g. | 2 Big crucifix | 86 Puts on a new course | 2 Big crucifix |
| 13 Holders of strike signs | 3 Take care of | 87 Actor Close | 3 Take care of |
| 20 Film critic Richard | 4 Sword sort | 88 Cal — | 4 Sword sort |
| 21 Social outcast | 5 1936-52 | 89 Big star, say | 5 1936-52 |
| 22 Be given via will | 6 "Woof!" kin | 90 Picture of an ocean view | 6 "Woof!" kin |
| 23 "Get Smart" device for a secret conversation | 7 Mace, e.g. | 91 Mac rivals | 7 Mace, e.g. |
| 25 All excited | 8 Recital sites | 96 String after B | 8 Recital sites |
| 26 One using a plus sign | 9 Locale | 97 Track beams | 9 Locale |
| 27 Rose Bowl sch. | 10 Finish at #1 | 99 — Polo | 10 Finish at #1 |
| 28 Mario Lanza, for one | 11 Body of eau | 100 Cow's milk source | 11 Body of eau |
| 30 Hands over | 12 Kind of pony or sheepdog | 101 Gets higher | 12 Kind of pony or sheepdog |
| 32 Classmate | 13 Keyboard instrument | 102 Wage recipient | 13 Keyboard instrument |
| 38 People swearing | 14 Being pulled | 103 At the ready | 14 Being pulled |
| 42 Actress Reid and skater Lipinski | 15 Bird's sound | 105 Unit of heredity | 15 Bird's sound |
| 43 Barrett of gossip columns | 16 Actor Wahl | 107 State boldly | 16 Actor Wahl |
| 44 1990s IBM computer | 17 Unit of work drop" | 108 Old Briton | 17 Unit of work drop" |
| | 18 "Shop — you drop" | 109 Hawaii County seat | 18 "Shop — you drop" |
| | 19 — Jeanne d'Arc: Abbr. | 110 Rival school of Harrow | 19 — Jeanne d'Arc: Abbr. |
| | 24 RAV4s, e.g. | 111 Not fore | 24 RAV4s, e.g. |
| | 29 Golf's Ernie | 112 "Bah!" | 29 Golf's Ernie |
| | 31 Persia, now | 113 Groupie, e.g. | 31 Persia, now |
| | 32 See | 114 Come- (skills) | 32 See |
| | 123-Across | 116 Sombrero, for example | 123-Across |
| | 33 As a result | 117 Be wrong | 33 As a result |
| | 34 "Mila 18" author Leon | 118 Sci-fi's Solo | 34 "Mila 18" author Leon |
| | 35 USPS part | | 35 USPS part |
| | 36 Unbroken | | 36 Unbroken |
| | 37 Damsels | | 37 Damsels |
| | 38 — pall over | | 38 — pall over |

BARSIDE (George)



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.



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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: F equals A

NK AQNMUKAMZ LUSTUFV SQ
 ZGAXG NGM TPMDND NUFFVFNAOM
 FQW XSQISPQW LMSLHM:
 "IFOM NGM QFNASQ."

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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

Blob

GLUEB

Notable

TELAINS

Bloom

LOFTER

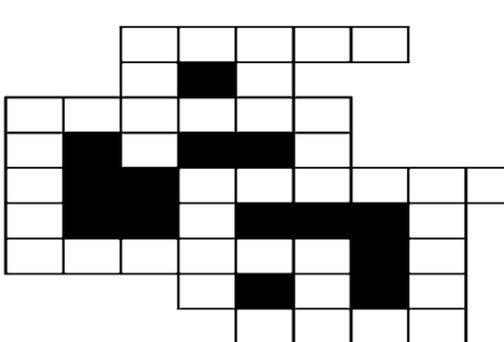
Shy

TOMEDS

TODAY'S WORD

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

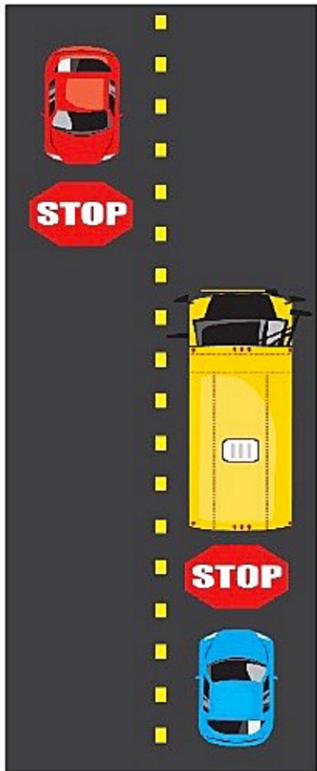
ILD
 WADOME
 TAYPE
 ♥ENWA
 MALGOB
 AOG
 DYOB
 MAGEL
 NWI
 PENDBA
 WOGLA
 MOPP



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. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

