**Alliance Fundraiser Saturday Night**

Get up close and personal with the power of artistic expression during the Alliance for the Arts’ Alliance Decadence: Void to Vision – A Night of Revelry Celebrating the Power of Art this Saturday, September 22 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at Marcus Jansen’s Unit A Contemporary Art Space at 1922 Evans Avenue in downtown Fort Myers.

The night will be filled with music from the eclectic Fort Myers band Mixed Accompany, and urban beats and music videos from Zamazing VJ. Chef Brian Roland and Sommelier Rose O’Dell King will provide creative urban cuisine and wine pairings. Chocolatier Norman Love will top it off with a chocolate dessert finale. Attendees should come ready for a street party.

There will be a number of items up for auction including original works by Jansen paired with fine wines, a Norman Love interactive sculpture created during the event, and many other items.

**Dueling Geniuses At Lab Theater**

Steve Martin is famous for saying he is a wild and crazy guy, so it comes as no surprise that his play *Picasso At The Lapin Agile* is a wild and crazy comedy. It’s playing now at Laboratory Theater of Florida and is a skillful story about an imagined meeting between 25-year-old Albert Einstein and a young Pablo Picasso in 1904 at the Lapin Agile, a famous cabaret in the Montmartre district of Paris. It was a favorite spot for struggling artists and writers. Picasso’s 1905 oil painting, *At The Lapin Agile*, helped to make the place world famous.

Lab Theater’s set depicts the famous watering hole at the turn of the 20th century, complete with numerous works of art and a fully stocked bar. In addition, the audience seating is an extension of the cabaret, allowing everyone to experience the Bohemian atmosphere.

**Henson’s Puppets Bring Wildlife Alive During ‘Ding’ Darling Days**

Blending her passion for protecting Florida’s wildlife with a lifetime dedicated to mastering the timeless craft of imaginative puppeteering, Heather Henson and IBEX Puppetry will bring their show-stopping performances to the upcoming “Ding” Darling Days, to be held October 14 to 20 at the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel.

The daughter of Emmy Award-winning television producer and creator of the ever-popular Muppets, the late Jim Henson, Heather Henson and the Orlando-based puppet troupe she founded in 2000 incorporate life-sized animal puppets, kites, flags, drums and music into their performances.

“We invite people to come and share space with us, the same way we all share our environment with the animals living around us,” said Henson, whose Endangered Species & Wildlife Parade features the Florida panther, whooping crane and manatees.

“It’s a very participatory experience that the entire family can enjoy.”

Henson and her group of talented puppeteers will make their Southwest Florida debut on Family Fun Day, scheduled for Sunday, October 14. Their energetic and inspiring Endangered Species & Wildlife Parade will be presented hourly starting at 10:30 a.m. In between performances, the IBEX troupe will set up its Endangered Species Garden. There, families can make their own puppets and join in the parades, play the troupe’s musical instruments and admire the puppet critters at rest.

“It was Heather’s mission to tour this around Florida’s parks, refuges and wildlife conservation areas because of her avid interest in wetlands and whooping crane migrations and protection,” said Frank Ramirez, IBEX Puppetry company manager. “We do it because we love educating and love people seeing the puppets.”
The Graystone Hotel

The Graystone Hotel was one of the longer-lived hotels in Fort Myers history. Rising in the building boom of the 19-teens, it was one of many structures built by Peter Tonnelier, who created Patio de Leon, one of the best ideas any downtown developer ever had.

An investor and builder, he greatly influenced the rapid development of Fort Myers during that decade and into the 1920s. Tonnelier built four hotels and other commercial structures, invested heavily in the area, and gave the land to extend Main Street from Hendry to Jackson.

He built the Graystone about 1916 on the site of the Michigan Hotel, which had been destroyed by fire in 1914. The building still stands at the Hendry Street entrance to Patio de Leon (originally called Tonnelier Court). The hotel was located in the second and third floors, and the main entrance faced Hendry Street.

As seen in the circa-1920 photo, the prime corner storefront is occupied by Riverside Realty Corporation, which remained there for most of the boom years. Other tenants of that era included the Crescent Beach Road and Bridge Company. (Fort Myers Beach was formerly called Crescent Beach.)

One door down on Hendry Street, near the hotel stairway entrance, is a barber shop. In fact, for most of the hotel’s five-plus decades, a barber shop occupied that spot.

Although a mainstay of downtown, the hotel never was one of the town’s most luxurious hotels. A 1930s no-frills advertisement emphasized the basics: “Hot and cold water in every room, open the year round.”

Nevertheless, the Graystone survived into the age of the oil embargos and the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s, giving it an even longer run than the resplendent Royal Palm Hotel, which opened in 1898 and lasted a mere half century.

After the Graystone closed, the street-level spaces were vacant for several years, and then law offices and other businesses moved in.

Today, that corner looks very similar to how it did all those decades ago, as the building undergoes renovation.

Walk down to the Hendry Street entrance to Patio de Leon and appreciate the historic Graystone.

Then travel a few blocks to the Southwest Florida Museum of History to learn more.

Circa 1920, the Riverside Realty Corporation occupied the street-level corner of the Graystone building. Notice the hotel sign hanging on the far right at a patio entrance and the barber shop on the left.

courtesy of Southwest Florida Historical Society
Edible Fall Garden Talk At Edison Ford

Join Edison & Ford Winter Estates horticulturists Debbie Hughes and Todd Roe for a second Garden Talk workshop this month, entitled Edible Fall Gardens on September 22. These workshops will be held on the fall gardens, on Saturday, September 22 at 9 a.m. to learn how to start a fall garden for winter harvest.

Nearly 100 years ago, the Edison family grew fruits and vegetables on their winter estate, and today the site has a year-round organic vegetable garden, dozens of fruit trees and raised vegetable beds as well as an Emerging Inventor’s Garden tended by children ages 1 to 3 years old. Participants will learn which vegetables thrive and how to start and maintain their own garden at home.

Edison Ford members are admitted free; non-members are $5. Participants will receive 20 percent off in the Edison Ford Garden Shoppe. The workshop includes tour of the Edison Ford demonstration garden.

For more information, call 334-7419 or visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

Call To Artists For State Of Mind: Politics 2012

The Alliance for the Arts is calling for entries for its upcoming juried exhibition State of Mind: Politics 2012, which runs October 5 through November 7. This show offers artists a chance to display their politically and socially conscious work during this contentious election season. Open to all artists, the exhibit offers the chance to visually express their political views, or advocate for the issue or issues they believe are most important.

Entries will be judged on the quality of work and relevance to theme, not by political perspective. Only original work will be accepted. Categories are sculpture, painting, photography, prints, drawings and digital. Entries that have previously been shown at the Alliance will not be accepted.

Artwork should be hand delivered to the Alliance for the Arts on October 1 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Artists will be notified on Wednesday, October 3 whether their piece has been juried into the show. Prizes will be awarded, including $100 for Best in Show.

Pat Collins is the juror for this exhibit. Before moving to Florida, she was immersed in New York City’s art scene, where her exhibits in neighborhood galleries often spotlighted political and social issues. As a Fort Myers artist, she has continuously been involved in the local art scene, and as a member of the Exhibition Committee helped initiate the Alliance for the Arts’ first political issues shows with Too Hot To Handle in 2008. Her work has been shown in two exhibits at the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art, and was selected for one-person shows at the Collier County Museum of the Everglades and Hool Gallery in downtown Fort Myers.

The artist prospectus is available at the Alliance for the Arts, located on the corner of Colonial and McGregor, online at www.ArthLee.org or can be requested by mail by calling 939-2787.

The exhibit opens on Friday, October 5 with a reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Photography by Sandi Orgovan will be on display in the Members Gallery. There will be a Gallery Walk & Talk on Saturday, October 6 from 10 to 11 a.m. The Alliance’s next juried exhibit, The Art of the Book, opens in February and is presented in partnership with The Southwest Florida Reading Festival.

Canning Classes

The UF/IFAS Lee County Extension’s Family & Consumer Sciences Department is offering canning classes on Wednesday, October 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Friday, October 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Participants will learn the current science in USDA home food preservation recommendations through lectures and a hands-on pressure canning experience.

Cost is $10 per person. You must be registered and paid to attend the class. (no walk-ins). Class is limited to nine participants.

Classes will be held at the UF/IFAS Lee County Extension’s Terry Park Complex, 3406 Palm Beach Blvd. in Fort Myers.

For more information or to register for this class, contact Pamela at abbottpm@leegov.com or 533-7523.

Public Art Tour Prior To Art Walk

Join True Tours for a 75-minute Public Art Tour that shines a spotlight on the artists and speaks about the inspiration behind our public art in historic Fort Myers. This tour will be available one hour prior to Art Walk on the first Friday of every month. The tour is also available on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

For details and additional information, call True Tours at 945-0405. Reservations are required.

Read us online at IslandSunNews.com

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Edison Pops @ Sunset Will Feature The Sounds Of The Beatles

American English, a Beatles tribute band

The Pops @ Sunset concert will take place on the Lee Campus grounds of Edison State College on Saturday, October 27 as the college celebrates 50 years in Southwest Florida. Special guest entertainers will be American English, The Complete Beatles Tribute Band and the Edison Pops Orchestra.

Described as one of the most authentic tribute bands in the country, American English performs songs that span the entire career of The Beatles from 1963-70. The band replicates every musical detail including costume changes, vintage instruments and special effects. American English magically creates The Complete Beatles Tribute.

The Edison Pops @ Sunset Concert has grown tremendously over the past 10 years. Attendance has increased and so has the money collected to support scholarships and programs for Lee County students. In honor of the college’s 50th anniversary, college officials plan to create a memorable evening for alumni, returning guests and the Southwest Florida community. They will also welcome Dr. Jeff Allbritten, the new president.

Tickets sales continue until the day of the performance at $20 for advance tickets, $25 at the gate on the day of the performance, $40 for reserved seating and $400 for a party table of 10. The gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m.

Purchase tickets online at www.edison-pops.com or at one of the following ticket outlets: Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall Box Office, The University Grill restaurant or the Edison State College Foundation office. For more information, visit the website or call Reba Singleton at 489-9286.

Local War Veteran Announces Vets Ride 4 PTSD On October 27

George Tice, a Desert Storm war veteran, is on a mission to raise awareness and funds for veterans who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suicide among our military. On Saturday, October 27 at 9 a.m., Tice and fellow veteran and friend, Ray Johnson, have committed to riding their bikes more than 480 miles to the state capital in Tallahassee. They will begin their weeklong journey at the American Legion Post 38 in Downtown Fort Myers at 9 a.m. A public press conference and short ceremony is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. prior to the ride.

Tice and Johnson hope to encourage more aid for soldiers who suffer from PTSD. Currently, there are minimal resources and volunteers available to help those suffering from this widespread illness. The two veterans plan to meet with active duty family members, veterans and the public along their way to Tallahassee.

According to event organizers, one out of every eight soldiers who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan show signs of having PTSD, and every 24 hours or less, a military person will take his or her own life. It is vital for veterans in crisis who call the suicide crisis line to get the help they need and not be left on hold.

Tice and Johnson would like to see some changes when military veterans call the crisis line. They would like to see boots on the ground and a response team that will meet with the distressed veteran face to face within a three-hour time frame.

“It’s a lot easier for a veteran to talk about their problems with someone face to face,” said Tice, who has dealt with PTSD for almost 20 years. “I know what veterans go through. People don’t realize the affects war can have on a person’s mind and the permanent damage that soldiers may suffer. Most nights they lay awake, unable to sleep, and it rips them away from their families, friends and life, distorting their view of reality at times.”

Tice and Johnson are looking for sponsors to help fund their ride to Tallahassee, Vets 4 PTSD, and donating all remaining proceeds to charities including American Red Cross Veterans Outreach Program and Southeastern Guide Dogs that provide service dogs for veterans with PTSD. To make a donation, email info@vetsrideforptsd.us, call 738-0601 or visit any Fifth Third Bank and mention you would like to make a donation to Vets Ride 4 PTSD.

For more information, visit www.vetsride4ptsd.us.

Fall Festival On October 26

North Park Community Center is hosting the 12th Annual Fall Festival on Friday, October 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. This is a free event open to the entire Southwest Florida community.

Children in costume (up to 200) will receive a free bag of sale candy following the costume contest. Enjoy music, a costume contest, haunted hay ride, inflatable slides, bounce house, balloon animals, giveaways, raffles, attractions and more.

The Pop Warner football concession stand will be open to purchase food and drinks (non-alcoholic).

All local area businesses are invited to set up a 10x10 tent with chairs and table, decorate it with a fall festival theme and advertise your business for free. Organizers are asking businesses to have small giveaways to attract fair-goers to their tents, such as candy, key chains, coupons, etc. Please, no selling of merchandise at the Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival has drawn more than 1,500 people in the past; attendance has steadily increased in the past 10 years. Organizers are also looking for volunteers and donations to help with this event.

Call Jennifer or James at 652-4512 for more information.

Share your community news with us.

Call 415-7732, Fax: 415-7702
or email press@riverweekly.com
The best way to experience public art is up close and personal. Unfortunately, unless you have a guide at hand, you may not know the work’s title, artist or history. But if you have a smart phone, that will soon be a thing of the past.

On September 12, Fort Myers took a huge step in digitizing its public art collection by placing technical data, descriptions and a battery of photographs on an online public art registry by the name of cultureNOW. The site grew out of an effort by New York City architects and designers to map and preserve lower Manhattan’s artistic and cultural landmarks in the aftermath of 9/11. The initiative has gone viral since then.

Today, cultureNOW’s “museum without walls” encompasses more than 8,000 public artworks and historic buildings, 12,000 images and 350 podcasts recorded by artists, architects, curators and historians. Anyone with a PC or laptop can view this information from anywhere across the globe. But by virtue of the recent addition of a smart phone app, people can now access pertinent information while standing in front of a public artwork or historic building.

