Holiday Carol Sing Raises Food, Money For The Soup Kitchen

Residents who attended the Holiday Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Myers on December 17 contributed plenty of canned goods and cash to help the Everyday Marketplace & Café (known as The Soup Kitchen) of CCFMI feed the hungry in Southwest Florida.

About 2,500 pounds of food was donated at the 23rd annual Holiday Carol Sing, continued on page 24

Preservation Hall Jazz Band To Play At Shell Point

Preservation Hall Jazz Band will perform at Shell Point Retirement Community on Saturday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m. in The Village Church auditorium.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band derives its name from Preservation Hall, the music venue located in the heart of New Orleans’ French Quarter, founded in 1961 by Allan and Sandra Jaffe. The band has traveled worldwide since 1963, perpetuating the art form of New Orleans Jazz. Whether performing at Carnegie Hall or continued on page 6

Festival Of Trees Winners

For the seventh straight year, Southwest Floridians flocked to the Fort Myers River District to visit Goodwill Industries’ annual Festival of Trees, presented by FineMark National Bank & Trust.

More than 3,200 ballots were cast in the festival’s People’s Choice awards, in which visitors can vote for their favorite trees. continued on page 29

Bluegrass In The Theater At The Alliance This Sunday

The Acoustic Music Society of Southwest Florida presents three hours of live bluegrass in the Foulds Theatre at the Alliance for the Arts on Sunday, January 5 from 2 to 5 p.m. The concert features three bluegrass bands, Southwind, Larry Wilson and Thunder Mountain Railroad, and Swinging Bridge. The Sunday afternoon concert series continues on February 2.

Tickets are $7 at the door, or $5 for Alliance members. Seating is open and first come, first served. Children 12 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Visit www.ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787 for more information.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. continue reading
This circa-1938 film image of the northwest corner at First and Fowler offers a study in contrasts, as the Gilded-Age Royal Palm Hotel serves as a backdrop for the Gulf Oil filling station, a symbol of the automobile age.

The tastefully designed station was situated perfectly to service traffic funnelling on and off the new Edison Bridge via Fowler Street.

The station had opened in 1930, the same year as the two-lane concrete bridge, which would be dedicated in February 1931.

The business was located on the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), which meandered right through the downtown business district and over the Edison Bridge.

In the late 1930s, well-known locals like Robert Halgrim and Flanders “Snag” Thompson worked at the filling station.

In subsequent years, they would be the curator of the Edison Winter Estate and the legendary Lee County sheriff, respectively.

Thompson said in a 1970 interview that his $45 salary every two weeks was good pay in the Great Depression.

In contrast to the modern station on the corner was the wood frame hotel to its west. It had opened in 1898 to great fanfare, but the symbol of the town’s past was in its final years by the late 1930s.

continued on page 5
January Programs
At The Estates

January at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates is highlighted with special programs at the Edison Ford Shoppe, Bell Tower Shops; Garden Talk and Holiday Nights continuing through January 4, as well as a variety of other special programs and activities throughout the month. The January schedule of programs and events includes:

- Edison & Ford Holiday Nights, open through January 4
  For 38 years, the annual Edison Ford Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates has been a must see holiday tradition in Southwest Florida. During the holidays, the homes and gardens of Thomas and Mina Edison, and Henry and Clara Ford are seasonally decorated and visitors have the option of a self-guided tour or a guided tour with an Edison Ford site historian (6 and 7 p.m.). For the month-long event, the site remains open until 9 p.m. with beautifully decorated historic buildings and gardens and millions of colorful lights. Tickets for a self-guided tour are $15 for adults and $8 for children (6 to 12); guided tours are $20 for adults and $11 for children (6 to 12). Edison Ford members are free.

- Clydesdale Horse and Wagon Rides provided by Whispering Pines
  January 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Ride through the historic Edison Park neighborhood. Adults are $10, children are $5.

- Edison Ford Garden Talk:
  Orchids
  January 11, 9 a.m. The estates historic garden manager Steve Hotovy will show you how to care for and tend to orchids. At one time, the Edison family had the largest collection of orchids in Florida and today, Edison Ford has hundreds of orchids throughout the site. Participants are encouraged to bring in their allium orchids for tips for growing healthy orchids. Edison Ford members are free; non-members are $5. Participants will receive 20 percent off in the Edison Ford Garden Shoppe.

- Edison Ford Directors Tour to Miami, Coral Gables
  January 17, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Edison, Ford and Firestone worked closely with David Fairchild, who created the first international plant seed bank known as Fairchild Gardens. Participants will see an exhibit by artist Hugo Fransa as part of the Art at Fairchild exhibitions held in the gardens. The tour includes The Kampong, the private estate of David Fairchild which today houses the U.S. Botanic Gardens. Private lunch is included as well as shopping in Coral Gables. For more information or to register, call 334-7419. Cost for Edison Ford members is $90, non-members are $100.

- Emerging Inventors/Early Learners: Games & Measurement
  January 16, 9 to 11 a.m. For one- to three-year-old children and their parents, grandparents and other family members, Emerging Inventors will practice numbers and counting as they work alongside their parents in multiple measuring activities. Each session introduces science through activities and time to tend the Emerging Inventors’ Vegetable Garden. Cost for Edison Ford Members is $5; non-members are $15 (one adult, one child).

- Katie Gardenia Trunk Show
  January 18, 1 – 5 p.m., Edison Ford Shoppe, Bell Tower Shops. With a history that includes starting Captiva’s Bubble Room Restaurant and her book of art, memories and recipes, A Bubble Moment, Katie Gardenia is also creating unique textile sculpture, steam punk art and jewelry. Besides using industrial materials, Gardenia hand dyes her textiles with coffee and herbs for her final art piece. The show will include a one-day exhibit of her work and a book signing. The show is free and open to the public.

- Edison Ford Monthly Volunteer Meeting and Program
  January 21, 10 a.m., Edison Ford Shoppe, Bell Tower Shops. Join Sanibel librarian, historian and author Duane Sobczak’s books combine the basics of a Southwest Florida nature guide with photographs, and touches on where and when to find the best views of the “living Gulf Coast.” There will be a talk by the author beginning at 3:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer session, and book signing. The talk is free and open to the public.

- 2014 Edison Ford Inventors Summer Camp
  Registration is under way for the 10th year of summer camp at Edison Ford. Student inventors work in science, history and the arts with a different topic each week. Early registration is suggested and complete scholarships are available. The schedule is:
  June 2 to 6 – Smarts in Arts and Science
  June 9 to 13 – Video Game Design
  June 16 to 20 – Movie Making Magic
  June 23 to 27 – Kitchen Chemistry
  June 30 to July 3 – Space and Rockets
  July 7 to 11 – Physics in Motion
  July 14 to 18 – Eager Engineers

- Living Gulf Coast in Southwest Florida with Charles Sobczak
  January 25, 3 to 5 p.m., Edison Ford Shoppe, Bell Tower Shops. Charles Sobczak’s books combine the basics of a Southwest Florida nature guide with photographs, and touches on where and when to find the best views of the “living Gulf Coast.”

- Katie Gardenia Trunk Show at Edison Ford Shoppe at Bell Tower Shops on January 18

- Scarf Art Workshop with Marie Dyer
  January 24, 25 or 26, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Edison Ford Shoppe at Bell Tower Shops. Southwest Florida artist Marie Dyer will show you how to create your own hand painted silk scarf. Dyer will teach a variety of techniques to inspire painters of all levels to create their own one-of-a-kind design. All materials will be provided to produce a finished piece. Participants may bring their own lunch or have lunch at one of the restaurants at Bell Tower Shops. For more information or to register, call 334-7419. Cost for Edison Ford members is $85; non-members are $90.
More than a dozen students from the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy made the holidays a little brighter for dozens of families at the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers’ Horizons Apartments on December 19.

The students collected toys for more than 50 neighborhood boys and girls, and provided full holiday meals for two families within the Horizons community.

"I was a school bus driver before I joined the academy, so I’m aware of what children think of officers on the road,” said Benedicta Felix, an academy student studying law enforcement who spearheaded the drive for her fellow students. “It was important for us to show these kids that police officers don’t just arrest bad guys but take care of their community by doing positive things as well. Seeing the smiles on these children’s faces is what it’s all about.”

Felix said she hopes to work as a resource officer upon her graduation from the academy in February.

continued on page 21
Holiday Schedule
Edison & Ford Winter Estates

Edison & Ford Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates continue through January 4, open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. During the holidays, the homes and gardens of Thomas and Mina Edison and Henry and Clara Ford are seasonally decorated. Throughout the day, visitors have the option of a self-guided tour or a guided tour with an Edison Ford site historian. Special holiday traditions tours are at 6 and 7 p.m.

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

From page 2

First And Fowler

The luxurious hotel had been instrumental in establishing Fort Myers as a winter destination for wealthy snowbirds and as a world-famous tarpon fishing area. One could argue that without it and the guests it attracted from all over the world, Fort Myers would have gotten off to a much less interesting start.

The hotel’s main building would be demolished in 1948, although the annex on the vast property would remain for decades.

Today, all traces of 1938 have vanished from the northwest corner at First and Fowler.

The Gulf station site is vacant and surrounded by a chain-link fence.

On the site of the grand hotel and its tropical gardens now exist the vacant Ambassador Hotel (facing Edwards Drive) and its parking garage on First Street.

But plans are underway to bring new life to these sites that witnessed so much history and activity, so stay tuned.

Walk down to First and Fowler and imagine the time when you could pull into a filling station and ask a knowledgeable attendant to take a look under the hood.

These film stills are from 8 mm films made Billy Nalle, a native of Fort Myers and a well-known musician and composer, when he was a high school student.

His films from the late-1930s and the 1940s will be shown on January 16 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars for this event sponsored by the Southwest Florida Historical Society.

Want to learn more about local history? Visit the Southwest Florida Museum of History at 2031 Jackson Street.

For information, call 321-7430 or go to museumofhistory.org. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Follow-up with a trip to the Southwest Florida Historical Society’s research center, where you can learn more about Fort Myers in 1938.

The all-volunteer non-profit organization is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts.

Contact the society at 939-4044, or visit on Wednesday or Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon.

Sources: The archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society and The Story of Fort Myers by Karl H. Grismer.

Edison & Ford Holiday Nights continue through January 4

photo by Mike Shapiro

Nellie’s Upstairs Waterside Bar

Happy Hour All Day, Everyday

with Live music too!

CELEBRATE NELLIE’S STYLE!

Join us for a NEW YEARS EVE PARTY with FREE appetizers after the fireworks, live music, a toast at midnight and More!!!

Lunch • Dinner
Snacks in Between
11am-10pm,
Plus Live Music
FREE MARINA DOCKAGE
with Dock Attendant’s Assistance

Join us for a
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
with FREE appetizers
after the fireworks,
live music, a toast
at midnight
and More!!!