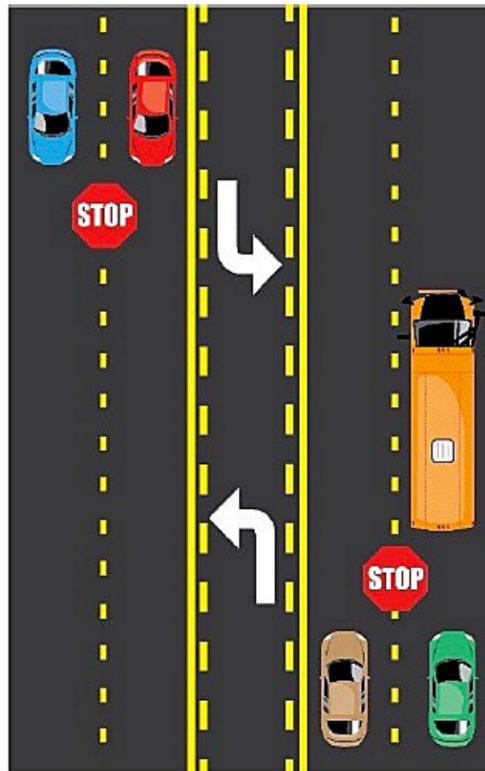
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WATCH FOR SCHOOL BUSES!



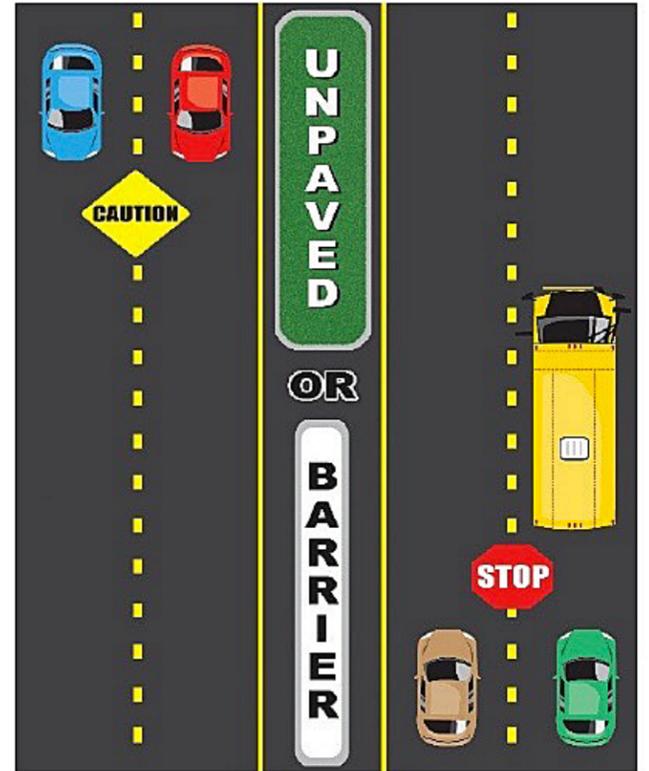
2 LANE HIGHWAY

Drivers moving in either direction **must** stop for a stopped school bus picking up or dropping off children and remain so until all children are clear of the roadway and the stop arm is withdrawn.



DIVIDED HIGHWAY

Painted lines or pavement markings **are not** considered barriers (unpaved median at least five feet wide or raised barrier). Drivers moving in either direction must stop for a stopped school bus and remain so until all children are clear of the roadway and the stop arm is withdrawn.



MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY

When a school bus stops to unload children on a four-lane roadway **divided by a raised concrete barrier or unpaved median at least five feet wide**, only vehicles traveling in the **same** direction as the school bus are required to stop and remain so until all children are clear of the roadway and the stop arm is withdrawn.