A registry like cultureNOW is ideally suited to the River District, which has a heavily-concentrated mix of artworks and historic buildings within walking distance of each other. Not only does registering them on cultureNOW potentially introduce them to a younger, more tech-savvy demographic, it enables the Visitor and Convention Bureau, Chambers of Commerce and every arts and cultural organization in Lee County to promote Fort Myers’ public artworks and historical landmarks to out-of-towners, tourists and conventioners in their effort to market the exhibits, festivals and events they organize and promote.

Experts have long recognized the role that public art plays in attracting and increasing tourism. Even without playing that trump card in 2011 however, more than 520,000 people came to Lee County to take part in arts and cultural events, spending on average $45.65 per person, or a whopping $23 million in the aggregate.

Inclusion of the River District’s public artworks now gives these agencies and organizations a new, modern-era tool for creating context and luring even more art lovers and enthusiasts to local arts and cultural events.

The effort has only just started. So far, just 10 of Fort Myers’ public artworks supported by 64 photographs, have been registered on cultureNOW. But within the next few weeks, they’ll be joined by 20 others and beyond that, by podcasts and even music videos.

Thanks to a grant from the City of Fort Myers, its public art collection has just joined the digital age. See for yourself. Visit www.cultureNOW.org and enter “fort myers, fl” in the search bar. An arts advocate, Tom Hall guides weekly walking tours of the River District’s public art collection in Fort Myers. For more information, go to true-tours.net.

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**Picasso At The Lapin Agile**

Einstein (Rob Green) is working on his theory of relativity. His book, The Special Theory of Relativity, was published one year later. It’s three years before Picasso painted his famous Les Demoiselles d’Avignon. You’ll get a futuristic look at it in the play. The two men find they have much in common. Both have ground-breaking ideas that nobody takes seriously yet, which provide a framework for hilarity.

Aaron Jackson plays the tortured artist Picasso.

The play is highly entertaining and the actors totally embody their multifaceted characters. Gaston is played hilariously by Robert Feigenblatt. Joel Hawkins is Freddy the bartender, and his girlfriend Germaine is played by Lucy Harris. The audience is treated to a whirlwind of drama between the characters, including several arguments between Einstein, Picasso and other eccentric bar patrons about the meaning of art and science.

The actors break character occasionally, such as when one of Picasso’s lovers asks him when he’ll be stopping by later and he replies “when the play is over.”

The lover, Suzanne, is played by Shannon Riley.

Then there’s Dave Yudowitz as Sagot, an art dealer who knows how to buy low and sell high. Wil Harbison plays Charles Dabernow Schmendiman, a young man who plans to change the future, but might first have to change his name. His brief appearance brought down the house.

There’s also a time-traveler played by Scotty Brooker, a not-so-mysterious singer from Memphis. All in all the play is a comedic salute to the 20th century and it’s a whole lot of fun. It is directed by Lois C. Kuehne, who has her cast making all the right moves.

There have been some nice changes at Lab Theater. The entrance was greatly enhanced and there are new chandeliers and luxurious drapes that greatly enhance the surroundings. Treat yourself to a great experience.

**Picasso At The Lapin Agile** plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. through September 29. Lab Theater is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in the downtown Fort Myers River District. For tickets, visit www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com or call 218-0481.

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**Alliance Fundraiser**

and packages such as a complete party for 10 at your home featuring fine food, fine wine and live entertainment.

Unit A Contemporary Art Space will donate 10 percent of the proceeds of the evening’s sales to the Alliance for the Arts.

Tickets are $150 for Alliance members; $175 for non-members. Purchase online at www.ArtInLee.org or by calling 939-2787. Ticket price includes valet parking.
Limited Spaces Available For ‘Ding’ Days Bunche Beach Tours

A limited number of spots remain for two free “Ding” Darling Days Bunche Beach Birding Tram tours. Reservations and a refundable deposit are required. Call 472-8900 as soon as possible, because space fills up quickly.

Times and dates for the two trips coordinate with low tides. Both tours will be tram departing from the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The first leaves from the refuge flagpole at the Education Center on Monday, October 15 at 8 a.m. and returns around 11 a.m. Another on Friday, October 19 departs at 11:30 a.m. and returns at 2:30 p.m.

Transportation is compliments of Tarpon Bay Explorers. Knowledgeable birding experts lead the tour and provide spotting scopes to use.

For more information on other birding tours and eco-events during the 23rd Annual “Ding” Darling Days, held October 14 to 20, visit www.dingdarlingdays.com.

Birds spy on the abundant bird life at Bunche Beach during “Ding” Darling Days
Women’s Legacy Fund Fall Luncheon

The Women’s Legacy Fund of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation will hold its annual fall luncheon on Friday, October 19 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Colonial Country Club for contributors to the fund and women who are interested in making a difference in their community.

The luncheon’s keynote speaker will be Habitat For Humanity’s President and CEO Kitty Green, who will be discussing Habitat’s Women Build project. Women Build encourages women to make a difference by building or rehabbing homes and helping Habitat with its homebuilding mission.

Habitat’s local efforts are part of an international movement in which more than 1,900 homes have been built or rehabbed by women crews in the United States, dozens more in countries around the world. The program began with a group of women in Charlotte, North Carolina and gained momentum with the support of women leaders from the grassroots level up to The White House. The non-profit organization helps hard working families earn their own homes through sweat equity and affordable monthly mortgage payments due to Habitat’s no-profit, no-interest model.

The luncheon will also include an update on the WLF’s funding for children experiencing homelessness in our community. This issue was selected by the fund’s contributors to be the area of focus for the year.

In just five years of existence, the WLF has been able to provide nearly $60,000 in grants to benefit people and communities in Southwest Florida. Additionally, the fund has more than $219,000 in endowed funds that will help fund local issues now and in the future.

The WLF is a fund of the SWFLCF, created to inspire, educate and empower women in Southwest Florida and to provide them the opportunity direct their giving in focused, strategic ways. The WLF’s mission is to engage women in effecting change in our community through collective philanthropy.

The SWFLCF is celebrating its 36th year of supporting the communities of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry counties by connecting donors and their philanthropic aspirations with evolving community needs. With assets of more than $63 million, the Community Foundation has provided more than $52 million in grants and scholarships to the communities it serves. During its 2012 fiscal year, the SWFLCF granted more than $3 million to more than 100 different organizations supporting education, animal welfare, arts and human services.

The event is open to the public. Colonial Country Club is located at 9181 Independence Way in Fort Myers. The cost is $35 per person, and reservations are required by Friday, October 12.

To register, visit the Community Foundation’s website at www.floridacommunity.com or call 274-5900.

Local Small Lodgings Qualify For Prestigious Designation

Representatives of the Florida Superior Small Lodging Association (SSL) recently announced 21 Lee County hoteliers have successfully qualified for the distinguished SSL designation. The SSL certification is a statewide hospitality recognition program.

In addition, 14 of the 21 total SSL properties inspected by the Property Review Program (PRP) qualified to receive the coveted Donal A. Dermody White Glove Award for best practices in housekeeping. Properties must receive a score of 100 percent for all components of the housekeeping inspection to be eligible to receive the White Glove Award.

Lee County properties recognized by the SSL hospitality recognition program include:

**Sanibel and Captiva islands**
- Anchor Inn & Cottages – White Glove Award
- Blue Dolphin – White Glove Award
- Gulf Breeze Cottages – White Glove Award
- Mitchell’s Sand Castles – White Glove Award
- The Palm View – White Glove Award
- Sandpiper Inn
- Shalimar Resort – White Glove Award
- Signal Inn
- Tropical Winds Motel & Cottages
- Waterside Inn on the Beach – White Glove Award

**Bokeelia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Matlacha and St. James City**
- Bokeelia Tarpon Inn – White Glove Award
- Bridgewater Inn
- Casa Loma
- Legacy Harbour Hotel & Suites – White Glove Award
- Tarpon Lodge – White Glove Award
- Two Fish Inn – White Glove Award
- Fort Myers Beach
- Beach Shell Inn – White Glove Award
- Harbour House at the Inn – White Glove Award
- Manatee Bay Inn Bed & Breakfast
- Matanzas Inn
- Silver Sands Villas – White Glove Award

Eligibility for participation in the Lee County SSL program is restricted to accommodations with 50 rooms/units or less.

The SSL inspection program and designation is designed to provide travelers with an easily identifiable symbol to demonstrate that the accommodation is a “clean, safe and well managed small lodging establishment, offering friendly ambiance and personal service.” All property review inspections are conducted unannounced and can be repeated periodically and randomly to ensure that SSL program standards are being maintained.

The passing grade for participation in the program is 82 percent and is based on a comprehensive review process of six different property attributes: registration/operations/public places, guests accommodations, bathrooms, bathroom supplies, kitchens, and property exterior. These six categories are further delineated with numerical scoring to create the 343 total point inspection system.

For more information on the program, contact Nancy MacPhee, program manager, Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau at 338-3500. For destination information, visit www.FortMyersSanibel.com.

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THE RIVER - SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 | 7
Along The River

This Friday and Saturday, and again Thursday, September 27 to Sunday 29 at 8 p.m., The Laboratory Theater of Florida presents its production of Steve Martin’s Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Aaron Jackson and Rob Green head a cast directed by Lois Kuehne, director of last season’s smash hit In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play.

The long running off-Broadway absurd comedy places Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world alight with cubism.

In his first comedy for the stage, Hollywood actor and screenwriter Steve Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame and fortune as these two geniuses muse on the century’s achievements and prospects as well as other fanciful topics with infectious dizziness. Bystanders, including Picasso’s agent, the bartender and his mistress, Picasso’s date, an elderly philosopher, Charles Dabernow Schmendimen and an idiot inventor introduce additional flourishes of humor. The final surprise patron to join the merriment at the Lapin Agile is a charismatic dark-haired singer, time warped and from a later era.

The theater offers senior discount tickets this season for $18.50 on Thursdays. Regularly priced tickets are $20 and students with a valid ID pay $12.

The Laboratory Theater of Florida is located on the corner of Second Street and Woodford in the Fort Myers River District. Call 218-0481 or go to www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com.

Every Saturday morning, The Alliance for the Arts’ GreenMarket offers an exclusive selection of locally grown, caught and cultivated foods and other products available to sample and purchase.

There is live entertainment by local musicians, activities for kids, gardening classes and live cooking demonstrations by local chefs.

Eating locally grown and produced foods is good for the area economy and great for your health. Vendors at the GreenMarket offer chemical-free and organic produce, along with fresh baked goods, native plants and all-natural products.

Alliance of the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard near the Colonial intersection. It is open year round from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 939-2787 or go to www.artinlee.org.

On Saturday, September 22, join Fort Myers car enthusiasts at the Downtown Car Cruise-In in the historic River District. Held on the fourth Saturday of every month, the event features vintage, modern and unique cars from 5 to 8 p.m. along with a DJ spinning classic rock with trivia. All cars are welcome to the free event.

For more information, call 1-855-RDA-EVENTS (732-3836).

The Indian Princess of Fort Myers is now scheduling cruises for condominium associations, social clubs and other organizations. The events coordinators are busy planning upcoming weddings, rehearsal dinners, birthdays and even a retirement party.

October 8 is already booked for the residents of an established, local gated golfing community, which has also reserved the paddle boat on March 7 for a end-of-season spectacular. Be sure to book early as The Indian Princess is already taking reservations for Christmas parties.

The Indian Princess also organizes celebrations open to the public for events such as the New Year’s Eve fireworks tours, Mardi Gras and other holidays.

The Indian Princess is an authentic replica of American steamships, a sternwheeler capable of five to six knots, with a flat bottom and driving split rear paddles. Many modern paddle wheelers are driven by hidden underwater screws and the paddles simply spin idly in the flowing water. But The Indian Princess is truly paddle-driven, though for reasons of efficiency, weight, and pollution the wood burning boilers of yore have been replaced by clean-burning diesel engines.

The Indian Princess of Fort Myers departs from 2080 Main Street, Fort Myers Beach, before the sky bridge. For reservations and a calendar of events, call 765-8919 or go to www.indianprincessfortmyers.com.

To advertise in The River Weekly News Call 415-7732
Confederate Cemetery Restoration

submitted by Thomas M. Fyock
Adjutant Major, William M. Footman Camp #1950

On Saturday, September 8, in conjunction with the sesquicentennial of the War Between the States, a project was begun at the Fort Myers Cemetery. Members of the Major William M. Footman Camp #1950 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Members of the Fort Myers Chapter #2614 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began to locate and mark the graves of Confederate veterans buried there.

The team of volunteers spent the day walking the grounds and managed to locate in excess of 40 graves of Confederate veterans, marking each one with a first National Flag of the Confederate States of America. Others that were not listed on the cemetery register will be researched to determine if they also may be veterans. Also located were four of 8 listed Union Veterans graves will also be marked with U.S. flags.

Thirteen of the Confederate graves were already marked by the Southern Cross of honor or Iron Cross. These Iron Crosses were placed by the UDC in the 1920s and 1930s. Another aspect of the project was to restore the crosses to their original condition. All 13 Iron Crosses were cleaned and received a coat of primer and await the next work day to receive a new coat of paint.

The project is ongoing, as the names and locations of the graves will be added to the plat map of the cemetery so they will remain a part of our local history for a long time to come, and the veterans can be honored for their service to their Southern homeland.

Author’s Evening Fall Schedule

The Southwest Florida Museum of History hosts a series of seasonal, community-based events that are open to the public and help raise funds for the Museum’s Foundation supporting exhibits and educational programming. Author’s Evenings are held at the museum, typically on the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Author’s Evenings include the featured author presentation, a meet-and-greet, book signing, a chance to take in the museum’s exhibits, and free parking, all for just $15, tax-deductible. Make a night of it and enjoy dinner before or after the Author’s Evening at The Oasis Restaurant, right across the street from the Museum. Call The Oasis at 334-1566 for reservations and menu information.