The People’s choice award
Best Lunch and Best Waterside Restaurant

www.nervousnellies.net • 1131 1st St., Ft. Myers Beach • GPS COORDINATES: 26°27’23.41” N • 81°57’15.18” W

UGLY’S
WHERE EVERYONE GETS PRETTIER
Nellie’s Upstairs Waterside Bar

HAPPY HOUR
ALL DAY, EVERYDAY
with Live music too!

Celebrate
Nellie’s Style!

Make sure you pick up a Nellies discount card come in six times and get a FREE meal

photo by Mike Shapiro
Continental Women’s Club

The next meeting of Continental Women’s Club is Thursday, January 2 at Colonial Country Club in Fort Myers.

The program will be about the experience of writing memoirs. Di Saggau will discuss the process and share a few memoirs she has written that are guaranteed to bring some laughs as well as trips down memory lane.

If you are interested in joining other women in various group activities, both social and philanthropic, consider joining the Continental Women’s Club.

Numerous activities are offered including lunch bunch, dining out, bridge and book club. Luncheon meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

For additional information about becoming a member, call Margie Connor at 561-8973.

Greeters Club January Lunch

The Greeters Club will be welcoming the New Year at its first luncheon of 2014, on Thursday, January 16, with song and dance provided by the Calendar Girls, who strive to be role models for women of all ages, showing that age is a state of mind not a number. The group has supported Paws for Patriots since 2006, a program that provides guide dogs to armed forces veterans.

Lunch is $20. To make a reservation or find out about membership, email greetersclub@gmail.com with your name, email address and phone number.

The luncheons are held on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Colonial Country Club, 9181 Independence Way, Fort Myers.

America’s Boating Course

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will be offering America’s Boating Course on Saturday, January 4 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course is recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

The state of Florida recently passed legislation requiring anyone born after January 1, 1988 to have passed a safe boating course and obtain a Boating Safety Education ID card, which is valid for life, in order to operate a boat with more than 10 hp.

Each student will receive a card/certificate from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission upon completion of the class. The course consists of two sessions on consecutive Saturdays. The second session will be on Saturday, January 11, also from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Topics include hull design, docking, anchoring, handling boating emergencies, reading channel markers and other topics to make each boating experience safer and more enjoyable. Successful completion of this course entitles the boater to six months free membership in a United States Power Squadron.

The cost of the course is $45 with a $20 cost for a second person sharing the instruction materials.

The course is being taught at the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron Classroom located at 16040 San Carlos Boulevard at the corner of Kelly Road (across from ACE Hardware).

Register online at www.scbps.com or call the office at 466-4040.

Call For Artists, Craftsmen, Writers And Sculptors

Saturday, February 1 is the date for the 3rd annual Inland Arts & Music Festival at Barron Park in LaBelle. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists, photographers, sculptors, artisans, craftsmen and writers are invited to participate and sell at this outdoor event.

Food vendors will be on-site, including an early Rotary Pancake Breakfast. Live music will be performed in the gazebo throughout the day and children will enjoy the wandering characters. Public admission is free.

Vendor set-up will be on February 1 beginning at 7 a.m. and must be completed by 9 a.m. Tear down will be after 3 p.m. Deadline for reserving vendor space is January 24.

A 10x10 space for Arts of the Inland members is $30; the non-member rate is $60. For further information, contact LaVon Koenig at artsinland@gmail.com or call 303-5849. Applications are available at www.artsinland.com.

Barron Park is located along the beautiful Caloosahatchee River on the east side of SR 29 at Fort Thompson Road in historic LaBelle.
PACE Meets $10,000 Match By Modern Woodmen

The PACE Center For Girls of Lee County and local Modern Woodmen members hosted an event on December 17 to meet a matching gift of $10,000 through the Modern Woodmen’s Matching Fund Program. With the help of local supporters and donors, the $10,000 was successfully met, raising a total of $12,875. PACE still needs to raise $180,000 to complete renovations on the new facility. The PACE Center For Girls will be able to expand their capacity and services to more young girls with the move into a larger building.

“We will be rent free in the new building,” said Meg M. Geltner, Executive Director of PACE Lee. “We currently pay $11,000 in rent each month. Now, that money will be reallocated to support the PACE program.”

If you’d like to donate to the PACE Center For Girls dreamBIG Capital Campaign, log onto www.pacecenter.org/lee or call 425-2366 ext. 25.

Thunderbirds To Return To Punta Gorda Air Show

The 34th annual Florida International Air Show returns in 2014 with some very special guests. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds will return to the Southwest Florida skies on March 29 and 30, at the Punta Gorda Airport.

The Florida International Air Show is a great chance to catch the Thunderbirds in action as they perform their high-speed maneuvers and precision formations, some just under the speed of sound.

“We know guests at the Show look forward to a presentation by high performance military aircraft,” said Tyler Ezzi, show chairman. “We’re absolutely thrilled to host the Thunderbirds’ first return to Southwest Florida skies since their 2008 Florida International Air Show appearance.”

Ezzi added, “This year’s theme is A Salute to Veterans. Come out to the show to help support and highlight the importance of recognizing all veterans for what they, and their families, sacrifice and contribute for the betterment of us all.”

The Florida International Air Show, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, all-volunteer organization raising more than $2.9 million for Southwest Florida work-

Volunteers Needed

ArtFest Fort Myers, a fine art festival, is looking for volunteers for the 14th annual event January 31 through February 2.

“We could not put on a world class fine art festival without the help of every one of our 300 volunteers,” said Ethel Willis, volunteer coordinator. Each volunteer works a four-hour shift and can choose to help with the professional artists, sell commemorative shirts and posters, assist in the children’s Art Yard, check in our VIP’s or select one of dozens of other volunteer assignments. We encourage our volunteers to pick an area that they are interested in and there is no experience required. We provide the training and the beautiful festival T-shirt.”

ArtFest Fort Myers has a team of 40 volunteer Steering Committee members, who have been with the art festival for many years and oversee every aspect of it. Our dedicated committee members come from all walks of life and work together all weekend to make sure that the professional artists, our sponsors and VIPs, our volunteers and our visitors have a great experience.”

Volunteers Needed

HOLIDAY MISCHIEF

Santaland Diaries has become a holiday tradition for Southwest Florida audiences, and it’s back for a fifth season at Florida Rep’s ArtStage Studio Theatre.

The story is a true one, based on the outlandish and true chronicles of bestselling humorist David Sedaris’ experiences as Crumpet the Elf in Macy’s Santaland. Jason Parrish is back as Crumpet, a role he was made to play.

This hilarious cult classic zeroes in on comic encounters with bad behaving children and worse behaving parents during the holiday rush at Macy’s. It offers a behind the scenes look at the Christmas customer service industry. An intelligent, out-of-work writer is humbled by a brutal job market. Being an elf is no easy job. Donning candy-cane leggings and a forest green velvet coat, not to mention those elfin shoes, Crumpet must endure insults and panic attacks during the Christmas Eve frenzy. The show, with its whacked out, wicked wit, is a real treat for grown-ups. Leave the little ones at home.

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At Florida Rep’s ArtStage

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Cheers! Cin Cin! Sláinte! Skol!
For many people, the New Year brings the promise of a fresh start: “Out with the old and in with the new!” Whatever your traditions are, best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

FORT MYERS:
The annual Fort Myers Downtown Countdown New Year’s Eve celebration is Tuesday, December 31 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. The block party is free for all ages. There will be a Craft Beer Garten, a Kids Zone and live bands on multiple stages. The ball drop and fireworks are scheduled for midnight.

For information and VIP tickets, call 855-732-3836.

For a more intimate but equally exciting NYE celebration, make your reservations at The Morgan House in the historic River District. The popular downtown restaurant is serving a special menu from Chef Corry Blanton. Live music, beginning at 6:30 p.m., is featured on-stage in the brick-lined Patio de Leon. The party is 5 p.m. to midnight and reservations are required.

The Morgan House is located at 33 Patio de Leon in downtown Fort Myers’ River District. Call 337-3377 or go to www.morganhouserestaurant.com.

Roll back in time at the New Year’s Eve celebration at Bratta’s Ristorante.

The restaurant offers a special three or four-course dinner or choose from the à la carte menu for the early seating. Guests will be entertained by a special performance from The Top Shelf Oldies. Reservations are required.

Bratta’s is located at 12984 S. Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers. Call 433-4449 or go to www.brattasristorante.com.

FORT MYERS BEACH:
The Fort Myers Beach Birthday Party & New Year’s Eve Celebration.

Watch the ball drop at Times Square without shivering on always-lively Fort Myers Beach. The town’s 17th annual birthday party takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. with free live music, brownies, and cupcakes. More live music kicks in at 7 p.m. to start the New Year’s celebration, which culminates with fireworks from the pier as well as the ball drop.

For information, go to www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov.

Ring in the New Year at Nervous Nellie’s on Fort Myers Beach.

The casual, waterfront eatery is serving a special menu, along with the regular menu. Live music begins at 1 p.m. on Nellie’s expansive patio and upstairs at Ugly’s Waterside Bar, the place where everyone gets prettier. No cover charge. Call ahead seating is available.

Whether you arrive by land or sea, parking for patrons of Nellie’s and Ugly’s is free. If you are traveling by boat, marine dockage is available with dock attendant’s assistance. The GPS coordinates are 26°27’23.41” N • 81°57’15.18” W.

Nervous Nellie’s Crazy Waterfront Eatery is located at 1131 First Street at the historic Fort Myers Beach Seaport. Call 463-8077 or go to www.nervousnellies.net.

Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille Fort Myers Beach is hosting a NYE party from 8 p.m. to midnight. The cost is $25 per person for reservations on the upper deck or lower deck. Reservations required.

Guests receive party favors and Champagne for a toast at midnight. Live music provided by Deb & The Dynamos.

Doc Ford’s is located at 708 Fisherman’s Wharf, Fort Myers Beach. Call 765-9660 or go to www.docfordsfortmyersbeach.com.

SANIBEL ISLAND:

Heading out to Sanibel? Make sure to check out the great food and live music at the Jacaranda, or “The Jac” to locals. With live music nightly, the Patio Lounge attracts an affluent crowd to the friendly and casual restaurant. Although the Jacaranda is best known as a local gathering spot, it has also received several dining awards.


Outdoor Family Movie Nights At The Alliance

The Alliance for the Arts announces the return of its popular Outdoor Family Movie Nights beginning on Friday, January 31 at 7 p.m. with a screening of The Wizard Of Oz. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, picnic baskets and coolers and watch this all-time classic film under the stars with your family and friends!

The series continues on Friday, February 28 at 7:45 p.m. with Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2 and concludes on Friday, March 28 at 8:30 p.m. with Despicable Me 2. A suggested $5 donation helps ensure continued free family programming at the Alliance. Support for Family Movie Night generously provided by Briers CPA, Riverside Realty, Staging Matters and Winged Foot Title.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Volunteers Needed

Some 200 artists from across the county and around the world will take part, and there will be a high school art exhibit and competition and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages.