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Tides • Matanzas Pass • Ft. Myers Beach

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise /Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
F	10 High	2:16 AM	2.0	6:58 AM	Rise 5:57 AM	3
	10 Low	5:11 AM	1.7	8:08 PM	Set 7:45 PM	
	10 High	12:10 PM	3.7			
	10 Low	7:34 PM	-0.2			
Sa	11 High	2:47 AM	2.0	6:58 AM	Rise 7:05 AM	0
	11 Low	6:08 AM	1.6	8:08 PM	Set 8:37 PM	
	11 High	1:04 PM	3.7			
	11 Low	8:16 PM	-0.1			
Su	12 High	3:14 AM	2.1	6:59 AM	Rise 8:12 AM	0
	12 Low	7:04 AM	1.5	8:07 PM	Set 9:23 PM	
	12 High	1:57 PM	3.5			
	12 Low	8:55 PM	0.0			
M	13 High	3:39 AM	2.1	6:59 AM	Rise 9:17 AM	2
	13 Low	8:00 AM	1.2	8:06 PM	Set 10:06 PM	
	13 High	2:49 PM	3.3			
	13 Low	9:30 PM	0.4			
Tu	14 High	4:05 AM	2.3	7:00 AM	Rise 10:20 AM	8
	14 Low	8:59 AM	1.1	8:05 PM	Set 10:47 PM	
	14 High	3:42 PM	3.0			
	14 Low	10:04 PM	0.6			
W	15 High	4:33 AM	2.4	7:00 AM	Rise 11:21 AM	15
	15 Low	10:02 AM	1.1	8:04 PM	Set 11:26 PM	
	15 High	4:40 PM	2.7			
	15 Low	10:36 PM	1.0			
Th	16 High	5:05 AM	2.6	7:01 AM	Rise 12:19 PM	24
	16 Low	11:11 AM	1.0	8:03 PM		
	16 High	5:47 PM	2.3			
	16 Low	11:09 PM	1.2			
F	17 High	5:43 AM	2.7	7:01 AM	Set 12:05 AM	34
	17 Low	12:27 PM	0.9	8:03 PM	Rise 1:16 PM	
	17 High	7:13 PM	2.1			
	17 Low	11:44 PM	1.5			

BEACH CLASSIFIEDS

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\$60 / 4 WEEKS
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Do Your Part Support Water Quality

1. Make water quality a part of your daily conversation this election year.
2. Ask candidates if they support stronger water quality standards and what they'd do to raise standards and represent the public's interest in clean water.
3. Limit your own fertilizer use in yards and gardens.
4. Plant native landscapes, reduce turf and the use of fertilizers.
5. Pick up after pets.
6. Contact your elected representatives and let them know that water quality is an important issue to you. Florida needs to update water standards for everyone. A single call or email might not seem like it would make a difference, but when they get hundreds of calls and emails, it does.

Governor Rick Scott,
rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com; 850-488-7146

FLORIDA SENATORS FOR LEE COUNTY:
Lizbeth Benacquisto, 239-338-2570
Kathleen Passidomo, 239-417-6205
Denise Grimsley, 863-386-6016

FLORIDA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES FOR LEE COUNTY:
Ray Rodrigues, 239-433-6501
Dane Eagle, 239-772-1291
Heather Fitzenhagen, 239-533-2440
Matt Caldwell, 239-694-0161

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, 202-224-5274
U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041
U.S. Representative Francis Rooney, 239-573-5837

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)
Col. Jason Kirk, District Commander
Jason.a.kirk@usace.army.mil
Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds, Deputy District Commander
Jennifer.a.reynolds@usace.army.mil

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
Ernie Marks, Executive Director emarks@sfwmd.gov
Federico Fernandez, Governing Board Chair
fefernan@sfwmd.gov
Rick Barber, Local Governing Board Rep rbarber@sfwmd.gov
Jaime Weisinger, Local Governing Board Rep
jweisinger@sfwmd.gov

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FORMULA SCANIA INTERLUX FISCHER PANDA

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End of Summer Bash



Lee County Schools resumed classes Friday, August 10. A week earlier, on August 3, beach kids gathered at Bay Oaks for the End of Summer Bash to give their carefree days of summer vacation a wet and wild sendoff. There was plenty of water fun, plus a slip & slide, games and free ice cream courtesy of Love Boat. The Bash was sponsored by the Town of Fort Myers Beach Parks & Recreation Department. *Photos Sarah List*



Moose on the Loose



A whole herd of them! The Fort Myers Beach Moose Lodge #964 brought 1,000 stuffed Tommy Moose to the Golisano Children's Hospital on Wednesday, August 8. Tommy Moose was originally created to provide hospitalized children with something to hold on to for comfort during their hospital stays. This generous donation provides a supply for current and future patients. Also making an appearance was a 10-foot tall inflatable moose. Armando Llechu, Golisano Children's Hospital Chief Administrative Officer accepted the donation from a large contingent of FMB Moose members, including Ed Connor, Moose Lodge #964 Administrator. *Photos Bob Layfield*



Beach Theater

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6425 Estero Blvd.
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(239) 765-9000
www.FMBtheater.com

The Meg!!

Showing in 3D at 8:30pm for just \$13.00

Starts on **Friday August 10**

Doors open at 2:00 PM.