Local historian and writer Kim Cool opens the season on Wednesday, September 26, getting people into the “Halloween spirit” with her new release, *Ghost Stories of Fort Myers, Pine Island, Captiva & Sanibel*. This book is the seventh in her series about Florida and has just garnered two awards from the Florida Publishers Association for books published in 2011. Cool will share her “ghostbusting” efforts and hair-raising research throughout Southwest Florida as she discusses Florida’s spirited past and present, including claims of a female spirit at the Ford House, a headless princess at Fort Myers Beach, stage frights at Arcade Theatre and haunting of other downtown Fort Myers locations.

Pine Island maritime author Robert Macomber returns for his fourth season on Wednesday, October 24 to share more swashbuckling stories and fascinating tales of travels in his Honor series. Debuting his much-anticipated 10th novel, *Honorable Lies*, at the Museum, Macomber provides audiences with a window into his meticulous research and adventures in Cuba with a gripping plot that centers around freemasonry in that country and the fight for liberty.

Contemporary, literary fiction comes to the Museum thanks to author, Joseph Rakowski, on Wednesday, November 14. He introduces his edgy first novel, *The Delivery Cut*, a tale of underworld drugs and crime delivered through the youthful, clean-cut, if misguided, James Young, who is soon hobnobbing with the who’s who of upper class society demanding personal service.

Author’s Evening events have limited seating, so reservations are required by calling 321-7430. Tickets are $15 and proceeds go to the foundation to support the Museum of History’s educational programs and exhibits.

Read us online at IslandSunNews.com
BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES
2390 West First Street, next door to Edison Estates.
Sunday Morning Service and Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Child care provided at all services.
Visit www.breadoflifemissions.org for quiet study.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
13545 American Colony Boulevard off Daniels Parkway in the Colony, Fort Myers, 936-2511
Pastor: Morningside Brummert
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Family Night, 7 p.m.

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
415 McGregor Boulevard, 323-4777
Pastor: David Stauffer.
Traditional services 8:45 a.m.; Contemporary, 10:30 a.m.
Go south on McGregor Boulevard. The church is ½ mile past the intersection of Gladiolus and San Carlos Boulevard on the way to Sanibel.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
2390 West First Street, Fort Myers, 274-0900.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Evening Services: 7 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15690 McGregor Boulevard.
Fort Myers, 482-2030
Pastor: David Stauffer.
Traditional services 8:45 a.m.; Contemporary, 10:30 a.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER
2154 McGregor Boulevard, 329-8519
Pastor: Alan Bondar
New Beginnings Center
Located in the Cornerstone Buildings in the Fort Myers area.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
16940 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 454-3336
Pastor: Robert Kasten
Pastor Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10
Fort Myers, 274-0143
Pastor: Robert G. Kasten, Pastor
Sunday School: 9 a.m.; Morning Worship: 10 a.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT MYERS
16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10
Fort Myers, 239-985-8503
Pastor: Robert Kasten, Pastor
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship
7 p.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
239 McGregor Boulevard, 323-4777
Pastor: Rabbi Elyssa Auster
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH JEUDA SYNAGOGUE
15675 McGregor Boulevard, 437-3171
Rabbi: Judith Davidman
Friday Service, 5 p.m., Saturday Service, 11 a.m.
Shabbat Shabbat Sabbath Custom, Monday, Hebrew Class.
Call for information on full program.

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### Businesses Take Part In Hunger Action Month

Two local businesses are participating in September’s Hunger Action Month, with proceeds going to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They are Ruby Tuesday and the Paul Mitchell Green Team.

Ruby Tuesday, 9001 Park Royal Drive in Fort Myers, is proud to be part of the community and believes in giving back and invites everyone to participate in their Community Give Back program. You can enjoy a meal and Ruby Tuesday will give back 20 percent of purchases on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 15 to 17, to the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu, to make a reservation or for additional information, call 267-9988 or go to www.rubytuesday.com. Coupons and other discounts cannot be used for this special promotion. Download their flyer from the www.harrychapinfoodbank.org Facebook, or take this article to the Ruby Tuesday restaurant.

The Paul Mitchell Green Team, 9941 Interstate Commerce Drive in Fort Myers, is holding a free Recycling & Hair Fashion Event on Saturday, September 15 at 6 p.m. They will use recycled objects for designing hair and wardrobes. They will have models, refreshments, and ideas. Their theme is “It’s Hip To Be Green.” Call 332-2011 for additional information. Also, donations will be accepted for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

### Service Of Peace

A service of peace will be offered to the community through the shared leadership of Faith United Methodist Church, St. Columbkille Catholic Parish and Peace Lutheran Church on Friday, September 21 at 7 p.m. The gathering will take place at Peace Lutheran Church, 15840 McGregor Blvd. in Fort Myers.

The service will be a time to gather with prayer, scripture, song and meditation on the world that is blessed with a spirit of reconciliation and peace. Father Joe Clifford will preach. A cookie reception will follow the service.

Call 437-2599 for additional information about the service.

### Blessing Of The Pets October 20

Covenant Presbyterian Church will be hosting a community-wide Blessing of the Pets on Saturday, October 20 beginning at 10 a.m. at the rear entrance of the church, 2439 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers.

All types of pets and pet owners are welcome to attend. All pets must be on a leash, in a crate or carrier, or under complete control of the pet owner. Pet owners are welcome to bring a photo of their pets that are unable to attend.

The event is free, however, pet owners are encouraged to bring donations of pet food, which will be given to local animal shelters.

For more information, contact Jim Kaserman at 939-4845.

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**OBITUARY**

**THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

1619 Llewellyn Drive Fort Myers

Just off McGregor across from the Edison/Ford Winter Estates 334-4978

Senior Minister: Douglas Kelchner

Traditional Worship Sunday’s 10:15 a.m.

Website: www.taecc.com

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH FOR MYERS**

13411 Shire Lane (off Daniels Parkway one mile west of I-75)

Minister: The Reverend Allison Farnum

Sunday services and religious education at 10:30 a.m.

**OBITUARY**

**JEAN PETERS ASHTON**

Jean Peters Ashton, 88, of Fort Myers, passed away on September 9, 2012. She was born on August 10, 1924 in New Haven, Connecticut. She moved to Lee County in 2010 from Woodbury, Connecticut. She was preceded in death by her husband who she was married 64 years, Thomas W.V. Ashton, who passed two years ago, and her daughter, Mary Ashton-Taylor.

She was a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Sanibel. Jean graduated in 1946 from William & Mary, earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She was a gifted painter, artist, and piano player. She was strong-willed and had a zest for life.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Sarah Ashton, her husband, Jim Metzler, of Sanibel; cousin, Margaret Pontious, and her husband, Jim, of Lakewood Ranch; and her beloved cat, Sylvester.

There will be a memorial service on Thursday, September 27 at 10 a.m. at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Sanibel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cypress Cove Resident Benevolent Care Fund, 10200 Cypress Cove Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908. Condolences may be made to www.fortmyersmemorial.com.

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**OBITUARY**

**ANNE AMATO CIMATO KEARNS**

Anne Amato Cimato Kearns, 83, of Fort Myers, passed away at her home on September 14, 2012 after suffering a stroke.

Anne was born on January 5, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York to her parents Anna (Kehil) and Ferdinand Amato Sr. She lived her early life in Long Island and later met Ralph Cimato, Sr. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In 1950, they married and eventually moved to Sanibel Island, and lived on Woodring Point. Ralph Sr. passed away in 1971 and 10 years later, Anne remarried the late Richard Kearns and began the family business Ace Hardware (1987) in the Forever Green Shopping Center on Sanibel.

Anne is notorious for family gatherings and scrapbooking of events through the years of family and friends. Anne also was most proud of coordinating the Bicentennial Sanibel Parade in 1976.

Anne is survived by her brother Ferdinand Amato II; her children Joseph Cimato, Anna Cimato, John Cimato (Kathryn) and Ralph Cimato; step-daughter Laurel Kearns (Bob McCoy); her grandchildren Stephanie, Suzie, Vincent, Chritsy, Kate, Jessica, Ally, Cassy, Alana, Taylor and Nicholas; step-grandchildren Claire and Christopher; her great-grandchildren Hailey, Emma, Mason, Ainsley, Marla, Addison, Gabriel, Deacon, Colton, Johnny and Jayden. Her younger brother Andrew Amato; first husband Ralph Cimato; second husband Richard Kearns and granddaughter Jennifer Stovall predecease her in death.

A celebration of life was held on September 19 at the Church of The Resurrection of Our Lord in Fort Myers.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Anne’s honor may be made to FISH (Friends In Service Here) of Sanibel, 1630 Periwinkle Way, Unit B, Sanibel, FL 33957.

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Redfish in different locations often respond better to one particular kind of bait and presentation more than another. My daily “go-to” redfish baits will include cut mullet or ladyfish, live pinfish and frozen jumbo shrimp. The different rigs I use for redfish include a simple free-line set up for cut baits and pinfish, a float rig for pinfish and jumbo shrimp, and a 1/4 ounce jig head rig for fishing deeper water and faster moving tide areas, with either a shrimp or pinfish.

The phase of the tide is the main factor when deciding what type of area to fish for redfish. During lower tide periods of one foot or less, I like to target docks, deeper channels and the edges of sandbars and grassflats within close proximity to mangrove shorelines that hold redfish during the higher tide periods. During middle tide periods of one to two feet, I prefer to target open water shallow flats and deeper mangrove shorelines. Then on higher tides of roughly two feet or better, I target mangrove islands, shorelines and oyster bars that are too shallow to access on low tide periods.

During the middle of the tide this week, I concentrated my efforts in the McKeever Keys area. This area had good redfish action for me all week, with the flats around Merwin Key, Starvation Key, Big Island and Fishermans Key all holding good numbers of quality redfish. Most of this area is very shallow and can only be entered during the middle to higher periods of the tide. It’s loaded with oyster bars that are hard to see in the dirty water, so proceed with caution.

The mouth of the river area described above is a huge area of water. The key to finding redfish over here is to locate big mullet schools on the shallow flats. Once you locate the mullet, drop the power pole or anchor and set up. Most of this water is in the two- to three-foot depth range and is grass bottom. Nothing works better for me here than fresh cut-bait chunks. I use ladyfish and mullet chunks rigged free-line. Once set up, simply throw out a good spread of chunks close to the mullet schools, place the rods in the rod holders and wait for the bite. If you don’t get a redfish within 10 minutes, move and set up again. Generally, the higher the concentration of mullet, the more redfish will be there.

When redfish fishing on the higher stages of the tide this week, roughly two feet or higher, I spent most of my time fishing little mangrove keys around St. James City. My preferred rig for this is a live pinfish or jumbo shrimp rigged on a popping cork. Toss the float up close to the trees and let the drift. The float stops the pinfish from burrowing down in the grass and is a good way to keep the bait tight to the shorelines. The mangrove shoreline that runs the whole back side of Sanibel – from Tarpon Bay to Wulfert Keys – during periods of northeast wind and high water was hard to beat this week.

These next few months offer some of the best redfish action of the year. Redfish will be caught just about anywhere from the passes and all through the sound. Putting in a little time and learning where to target these redfish on what tide phase will definitely increase your catch.

Capt. Matt Mitchell has been fishing local waters since he moved to Sanibel in 1980. He now lives in St. James City and works as a back country fishing guide. If you have comments or questions email captmattmitchell@aol.com.
CROW Case Of The Week:

**Florida Mud Turtle**

By Patricia Molloy

A tiny Florida mud turtle (Kinosternon subrubrum steindachneri) was admitted to CROW on a Saturday. They can be found throughout the state near shallow bodies of water. An adult will grow to approximately five inches tall and possess oval shells that are dark and unmarked. As they are sometimes seen feeding on manure, they have earned the distasteful nickname of Cow Dung Cooter.

It was alert with no visible injuries. Dr. Aundria performed a complete blood count (CBC) which was within normal limits, however, the patient was very depressed. It was treated for parasites and dewormed, but remained lethargic.

The turtle refused to eat regularly on its own so the staff was forced to Gavage (guh-vah) feed it, which requires placing a tube through the patient's nose to deposit formula to the stomach.

Dr. Aundria determined that the best way to combat the stress level of being hospitalized was to surgically implant an esophagostomy tube – or E-tube – with the help of Dr. Helen. The use of anesthesia for all patients, particularly such a tiny one, is always risky. They chose to use a local anesthetic. The surgery to insert the E-tube took two steady sets of hands working for more than an hour.

Follow-up radiographs proved that the tube was inserted with precision.

Dr. West suggested that after recovering for a few days, the turtle be given a little grazing time in order to expedite the healing process by roaming in grass and soaking up natural sun. If you would like to help this rarely seen Florida mud turtle, go to CROW's website and donate to patient #2626 or another patient/species of your choice.

CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc.) is a non-profit wildlife hospital providing veterinary care for native and migratory wildlife from our local area. The hospital accepts patients seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail donations to P.O. Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit www.crowclinic.org.

The tiny turtle underwent a delicate surgery at CROW to insert a feeding tube.

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**FWC Decides To Make It Easier For Florida Veterans To Become Commercial Fishermen**

Florida veterans wishing to enter the commercial fishing industry may soon be able to do so more easily thanks to changes made at the September 5 and 6 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting in Tampa. These changes are anticipated to take effect on Veterans Day, November 11.

The commission implemented a new program that will modify income requirements for Florida veterans seeking a commercial restricted species endorsement license.

The restricted species endorsement allows commercial harvesters to fish for and sell species that are designated as restricted. Spanish and king mackerel, flounder, shrimp, dolphin and several reef fish are among the list of species that require a restricted species endorsement.