A marzipan pig, particularly one with a penny or a four-leaf clover in its mouth, is a traditional New Year gift in Germany. It is a sign of good luck.

Watch the Fort Myers Beach fireworks from the waterfront decks at Nervous Nellie’s. Parking for your boat or car is free for patrons.
Bratta’s serves fresh made-to-order food in an inviting atmosphere featuring live music nightly.

The two for $20 menu is served all day Sunday to Thursday. Happy Hour is daily from 4 to 6:30 p.m. with drink and appetizer specials. Filet Napoleon, Taylor Street baked ziti and fresh bruschetta are a few favorites on the restaurant’s daily menu. Lobster tail and Chilean sea bass is served on the weekends.

Bratta’s New Year’s Eve dinner seatings are at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Call for reservations. It is closed New Year’s Day.

12984 S. Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers. Call 433-4449.

Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille is named for the Doc Ford character in local author Randy Wayne White’s best-selling mystery novels.

It’s a well known gathering place and tropical theme sports bar with indoor and outdoor patio seating. The combined menu offers all the lunch and dinner items from 11 a.m. until closing. It includes cedar plank salmon topped with a mango chipotle glaze or a marinated grilled chicken sandwich. The fish tacos are a local favorite and there’s a well provisioned raw bar. Tropical drinks are a specialty, notably the signature rum drink, Island Mojito.

Doc Ford’s is open New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.
708 Fisherman’s Warf, Fort Myers Beach. Call 765-9660.

Ichiban is a downtown favorite for Chinese and Japanese cuisine. The name means “Number One” in Japanese and offers its customers the perfect balance of great quality and affordable prices. Ichiban has been family owned and operated for ten years and its enduring popularity is a testament to its exceptional, friendly service.

Ichiban is open 4 to 10 p.m. on New Year’s Eve and all day on New Year’s Day.

1520 Broadway #106, Fort Myers. Call 334-6991.

Courtney’s is a family business run by Executive Chef Dale, his wife Betty and their son, Courtney.

The warm and welcoming bar is great for lunch, libations and lots of laughter. Relax in comfort with friends and enjoy discounted drinks and appetizers during happy hour, served 4 to 7 p.m. daily.

The dining room offers a wonderful dinner variety; if you’re an early diner, be sure to check out the Sunset Dining Specials. “Eggceptional” entrées highlight the restaurant’s Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday dinner is served 4 to 8 p.m.

Courtney’s is serving a special New Year’s Eve dinner 4 to 10 p.m. Call for reservations. It is closed New Year’s Day.

20351 Summerlin Road Units #111 & 112, Fort Myers. Call 466-4646.

With casual dining and live music in a charming atmosphere, The Morgan House has been a Fort Myers institution since 1923.

Nightly Specials: Monday, $20 prime

Morgan House
**Churches/Temples**

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation (UUA)

Where diversity is treasured
2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers Summer program; Understanding the Faith is Our World June 2 to August 25 11 a.m.
Interim Minister. Rev. Margaret Beard, begins on September 22nd. www.allfaiths-uc.org

All Saints Byzantine Rite Catholic Church
10291 Bayshore Rd., N. Fort Myers Divine Liturgy on Sun. at 10:30 a.m.; Rosary begins at 10 a.m. Lenten services (Presanctified Liturgy) will be on Wed. evenings at 6 p.m. starting Feb. 13. Rev. Peter Lickman, ph. 305-651-0991. We are a Church of the Eastern Catholic or Byzantine Rite, 1.5 mi. east of Int. 75. www.annunciationgreekorthodoxchurch.org

Cyprian Lake Baptist Church 8400 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-5422 Sunday Services: Bible study, 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Sunday Services: Bible study, 9:45 a.m.

Cyprian Lake Presbyterian Church 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-3233, www.pcusa.org. Clint Cottrell, pastor. Prayer Service 8 a.m., Praise 9 a.m. Children’s Church 9 a.m., Traditional 11 a.m. Summer: Prayer Service 8 a.m. Contemporary 10 a.m. Praise 10 a.m.

Cyprian Lake United Methodist Church 8570 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 482-4682 Sunday Services: Bible study, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School at all times.

Faith United Methodist World Outreach Ministries 6111 South Pointe Boulevard, Fort Myers, 278-3638. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Voice of Faith, WCRN 15.30 AM Radio, Sunday 1:30 p.m.; Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m.; Friday; Youth Service, 7:30 p.m. Nursery care for pre-school children and Children’s Church for ages 5-12 available at each service. Call for information on full program.

Bread of Life Ministries 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166
Pastor: Barry Lentz, 281-3063
Church and Bookstore: 111 Evergreen Road (southwest corner of Evergreen and 175) East Fort Myers (across from Ft Myers Road, near I-75) Phone for other dates & times. www.newcovenantedyschurch.org, Alex & Patricia Wiggins, Ministers

First Church of Christ, Scientist 2326 East First Street, next door to Edison Estates.
Sunday Morning Service and Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Child care provided at all services. Visit our Reading Room for quiet study at: 2281 First Street, River District. www.time4thinkers.com, www.christianscienceofmyrors.com, www.christianscience.org

First Church of the Nazarene 13545 American Colony Boulevard off Daniels Parkway in the Coloney, Fort Myers, 239-481-2099. Pastor: Reverend Joey Brummett. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Joint Worship 10 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m., Traditional services 8:45 a.m.; Contemporay services. www.firstnazareneross.com

First United Methodist Church in the Downtown Fort Myers River District 2466 First Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901 www.fumcmy.org Sunday and 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Family Worship 5 p.m. Youth Program

Fort Myers Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) A Stephen Ministries Congregation 5916 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, 437-4330
Reverend Mark Conder, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Church School: 9:15 a.m.

Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ 8210 College Parkway, Fort Myers, 482-3133. Philip White, pastor. Web site: www.fumccfullyord.org Church School: 10:15 a.m. Adult Forum: 11:30 a.m.

Iona-Grace Episcopal Community 9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers 454-4778 The Reverend Dr. John S. Adler, pastor.
Weekly services:
Saturday 5 p.m., Eucharist with Healing Sunday 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite One; 9:30 a.m., Family Eucharist with Healing and Church School
Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer (in Spanish); Wednesday 9:30 a.m., Eucharist with Healing. Child care available at Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. services.

Jesus the Sower Catholic Church 881 Nuna Avenue, Fort Myers, 481-1143 Masses Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday Services, 8 &10:30 a.m.

Kingdom Life Church 2154 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 218-8343 Pastor Randy and Anita Thurman 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service All are welcome.

Lamb of God Lutheran/Episcopal Church Corner of View Drive and Koreshan Boulevard, Three Oaks area, Fort Myers, 267-3525 Walter Fohs, pastor; Becky Robbins-Penniman, associate pastor Sunday worship services: 8 a.m. Early Grace Traditional 9 a.m. Awesome Grace Contemporary 10:30 a.m. Classic Grace Traditional 11 a.m. Sunday School God’s Group

New Beginnings Center New Home Church, 8505 Jericho Cae Lane, Naples, 445-6956-0416 Weekly Friday Meeting Meet & Greet: 6:30 p.m. Kingdom Teaching: 7 p.m. Fellowship and refreshments after service. nbministenery@comcast.net, www.newbeginnings.org, Alex & Patricia Wiggins, Ministers

New Covenant Eyes Church 8732 Merchants Way, Fort Myers, 239-939-1218, Worship: Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8 &10:45 a.m. Bible Study and Coffee at the Church on Sunday 9:30 a.m. Phone for other dates & times. www.newcovenantedyschurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church 3751 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, 463-4251, Sunday December 29 - 9:30 a.m. Beginning January 5 Sundays 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. 239-463-4251 www.stpe terflmb.org

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Saint Nicholas Monastery Church and Bookstore:111 Evergreen Road (southwest corner of Evergreen and 175) East Fort Myers (across from Ft Myers Road, near I-75) Liturgical services conducted in English and Church Slavonic; following the Julian (Old) Calendar. Liturgical Services: Sundays and Holy Days: Hours of morning and evening prayer are conducted at Fort Myers Beach, 8:45 a.m. Call to conduct service schedule: 239-997-2847; Bookstore: 239-611-1775 or visit www.saintnicholasmonastery.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Community 13031 Palm Beach Blvd (3 miles east of I-75) Fort Myers (across from Ft Myers Shores) 239-986-0818
Weekday masses: 9 a.m. Tuesday-Friday Weekends: 4 p.m. Saturday Sunday 9 & 11 a.m. All Are Welcome!

Southwest Baptist Church 16940 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 454-3336 Robert G. Kasten, Pastor
Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m. Nursery available. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Junior Church grades one to five Wee Church Pre-K to K Evening Services for Adults Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

Temple Bethel Synagogue 16225 Winkler Rd. 433-0018
Rabbi Jeremy Barras
Phone: 239-939-1218, Email: rabbi@templebethel.org
Cantorial soloist: Lawrence Dermer
Temple educator: Dale Cohen, MaEd, RJE
Shabbat Services: Friday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 6 p.m.

The River - December 27, 2013
Continued on page 11
Support Sought For The Heights Foundation

Love Your Neighbor, an annual event featuring Norman Love Confections and Mark Loren Designs, will be held on Wednesday, January 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Gulf Harbour home of Debbie and Tony Migliore. Guests will enjoy an assortment of culinary creations from local restaurants along with a selection of fine wine and spirits. Live and silent auction items will be offered and all proceeds will benefit the School Success programs for at-risk children in the Harlem Heights Neighborhood.

$150,000 was raised at last year’s event. 2014 sponsors include Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union Foundation, Cheryl and Dave Copham, Mrs. Bernese Davis and Private Client Insurance Services, and Elaine and Fred Hawkins. “We believe it is important to support our neighbors in the Harlem Heights community” said Debbie Migliore. “The Heights Foundation’s mission is to build strong, self-sufficient families and education is the key to their success.”

Tickets are now on sale for $150 each and space is limited. Sponsorships that include a pre-event VIP party are also available. Purchase tickets at www.heightsfoundation.org or call Laurie at 482-7706.

“...very supportive of the community has been the heights Foundation. “Each program is geared to meet the specific needs of children and young adults who seek to further their education. The Gulf Harbour community has been very supportive of the Heights Foundation and we appreciate the Migliore’s opening their home for this important fundraiser.”

From page 10

Churches/Temples

Religious Education; Sunday School and Midweek classes, Preschool Classes, Monday through Friday Web site: www.templebethel.com Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)
14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, 433-0201, Rabbi: Rabbi Marc Sack
Minyan: Monday at 9 a.m.
Religious Education: Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings Services: Friday night at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday morning at 9 a.m. Web site: www.tjswi.org

THE NEW CHURCH
The New Church of SWFL is located 10881 Sunset Plaza Cir. #401, behind Zoomers. Rev. Gabriella Cahaley officiates worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. during the season. Other worship events are held on the beach in Fort Myers Beach. See our webpage http://www.newchurchflorida.com/ or call for more information 239-481-5535

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH FORT 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. For information on all church events call 561-2700 or visit www.uucfm.org.

UNITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
Family Service 10 to 11 a.m. Healing Circle 11 a.m. Hospitality and Fellowship, 11 a.m. Inspiring lesson, uplifting and dynamic music, meditation in a loving environment. Service held at 28285 Imperial Street, Bonita Springs. Call 947-3100.

UNITY OF FORT MYERS
11120 Ranchette Rd, Fort Myers Winter Service: Sundays at 11 a.m. Children’s Sunday School at 11 a.m. Reverend Jim Rosemary, Minister.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2120 Collier Ave, Fort Myers, 274-8881; Services: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Bishop Gaspar and Michele Anastasi

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
9065 Ligon Court, Fort Myers, 481-2125; Senior Pastor: Robert Brunson Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Blended Worship www.wordofflighthouse.org

COTTON DAZE
13550 Reflections Parkway Suite 2-201 | Fort Myers
On your way to Costco, stop by and visit us next to Jason’s Deli
239.437.4555
The Year In Fishing, Good And Bad

by Capt. Matt Mitchell

With this year quickly coming to an end, I often think back about this past year’s fishing and the state of our fishery. The first thing that comes to mind is what outstanding redfish action we had this fall. This was quite possibly some of the best fall redfishing I can ever remember. Starting in about mid-August and going on until about mid-November I had many redfish trips when we located a big schools of large hungry fish and anglers caught one after another. I feel a big part of the reason we had so many big redfish in the sound this year was because of the big snook cold water kill of four years ago. The less snook in the ecosystem the more food the redfish had to eat and therefore more redfish could survive to become part of the brood stock. With redfish taking roughly three years to mature, the timeline really works for this theory.

All this crazy memorable redfishing action happened during a period that we had more rain than we had seen in the past few years of dry summers. During this same time all the headlines in the news every night were about how bad the water quality was and that there was no life in the sound due to the massive amounts of fresh water being dumped out of Lake O.

Quietly, during this whole media circus and supposed major water crisis, along with many of my fishing guide buddies, we made a living day in day out all around the mouth of the river. Clients were simply amazed at how many fish they caught after they had almost not even booked a fishing trip due to reports they had seen about the devastation of the water releases reported on even the national news. All of this action was in some of the darkest water we have seen for years. Despite all the bad publicity, clients who listened to their longtime fishing guides and not the news have some incredible once in a lifetime redfishing memories.

Hopefully, this coming year the Lake O water releases issue will finally be somewhat resolved or the government at the state and federal levels will choose to take action. Our local government needs to get involved too as many of our water quality issues unfortunately start much closer to home. Yes, Lake O is a big part of the problem and needs to be addressed but year after year when the rainy season is over and our water clears up, this whole issue seems like its forgotten until the next wet summer.

If you are on an old leaky septic system and or fertilize your nice green Bermuda grass lawn, you are part of this water quality problem too. Many cities in Florida are still on septic systems and residents fight being on a city sewer system tooth and nail. This is a two part problem. During the rainy season all the fertilizer and leaky septic systems run right into the river and are then pushed down stream by the lake releases. Controlling cleaning and holding the huge amounts of water being released from Lake O is a quick fix but only a part of the big picture. Everyone who lives in Southwest Florida needs to be part of the long-term solution.

September 1 this year marked the first opening of snook season for almost four years. This closure was a huge success and really let the numbers of snook rebound. I think the FWC really did a great thing to protect this premier gamefish of our area. Anglers are currently enjoying some of the best snook fishing we have seen in many years. Trout numbers in the sound continue to be in great shape, at least as good if not in better condition than they have been in for many years. This will be the second year in a row trout fishing was not closed in our area for November and December and we are currently experiencing some of the best trout fishing of the year.

The big news and good news for most tarpon fisherman this year was the Boca Grande-style jig being outlawed as of November 1. It is now also against the law to remove a tarpon from the water. With what seems to me like declining numbers of tarpon in our area over the last five or more years, hopefully this will be a baby step to help our tarpon population slowly recover. Another issue with our tarpon numbers is the declining amount of juvenile tarpon habitat. This is a much bigger problem to address as it deals with water quality and the protection of mangrove estuaries.

Despite all the bad water news this year, after being out on the water almost daily it appears to me our fishery in Pine Island Sound is generally in good shape. What makes our backyard such an incredible fishery is the amount of healthy grass flats we have and all the bate these flats produce. The only species that seemed to in fewer numbers was the tarpon and with new rules in place to protect them this year, I hope they will be on the slow road to recovery too.

Happy anglers and thanks for reading Capt. Matt

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.

Send Us Your Fish Tales

The River Weekly would like to hear from anglers about their catches. Send us details including tackle, bait and weather conditions, date of catch, species and weight, and include photographs with identification. Drop them at the River Weekly, 1609 Hendry Street, Suite 15, Fort Myers, Florida 33901, or email to press@riverweekly.com.
Free Refuge Programs Begin January 2

From birding and biking the refuge, to learning about gators and crocs, the seasonal calendar of free programs and tours at JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge begins on January 2 and runs through April 25.

New this year, Indigo Trail Hikes will include the recently opened Wildlife Education Boardwalk, plus three programs have been added to the schedule: Raptors of Southwest Florida, Reptiles and Amphibians, and Nature’s Pollinators & Plant Walk.

Daily programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and include such diverse topics as Nature Photography, Plants of the Bailey Tract Tour, Calusa Shell Mound Tours, Florida’s Venomous Wildlife, and Family Craft & Story Time.

“We have something for visitors of all ages,” said refuge education specialist Ranger Becky Wolff. “The free refuge programs and tours last anywhere from a half hour to two hours.”

For a full calendar of programs and tours and descriptions, visit www.ding-darlingsociety.org/winter-programs. Educational programs are made possible through support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).*

Join guest curator John Kurdyla and Edison & Ford Winter Estates Site Historian Jim Niccum for special phonograph demonstrations at the Edison Ford Shoppe, Bell Tower Shops on December 26 and January 2 for phonograph demonstrations continued on page 24

Complete Do-It Yourself Boat Parts Store

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Call 437-7475

Hours:
8am - 5:30pm
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Stainless Steel Powder Coated White Dual Trumpet Horn $99.95

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Additional Locations:

1156 N. Tamiami Trail in North Fort Myers Call 997-5777
2397 Davis Blvd in Naples Call 793-5800
Hanging Out Together

by Gerri Reaves

Airplants, or epiphytes, are found in many plant groups, including aroids, begonias, bromeliads, orchids, heaths, nightshades, ferns, and true mosses.

Because they are not rooted in the ground, airplants are often mistakenly thought to be parasites and unfortunately removed from the host.

In fact, they do not harm the host plant and it is not necessary to remove them from their perches.

Hosts serve as platforms to reach for sunlight and gather nutrients and moisture.

The moss-like plants collect detritus and moisture in their scales. Other types collect nutrients in the base of the cup-like rosette of leaves or through rhizomes.

Often, more than one species of airplant sets up house on a host, as these photos demonstrate.

However, they also live in isolation, nesting into building crevices, attaching to fences, or even clinging to power lines.

Quercus virginiana (Southern needleleaf) branch, like the one in the photo, makes a good platform for Spanish moss (Tillandsia usneoides), southern needleleaf (Tillandsia setacea), and cardinal plant (Tillandsia fasciculata).

All those species are members of the bromeliad family — the same family as the pineapple — and the latter is listed as endangered in the state.

In the case of the hanging mass in the other photo, it’s difficult to discern who the host actually is. Originally, the ballmoss (Tillandsia recurvata) and the endangered giant airplant (Tillandsia utriculata) were supported by a live oak.

After losing their footing, however, the detached plants ended up ensnared in the leafless love vine (Cassytha filiformis), a native with a tendency to climb and form mats on woody plants.

This suspended tangled “platform” shows just how tenacious and versatile airplants can be in the search for a place to thrive.

Enjoy the little communities these plants form and refrain from removing them from the host. They face the threat of habitat destruction and, for some species, the devastating Florida bromeliad weevil as well.

Sources: Common Epiphytes of Florida by Bruce K. Holst and ifas.ufl.edu.

Plant Smart explores the plant life of South Florida and sustainable landscape practices.

Caring For Your Plants

A Warm Winter’s Effect

On Your Garden

by Justen Dobbs

Here in Florida, our plant and animal life is custom catered for a sub-tropical climate with temperatures averaging from 60 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Many plants, trees, animals, fish and even humans benefit from a warm winter in a few different ways.

1. Plants, either native or exotic, will typically photosynthesize more readily and more efficiently when they are warm. This means faster and more robust growth. But a warm winter can also extend the growing season and trick the plant by keeping it out of hibernation. It is when the temperature falls below a plant’s cold-hardiness point that the plant will cease photosynthesis.

This does not mean there is necessarily any damage being done to the plant, but it will go into a hibernation-like state. Most of the even more tropical plants grown here in Southwest Florida prefer to stay above 35 degrees F otherwise their leaves may begin to get burn. This burn is caused when a non-adapted plant cell containing water gets frozen and expands so much that it bursts the cell, killing it.

But when we experience winters like the one of 2012-13 where there are only a few days less than 50 degrees, plants are able to add several, if not dozens of days to their growing season.

2. Fish such as snook and sea mammals such as manatees cannot live in cold water. Our winter from 2007 to 2008 saw many days below freezing, which killed many of our native and naturalized fish and sea mammals. This can affect some species’ hunting seasons, such as snook, indefinitely. So, an especially warm winter can keep more of these creatures alive and actually encourage more activity and maybe even reproduction. Colder temperatures could also affect algae blooms and other phenomena which make a direct impact on the food sources of these fish and sea mammals.

3. Human beings benefit from a warm winter for obvious reasons; the happiness of being outside, it’s easier on the joints, it gives you plenty of vitamin D (if you’re out in the sun), and lastly, there’s no snow to shovel (sorry northerners.) Warm weather also encourages people to go out and this helps local businesses.

One thing remains the same though. Whether it’s hot or freezing, we in Southwest Florida always have a reason to talk about the “extreme” weather. We’re spoiled here, it’s true.

This is a plant care column, so we can’t end without addressing the effect on plants in more detail. Did you know, plants will uptake granular and liquid fertilizer throughout the winter if it is warm? Also, your plants will need a little bit more water throughout the winter. If there is a threat of a cold snap, remember to water your plants much less. This will discourage the growth of fungi and bacteria in palms. If your newly-planted plants or trees are situated in full sun, keep in mind that the summer sun is much more intense than the winter sun.

Justen Dobbs is a landscape architect in South Florida specializing in custom, upscale landscapes. He can be reached at seabreeze nurseries@gmail.com.