The Meg
[PG-13] 3:00 6:00 (8:30 3D)

After escaping an attack by what he claims was a 70-foot shark, Jonas Taylor must confront his fears to save those trapped in a sunken submersible.

Starring: Jason Statham



Mission: Impossible - Fallout
[PG-13] 2:30 5:30 8:30

The best intentions often come back to haunt you. MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - FALLOUT finds Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his IMF team (Alec Baldwin, Simon Pegg, Ving Rhames) along with some familiar allies in a race against time after a mission gone wrong.

Starring: Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin and Simon Pegg



The Spy Who Dumped Me
[R] 3:45 6:30 9:00

Audrey and Morgan are best friends who unwittingly become entangled in an international conspiracy when one of the women discovers the boyfriend who dumped her was actually a spy.

Starring: Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon



Christopher Robin
[PG] 3:15 6:00 8:15

A working-class family man, Christopher Robin, encounters his childhood friend Winnie-the-Pooh, who helps him to rediscover the joys of life.

Starring: Ewan McGregor and Haley Atwell

Ticket Prices: - Matinee - \$9.50 (\$11.50 3D) - Adult - \$12.00 (\$13.00 3D) - Senior (65) & Child (12 and under- \$9.50 (\$11.50 3D)

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

WHO'S PLAYING WHERE ON AND AROUND THE BEACH

CLUB	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
BEACHED WHALE 1249 Estero Blvd 463-5505	STEVE FARST 6-9PM	RICH LANCASTER 6-9PM	TOMMY V 6-9PM			ROGER YOUNG 6-9PM	TYLER KLUSNER 6-9PM
CASTAWAYS Santini Marina Plaza 463-4644	RESTLESS FIRE 8-MIDNIGHT	WAYWARDS SOULS 8-MIDNIGHT					ELECTRIC LIPSTICK 8-MIDNIGHT
COTTAGE Gulfshore Grill 765-5440	STEVE FARST TRIO 9PM-1AM	3 CROOKED STEPS 9-1AM	TROUBLEMAKERS 9-1PM	3 CROOKED STEPS 9PM-1AM	BAD BANDITOS 9PM-1AM	STEVE FARST BAND 9PM-1AM	THE NEW VINYLs 9PM-1AM
DIXIE FISH CO. Fisherman's Wharf 233-8837	MARK WESLEY 5:30PM-9:30PM	SOME LITTLE FISH 5:30PM-9:30PM	GIRL MEETS BOY 4PM		TEQUILA TOM 5:30PM	JEFF LYONS 5:30-8:30PM	BOBBY BLAKEY 5:30PM
DOC FORDS 708 Fishermans Whf. 765-9660	3 CROOKED STEPS 6:30-9:30	HIGH VOLTAGE 6:30PM	NeXX LEVEL 1-4PM			GIRL MEETS BOY 6:30-9:30PM	HIGH VOLTAGE 6:30-9:30PM
MATANZAS on the BAY 414 Crescent 463-3838	DANIEL D 5-9PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 12-5PM MARY WINNER 5-9PM	DONNA LEE HOLMAN 12-5PM SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 5-9PM	SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	PETE BEARD 5-9PM	MARY WINNER 5-9PM
NAUTI PARROT 19001 San Carlos Blvd 314-5667	JENNY 1-5 CJ & FRIENDS 6-10PM	ROB BASSIST 1-5PM HIPPIY SALAD 6-9PM	CLIVE LIVE 1-5PM MIKE O'NEIL 5:30-9:30PM	BRIAN MARKLEY 5-9 MUSIC MOONDAYS 9-2AM	PETER 1-5PM DRAG QUEEN BINGO 7-10PM	JEFF WHILBY 1-5PM PHIL OXFORD 5:30-9:30PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 1-5PM MOTOWN MAGIC 5:30-9:30PM
NERVOUS NELLIES 1131 1st St 463-8077	KEVON 6-10PM	KEVON 12-4pm SHAWN "HUSTLE" RUSSELL 6-10PM	SMOKIN BILL 12-4PM HIGH TIDE 6-10PM	JOE JOHNSON 6-10	SMOKIN BILL 6-10PM	MICHAEL ANTOINE 6-10PM	RaSHIMBA BLOOM 6-10PM
OUTRIGGER 6200 Estero Blvd 463-3131	ALAN SMALL 5-8	MEAGAN ROSE & SMOKIN' BILL 2-5PM	PRINCESS & 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			DANIEL D 6-10PM	DAVE ROJAS 6-10PM	AARON SEYFFERTH 6-10PM	DAVE COLLATON 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 SHERRIN 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
SALTY CRAB 1154 Estero Blvd 233-8224	ANTHONY WAYNE 12-4 SHEENA BROOK 4:30-8:30PM	AWESOMESAUCE 1-5PM AARON SEYFFERTH 6-9PM					JEFF GREENE 1-5PM
SHARK BAR & GRILL 17979 San Carlos Blvd 313-6012	CLOSED	MOVING	CLOSED	MOVING	CLOSED	MOVING	BRENDA'S KARAOKE 7-10PM
SOBs Old San Carlos Blvs 463-3474	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	LEE HAGAN 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 6-10	SHAWN RUSSELL 6-10
SUNSET BEACH FMB TIMES SQUARE 463-1028	BARRY LAWRENCE 8-12PM	JENNY V 2-5PM	BARRY LAWRENCE 1-5PM		CLIVE LIVE 8PM		ACOUSTIC FIRE 8-11PM