Currently, commercial harvesters attempting to qualify for a restricted species endorsement license must have a Florida Saltwater Products License, which is Florida's commercial saltwater fishing license, and be able to attribute $5,000 or 25 percent of their total annual income during one of the past three years to sales of saltwater products.

With the new changes in place, restricted species endorsement income requirements will be waived for one license year (July 1 to June 30) for Florida veterans who were honorably discharged between September 11, 2001 and June 30, 2014. After June 30, 2014, this income requirement waiver will continue to extend to Florida veterans so long as they apply within four years of an honorable discharge.

The one-license-year waiver also extends to honorably discharged veterans with service-connected disabilities. After the one-year waiver expires, veterans with service-connected disabilities will have a reduced income requirement of $2,500 instead of $5,000. To qualify for these exemptions, veterans must be certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Armed Forces to have at least a 10-percent disability that is service-connected.

To learn more about commercial fishing requirements, visit www.MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on “Saltwater” and “Commercial.”

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**FGCU Energy Innovation And Sustainability**

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam H. Putnam and District 27 State Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto learned about FGCU’s innovations in sustainability and energy saving during a campus visit last week.

The two met with FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw, provost and vice president for academic affairs Ronald B. Toll and professor Joseph H. Simmons, who holds the Backe Chair in Renewable Energy. FGCU’s innovative solar field was among their scheduled tour stops; they also met informally with a group of student leaders.

Putnam oversees the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which promotes innovation in energy development. Benacquisto (R-Fort Myers) serves on the Senate’s Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee; her district includes portions of Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades and Palm Beach counties.

“I’m just thrilled with the growth of the campus,” Putnam said. “It really sets the emphasis on connecting with the landscape. The solar field is really cutting edge.”

The solar field is really cutting edge.”

The 10,818 solar panels on the 15-acre field on Ben Hill Griffin Parkway produce roughly 85 percent of the energy needed to power FGCU’s Lutgert Hall, Holmes Hall and Academic Buildings.

7. This reduces the university’s reliance on Florida Power & Light Co. by 18 percent, saving about $700,000 a year between electric bills and revenue from renewable energy credits.

“It’s incumbent upon all of us to make sure we’re on the leading edge,” Benacquisto said.

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**Basic GPS Class**

Submitted by Cdr. Mary Smelter

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will be offering a class in basic GPS operation on Saturday, October 20 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. This class will be offered again in January.

The class is designed to introduce new users to GPS. The class will include discussions of marine navigation, how a GPS works, and GPS limitations. There will be an extensive presentation on what a GPS can do and what a boater can do with a GPS. For those interested in purchasing a GPS, you will understand what a GPS can do for you and some of the key features to look for as you shop for a GPS.

The cost of the class is $30.

To advertise in The River Weekly News Call 415-7732
Many Southwest Floridians view landscape only in aesthetic or financial terms. Maintaining a yard or commercial landscape is a necessary task if property values are to be preserved and code violations avoided, right?

Then there’s an altogether different group of property owners. They view gardening and yard work as a delight, even a passion, despite the heat, humidity, and physical demands.

This second group is more likely to see their landscapes as a grocery store and shelter for wildlife. They know that planting the right species can help ensure the very survival of butterflies, birds, and other creatures.

These gardeners know that leaving fruits on native plants, in particular, is a boon for wildlife that has increasingly less undeveloped land on which to forage.

Nature’s bounty left on the plant is especially important during migration seasons, when birds arrive hungry, depleted in body weight, and exhausted.

See if you can identify the fruit of the three native species pictured here.

Helpful hint: Both animals and humans greatly enjoy one of these fruits.

Those swirls of sparkling magenta berries belong to a member of the verbena family that attracts birds all year. Beauty berry (Callicarpa americana) is a food source for more than 40 species of birds including the American robin, brown thrasher, purple finch, and eastern towhee.

The fruit clusters also are eaten by armadillos, foxes, opossum, raccoons, squirrels, and white-tailed deer. It is not typically eaten by humans, however. Although not toxic, it has an unpleasant taste.

Such is not the case with the shiny blue-black muscadine, or southern fox grape (Vitis rotundifolia), from which jellies, jams, juices, and wines are made.

Among the birds who love these wild grapes are blue jays, bluebirds, brown thrashers, cardinals, catbirds, cedar waxwings, chickadees, downy woodpeckers, finches, flycatchers, mockingbirds, nut-hatches, robins, rose-breasted grosbeaks, sparrows, tree swallows, thrashers, titmice, vireos, warblers, wood thrushes, and woodpeckers.

Those little green apples hang on a member of the custard apple family, pond apple’s (Annona glabra), which often grows along the edges of ponds and streams, as the common name implies. It’s also called alligator apple because the reptile eats the fruit that falls from overhanging branches.

The apples are edible for humans but bland and filled with seeds. However, the fruit is a dependable, although not favorite, food source for many species of wildlife.

Before you or your hired landscapers embark on a pruning project in a fit of tidiness, consider the loss it might be for wildlife.

Plant Smart explores sustainable gardening practices that will help you create an environmentally responsible, low-maintenance South Florida landscape.

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**Caring For Your Plants**

**Lawn Planters**

by Justen Dobbs

A lot of homeowners have an expansive lawn and prefer it that way. But others prefer to plant shade trees or palm trees around their property for that tropical feel.

There are a few things to consider before you go planting trees randomly around your property. First of all, hardwood trees do provide good shade, branches for birds to nest on, privacy, and colorful blooms. However, they are usually messy, dropping a lot of leaves, and can often “choke out” your lawn by blocking too much sun.

Additionally, as a general rule, hardwood trees send out adventurous roots that can grow to a length equal to three times the height of the tree! This can push up sidewalks and driveways, causing damage down the road. If you do decide to plant a hardwood tree, make sure it is as far from hardscape as possible.

It is not necessary to make a circular planter around the base of the tree because the trunk will expand. Simply dig a hole large enough to fit the tree’s root ball comfortably and allow your grass to cover up the hole with time after the tree is planted. One exception might be citrus trees, which may benefit from a ring of mulch around the base and generally keep the small caliper trunk.

Palm trees are a bit different in that they can be planted practically anywhere. Their roots will not dig up any concrete or brick pavers and they typically won’t deprive your lawn of precious sunlight. When planting a palm tree, you will want to create a circular bed around the base on which you can lay down fresh mulch or pine straw periodically. The radius of the bed should be about three to four times the diameter of the trunk. So, if you are planting a Chinese fan palm, which will grow a trunk to about 12 inches in diameter, your bed around the tree should be about 48 inches in diameter.

There are a few reasons why a small bed is beneficial to a palm tree:

1. It will prevent damage to the base of the trunk from weed-eaters, lawn mowers, and other power equipment.
2. The mulch or pine straw will retain moisture in the soil which may help the palm survive our dry months.
3. The mulch or pine straw will alter the pH of the soil, making it more acidic which is beneficial to most palms.
4. It makes it easy to apply granular fertilizer around the base of the palm (because our Florida soil is generally void of nutrients).

Some people choose to border their planters with brick pavers or stone in order to give the planter a bit more identity. This can look very nice if done correctly and adds extra protection to the palm and its root system.

Lastly, if you don’t want to dig up the grass to create a lawn planter, you can spray it with an herbicide such as Round-Up and then lay the mulch right on top.

Dobbs is a landscape architect in South Florida specializing in custom, upscale landscapes. He can be reached at seabreezenurseries@gmail.com.
Monofilament Madness Returns On October 27

SWFL Naturally is partnering up for a second year with Keep Lee County Beautiful, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and Cape Coral Parks & Recreation for their 19th Annual Monofilament Madness event, scheduled for Saturday, October 27 from 8 a.m. to noon. The goal of the cleanup is to remove unsightly and environmentally harmful fishing line and marine debris from the waterways and mangroves.

Volunteers will spend three to four hours cleaning up the mess carelessly left by others in order to raise public awareness about this preventable litter problem and the life threatening circumstances it poses for marine life.

Cape Coral is known as “Waterfront Wonderland” because the city has over 400 miles of canals, more than any other city in the world. Unfortunately, many people don’t understand the implications when debris blows off a boat or dock or pier into the water that is not retrieved and disposed of properly. In October 2010, 14 people spent four hours cleaning up a small portion of the canals and gathered 1,000 pounds of debris. In March of this past year, 117 volunteers spent three hours and collected 3,500 pounds of debris.

Last year, this location had 26 participants, who collected 493 pounds of debris out of the water. Some of the items collected were a boat cushion, fishing lures and lines, a plastic Barbie Jeep, full plastic gas container used in lawn service, plastic and glass bottles, a tire, construction shingles, pieces of wood over five feet, a fish net, cat carrier and a buoy over 8 feet long, to mention just a few.

During Monofilament Madness, a grandfather took his two grandsons out to show them what happens when you are not properly disposing of debris. Two Edison State College students came out for extra credit. A mother brought her two children to show the cigarette butts, bottle caps, sippy juice straws and plastic that litter the area they like to play in. These stories alone let us know we were doing our part in educating locals about the consequences of not properly disposing of debris.

“It would be really nice if after a couple of these clean-ups we don’t have as much to weigh in because there is less in our canal system” said Lynda Mastronardo, publisher of SWFL Naturally. She feels teaming up with an already established program on Fort Myers Beach will be the launching pad to get the people in the Cape more in tune to the environment that we all cherish every day.

Sponsors include Cape Coral Yacht Club, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Keep Lee County Beautiful and SWFL Naturally.

Any interested boaters, kayakers, jet skiers and other volunteers and/or sponsors can call SWFL Naturally at 541-1735 for more details. Or email your interest to lynda@swflnaturally.com.

Monofilament Madness will return October 27 in Cape Coral

Dive Key Largo

2 Days of diving one night stay
October 13th and 14th
Package includes 3 reef dives, one deep wreck dive, Tanks and Hotel
Call (239) 481-4733

$179 + tax
Double Occupancy

Scubavice Dive Center 12600 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers
Henson’s Puppets

Speaking from Holderness, New Hampshire on September 6 as IBEX prepared for a performance at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Henson said that she has many fond memories of her father and growing up around the Muppets. However, it wasn’t until her senior year at the Rhode Island School of Design that she decided to pursue a career in puppetry.

“I had made an animated film which featured birds and fish, but I wanted to see if I could produce a film using the same themes, but with puppets instead,” said Henson. “To my surprise, I found that using puppets was a far more effective form of communication.”

Recently, Henson’s puppet company traveled to China, where it took Best Show in the 2012 UNIMA (Union Internationale de la Marionette) Congress & World Puppetry Festival. Two weeks ago, they attended the 2012 Dragon*Con in Atlanta, Georgia, capturing the top prize for Best Animated Film (The Narrative of Victor Karloch) at the convention’s highly competitive film festival.

Of course, being the youngest daughter of a popular entertainment icon, Henson is often reminded of how greatly her father’s work has impacted generations of both children and the young at heart.

“I’ve heard such beautiful, first-hand stories from people of how much the Muppets have meant to them, and that they are raising their children with the same shows they grew up on,” she said. “My dad was very prolific and worked on so many wonderful things, from Sesame Street to The Muppet Show to Fraggle Rock and The Dark Crystal. Believe me, I love hearing it.”

However, folks shouldn’t expect to see Bert and Ernie in the Endangered Species & Wildlife Parade or IBEX’s Celebration of Flight presentation, which begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 15 in the “Ding” Darling Education Center. Families will have a chance to learn about the creatures the actors portray and ask them about their work. An indoor production and kite-making workshop will continue outside to the upper parking lot, where kids can try out their new kites and perform along with the puppeteers and kite-flyers.

“We’re always adding new elements to our presentations,” added Ramirez. “We’ll be creating new creatures that are indigenous to this area especially for the event.”

Like her father, Heather Henson likes to infuse a message within her art.

“A lot of things my dad did talked about preserving and understanding nature, and that had a lot of influence on me,” she said. “We do a lot of things that honor him just by being creative and allowing our imagination to steer what we are doing in our shows. He loved working with creative people.”

Certainly, the appearances by IBEX Puppetry are among the highlights on the calendar of events for the 23rd annual wildlife and environmental awareness festival.

“This is such a perfect fit for ‘Ding’ Days,” said supervisory ranger Toni Westland. “I saw them perform last year at Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge and told my committee ‘We have to get them!’ You’re not going to believe how cool this is.”

For updates on events, information on sponsoring “Ding” Darling Days or to sign up for weekly bulletins, visit www.dingdarlingdays.com.

IBEX Puppetry’s interactive Endangered Species & Wildlife Parade includes elements of music, dance and environmental awareness.
Ghostbird Theatre Company Presents New Play

Ghostbird Theatre Company presents The Pumpkin Grower, a play by Fort Myers poet and playwright James Brock September 26 through 30 at 8 p.m. at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

Borrowing from Ovid’s The Metamorphoses, The Pumpkin Grower is the story of Caunus, a young husband who deals with his failed marriage by growing prized pumpkins. His neighbor, Byblis, helps with the gardening, and a troubled romance ensues. Through her love for Caunus, Byblis faces her passions and the responsibilities that attend them. The play blends poetry, dance, music, moonlight, and fugitive love.

The play is directed by Brittney Brady, with Rachel Bennett as Byblis and Jake Scott-Hodes as Caunus. Other actors include Dana Lynn Frantz, Dayanira Lopez, Michael Lee Bridges, Jim Brock, Phil Heubeck and Jonathan Lawrence. The Pumpkin Grower explores the undercurrents of repressed desire and friendship. The play contains adult language.

Brock has published four books of poetry and he has won fellowships for his poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alex Haley Foundation, and the City of Fort Myers. He is a professor of English at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Last year, Ghostbird Theatre Company presented the successful run of Mud at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. This year Ghostbird Theatre Company will produce this world-premiere play as well as Samuel Beckett’s Endgame, which will run in April.

Tickets are $10 and are available through the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center ticket office or online at www.sbdac.com. The center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.