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Justen Dobbs is a landscape architect in South Florida specializing in custom, upscale landscapes. He can be reached at seabreeze nurseries@gmail.com.
CROW Case Of The Week:
Faces Of CROW 2013
by Patricia Molloy

This year, CROW has treated nearly 3,500 native and migratory wildlife patients. Of that number, nearly 2,000 were babies.

Highlights

January: The year began with a surprise visit from inhabitants of the Great White North. More than a dozen razor-bills – one of the rarest arctic seabirds in the United States – mistakenly flew to tropical Southwest Florida during their seasonal migration.

February: Two Fort Myers residents investigated a report from neighbors that a three-day-old owlet had fallen from its nest. After donning heavy gloves, the fuzzy little youngster was placed in a box on their lanai overnight. The next morning, they called the Sanibel wildlife clinic for assistance. An examination at the wildlife clinic proved that the owlet was unharmed.

The owlet was fed and re-nested in a more sturdy, handmade nest. Both parents were heard making clicks and squawks, and mom and dad resumed caring for and feeding their baby the following morning.

August: An eastern screech owl was admitted to CROW after being hit by a passing car. As a result of the accident, the rear of its left eye was torn, causing discoloration of the iris, enlargement of the pupil and air bubbles.

As Dr. Heather explained, “Neither I, nor any other ophthalmologist I spoke with, have seen (this).” While she feared that the owl would be permanently blinded in the affected eye, she felt certain that it could survive in the wild.

October: Several baby striped skunks, called kits, were admitted to the hospital as orphans. The “odor-able” babies were housed in a separate room in the nursery to avoid any stinky mishaps. After several weeks of supportive care, they were successfully released.

November: While an unsuspecting bald eagle was enjoying a quiet breakfast in an outdoor flight enclosure, staff and volunteers scurried around the wildlife hospital gathering clean towels, protective falconry gloves and cameras, all of which were loaded into an awaiting van. Once the checklist was complete and the eagle had eaten, the majestic raptor was placed inside a large carrier and whisked away.

Once at the release site: “She was very ready to go – I opened the top of the cage and she was out in an instant,” said volunteer Ruth Parks.

In addition to hospital rounds, Dr. Heather has been busy raising the hospital’s national profile through participation in international conferences, taking part in a clinical trial of the drug cholestyramine and by maintaining close contact with federal, state and local agencies that are involved in veterinary medicine, natural resources and/or wildlife conservation.

As Dr. Heather noted, “Regardless of how you feel about cute, fuzzy animals, remember that these animals play an important part in all of our environment. They can be an early warning system for diseases that can affect you, your children and your pets.”

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 PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit: www.crowclinic.org.
The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Shell Point Retirement Community welcomes Dr. Phil Gannon presenting The Tale of Two Cities: Detroit and Singapore. This three-part series is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, January 7: Is the Past Prologue? A View of Detroit and Singapore from 1700 – 1942
Tuesday, January 14: The Detroit Story: From an Industrial World Leader to Bankruptcy
Tuesday, January 21: The Singapore Story: From Third World to First Sessions will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands at Shell Point.

The Tale of Two Cities will compare Detroit and Singapore – two major metropolitan areas of the world that followed significantly different economic, social, and political pathways. Detroit went from a position of leadership economically, educationally, and socially, and then reached the point of total bankruptcy. Meanwhile, Singapore transformed from a third world country facing financial difficulty to a position of both economic and educational world leadership. What happened?

These courses will be led by Shell Point resident Dr. Gannon, a native of Detroit and a graduate of the city’s K-12 educational system. Dr. Gannon was a Michigan college president for 32 years, served both democratic and republican governors participating in studies of Detroit’s educational problems, and also served on the board of trustees of the Detroit Institute of Technology. Later, he was president of an educational consulting firm that conducted in-country studies in China, Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Dr. Gannon’s sessions are free, but reservations are required as space is limited. Call 489-8472 for more information.

The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Shell Point is an educational initiative for the residents of the retirement community. It provides approximately 90 classes each semester that encompass a well-rounded curriculum of educational opportunities for senior adults. The academy was named one of 2008’s most innovative active aging programs by the International Council on Active Aging, an association that supports professionals who develop wellness/fitness facilities and services for age 50-plus adults.

Poetry Off The Shelf Coming To The Alliance

What happens when keyboards meet palettes, brushes meet pens, and visual arts are united with verse on the same page? The answer is Broadside: Poetry Off The Shelf, a special National Poetry Month celebration on April 17 at the Alliance for the Arts.

This inaugural event will unite the words of poets from the Alliance’s Poetry Initiative with visual artists in the blending of literary and visual art into printed pieces called Broadsides.

This is the center piece of a new initiative at the Alliance. During the summer of 2013, a group of poets began to meet regularly and at the Alliance to discuss their own work, learn from one another, and seek ways to increase awareness and appreciation for poetry throughout Southwest Florida. Bringing visual artists together with poetry poets was a natural step, especially since there is a specific historical means for this artistic union in what is known as a “broadside.”

A broadside is a form of written communication, typically designed to be posted in a public place. Traditionally, broadsides contain a mixture of text and images. From the 1600s to the early 20th century, this visual medium was used to convey information, issue proclamations, make revolutionary statements, or publish the lyrics to poetry and songs. Indeed, our Declaration of Independence was first printed as a broadside. Today, the broadside is a popular artistic medium wherein poems are united with compatible visuals and reproduced on a single sheets of quality paper.

The inaugural showing and reading of Broadsides: Poetry Off The Shelf will be held on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. Artists will exhibit the broadsides they have created based on poems written by local poets who will read their associated poems on stage in the Alliance’s Foulds Theatre. The public is invited to celebrate National Poetry Month during this unique event. There is a $10 suggested donation. Limited edition prints of the broadsides will be available for purchase. For more information visit www.ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787.

Participating artists and poets include:

**Artists**
- Collin Davis
- Phillip Heubeck
- Leo Johnson
- Megan Kissinger
- Reina Lombardi
- Jason McDonald
- Jan Palmer
- Paul Rodino
- Barbara Yeomans
- Peter Zell

**Poets**
- James Brock
- Dorothy Howe Brooks
- Carol Drummond
- Jim Gustafson
- Gary McLouth
- Jesse Miller
- Joe Pacheco
- Naom Rosado
- Allison Sermas
- Larry Stiles
- Lorraine Walker Williams
- Joan Heller Winokur

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

Free Rockin’ At Riverside Concert

Food, fun and philanthropy take center stage at Rockin’ at Riverside Park, a free public concert benefitting The Immokalee Foundation. The concert series, launched by McQuaid Marketing and Promotions, creators of Rockin’ on the Bay and Rockin’ on the Beach, is held on a Friday of every month until February, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs.

The family-oriented event features a different tribute band every month to entertain the crowd. Organizers say the series has been a grand success.

Upcoming concerts include a tribute to Journey on Friday, January 3; and a Billy Joel tribute Friday, February 14.

A variety of food and beverage vendors will be on hand. The Immokalee Foundation also has a booth at each event, manned by student volunteers, to give attendees the opportunity to meet and interact with students directly. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating. Personal coolers are not allowed.

Riverside Park is located at 10450 Reynolds Street in Bonita Springs, off Old U.S. 41. For more information, call 331-7371 or visit www.mcquaid-marketing.com.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary training, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences, life skills development and economic independence.

To learn more about volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Call For Artists, Craftsmen, Writers And Sculptors

Saturday, February 1 is the date for the 3rd annual Inland Arts & Music Festival at Barron Park in LaBelle. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists, photographers, sculptors, artisans, craftsmen and writers are invited to participate and sell at this outdoor event.

Food vendors will be on-site, including an early Rotary Pancake Breakfast. Live music will be performed in the gazebo throughout the day and children will enjoy the wandering characters. Public admission is free.

Vendor set-up will be on February 1 beginning at 7 a.m. and must be completed by 9 a.m. Tear down will be after 3 p.m. Deadline for reserving vendor space is January 24.

A 10x10 space for Arts of the Inland members is $30; the non-member rate is $60. For further information, contact LaVon Koenig at artsinland@gmail.com or call 303-5849. Applications are available at www.ArtsOfTheInland.com.

Barron Park is located along the beautiful Caloosahatchee River on the east side of SR 29 at Fort Thompson Road in historic LaBelle.
SOUTH SEAS RESORT BEACH VILLA - $820,000

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1132 sf two story Villa
- Beautiful, panoramic Gulf Views
- Newly Renovated
- On-site Resort Rental Program
Call LeAne Taylor Suarez 239/872-1632

CROWN COLONY - $649,900

- 4 bedroom, 3 bath with a den, 3021 sf
- Great location, one of the best lots and floor plans
- Views of the golf course yet very private
- Screened pool with new pump
Call Larry Hahn 239-898-6789

18111 OLD PELICAN BAY - $309,000

- Vacant building site on a quiet cul de sac road in a deeded neighborhood
- Premier gated community on the doorstep of the gulf of mexico.
- Deep-water boating access,
- Dock with boat lift and
Call Debra Hobbs 239/565-0549

BLIND PASS CONDOMINIUM - $439,000

- 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1239 sf ground floor
- Short walk down private boardwalk to Bowman’s Beach
- Fully furnished and equipped
- Close to pool and BBQ
Call Arie Slot 239/454-1348

PORTS OF IONA - $180,000

- 2 bedroom, 2 bath 1317 sf waterfront condo
- Fully furnished and accessorized
- Granite counter tops and modern appointments
- Large windows to take in the views of the water and lush vegetation
Call LeAne Taylor Suarez 239-872-1632

1349 EAGLE RD - $1,245,000

- Stunning Beachview custom home with oversized pool deck
- Over 2800 sq.ft. living area with 3 BR 2 1/2 BTH.
- Hurricane glass windows, elevator, pool & spa
- Gorgeous views of Sanibel River, golf course, and lakes.
Call Steve Harrell 239/565-1277 Toby Tolp 239/848-0433
Kasey Harrell 239/850-7692

GULF FRONT TRADEWINDS DRIVE - $1,595,000

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1592 sf Florida Style beach home
- Direct Gulf Views walking path down to the beach
- Impact windows, woods floors, open floor plan
- Newly remodeled
Call Tracy Walters 239-994-7975 or Connie Walters 239/841-4540

1549 WILTON LANE - $469,000

- Private spacious family pool home in desirable Gumbo Limbo
- New roof, new impact windows and French doors, new pool
- Lush Landscaping
- Marble and tile flooring new throughout
Call Tony DiBiase 239/822-7825

1272 ISABEL DRIVE - $3,750,000

- Sprawling bayfront estate home offers stunning water views
- Direct deep water access for large boat
- Over 6,000 sq.ft. Glass elevator, 3 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen
- 4 ensuite bedrooms, Master Wing includes spa-like bath
Call Tracy Walters 239/994-7975 or Debra Hobbs 239/565-0549