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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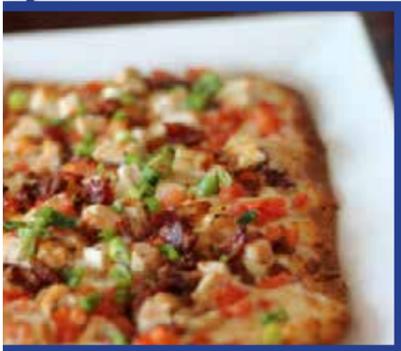
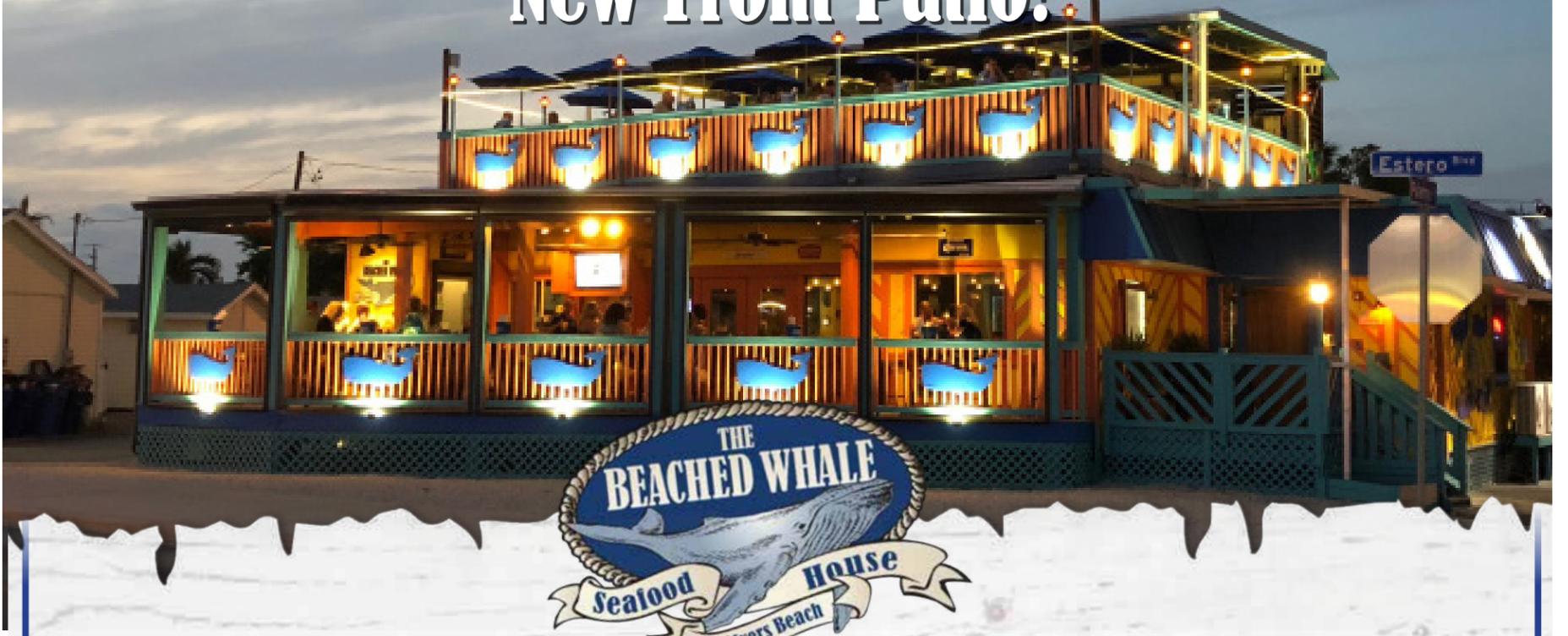
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