Winners Announced For The 2012 Art By The disABLEd Juried Exhibit

The Arts in Healthcare program at Lee Memorial Health System announced the winners of the 2012 Art by the disABLEd Juried Exhibition now showing at the Lee County Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers.

Honorable mention honors went to Cynthia Osterhaus for her painting entitled Winter. Martha Scott took third place with her painting Honesty. The second place winning artwork went to Anne Roberts for her pastel drawing entitled Gone To Sea. First place honors went to Frank DiMaria for his charcoal work Pillow Embrace and the Best In Show winner is Nancy Cameron Smith for her abstract painting entitled Circle Of Life.

All of the 17 disABLEd artists’ work will continue to be exhibited in the Member’s Gallery at the Lee County Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers until Saturday, September 29. Call The Alliance for the Arts at 939-2787 for gallery hours.

For information on the Lee Memorial Health System Arts in Healthcare program or the Art by the disABLEd program, call Doug MacGregor at 343-2633.

Best In Show winner Circle Of Life by Nancy Cameron Smith

First place winner Pillow Embrace by Frank DiMaria

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New Classes Offered At The Alliance

Do you need to somehow slow down and take a moment during these tense and hurried times? Have you ever considered meditation, but don’t know where to begin? Join Alliance for the Arts instructor Debbie Padnuk on Saturday, September 22 for her workshop, How To Meditate.

“Meditation is not just for those who want to sit quietly for hours, but can be a vital and integrated part of our daily lives and help us to act from a more balanced state of being,” said Padnuk.

Learn techniques to break the stress cycle and create greater harmony in your personal and work lives during this two-hour workshop that costs $25 for Alliance members and $30 for non-members.

But the Alliance’s new educational schedule contains much more than just meditation. Improv 101 begins on Monday, October 1 with a Try It! scheduled on Monday, September 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Try It! program offers free single sessions for Alliance members and $5 for non-members. Additional October classes include Drawing 101 and Classical Painting. Be sure to visit the Alliance website to download the entire catalog of adult classes.

For the first time, the Alliance has created an entire new catalog devoted to youth programming, and has added programs for toddlers and pre-K kids. Abracadoodle! is designed for ages 2 and 3 offers creative fun for your toddler. For your 3 to 5 year old, Art Attack will expose your child to sculpture, drawing and music. The Art Attack Try It! is on Saturday, September 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. You can download the entire youth catalog on the Alliance website. Consider a membership today to receive 20 percent off all classes, as well as many other benefits.

For more information, go to www.artinlee.org or call 939-2787.

The Alliance for the Arts campus and galleries are located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

October Events

The upcoming schedule of events happening at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center includes the popular Fort Myers Film Festival, monthly Art Walk and Music Walk, dances, networking mixers and more. Highlights happening in October include:

- Mondays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 – Fort Myers Film Festival Mixers
- Friday, October 5 – Art Walk: The Art of Carl Schwartz and Celeste Borah
- Monthly event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission is free.
- Sunday, October 7 – Cotillion Opening Dances
- Thursday, October 11 – Connect Networking Mixer
- Expand your business and personal relationships. Get to know each other and connect in your community. Event features appetizers, raffle prizes, music, drinks and mingling. Held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is $5.
- Friday, October 19 – Music Walk
- World Collision will perform from 7 to 10 p.m.
- Friday, October 19 – Dance at the Davis
- Event will include Monster Mash, with a costume contest held from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission is free.
- Saturday, October 20 – Zombicon

Annual gathering of ghouls will be held from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Thursday, October 25 – Art & Poetry Networking Event
- Social gathering held from 8 to 11 p.m.
- Sunday, October 28 – Vocal Artistry
- United Way kick-off features a silent auction, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres beginning at 6 p.m. Cost is $75.
- Mondays and Wednesdays (ongoing) – Yoga & Tai Chi
- Starting at 9:30 a.m. Cost is $12 per class for members, $15 per class for non-members; $100 for 10 classes for members, $120 for 10 classes for non-members.

For more information about any event or class, visit the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street in Fort Myers, call 333-1933, email jim@sbdac.com or visit www.sbdac.com.
Mahi with Papaya Coconut Curry
4 six-ounce mahi-mahi fillets
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tablespoons olive oil
Season mahi fillets with salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large sauté pan on medium-high; add fillets and sauté for 3 to 5 minutes on each side until cooked through. Serve with Florida Papaya Coconut Curry Sauce.
Yields four servings
Nutritional Value Per Serving
Calories 228, Calories From Fat 171, Total Fat 19g, Saturated Fat 3g, Trans Fatty Acid 0, Cholesterol 21mg, Total Carbohydrates 13g, Protein 1g, Omega 3 Fatty Acid 0.13g

Papaya Coconut Curry
2 ripe papayas, cubed
1/2 cup mirin rice wine
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 tablespoon fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
Turmeric whipping cream
1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk
1/2 teaspoon Thai red curry paste
Sea salt to taste
Fresh ground pepper to taste
Place papaya cubes, mirin rice wine, white wine, ginger and turmeric in heavy medium-size saucepan. Boil until reduced to 1/4 cup. Add cream and coconut milk; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer sauce until slightly thickened, stirring occasionally. Stir in curry paste. Season the sauce to taste with sea salt and fresh ground pepper. Reserve papaya cubes for garnish and strain remaining sauce through a fine mesh sieve. Set aside.
Note: sauce can be made ahead of time and refrigerated.
Yields eight servings
Nutritional Value Per Serving
Calories 173, Calories From Fat 128, Total Fat 14g, Saturated Fat 10g, Trans Fatty Acid 0g, Cholesterol 41mg, Total Carbohydrates 6g, Protein 1g, Omega 3 Fatty Acid 0g.

Local Restaurants
Give Back Via Rotary Italian Fest
If you have a craving for some great Italian food, along with a desire to help the hungry, be sure to attend the Rotary Club of Fort Myers Italian Fest on Sunday, October 7 at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presented by Southwest Florida College, Italian Fest is pleased to welcome back A Touch of Italy, Jo-Jo’s Italian Ice, LaMotta’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, Mario’s Meat Market, Mastello’s Restaurant, Pizza Fusion and University Grill, along with first time participant Giuseppe’s Italian Dogs. Each of these restaurants will be dishing up a great menu of Italian foods at affordable prices for the benefit of the Fort Myers Rotary Club Foundation and the Harry Chapin Foodbank of Southwest Florida.
Here’s a preview of the Italian Fest menu items:
A Touch of Italy – Zeppole, Fried Calamari, Tiramisu
Giuseppe’s Italian Dogs – Italian Hot Dogs, Chips
Jo-Jo’s Italian Ice – Italian Ice
LaMotta’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria – Penne Pasta with Meatballs, Cannoli
Mario’s Meat Market – Sausage & Pepper Sandwiches, Italian Deli Sandwiches
Mastello’s Restaurant – Bread, Biscotti, Mozzarella-Tomato Skewers
Pizza Fusion – Beet Salad, Half & Full Personal Pizza
University Grill – Meatball Sliders
“We are so grateful to the chefs and owners of these restaurants who dish up not only great food, but do it to help benefit our community,” said Steve Bowen, president of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers. “Year in and year out, they are here to support the Italian Fest, and we hope there will be another great turnout of guests to sample great food for a great cause.”

In addition to the delectable food, the 2012 entertainment lineup includes Uncle Leo, A Moment In Time, Alter Ego Band, Miss CC’s Creative Dancers, Cracker Blues and more. Music begins promptly at 11 a.m. and continues through 5 p.m. Fun family activities are plentiful and will include a coloring contest, spaghetti eating contest, kids activities and more.

Italian Fest will be held at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers, on the corner of McGregor and Colonial. Blankets and chairs are allowed, however, coolers are prohibited. A suggested family donation of $5 at the gate is encouraged. Event proceeds will benefit the Fort Myers Rotary Club Foundation and Harry Chapin Foodbank of Southwest Florida.
This event is generously sponsored by Southwest Florida College with additional support from Century Link, Progressive Builders, Vein Specialists, Lee Memorial Health System and Encore National Bank.
For additional event details, visit www.FortMyersItalianFest.org or call 332-8158.

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Everblades To Open 15th Season As Defending Kelly Cup Champs

by Ed Frank

In 1998, when professional hockey first came to Southwest Florida, the pundits doubted whether it would ever be successful. How wrong they were!

Next month, the Florida Everblades begin their 15th season here, returning to Germain Arena as the defending Kelly Cup Champions of the ECHL.

In all 14 previous seasons, the Everblades qualified for post-season hockey, but last year was their first league championship – a real surprise after finishing just third in the South Division with a regular season record of 39-26-7.

The Everblades open the 2012-13 season October 12 against Orlando at Germain. Six of their first seven games will be on home ice, three against Orlando, two against Greenville and one versus South Carolina. Here is the early season home schedule:

October 12, 13 and 19 – Orlando
October 24 and 26 – South Carolina
October 27 – Greenville

All games have 7:30 p.m. starts.

It appears that Florida will begin the new season with a veteran roster with at least nine players returning from last season’s championship team. In addition, the team has signed defenseman Jeff Dimmen, who helped lead the Norfolk Admirals of the American Hockey League to the team’s first Calder Cup Championship.

Already in the fold for the Everblades are forwards Brandon MacLean, Brayden Irwin, Trevor Brues, Leigh Salters, Mathieu Roy, Matt Marquardt and David Rutherford; defensemen Bobby Raymond, Sean Whitney, Taylor Ellington and Jeff Dimmen.

Greg Poss returns for his third season as head coach, only the fourth head coach in the Florida franchise’s history.

The Everblades will also face Orlando in a pair of pre-season games, on October 5 and 6 at Germain Arena. A scheduled pre-season game on October 2 at Germain between the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League appears in jeopardy because of the NHL lockout after the league’s labor contract expired without an agreement.

Tickets for all Everblades games can be purchased at the Germain Arena Box Office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000.

CME Group Titleholders Tickets Now On Sale

Tickets now are on sale for the November 12 to 18 CME Group Titleholders at TwinEagles in Naples, featuring the top women golfers in the world in the culminating event of the season’s LPGA tour.

The tournament marks the return of women’s professional golf to Southwest Florida for the first time in more than a decade.

Competition will take place at the new Eagle Course in the TwinEagles golf complex.

A variety of ticket packages are available starting as low as $25 for advance one-day gate admission. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cmegrouptitleholders.com or by calling 593-3900.

Red Sox Deny Team Is For Sale

As if the 2012 Boston Red Sox season wasn’t a disaster enough, last week the team owner had to deny reports that the team was for sale.

Fox Business reported that executives of Fenway Sports Group, owners of the franchise, were concerned with having “the financial resources to run both” the Red Sox and the Liverpool, England soccer team which it purchased in 2010.

John Henry, principal owner, quickly refuted the story by saying “The report is completely without foundation.”*

SBRN Golf Tournament Next Friday

There is still time to register and play in the upcoming Small Business Resource Network (SBRN) Golf Tournament, set for Friday, September 21 at Old Corkscrew Golf Course, located at 17320 Corkscrew Road in Estero.

The SBRN is an extension of Florida Gulf Coast University’s Small Business Development Center.

The four-person scramble will tee-off at 8:30 a.m., with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Cost to play is $100 per person, and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, goodie bag, a buffet lunch and door prizes.

Grasmeier Business Services, LLC-MS is the major sponsor for the golf outing and Great Florida Insurance is the lunch sponsor. Sponsorships are still available including an Executive Foursome for ($550), which includes the above mentioned, plus a certificate of appreciation and recognition of the day of the tournament.

Following the golf tournament, a buffet lunch and raffle prizes will take place.

Auction items range from weekend stays to dinner certificates, golf packages and more.

To register for the golf tournament or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.sbrn.org, click on Southwest tab, or call the SBDC office at 745-3700.*

Tai Chi Event Kicks Off Falls Prevention Awareness Day

Despite a nearly five percent reduction in the number of falls recorded at Lee Memorial Trauma Center in 2010 through 2011, falls continue to be the leading cause of injury and death for people 65 and older in Lee County. Since January 2012, Lee Memorial Trauma Center has treated 440 patients for injuries related to falls, and more than 20 people died from their injuries.

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day is observed on the first day of fall, September 22, to promote and increase public awareness about how to prevent and reduce falls. Because falling continues to be a leading cause of injury and death in Lee and Collier counties, Lee Memorial Health System and other members of the Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition are hosting a free Tai Chi demonstration to educate the community on ways to help improve balance and prevent falls.

The public is invited to participate in or observe a free Tai Chi class to be held on Saturday, September 22 from 11 a.m. to noon at Gulf Coast Town Center’s Market Square Pavilion.

Attendees are encouraged to wear the color yellow, in recognition of falls prevention. In addition, health care experts with the Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition’s Step WiseLee program will provide tips on ways to prevent falls.

Tai Chi has been shown to help improve strength and balance and to reduce falls. The National Council of Aging recently studied the number of falls and functional balance scores of participants of this Tai Chi program and observed significantly fewer falls following the six-month intervention. Study participants showed significant improvements in all measures of functional balance, physical performance, and reduced fear of falling.

Intervention gains in these measures were maintained at a 6-month post intervention follow-up in the Tai Chi group.

“Falls are both unintentional and preventable,” said Mark Tesoro, Injury prevention educator/analyst for Trauma Services at Lee Memorial Health System.

“Through education, risk assessment and free health care screenings, we continue to raise awareness of preventive measures that can keep seniors safe in Lee County.”

Often the result of a hazard or a precipitating medical event, falls can result in hip fractures, head trauma or even death. From tripping over a computer cord to stumbling down stairs, falls can happen in young children, healthy adults and even athletes. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), falls occur more often in senior adults and are the leading cause of injury deaths in persons over 65 years of age. However, falls are not a normal, natural part of aging.