LANDS END, SOUTH SEAS RESORT - $1,225,000

- 2 bedroom luxury condominium, superb in design and scale
- Southeastern exposure with views out to Pine Island Sound
- Fully equipped kitchen, state of the art appliances,
- Balconies off each bedroom dining
- Offering every imaginable luxury
Contact LeAne Taylor Suarez 239/872-1632

1549 WILTON LANE - $469,000

- Close to everything - beach, shopping, restaurants, nightlife!
- Uniquely quiet, quaint & private location on the river side of McGregor.
- Spacious home, very light & bright
- Formal Living & Dining Room, Updated Kitchen
- Sliding glass doors overlooking the pool/patio area. Guest bath has been updated & separate pool
Call Nancy Finch 239/822-7825

8471 YORKSHIRE LANE - $355,000

- Newly remodeled, 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath
- Open concept floor plan
- Hurricane impact glass throughout
- New pool and spa
Call Tracy Walters 239-994-7975 or Connie Walters 239/841-4540

NEW LISTING

For More Information on These and All Island Listings Visit our Website www.jnarealestate.com
From page 9

**Fort Myers Fare**

**Rib and half-price select bottles of wine; Tuesday, $6 Morgan House burger and half-off craft beer; Wednesday, half off appetizers and house wine; Thursday, $4 martinis and half-off select shots; Friday, complimentary buffet upstairs with two drink minimum and half-off house wine and select domestic drafts; and Saturday, half-off select margaritas and tequila shots.**

**The Morgan House is serving a special New Year’s dinner. Call for reservations. Also features live music in the patio. It is closed New Year’s Day.**

33 Patio De Leon, Fort Myers. Call 337-3377.

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**Indian Creek Craft Show**

Indian Creek Resort, located at 17340 San Carlos Boulevard in Fort Myers Beach, will host a Craft Show on Thursday, January 9 at Iroquis Hall from 8 a.m. to noon.

According to event organizers, participating vendors will have wonderful handmade items for sale. All are welcomed to come out and spend the morning, have a donut and cup of coffee, and make new friends and see old friends.

For more information, call Shirley at Indian Creek Resort at 463-8077.

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**The River - December 27, 2013**

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**Broadway Palm Sets Sail With Timeless Classic**

The timeless classic *South Pacific* will be at Broadway Palm from December 28 through February 15. This Rodgers and Hammerstein musical features one of the most romantic scores of all time and the Broadway production was nominated for 10 Tony Awards and won all of them, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Libretto.

*South Pacific* spins a romantic tale of love and loss on a tropical naval base during World War II. Two couples fall in love and their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices.

Considered by many as one of the finest musicals ever written, the score includes such musical theatre gems as *Some Enchanted Evening*, *I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Out Of My Hair*, *This Nearly Was Mine* and *There Is Nothin’ Like a Dame*.

Directing this stunning production is Brian Enzman. Enzman has been with Prather Entertainment Group (PEG) for over 25 years and created over 200 productions as director, choreographer and actor for both Broadway Palm and the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Pennsylvania. He also serves as PEG’s Casting Director and Artistic Producer.

Performances of *South Pacific* are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with selected matinees. The theatre features an upscale dinner theatre experience on Saturday nights. Ticket prices range from $35 to $58 and are now on sale. Reservations can be made by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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**Nervous Nellie’s Crazy Waterfront Eater Y**

Nellie’s offers the perfect backdrop for mixing business and pleasure at your office holiday party. Reserve space in air-conditioned comfort or outside on the expansive waterfront patio. Nellie’s staff will magically satisfy everyone on your guest list with the very best food and drink without breaking the bank.

While relaxing on the deck, swing to the beats of live reggae, rock and island music from the area’s premier musical talent. Just upstairs from Nellie’s is Ugly’s Waterside Bar, the place where everyone gets prettier, and happy hour is all day, every day.

Whether you arrive by land or sea, parking for patrons of Nellie’s and Ugly’s is free. The GPS coordinates are 26°27’23.41”N • 81°57’15.18”W.

**Nervous Nellie’s is open New Year’s Eve and closed New Year’s Day.**

1131 First Street, Fort Myers Beach at the historic Fort Myers Beach Seaport. Call 463-8077.

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For more information, call Shirley at Indian Creek Resort at 463-8077.
Lee County Children Receive Bikes For Christmas

Two hundred Lee County children were the recipients of bicycles for Christmas through the generosity of a local hardware store, a non-profit organization, and a corporation. Gavin’s Ace Hardware gave the children bicycles in cooperation with a number of non-profit organizations and schools. The Pilot Club of Fort Myers donated the helmets, and Master Lock provided the bicycle locks.

The children picked up the bicycles on Saturday, December 21, were fitted with helmets, and given the bicycle locks at Gavin’s Ace Hardware. The children were selected by local agencies.

John Cavada, general manager of Gavin’s, said, “It is extremely rewarding to see the children’s eyes light up when they are presented with their bicycles, helmets and locks. Gavin’s appreciates the dedication of the agencies in providing the children’s names for the bicycles and assisting with the delivery of the bikes. We look forward to expanding this program next year.”

Gavin’s was responsible for organizing the event as well as putting together all the bicycles and verifying that each bike was safety inspected.

Cindy Lopez, president of the Pilot Club, a non-profit organization which provides support to community organizations, said, “We were pleased to be asked to contribute the helmets. Fitting each individual child with the appropriate size helmet is a service we offer to a number of groups during the year. The children were appreciative of the early Christmas gifts.”

Haven Adams, a Heights Elementary student, sits on his new bicycle while Pilot Club member Fran D’Alessandro adjusts his new helmet. With Haven is his uncle, Tony Agin.

Pilot Club members Diane Jensen and Fran D’Alessandro with Britanke and Kaylee Collazo and their grandfather, Tom Hicks was responsible for organizing the event as well as putting together all the bicycles and verifying that each bike was safety inspected.

Cindy Lopez, president of the Pilot Club, a non-profit organization which provides support to community organizations, said, “We were pleased to be asked to contribute the helmets. Fitting each individual child with the appropriate size helmet is a service we offer to a number of groups during the year. The children were appreciative of the early Christmas gifts.”

John Gavin of Gavin’s Ace Hardware (right) presents bicycles to Mary and Rachel Shaver. With them is Laurel Jackson. The girls were selected to receive their bicycles, helmets, and bicycle locks by Kiwanis Fort Myers Gateway to the Islands through the Builders Club at Lexington Middle School.
Scholarships Available From Foundation

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation’s scholarship application process for the 2014-15 school year began on December 20. Approximately $400,000 in scholarship money is available from 37 scholarships for local high school seniors and 22 scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Collier counties through the SWFLCF scholarship funds.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can access the E-Apply online scholarship application tool through the SWFLCF’s website at www.floridacommunity.com on the Scholarships page. Students may apply for multiple scholarships and are given the option to upload transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation and financial documentation (if required). For need-based scholarships, students are required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

“Thanks to supportive donors who value the importance of post-secondary education, we offer a variety of scholarships including those for vocational or specialized training schools, as well as for attendance at colleges and universities,” said Anne Douglas, regional initiatives director for the SWFLCF. “In the past, we have had some scholarships that were not awarded because students did not apply for them, so we are trying to do our best to educate local students on the various types of funding available.”

According to Douglas, examples of some of the more unique scholarships include support for students with disabilities, student athletes, adult students going back to school, students from particular schools or communities and students pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

For example, The Howard P. and Magdalen K. Breitenbach Scholarship was established to fund a needy student who was either a service member in the United States Navy or is a child or grandchild of a service member in the United States Navy.

The G. Napier and Ellen Wilson Scholarship was established in honor of U.S. Navy pilots killed in Korea and will support high school students volunteering at the veteran’s administration clinic to help veterans.

The Mary Ann Elder Scholarship was established to provide funding for students entering or continuing a master’s degree program in social work. The scholarship was established by Rudy Elder in honor of his wife who was a social worker and worked for a number of local nonprofit organizations.

The SWFLCF chose the month of December as the launch date after receiving numerous calls from students who wanted to be able to work on scholarship application submissions during winter break. In 2013, the SWFLCF awarded nearly $450,000 in scholarships.

With a streamlined online application process available, students are not required to submit paper applications.

For more information about the SWFLCF, call 274-5900 or visit www.floridacommunity.com.

Continued on page 24
Weather Poses Big Challenges For Super Bowl XVIII – First To Be Played Outdoors In Cold-Weather Stadium

by Ed Frank

While we bask in the warm breezes of Southwest Florida, our brethren in the north have experienced one of the coldest, snowiest Decembers on record – and winter has hardly begun.

I mention this fact knowing that in little more than a month, the first Super Bowl in history will be played outdoors in a cold-weather site – Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Can you imagine the biggest event in professional sports encountering the type of blizzard on February 2 that buried Philadelphia a few weeks ago when the Detroit Lions and Eagles appeared as snowmen slipping, sliding and fumbling on a football field of impossible playing conditions?

Adding to this concern is the forecast of the Farmer’s Almanac that predicts a heavy storm moving into New Jersey around the time of the Super Bowl.

In the long history of this marquee event it has generally been blessed by good weather. Even in a cold-weather city such as Indianapolis, where the game was played two years ago, the weather was unusually warm although the game was played indoors in Lucas Oil Stadium.

The coldest Super Bowl was in 1972 when the temperature dipped to 39 degrees at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans when the Dallas Cowboys beat the Miami Dolphins. And seven years ago, there was a brief heavy downpour in Miami where the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears.

Some say a snowy Super Bowl would add to the mystique of this famous event. But it’s doubtful the players would agree.

In that Lions-Eagles game earlier this month, the players did adjust to the weather misery as all but eight of the 54 total points scored were recorded in the second half. But the Lions fumbled seven times in the blizzard. And when the yard lines became obliterated, snow blowers were required to remove the eight inches of snow that had fallen.

The average temperature in New Jersey in early February hovers in the 20- to 25-degree range. So bring your warm johns, hand warmers and heavy cold-weather gear if you plan to attend. Surprisingly, Met Life Stadium does not have a heating system under the field to melt any snow.

The Super Bowl Host Committee and nearby New York City are preparing for cold and snow by building an eight-lane, 180-foot-long toboggan run in Times Square and shutting down a 13-block stretch on Broadway which will become the Super Bowl Festival during that weekend.

If you remember this year’s Super Bowl in New Orleans, a mysterious power failure darkened most of the Superdome causing a lengthy game delay.

There probably won’t be another blackout in the upcoming Super Bowl. But don’t be surprised if there is a whiteout.

Mud Run Will Benefit Children’s Hospital

Registration is now open for the second annual South Florida Mud Run, a challenging three-mile obstacle course that lets contenders get dirty for a great cause.

This event takes place on January 11 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Redneck Yacht Club in Punta Gorda. Participants can sign up as individuals or teams, and the event is open to children and adults ages four and up.