Studies show that a combination of interventions can significantly reduce falls in the older adult population. Experts recommend the following key steps to reduce the risk of falls:

- Begin a regular exercise program
- Make your home safer by clearing walkways and hallways
- Have your vision checked
- Have your health provider review your medications

The “Step WiseLee” initiative began in September 2009 to unite local health care agencies, residents, family and friends to collaborate in preventing falls and fall-related injuries and deaths in Lee County.

For a more detailed checklist on how you can help prevent falls and fall-related injuries and deaths, visit www.stepwiselee.com.*

English Country Dancing Class

Learn the social dances of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries with an English Country Dancing class, offered at the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. all year long.

Come enjoy a family-friendly activity with live music. Dress is casual, and participants should wear flat shoes with non-slip soles. Partners are not necessary and beginners are always welcome.

Lessons are free. After a one-time payment of $10, which covers lifetime membership to the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16355 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers.

For more information, contact Gillian Carney at 603-9828 or email fortmyersdancers@hotmail.com. Call 432-2154 for driving directions.*

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The River Weekly News

Call 415-7732
Dear Shelley,

My daughter has had an IEP for special education services for two years. She is making some progress but she is still struggling, in my opinion. We just had her IEP meeting and the school voted to discontinue her speech services. Can they just ignore me and outvote me?

Brittany, Charlotte, Florida

IEP decisions are complex and can often be problematic. Parents frequently feel isolated in IEP meetings and overwhelmed with the jumble of acronyms used as well as the unfamiliar educational jargon that may be present in many of the documents. The goal of any IEP is to ensure that the child is receiving FAPE, a free and appropriate education as required by law.

Parents are equal participants in making decisions about their child’s special education program and what seems to have happened to you does not appear to be consistent with the law about parental participation. It is clear in the law that, “parents are considered equal partners with school personnel in making these decisions, and the IEP team must consider the parents’ concerns and the information that they provide regarding their child in developing, reviewing, and revising IEPs (Secs. 300.343(c)(iii) and 300.346(a)(1) and (b)).”

According to federal law, IDEA 1997, Appendix A: “The IEP team should work toward consensus, but the public agency has ultimate responsibility to ensure that the IEP includes the services that the child needs in order to receive FAPE. It is not appropriate to make IEP decisions based upon a majority ‘vote’. Every effort should be made to resolve differences between parents and school staff through voluntary mediation or some other informal step, without resort to a due process hearing.

The law further states, “If the team cannot reach consensus, the public agency must provide the parents [FR Page 12474] with prior written notice of the agency’s proposals or rejections, or both, regarding the child’s educational program, and the parents have the right to seek resolution of any disagreements by initiating an impartial due process hearing.”

While there is a great deal of educational jargon in the law as well, it is clear that you do have some options as provided by law. I suggest that you ask for another IEP meeting to review the reasons why the school thinks your daughter’s speech services should be discontinued. Make sure to bring someone with you to the meeting, preferably someone who has some background in special education services. It’s always better to have support in emotional situations. You may also want to tape-record the meeting so you can make sure that you have understood everything.

If you do not reach a consensus with the team, the next step would be to call the State Department of Education to discuss this disagreement. They may want to send a mediator to help resolve the problem or they may advise you to pursue other options at no cost to the parent.

A wonderful website where you can learn more about special education is www.wrightslaw.com. I recommend it highly.

Ms. Greggs is adjunct faculty at Edison State College where she teaches psychology and education courses. She is also Nationally Certified School Psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. Questions for publication may be addressed to smgreggs@gmail.com. Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.

Canterbury To Conduct Open House

You are invited to explore the Canterbury Advantage at an open house on Tuesday, October 16 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Canterbury School is a Pre-K third through 12th grade independent, college prep school preparing students of ability, promise and diverse backgrounds for selective colleges. Canterbury’s motto – Education, Character, Leadership, Service – defines the focus of the school’s program and underscores all that is done in and out of the classroom.

Canterbury has a long-standing and proud tradition of sending 100 percent of graduates on to colleges or universities. Come explore the difference an independent education can make. Need-based merit scholarships are available for new students entering sixth and ninth grades.

Each year, Canterbury students take top honors in local, regional, state and national academic, athletic and arts competitions. Canterbury students are regularly admitted to top universities across the nation including Harvard, University of Florida, Duke, Princeton, University of Miami, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Cornell and Georgetown University.

Last year’s senior class was offered more than $4.8 million in scholarships, grants and awards.

Families are invited to tour the 33-acre campus and experience first-hand Canterbury’s commitment to academics, athletics and the arts. Talk to faculty and administrators about the school, admission requirements and need-based financial aid.

Peace Day In The Park This Sunday

The fifth annual Peace Day In The Park, to be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 23 at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral, will offer something for everyone. On hand will be the Cape Coral Fire Department with a firetruck for the children to enjoy. The Big Red Bus will also be on site, collecting blood for local hospitals with two buses. Also featured is a raffle with prizes including a Peace Quilt, hand-stitched by local artisan Mary Hansen. Each year, Hansen designs a single quilt specifically for the event, and only one is ever produced. The event will offer family-friendly fun, food, games and prizes.

In addition, The Calendar Girls will be appearing along with other exciting local entertainers, artisans and musicians like Mike Rogers, face painting, a doggy fashion show, massages, information and education booths, crafts, workshops, classes and many local vendors that support, inspire and are part of the peace-inspired change each day.

Visitors are invited to bring their drums, shakers, flutes and other instruments and join together for a community drum and dance circle.

For more information about the fifth annual Peace Day In The Park, call 560-5224 or send an email to swl4peace@email.com.

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Top 10 Real Estate Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Square Footage</th>
<th>Listing Price</th>
<th>Selling Price</th>
<th>Days on Market</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanibel Estates</td>
<td>Sanibel</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>4,321</td>
<td>2,495,000</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Charles Harbour</td>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>1,999,900</td>
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<td>Shadow Wood At The Brooks</td>
<td>Bonita Springs</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>1,125,000</td>
<td>1,080,000</td>
<td>188</td>
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<td>Palmira Golf &amp; Country Club</td>
<td>Bonita Springs</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,028</td>
<td>1,195,000</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
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<td>East Part Island</td>
<td>Bokeelia</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>553</td>
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<td>Bonita Bay</td>
<td>Bonita Springs</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2,632</td>
<td>799,999</td>
<td>750,000</td>
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<td>York Manor</td>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
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<td>5,100</td>
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<td>Fort Myers</td>
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<td>Fort Myers</td>
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<td>3,742</td>
<td>705,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
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</table>

These are the top 10 real estate sales in Florida for the year 2002.
Free Autism Screening For Young Children

The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, in partnership with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida, offers a free monthly autism spectrum disorder screening for toddlers 18 months to five years of age.

The next screening will be held on Friday, October 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East Lee County Library, located at 9881 Gunnery Road North in Lehigh Acres.

It is estimated that one in every 88 children is diagnosed with some form of Autism Spectrum Disorder, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

Medical consultants for the project stress that an early diagnosis can make a vast difference for toddlers and their families. They say early intensive behavioral intervention can make an immense difference not just in the development of the child, but in their families as well.

The ASD screening is conducted by The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. The screenings are administered by an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, who has extensive training and experience in typical child development and developmental disorders.

A physician referral is not required. To schedule a screening, call 343-6838.

Financial Focus

Raise Awareness Of Benefits Of Life Insurance

by Jennifer Basey

You may be unaware of it, but September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. And when you consider the lifetime of benefits you and your family may receive from life insurance, you might agree that a month isn’t long to spend on this important part of your overall financial picture.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are uninsured or under-insured. In fact, nearly a third of all consumers think they need more life insurance, according to the 2012 Insurance Barometer Study, published by the nonprofit LIFE Foundation and LIMRA, a research and consulting organization that specializes in insurance and financial services. And it appears that one of the main reasons so many people lack sufficient life insurance is their perception that they can’t afford it. Yet, the cost for basic term life insurance has fallen by about 50 percent over the past 10 years, according to the LIFE Foundation.

The cost – financial, emotional and psychological – of not having adequate life insurance certainly outweighs the expense of carrying the proper coverage. You’ll hear about many things that are designed to “last a lifetime,” but in the case of life insurance, that expression is inappropriate.

Consider the various times in which you should look at the need for life insurance:

• When you’re married – Many married couples assume they won’t need life insurance until they have children. But if you or your spouse died, would the surviving spouse’s income be sufficient to pay off the mortgage, or even the rent? How about credit card balances, car loans or student loans?

• When you’re married... with young kids – Now, in addition to having to pay off the mortgage if anything should happen to you, your surviving spouse will have to find the money to educate your children – and that’s a big challenge, given the rapidly escalating expenses associated with college. But with sufficient life insurance in place, your spouse can deal with the high costs of higher education.

• Furthermore, if you have permanent life insurance, such as whole life or universal life, you have the potential to build cash value, which you may be able to tap to help pay for college – while you’re still alive. (Keep in mind, though, that using some of your cash value could lower your policy’s death benefit.)

• When your children are grown – Even with your children grown and gone, you can benefit from life insurance. For example, if your spouse outlives you by a decade or more, will he or she have enough money to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle?

• When you’re retired – Your need for life insurance doesn’t retire when you do. For one thing, you may be able to access the cash value of your permanent insurance to help meet your retirement expenses. (Keep in mind this may affect your death benefit.) And your policy’s death benefit could help your children or other heirs deal with estate taxes, if any exist.

Furthermore, if you’d like to be able to pass on something to your children or grandchildren, life insurance may be an ideal vehicle, because the proceeds are typically income tax free and can avoid the time-consuming process of probate.

Life Insurance Awareness Month only lasts 30 days – but, as we’ve seen, life insurance can offer a lifetime of benefits. So make sure you get the coverage you need.

Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers. She can be reached at jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com.

FGCU Joins Global Peace Initiative

The Art Galleries at Florida Gulf Coast University joins hundreds of cultural institutions worldwide, from Australia to Zimbabwe, supporting films4peace to celebrate World Peace Day, an international United Nations day of ceasefire, and a day for individuals, organizations and countries to demonstrate acts of peace on Friday, September 21. Film shorts will run continually in the Arts Complex Lobby from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Films4peace, curated by Mark Coetze, is an annual short film commissioned by PUMA Peace. It features 21 of today’s most innovative artists visually interpreting the subject of peace. These art films will be released at cultural venues globally, online on World Peace Day September 21, 2012 on a dedicated films4peace website, through social networking and video sharing sites and blogs, amongst others.

Live screenings will accompany the online release at major museums globally including the Bass Museum of Art (Miami) and the Design Museum (London, UK); in public urban spaces, such as the City of Barcelona (Spain) and the Laumeier Sculpture Park (St. Louis, Missouri); educational institutions, such as Florida Gulf Coast University, and youth leadership conferences, such as the H & R Block Artspace, Kansas City Art Institute and the 2012 One Young World summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The films include 35 mm live action, experimental animation and fine art. The films are 30 to 90 seconds to facilitate online as well as live screenings. None of the films are language specific. The artists were selected for the quality and scope of their work and their commitment to making the world a better place.

“This is a non-partisan event devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples... with an artist’s interpretation,” said Anica Sturdivant, interim director of the Art Galleries at Florida Gulf Coast University. “As we move further in the development of course offerings related to trans-media, digital media and video, the gallery wishes to support students’ exploration of the medium through specific subject matter. Joining with films4peace made perfect sense.”

Coetze has invited 21 artists to create 17 new works:

Janet Biggs (USA), Ergin Causoglu (Bulgaria), Magali Charrier (France), Gregory Crewdson and Costanza Theodoli-Braschi (USA and UK), Yang Fudong (China), Tom Grant and Kayleigh Gibbons (UK), Max Hattler (Germany), Isaac Julien (UK), Peterson Kamwathi (Kenya), Joe Lawlor and Christine Molloy (Ireland), Nandipha Mntambo (Southland), Michael Nyman (UK), Noriko Olikau (Japan), Jacco Olivier (Netherlands), Bill Porter (UK), Levi van Veluw (Netherlands) and Hank Willis Thomas and Tiference Nance (USA).

“Artists confront us with the challenges that face us at this time,” added Coetze. “These films are both disturbing and inspiring, responsive to the reality of our time, but they also ask us to be responsible for our actions. PUMA Peace wishes to contribute to making the world a better place. A world that is safer, more peaceful and more creative. We are honored to have The Art Galleries at Florida Gulf Coast University join us in this important initiative.”

For further information on this exhibition and others, visit www.artgallery.fgcu.edu or contact Anica Sturdivant at 590-7199.

Housing Authority Goes Smoke-Free

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers is adopting a smoke-free policy for all of its properties.

The new policy is in accordance with HUD Notice H2010-21 that establishes smoking cessation has demonstrated health benefits, and that secondhand smoke represents a serious health risk to non-smokers.

“It has been proven that exposure to secondhand smoke, whether direct or secondhand, causes adverse health outcomes such as asthma and other respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease and cancer,” said HACFM executive director Marcus D. Goodson. “Public housing authorities nationwide have been adopting similar policies in line with HUD recommendations.”

Beginning on January 1, 2013, smoking in dwelling units will be strictly prohibited. HACFM reserves the right to terminate tenancy or impose a reasonable charge for cleaning apartments where a violation has been found. Residents may still smoke on outdoor balconies.

As part of the new policy, HACFM will post non-smoking signs at entrances and exits, common areas, hallways and in conspicuous places in close proximity to the smoke-free buildings.

Currently, HACFM serves more than 3,500 low-income families throughout the greater Fort Myers community. The HACFM provides high-quality, stable and sustainable housing and related services to people in need. In addition, the staff works diligently to provide programs such as Resident Services/Family Self-Sufficiency and HOPE VI Community Development initiatives.

“The HACFM serves as a catalyst for increasing access to affordable housing, and helping develop, preserve and revitalize communities through affordable rental housing. The agency is dedicated to empowering families with the means to become as self-sufficient as possible, encouraging and facilitating movement towards financial independence beyond the need for HACFM services while recognizing the needs and limitations of the mentally and physically disabled, aged and infirmed.”

Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers.
Dr. Dave
Smoking Benefits
by Dr. Dave Hepburn

S
ome feel that smoking is detrimental. Hogwash! Frankly, I can think of many reasons that smoking benefits both the smoker and society in general.

Society
1. Smoking helps rid the world of solid toxic substances like toluenes, benzene and formaldehyde. By creating a weee burning toxic waste dump each time a fag is lit up, some 3,000 solid poisons burning toxic waste dump each time a smoker to transmit germs. This may save our landfills.
2. Cancer research would come to a halt if everyone stopped smoking. White mice would overrun labs, mad scientists would go completely sane and start cloning Dolly Partons instead of sheep. Pocket protector factories would shut down.
3. Smoking keeps new doctors well trained. If not for smokers, young doctors would see far less pathology, lose their interest in medicine, would quit and end up retraining in a job trapping white mice.
4. A boon to Botox and beauty. While smokers convert their skin from baby-butt smooth to Shar Pei level, facial rejuvenation and teeth whitening industries thrive.
5. Decrease the overpopulation. It has been calculated that each cigarette smoked shortens life by 11 minutes. An average smoker uses 6.5 solid poisons each time a fag is lit up, some 3,000 solid poisons burning toxic waste dump each time a smoker to transmit germs.

Smokers
1. Catch less communicable diseases. People carry germs. Due to the distinct aroma of a smokers breath, hair, pores and overalls, few people get close enough to a smoker to transmit germs.
2. Bask in a plethora of spectral splendour as they exude a cornucopia of colour. Green sputum in the morning, a lovely yellow tinge to teeth and fingers glistening in the noonday sun, and how about the brilliant red urine from bladder cancer that only a smoker can produce.
3. Give off that cool James Dean look, the current James Dean.
4. Enjoy an excellent weight loss program. With a smokers taste buds rendered as useless as tofu at a hockey game, food tastes like cardboard and weight is dropped. Failing that, Virginia Slims and cancer have teamed up to dissolve those pounds away.
5. Feel less guilty about missing bike to work week. While observing a cyclist in a three piece suit and a briefcase pedaling to his cubicle, many folks would feel inspired if not guilty about not doing the same. The smoker, however, puffing and gasping just reaching for a lighter, resists engaging in potentially harmful vigorous exercise. Able to demonstrate that famous willpower they’re known for, they declare firmly “I’m not even tempted.”
6. Learn to perfect an exotic Asian dialect by reaching down deep into the guttural diaphragm to dislodge mucous plugs prior to expectorating.
7. Don’t end up inside hospitals. You have to go outside hospitals to smoke. Those walking by are inspired if not tempted by this lifestyle. “Hey, maybe we could walk a little more. Get our own TV, food served right to your bed and attractive nurses with cool drugs just a button away.”
8. Are trend setters in the world of fashion. “Oh yes, Evan, I just love this. A delightful new fall fashion, Pierre Cardin oxygen bottles in a scintillating chiffon carrier with matching accessory tubes wrapped around the face. Note those two gorgeous prongs rammed up the nostrils. And who wouldn’t look twice at that stunning hole in your throat with a revealing metal trachestomy.”
9. Get the best views at any restaurant. In fact, nowadays they get to sit out in the view.
10. Always have a light with them. “Shhhhh. Hey Bob, light up that Bic and let’s see if this really was James Dean’s coffin.”

Dear Pharmacist:
I just heard about the new study that says fish oil supplements don’t prevent heart attacks, and may not help us. Should I keep taking fish oils?

S.S., Chicago, Illinois

Yes, if they’re high-quality. The “study” wasn’t a study at all, it was a meta-analysis, which means researchers examine results from a bunch of trials and draw their own conclusions based on the collective data.

The meta-analysis you refer to appeared in the September 2012 issue of JAMA and included 68,000 participants in 20 different studies that covered a time frame 24 years. I have some problems with their opinion that fish oils are fairly worthless. The research I know of suggests strong benefits to the heart and arteries when you take high-quality fish oils.

These are my problems with the JAMA article:
1. The researchers only reviewed 20 studies, but there are thousands that suggest cardiovascular protection by fish oils, particularly the EPA and DHA components. You’re not going getting the full picture from 20 studies.
2. How much fish oil was used? Most people were taking 1,000mg per day, but you need about 2,000 mg per day (total daily dose of EPA and DHA) to truly impact coronary heart disease. We come up therapeutically short! What about the ratio of EPA to DHA? ideally, I’d like it to be 3:2; for example, 600mg of EPA to 400mg of DHA is a 3:2 ratio.
3. The looked at chronically ill people who had serious conditions, like they had already suffered a heart attack and stroke, not folks taking it for prevention. Fish oils are not intended to prevent heart attack or stroke. Plus, it’s super hard to prevent more health catastrophes, once you’ve had one. Feeling skewed?
4. What about the medications these folks were taking? The participants were taking all sorts of blood pressure pills and diuretics, most of which just so happen to be drug muggers of magnesium! Do you realize that serious uncorrected magnesium deficiency can cause a heart attack, no matter how much fish oil you take! To me, this is a huge gap in their premature conclusion.
5. What about Gamma Linolenic Acid – or “GLA” – status? When you take fish oils, an omega 3 fatty acid, you have to also supplement with GLA (an omega 6 fatty acid) because high doses of fish oils will cause drug mugging of GLA. For example, if you take 1,000 mg of fish oil (EPA and DHA totaled together), you need 500mg GLA at the same time. Evening primrose oil supplements can provide this GLA. This is important because GLA deficiency can increase your tendency to form clots (bad). GLA is known to protect the heart, without adequate amounts, you could suffer cardiac consequences, and this was not even addressed.
6. Even the American Heart Association approves of fish oils for heart health. Think smart and don’t be fooled by a single study intended to sway you away from decades of positive research.

Population Studies
1. Catch less communicable diseases. People carry germs. Due to the distinct aroma of a smokers breath, hair, pores and overalls, few people get close enough to a smoker to transmit germs.
2. Allergy to the pollen of flowers, plants, and trees.
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New JAMA Study Bakes Fish Oils—Don’t Believe It!
by Suzy Cohen, RPh

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Like the column? You’ll LOVE the book the Doctor is In(sane), available at Sanibel Island Bookshop. Contact Dr. Dave or read more at www.wisequacks.org.

Share your community news with us.
Call 415-7732, Fax: 415-7702 or email press@riverweekly.com
Mom And Me

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

Dear Mom & Me,

My wife and I are very elderly, and we have many conditions that could be troublesome but with good medical care we are enjoying our lives.

We moved into a nice apartment complex with many caring neighbors around us. One thing we don’t like—these caring neighbors are always giving us medical advice. Their friends died with the same condition we have, or their friends are bedridden with the same illness we have, or a friend had to have a leg amputated because of my problem. What do we say to shut them up?

Malcom

Dear Malcom,

I do not know why people are so thoughtless with their remarks. Years ago while I was working in hospitals, I would hear what visitors said to patients and I was appalled. A person struggling to live would be told how terrible they looked and the visitor would suggest to them that they should just get another doctor. A dying patient would be told “Your color is terrible, why are you so yellow?”

In an apartment where you live, you want to keep friends. I suggest when you hear a remark, you immediately say, “My doctor is great, he/she is doing a fine job and I am satisfied with my care.” Then, try to talk about the floods or the money system in China.

Lizzie

Dear Malcom,

Lizzie makes a great point. Living in a community setting, you will always bump into your “advisors” and certainly you want to maintain a friendship with them. So, your situation requires diplomacy.

Having a pat, well-rehearsed comment on the tip of your tongue should work well: “Bill thanks you so much for your concern. My physician knows all about it. Have you seen any new movies lately?”

Being kind but redirecting the focus of your advisors helps keep them friendly but out of your personal business.

Pryce

Lizzie and Pryce’s email address is momandmeaging@hotmail.com.

Author Martone Visits Edison State

Edison Writes and the Creative Writing Club is hosting author Michael Martone at Edison State College on Saturday, September 22. Martone, an award-winning author, will give a presentation and attend a reception and book signing from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Martone’s most recent books are Four For A Quarter; Not Normal, Illinois: Peculiar Fiction From The Flyover; Racing In Place: Collages, Fragments, Postcards, Ruins, a collection of essays; and Double-Wide, his collected early stories. Michael Martone, a memoir in contributor’s notes, Unconventions, Writing On Writing and Rules Of Thumb, edited with Susan Neville, were all published recently. He is also the author of The Blue Guide to Indiana, published by FC2. The University of Georgia Press published his book of essays, The Flatness and Other Landscapes, winner of the AWP Award for Non-Fiction in 2000.

His stories have won awards in the Italian-American fiction contest, the Florida Review Short Story Contest, Story magazine’s Short, Short Story Contest, the Margaret Jones Fiction Prize of Black Ice Magazine, and the first World’s Best Short, Short Story Contest. His stories and essays have appeared and been cited in the Pushcart Prize, The Best American Stories and The Best American Essays anthologies.

Martone is currently a professor at the University of Alabama, where he has been teaching since 1996. He has been a faculty member of the MFA program for writers at Warren Wilson College since 1988. He has taught at Iowa State University, Harvard University and Syracuse University.

The event will be located in J117/118 in the Rush Library at Edison State College. Admission is free. For more information, visit http://floridarts.org/.

Hospitality Industry Awards Honor Top Customer Service In Lee County

To increase public awareness of extraordinary customer service provided by hospitality employees throughout Lee County, eight workers were recognized by receiving the Elaine McLaughlin Outstanding Hospitality Service Awards at the 12th annual ceremony in Fort Myers on September 12.

Visitors from around the world submitted a record 585 nominations, giving high praise to those local employees who provided outstanding customer service. Produced by the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) and The News-Press Media Group, the “E” Awards is a collaboration with various local businesses to encourage support service excellence being provided by Lee County hospitality professionals.

Selected for their distinctive service and dedication:

- Ibrahim Maaliki, Pointe Estero Beach Resort, Fort Myers Beach
- Richard McCaw, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Bonita Springs
- Kevin Kelly, Publix Supermarket, Fort Myers
- Ashley Pass, Koreshan State Historic Site, Estero
- Bill Weidert, American Airlines, Fort Myers
- Christine Swiersz, FISH of Sanibel
- Best Tourism Boss: Pete Corradino, Everglades Day Safari

The Honor of Distinction award, sponsored by Geraci Travel, for best overall representative of outstanding service for the year, was given to Billy Yetter of the Hilton Garden Inn in Fort Myers.

Although there are many nominees who exemplify the best in customer service and let their love of the job and destination show in their work, the Honor of Distinction winners are unique to an even greater degree. They strive for perfection and are constantly a step ahead, always anticipating a guest’s needs.

Yetter has a tireless work ethic and extraordinary dedication to the guest experience. The nominators unanimously raved about his continuous devotion. One nominator wrote, “I appreciate the attention to detail, amazing memory, and kindness. Even in a room full of a hundred people, you always feel as though you’re the only person that this person is concerned about when helping you.” Another nominator praised Yeter as “Charming and unflappable, remembers guests and unobtrusively anticipates and takes care of everyone. An amazing person that every service-oriented business should have cloned... definitely someone I can count on to consistently exceed expectations.”

Yetter’s authentic attentiveness was repeatedly cited as a stand-out characteristic; as one nominator said, he “Truly wants to make your experience ‘the best it can be’... he performs his job responsibilities in a way that says ‘I love my job! How refreshing.’

For summaries on the individual stories of the award recipients, log on to www.EAwards.org (click on 2012 Winner Stories).
Early Registration For Walk To End Alzheimer’s

The Alzheimer’s Association’s Walk To End Alzheimer’s is a united movement to reclaim the future for millions. The event will take place on Saturday, October 27 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers. Nearly 550 people from Lee County are expected to take part in this year’s event to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer’s disease.

Walk To End Alzheimer’s participants will take part in a 2.5-mile walk and will learn more about Alzheimer’s disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical trial enrollment and support programs and services of the Alzheimer’s Association. Centennial Park is located at 2000 West First Street in Fort Myers’ historic River District. Pre-walk activities begin at 8 a.m. with the Walk Step-Off starting at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact Kara McClatchy at 405-7008 or at mclatchyk@alzflgulf.org, or visit www.alz.org/Walk.

Post Offices Offer Mammography For Breast Cancer Awareness Month

It is time for you to have your annual mammography? The U.S. Postal Service is offering a simple way to get it taken care of. The Radiology Regional Mobile Mammography Bus will be located at various post offices in Southwest Florida during October.

The following dates and locations are scheduled for the Mobile Mammography Bus:

- Thursday, October 4 – Coco River Post Office, North Naples, 8 a.m. to noon
- Thursday, October 11 – North Fort Myers Post Office, noon to 4 p.m.
- Monday, October 22 – Lehigh Acres Post Office, 8 a.m. to noon
- Monday, October 22 – Page Field Post Office, Fort Myers, 2 to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 23 – Downtown Fort Myers Post Office, noon to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 24 – Naples Main Post Office, 8 a.m. to noon
- Thursday, October 25 – Cape Coral Central Post Office, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, October 29 – Tice Post Office, noon to 4 p.m.

Mammography is proven preventative healthcare, saving lives and making a difference in the long-term survival of those diagnosed with breast cancer. The baseline mammogram should be performed at age 40, unless the patient is high risk.

Mobile MammOGRAPHy is a great way to bring the convenience of annual screening to the workplace or your community. Based on census data, approximately 204,000 women in Lee County are of the age to be screened, but only 50,000 women are receiving this preventative healthcare.