One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Register before December 31 for the special rate of $50 for adults and $20 for children. From December 31 until January 5, rates increase to $55 for adults and $25 for children. January 5 is the last day to register.

This unique event features three miles of challenging and fun obstacle courses designed for all ages and degrees of athleticism. Participants will run, jump, crawl, and climb through obstacles in the mud.

This year, there will be two adult courses, one for those who would like to be challenged and another for beginners who just want to have fun. There will also be two child-friendly courses – a half-mile course and a one-mile obstacle run.

“Last year we expected a turn out of about 500 runners, and nearly 2,600 people participated in the event,” said Stephanie Inkl-Edwards. “After seeing the fantastic show of support and attendance by members of our community; we knew that this was a worthwhile opportunity for us to raise funds for a valuable cause while supporting an active family lifestyle.”

For more information or to register, email southfloridamudrun@gmail.com or visit http://southfloridamudrun.com.

Nine-Hole Walk, Run Or Crawl At The Dunes

On Saturday, January 18, The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club will host Robbie’s Run, presented by Grampy’s Charities, to benefit the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, a program of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida.

The event is a 9-hole golf course fun walk, run or crawl.

In partnership with Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a pediatric office that travels to schools, community centers and neighborhoods to deliver dental care and medical screenings to thousands of under-served children.

To participate, visit www.rmhcswfl.org for details and start collecting pledges. A special after party is planned for all participants who collect $500 or more in pledges and donations.

A “golf ball drop” will be the highlight of the event. Tickets for the ball drop are available to the public for $100 each and can be purchased at Ronald McDonald House in Fort Myers. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Ronald McDonald himself will drop the balls from high in the sky and the closest to the pin wins 50 percent of the money collected. Furthest from the pin wins a special prize as well.

Participants need not be present to win.

Grampy’s Charities is a 100 percent volunteer organization with no paid staff. For over two decades, they have donated more than $3 million to charities serving sick children.

From page 4

Public Service Academy

Located at 4312 Michigan Avenue in Fort Myers, the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy is comprised of three concentrations of study: the Criminal Justice Program, the Fire Service Program and the Public Works Academy.

The housing authority serves more than 3,500 low-income families throughout greater Fort Myers, providing housing and related services to people in need. In addition, the staff provides programs such as Resident Services/Family Self-Sufficiency and HOPE VI Community Supportive Services. The goal is to help families become self-sufficient, therefore strengthening the communities that use public and private resources efficiently and effectively.

For more information on the housing program, call 332-3825.

Happy New Year!

Sanibel Beachfront

On prestigious West Gulf Drive, 2.11 acres directly on the Gulf of Mexico, with 3 bed/bathrooms and a private office.

$3,900,000

Isabella Rasi

239-246-4716

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1101 Periwinkle Way #105
Sanibel, FL
Financial Focus

Financial Resolutions For The New Year

by Jennifer Basey

About 45 percent of Americans usually make New Year’s resolutions, according to a survey from the University of Scranton. But the same survey shows that only 8 percent of us actually keep our resolutions. Perhaps this low success rate isn’t such a tragedy when our resolutions involve things like losing a little weight or learning a foreign language. But when we make financial resolutions – resolutions that, if achieved, could significantly help us in our pursuit of our important long-term goals – it’s clearly worthwhile to make every effort to follow through.

So, what sorts of financial resolutions might you consider? Here are a few possibilities:

- Boost your contributions to your retirement plans. Each year, try to put in more to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plans. These tax-advantaged accounts are good options for your retirement savings strategy.
- Reduce your debts. It’s not always easy to reduce your debts, but make it a goal to finish 2014 with a smaller debt load than you had going into the new year. The lower your monthly debt payments, the more money you’ll have to invest for retirement, college for your children (or grandchildren) and other important objectives.
- Build your emergency fund. Work on building an emergency fund containing six to 12 months’ worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid account that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for emergencies, such as a new furnace, a major car repair, and so on. You might not be able to finish creating your emergency fund in one year, but contribute as much as you can afford.
- Plan for your protection needs. If you don’t already have the proper amounts of life and disability insurance in place, put it on your To Do list for 2014. Also, if you haven’t taken steps to protect yourself from the considerable costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, consult with your financial professional, who can suggest the appropriate protection or investment vehicles.
- Focus on the long term. You can probably check your investment balance online, which means you can do it every day, or even several times a day – but should you? If you’re following a strategy that’s appropriate for your needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you’re already doing what you should be doing in the long run. So there’s no need to stress yourself over the short-term movements that show up in your investment statements.
- Do whatever you can to turn these New Year’s resolutions into realities. Your efforts could pay off well beyond 2014.

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

CFO Breakfast Roundtables

The Southwest Florida Chapter of IMA is having its next quarterly CFO Breakfast Roundtables on January 7 and 8. The topic is Outlook 2014: National & Regional Economic and Capital Markets, presented by Aysegul Timur, professor of economics, Hodges University, and Andy Hill, CFA, Responsible Advisors. Special guest moderator for the Collier program will be John Cox, president of Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.

Accounting and finance professionals need to be current on both macro- and micro-economic information so as to provide the best value to their business and/organizations. When planning, strategizing and making decisions, it is important to know economic performance forecasts for quarterly, annual or other future time periods. An economic outlook may offer information and insight including inflation/deflation, productivity growth, labor (unemployment) and balance of trade.

Timur and Hill are globally recognized and have offered commentary in most popular business media.

There is no cost to participants. Walk-ins are welcome and registration is requested at www.swflima.org.

The format for the program will be a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the presentation followed by a roundtable discussion that ends at 9:30 a.m.

The 2 CPE program will be presented on two dates and locations to accommodate schedules:
- Lee County on Tuesday, January 7, at the Fort Myers Campus, Hodges University at 4501 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers; and
- Collier County, Wednesday, January 8, at Naples Campus, Hodges University, 2655 Northbrooke Drive.

Designed for chief financial officers and senior financial executives in Southwest Florida, the objective of the CFO roundtable is to provide a forum for discussion of important issues of a financial and business nature, to present timely, relevant information related to financial management and to provide a networking opportunity for CFOs and their peers.

HR Professional Of The Year

Drummond Camel, director of human resources for Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida, has been selected by his peers the Human Resource Management Association of Southwest Florida as the 2013 HR Professional of the Year.

The award was presented to Camel by the regional chapter of the society. Camel, whose responsibilities at Cypress Cove include all phases of human resource management, joined the continuing care retirement community in 2005. The award, established in 2001, “recognizes those individuals in the chapter that demonstrate commitment to the HR profession, have impeccable ethical standards and behavior and participate in community activities.”

Camel said he views the honor as a team achievement. That team manages all elements in HR management on the South Fort Myers campus of over 300 employees and more than 500 residents.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a certificate in personnel and industrial relations from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He received his Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) certification through the Society for Human Resource Management. He serves on the board of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board and also on the HRMA of Southwest Florida.
Are Your Meds Making You Sick?

by Suzy Cohen, RPh

D ear Pharmacist:

You said that some drugs are related to fluo-
ride and may cause hypothyroidism or other dis-
eses of the reproductive tract. Which medica-
tions and why?

DL, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Shocking, I know. Some of the most popular medica-
tions in the world are “fluorinated” meaning they were created
using a backbone of fluoride, the same fluoride used in toothpaste, insecticides and
some supplements. The situation with fluoride is that it competes with
iodine in your body. It tricks the cell into thinking it is iodine because it looks simi-
lar. Once enough fluoride atoms hook onto your cell, you become iodine defi-
cient. That could make you thyroid deficient because your thyroid gland cannot
produce any thyroid hormone without iodine!

Iodine protects your male and female reproductive organs, like your breasts, uterus, ovaries, prostate, testicles and all your private parts. When you take
a fluoride-containing drug, I worry that you will become deficient in other miner-
als, especially iodine. You may become fluoride toxic. I’m not saying drugs cause
illness in your private parts, though they could, but really, it’s the drug-mugging
effect of fluoride-based medications that could raise risk for iodine deficiency.

Chronic fluoride ingestion could spell side-effects, which unfortunately won’t get
spotted as a “side effect,” rather they will be diagnosed as some new disease that
you don’t authentically have. Many prac-
titioners and patients have no idea their
medication contains so much fluoride-
related compounds. I’m a pro at the drug
nutrient depletion effect, what I call “drug-
mugging” so I am happy to empower you
with this information.

You can ask your doctor if you need to
continue your medication or if you can
switch drugs to something in the same
therapeutic category that is not fluorinat-
ed. Never suddenly stop taking a medi-
cation because some cause dangerous
withdrawal reactions, in particular antide-
pressants. If you have to take your medi-
cation, then you can evaluate your iodine status with a 24-hour urine analysis. If it’s
low, you may want to supplement.

Now, here are some popular fluorii-
nated drugs:

Some statin cholesterol drugs such as
atorvastatin (Lipitor), fluvastatin (Lescol)
Fluoroquinolone antibiotics such as
ciprofloxacin (Cipro) and levofloxacin
(Levaquin) are implicated with dangerous
side effects, especially if you take these
medications for a long time.

The antidepressants fluoxetine
(Prozac), paroxetine (Paxil), citalopram
(Celexa) and escitalopram (Lexapro);

The popular antifungal fluconazole
(Diflucan);

Steroids like dexamethasone
(Decadron), fluticasone (Flonase) and fluc-
risolide (Nasarel and Nasalide);

The medication used for major depres-
sion and obsessive compulsive disorder
can fluvoxamine (Luvox);

The infamous drug midazolam (Versed)
which was implicated in the death of pop
superstar Michael Jackson. It’s commonly
used to relieve anxiety and induce drowsi-
ness before surgery.

Mom And Me

by Lizzie and Pryce

Lizzie and Pryce answer your ques-
tions 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 psy-
chotherapist in private practice who
specializes in the care of elders and
people with chronic illnesses.

Dear Mom & Me,

We were invited to the time-share of
a delightful retired couple that we have
known for only a short time. We knew
that they had health problems but did not realize to what extent.

They each take numerous tablets and
pills by mouth, need inhalators, special
creams and lotions, take their blood-sugar
readings several times a day, give them-
selves injections, are watchful of their
diets and when they go to bed they are
all wired up because they both have sleep
apnea.

They have so many health problems
that urgent care centers refuse to treat
them and they must go directly to the
hospital emergency room.

Unfortunately, by their own admission,
many of their conditions were caused by
them ignoring their doctor’s advice and
not going for treatment years ago.

Please advise your younger readers that the retirement years are fun and
much more enjoyable if you have good
health. There is a great deal of merit
practicing preventive medicine in your
own health care.

Dear Pricilla,

Preventive medicine is a new area of
specialty, and much is being done to try
and prevent the onset of many preventable
diseases - but few older people seem
to be listening. They remember what
their doctors told them in the past, for
example, “It doesn’t matter what you
eat.” Now we know better.

Retirement can be fun, but being sick
is terrible and it is boring listening to
many of these older people who do noth-
ing but complain about their aches and
pains.