Walk in service is available but appointments are preferred! Call 239-936-2316 today to schedule your appointment. Appointments are typically 20 minutes. Most insurances are accepted. Discounted self-pay pricing is available. Results will be mailed to the patient and physician within a few working days. The exams are read by local, board-certified radiologists, including fellowship-trained Women’s imagers.

Global UGRAD provides one year of non-degree study funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). World Learning is one of the nonprofit organizations that administer Global UGRAD on behalf of ECA.

Two emerging youth leaders from Asia are studying this year at Florida Gulf Coast University as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD). Rachana Nget of Cambodia and Isidora Danilovic of Serbia were chosen from thousands of students in underrepresented communities to participate in the program, which introduces international leaders to the U.S. educational system and American culture. The goal is to help promote mutual understanding and strong cross-cultural ties between Americans and the people of other countries.

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Nget is a software engineering student who plans to promote computer education in parts of her country where people lack such skills. An active community member at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, she was nominated as one of 12 students to the university’s Cambodian Youth Association in December 2011. In the same year, the Institute of Foreign Languages in Cambodia presented her an award for outstanding academic achievement. At FGCU, Rachana expects to participate in community services related to health, education and music with the hope of taking home practical knowledge.

Danilovic, a finance major, has conducted research into the relationship between inflation and government fiscal policy. She is an active member of the European Youth Parliament, an organization that raises socio-political awareness among young people. Danilovic also enjoys studying and snorkeling.

Global UGRAD accepts fewer than 100 students each year. Selection is based on academic merit, community engagement and leadership skills. Following their exchange, students return home to pursue advanced degrees, obtain internships or work in community nonprofits, universities, government ministries or the private sector.

“The idea is to help the students gain in-depth exposure to key American values,” said Timothy Gjini, associate director for FGCU International Studies. “It will help fellows integrate into the community and meet American friends – opportunities that international undergraduate students desire but cannot always find on their own.”

The UGRAD students are available to speak to local community groups. For more information, contact Timothy Gjini at 590-7690.

Run For Water At Cape Harbour

The third annual GROW Africa Run for Water 5K run will take place Saturday, September 22 at Cape Harbour in Cape Coral.

People are invited to run or walk to help people in remote Africa receive their basic human right to water!

GROW Africa’s mission is to provide wells, vaccines and food for farming in the remote villages and reduce death and disease while increasing quality and longevity of life.

It’s an evening run at 6 p.m. with a start and finish at Cape Harbour. An after-race party will be held at The Joint. Starbucks will provide Ethos Water to all runners and walkers as well as iced coffee after the race.

Registration begins at 5p.m. Awards will be given to males and females in the following categories: Overall, Masters, Grandmasters, Senior Grand Masters.

Register online at www.GrowAfrican.org by clicking Register Now.

For more information, contact Kara McClatchy at 405-7008 or at mclatchyk@alzflgulf.org, or visit www.alz.org/Walk.

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THE RIVER - SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 | 25
1. MOVIES: What was the name of Rocky's boxing nemesis in “Rocky”?
2. MUSIC: Which 1980s rock band had a hit with the title “Roxanne”? 
3. HISTORY: Where did the Battle of Waterloo take place?
4. SCIENCE: What does a mycologist study?
5. TELEVISION: What was the name of the boyfriend in the “Gidget” surfing series?
6. COMPUTERS: What does it mean when you get the message “Error 404” on a computer?
7. LANGUAGE: What does the acronym “radar” stand for?
8. TEAM SPORTS: How many members does a cricket team have?
9. LANGUAGE: What does the acronym “radar” stand for?
10. MOVIES: What was the name of Rocky's boxing nemesis in “Rocky”?

ANSWERS

★★★★

1. AERIALS (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time for the usually outspoken Lamb to be a bit more discreet. You still can get your point across, but do it in a way less likely to turn off a potential supporter.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Good news: All that hard work you put in is beginning to pay off. But you need to watch that tendency to insist on doing things your way or no way. Be a bit more flexible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to delay making a decision on the future of a long-standing relationship until you check out some heretofore hidden details that are just now beginning to emerge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your reluctance to compromise on an important issue could backfire without more facts to support your position. Weigh your options carefully before making your next move.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time for ambitious Leos or Leonas to shift from planning their next move to actually doing it. Your communication skills help persuade others to join you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Relationships — personal or professional — present new challenges. Be careful not to let a sudden surge of stubbornness influence how you choose to deal with them.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might need more facts before you can decide on a possible career change. But you should have no problem making a decision about an important personal matter.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You’re respected by most people for your direct, no-nonsense approach to the issues. But be careful you don’t replace honest skepticism with stinging sarcasm.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A newly emerging situation could require a good deal of attention and some difficult decision-making. However, close friends will help you see it through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family matters need attention. Check things out carefully. There still might be unresolved tensions that could hinder your efforts to repair damaged relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Of course you deserve to indulge yourself in something special. But for now, tuck that bit of mad money away. You’ll need it to help with a looming cash crunch.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A temporary setback in your financial situation is eased by changing some of your plans. You’ll be able to ride it out quite well until the tide turns back in your favor.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for understanding people’s needs. You have a low tolerance for those who act without concern for others.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On Sept. 24, 1789, The Judiciary Act of 1789 is passed by Congress and signed by President George Washington, establishing the Supreme Court of the United States as a tribunal made up of six justices. By 1869 the number of justices was increased to nine.

On Sept. 30, 1868, the first volume of Louisa May Alcott’s beloved children’s book “Little Women” is published. Alcott dedicated most of her life and writing to supporting her family after her father’s failure at running Transcendentalist school. Her works include “Little Men” (1871) and “An Old-Fashioned Girl” (1870).

On Sept. 28, 1901, Ed Sullivan, who would become the host of the long-running TV variety program “The Ed Sullivan Show,” is born in New York City. During the peak of its popularity in the 1950s and 1960s, Sullivan’s program showcased a wide range of entertainers, including The Beatles and Elvis Presley.

On Sept. 29, 1913, Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the engine that bears his name, dies. He was an engineer and physics professor at the Technical University of Dresden who invented the diesel engine in 1892. Diesel’s engine was used extensively in locomotives and ships.


On Sept. 27, 1989, Zsa Zsa Gabor, on trial for slapping a police officer, storms out of the courtroom in the middle of the district attorney’s closing argument. She had been pulled over for expired tags on her Rolls Royce, as well as having an open container of alcohol and an expired license.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Among men, it seems, historically at any rate, that processes of co-ordination and disintegration follow each other with great regularity, and the index of the co-ordination is the measure of the disintegration which follows.” — J.H. kaleck
ANNUAL RENTAL

SANIBEL

DUNES
On a quiet road, offering 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, den, plus garage and storage. Newer carpet & paint. UF $2,500/mo.

GULF FRONT
Gorgeous, professionally decorated 2 bedroom/2 bath + den, condo. Gulf Front plus pool, tennis. Call on this rare condo. Offering, $4,000/mo.

LAKE FRONT
This updated 2 bedroom/2.5 bath Townhouse is available furnished or UF. All appliances, gorgeous serene views, covered parking, walk to stores. Call to view this property. $1,500/mo.

WALK TO BEACH
This 2 bedroom/2 bath private home has lots of Island character. Wood floors, fireplace. Located on a large private lot. $1,500/mo.

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On Conservation Property, Quiet Neighborhood, 1 Bd/1 B, Screened Porch, Sundeck, W/D, Covered Parking, $1,280/Month, Includes Yard Maintenance; First, Last and Security. Call 917-669-3676.

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queen bed, sofa bed, chests, TV stand, furniture, fridge, bikes, household goods, garden accessories, CHATEAUX SUR MER
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CIRCULATION

Link Up With The Best Community Newspapers in the Area!

Links are now available to any business or organization in our area:
Call 395-1213 on Island, or 415-7732 Along the River.

LESS THAN $6 PER WEEK!

Simply go to IslandSunNews.com and click on to read

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21.2% Long Term Cap Gains
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IMPORTANT TAX ALERT!

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD CLICK ON:
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Our Circulation Is NOW Worldwide!
Hello, my name is Bing and I am a 3-year-old male reddish brown doberman/labrador retriever mix. I may not be a crooner like Bing Crosby, but I have an easy going personality like my namesake. When we meet, I will offer you my paw to shake because I like to show my good manners. You will see right away what a sweet, handsome boy I am.

During Animal Services’ Back To School Adoption Special, you can draw a coupon for $20 to $50 off your regular adoption fee of $75.

Hi, my name is Shania and I am a 2-year-old spayed female black and white domestic short hair. I’ve been at the shelter over six months waiting to find a new family. I’m really a laid-back little kitty and irresistibly cute. My favorite things are hanging out with folks and other felines and listening to country music.

During Animal Services’ Back To School Adoption Special, you can draw a coupon for $20 to $50 off your regular adoption fee of $50.

For information about this week’s pets, call Animal Refuges Center.

Shania ID# 530798
533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or log on to Animal Services’ website at www.LeeLostPets.com. When calling, refer to the animal’s ID number. The website updates every hour so you will be able to see if these or any other pets are still available.

The shelter is open for adoptions from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shelter is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers, next to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office off Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

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

The adoption package is valued at $500.¥

SUDOKU
To play Sudoku: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (the same number cannot appear more than once in a row, column or 3x3 box.) There is no guessing and no math involved, just logic.

answer on page 27
NEW LISTING: 134 FEET PERIWINKLE FRONTAGE
Vacant land ready to build. Located between Jacaranda restaurant and Huxter’s. Approximately 22,444 square foot area or .54 acres. Impervious Area 10,200 Sq. Ft. Approximately, Owner will consider build to suit. Sanibel Use Code Vacant Commercial. Numerous development possibilities. Visit Sanibel CODE OF ORDINANCES Sec. 126-451 For the many Permitted uses. Offered for $850,000 Contact George Kohlbrenner 239/565-8905.

EAST END ISLAND LIVING AT ITS FINEST!
This 3/2 pool home is located on a direct access canal and is truly a must see! This Island home features high ceilings, hardwood floors throughout, over sized kitchen with stainless appliances, upgraded fixtures, granite surfaces, pantry and center island with plenty of cupboard space. Home also has a wood burning fireplace for the cool Island nights, 2 stage A/C systems (5 and 3 ton) for the hot Island days, fire pit area, 10 thousand pound boat lift, sparkling pool, deeded beach access and lush landscaping all situated on a private road. Take a leisurely stroll to the Sanibel Marina and enjoy the fresh seafood at Grandma Dots restaurant. Offered for $599,000 Contact Tracy Walters “Mr. Listr” 239/994-7975 or Connie Walters “Ms. Listr” at 239/841-4540.

BEACHWALK OF SANIBEL-LOT D
WE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!!! This is the last building site in the Beachwalk Development, a large corner lot in a great near beach location bordered by a conversation area. Package includes a larger, upgraded 3 bedroom 2 bathroom floor plan with metal roof, concrete board siding and impact windows, granite countertops and raised wood panel cabinets. Offered for $795,000. Contact Ken Colter 239/851-1357 or Bob Berning 239/699-9597.

BEST CAPTIVA GULF FRONT OPPORTUNITY IN YEARS
Priced to sell at Land Value, this property offers you multiple options, renovate the existing 2 bedroom beachfront cottage and guest house for great rental potential, or use the guest house while you build your beachfront Dream Home. You can always build an all new guest house and main house or just hold the property for future market appreciation. This property has an added feature, a 71-2 foot right of use access to Roosevelt Channel, so bring your kayak! Plans are available for a new main and Guest house or built to suite. Offered for $2,795,000. Contact George Kohlbrenner 239/565-8905.

LOGGERHEAD CAY #583
Amazing GULF VIEWS from this 3rd floor condo. This unit is FULLY FURNISHED and just steps away from the sandy white beaches. Loggerhead Cay is one of the Islands most popular condominium complexes as it has AMENITIES GALORE! Community grills, shuffleboard, tennis courts and just a few of the many amenities available. This unit is quiet and features an open floor plan. Offered for $349,000. Contact Tracy Walters “Mr. Listr” 239/994-7975 or Connie Walters “Ms. Listr” at 239/841-4540.

LOGGERHEAD CAY #462
Updated, furnished condo with beautiful courtyard views with an East end location. On-site management with amenities including a community pool, tennis courts and shuffleboard. Easy access to the Sanibel Causeway. Offered for $489,000. Contact Sharon Wise 239-849-9121.

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SOUTH SEAS BAYSIDE VILLAS
#5136
Renovated and updated, this 1 bedroom, 2 bath condo capitalizes on waterfront views across lush green foliage with eastern exposure. The great room combines the living, dining and kitchen maximizing for a feeling of spaciousness and great light. The kitchen includes granite countertops and white cabinetry. The master suite is updated with West Indies flair. This bay front condominium located in South Seas Island Resort. With the investors or vacation home in mind, this condominium offers a strong monthly income. The water’s edge Bayside Villa community has under building parking, pool, spa, bbq’s along with separate storage lockers. Welcome to the Islands! Offered for $280,000. Contact LeAne Taylor Suarez 239/872-1632.

SANIBEL HARBOUR YACHT CLUB
Experience stress free boat ownership with a great dockominium featuring 5 star restaurant, Concierge service, Deli and catering, unlimited boat launching, beach area with Tiki hut and BBQ grills, 24 hour security complete washdown and engine flush after each use. #259 $49,900 reduced!! #276 - $24,900 Contact Marianne Stewart 239/560-6420 #159 - $37,000 reduced!

SUNDIAL G-201
Enjoy Gulf Views with your morning coffee! Very nicely appointed with king bed in the master suite, 2 full beds in the guest room and a pull out couch. Newer upgrades in the kitchen include, raised panel cabinetry, tray/crown moulding ceiling and solid surface counter tops with integrated sink. Offered for $539,000 Contact Brian Murty 239/565-1272.

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