Dear Lizzie,

Preventive medicine, good health hab-
bits are so difficult yet so important. It is
so much easier, tastier and wicked to give
into the here and now… to indulge in the
immediate and forget the future. With
all things, at some point we have to pay
for our choices, poor health habits, poor
health, poor money management, and
money problems.

Thank you for the good advice from
one who knows.

Pricilla

The 2014 WINK News
Feeds Families Hunger Walk
will be held on Saturday,
January 18, at
Miromar Outlets in Estero.

Co-chairs are Sandy Robinson
of Northern Trust and Dr.
Brian Schwartz of 21st Century
Oncology.

Participants raised $1 mil-
lion during the Hunger Walk’s
first five years.

The goal for the
2014 walk is $300,000. Lois Thome, WINK News anchor, is the honorary chair
of the walk.

“We hope you share in our vision of a community free of hunger,” Robinson said.

Each dollar donated to the Hunger Walk will provide $6 worth of food to those in
need in Southwest Florida through the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

The presenting sponsors are Garden Street Iron & Metal, Inc. and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. Smart Companies is a major sponsor. Gold sponsors are Florida Gulf
Coast University and Lipman Produce.

Individuals, businesses, and groups wishing to participate may register at www.har-
ychaphinfoodbank.org and following the link to the Hunger Walk.

Hunger Walk sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact Marta Hodson
continued on page 24
Phonograph

Edison Ford Shoppe at the Bell Tower Shops, located at US 41 and Daniels Parkway in Fort Myers, on December 26 and January 2 at 2 p.m.

Thomas Edison’s favorite invention, one of the 1093 patents he held in his lifetime, was the phonograph. Kurdyla, an Edison expert and author of the book When Music Was Magic, will present hands-on demonstrations of the phonograph. Visiting from Via Posa, Italy, Kurdyla has one of the largest private collections of Edison phonographs and is considered one of the top experts in the field of Edison recorded sound. The program is free to the public and Kurdyla’s book will be available for purchase and signing. For additional information, call 334-7419 or visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

School Smart

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.

Hunger Walk

at 334-7007 ext. 132 or marthodson@harrychapinfoodbank.org for details or more information.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank solicits, collects and stores quality food for distribution to families in need through a network of 150 nonprofit agencies in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte and Glades counties that provide food to more than 30,000 people monthly.
DID YOU KNOW

TRIVIA TEST

1. POP CULTURE: What is Barbies (the doll) last name?
2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the thriller novel The Day of the Jackal?
3. MOVIES: The film Lady Sings the Blues was the story of what singer?
4. ANATOMY: What are succedaneous teeth also known as?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Where does the Gulf of Oman lie?
6. BUSINESS: What is an oligopoly?
7. LEGAL: What does it mean when a case is heard en banc?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is coprolalia?
9. LANGUAGE: What is a Catch-22?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of bird is a bobwhite?

ANSWERS

My Stars ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2013

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be busier than you had expected right now. But between the socializing rounds and the workplace tasks, there are opportunities for special moments with that certain someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your creative approach leads to a quicker-than-expected solution to a workplace problem. Now you can devote more time to that proposal you hope to introduce by midmonth.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Technological glitches create problems early on. But by midweek, all runs smoothly once again, and you’re well and truly on your way to meeting all your deadlines.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your energy levels are high, and you feel you can handle everything that comes along. But try to take a break from your hectic pace for some quiet time with someone close to you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Before you pounce on that shiny new opportunity, take more time to check it out to see how much substance actually lies beneath all that glitter. A family member has important news.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A personal situation you thought was resolved resurfaces, thanks to a possibly well-meaning move that went awry. Deal with it as soon as possible. Accept the help of a trusted friend.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) That goal you set way back when is finally in sight. Maintain your focus on achieving it, and don’t allow yourself to be distracted by unimportant demands for your attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A temperamental flare-up creates negative feelings that need to be dealt with immediately. But things once again go well after the apologies are made and hurt feelings are dealt with immediately.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An early impulsive act causes confusion. But all is smoothed over once explanations are made. Expect a friend or family member to ask for your kind and always wise advice.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might have to do some juggling of your priorities, as a personal matter appears to require more time and attention. Put your pride aside and accept help from those who offer it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your creative aspect is strong. Not only does it help you accomplish your goals, but it also inspires others. This could lead to a potentially rewarding collaboration opportunity.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful about making major decisions when you’re not really committed to them. And resist any pressure to do otherwise. Better to delay action until all doubts are resolved.

BORN THIS WEEK: You set goals and are rarely distracted by any attempt to move you off the path you’ve chosen to reach them.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On Jan. 2, 1811, Timothy Pickering, a Federalist from Massachusetts, becomes the first U.S. senator to be censured when the Senate approves a motion against him. Pickering was accused of violating congressional law by publicly revealing secret documents.
- On Dec. 30, 1862, the U.S.S. Monitor sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C. Just nine months earlier, the ship had been part of a revolution in naval warfare when the ironclad duplicated a standstill with the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimack) -- the first time two ironclads faced each other in a naval engagement.
- On Jan. 5, 1920, the New York Yankees major-league baseball club announces its purchase of the heavy-hitting outfielder George Herman “Babe” Ruth from the Boston Red Sox for the sum of $125,000. The deal paid off as Ruth went on to smash his own home run record in 1920, hitting 54 homers.
- On Jan. 1, 1946, on the island of Corregidor, in Manila Bay, 20 Japanese soldiers approach a lone soldier — literally waving a white flag. The soldiers had been living in an underground tunnel and only discovered that the war was over by reading it in the newspaper.
- On Jan. 3, 1967, Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who killed the alleged assassin of President John F. Kennedy, dies of cancer in a Dallas hospital. The Texas Court of Appeals recently had overturned his death sentence for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and was scheduled to grant him a new trial.
- On Jan. 4, 1974, President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. Nixon would resign from office in disgrace eight months later.
- On Dec. 31, 1984, Bernhard Goetz, the white man dubbed the “subway vigilante” after he shot four young black men on a New York City subway train, turns himself in at a police station in Concord, N.H. Goetz claimed that the men, all of whom had criminal records, were trying to rob him and that he had acted in self-defense.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer.” — Will Rogers

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Three Dodgers pitchers since 1916 have struck out at least five batters in each of their first five major-league starts. Name two of them.
2. Who has the most managerial wins in Kansas City Royals history?
3. When was the last time before 2012 that the American League champion Boston Red Sox swept the National League Champion San Francisco Giants in the World Series?
4. How many championships did the Los Angeles Lakers win under the ownership of Dr. Jerry Buss?
5. When was the last time before 2013 that Los Angeles Lakers won the NBA championship?

ANSWERS

PUZZLE ANSWERS

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was beloved American pianist and conductor Arthur Rubinstein who made the following sage observation: “To be nice to people on your way up because you meet them on your way down.”
- It was in July 1911 when daredevil Bobby Leach became the second person (and the first man) to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. His daring came at a cost, though; he spent six months in a hospital, recovering from injuries due to his feat. He later went on publicity tours, recounting his experience and posing with the barrel that took him over the falls. He was on one such tour in New Zealand in 1926 when he slipped on an orange peel, injuring his leg such that he would be required to use crutches for the rest of his life.
- It was in July 1946 when daredevil Bobby Leach became the second person (and the first man) to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. His daring came at a cost, though; he spent six months in a hospital, recovering from injuries due to his feat. He later went on publicity tours, recounting his experience and posing with the barrel that took him over the falls. He was on one such tour in New Zealand in 1926 when he slipped on an orange peel, injuring his leg such that he would be required to use crutches for the rest of his life.
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer.” — Will Rogers
Black Bean Sliders with Spicy Orange Sauce

4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 onion, finely chopped
1 15-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained
1/2 cup carrot, shredded
1/2 cup cornmeal
1/2 cup breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon sea salt
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1/4 cup water
14 slider-sized buns

Spicy Orange Sauce
1 cup plain low-fat yogurt
1 tablespoon orange juice
1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

Mix all ingredients together.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large nonstick skillet. Add onion and let cook until tender and slightly caramelized. Transfer onion to a large mixing bowl.

To this bowl add beans, carrots, cornmeal, breadcrumbs, chili powder, salt, cilantro, and water. Use a large spoon or your hands to mash it all together. If the mixture is too dry to hold together add more water, one tablespoon at a time.

Hand-form bean mixture into patties to match the size of the slider buns. Heat remaining oil in a large skillet and pan-fry patties about 3 minutes on each side, until lightly browned and crisp. Add more oil to the skillet as needed.

Drain patties on absorbent paper. Dress with lettuce, tomato and Spicy Orange Sauce, and serve on slider buns.
**HOCUS - FOCUS**

BY

HENRY BOLTINOFF

FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**SUDOKU**

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“Hi, honey — we eating out tonight? I don’t smell anything”

**SCRAMBLERS**

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

Exempt

**MINEUM**

Edge

**FINGER**

Credit

**CRABIES**

Head

**COTINE**

TODAY’S WORD

**BURNING**

Solution:

1. Immune; 2. Fringe; 3. Ascribe; 4. Notice

Today’s Word:

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY**

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OPEN HOUSE CORNER - WEST GULF DR. AND DINGMAN DR.
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Island Resident. Realtor

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GULF PINES HOME W/PRIVATE BEACH PATH SANIBEL ANNUAL RENTAL $3,500/MO – UNFURNISHED
3200 SqFt single family home in beautiful, private community. One house from beach, short walk to 2 community pools and tennis courts. Large, private landscaped lot.3-4 Bedrooms -- most with decks, 3 1/2 baths, large open living room -- LPA & ELK open to screened porch. High end appliances, 2nd fridge, W/D, 2 car garage. Contact: (917) 680-4440.

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3200 SqFt single family home in beautiful, private community. One house from beach, short walk to 2 community pools and tennis courts. Large, private landscaped lot.3-4 Bedrooms -- most with decks, 3 1/2 baths, large open living room -- LPA & ELK open to screened porch. High end appliances, 2nd fridge, W/D, 2 car garage. Contact: (917) 680-4440.

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HELP WANTED

TEACHER ASSISTANT
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The Sanibel School
Please call Maureen 239 417-2517

HELP WANTED

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE FRIDAY AT NOON
Classifieds

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE
We are currently seeking an experienced, dependable administrative person for our Captiva office location. The ideal candidate must:
- Have a high school diploma, some college preferred
- Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Have the ability to learn new procedures and manage systems.
- Have strong computer skills and knowledge of PC operations.
- Windows, MS Office
- Have good problem solving skills
- Manage time effectively
- Be able to thrive in a deadline oriented environment
- Must be willing to work on Captiva Island
- FT position

Qualified applicants please respond by emailing your resume to tammy@royalshellsales.com

HELP WANTED

FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Saint Isabel Parish in Sanibel Florida seeks full-time Director of Music. The position is responsible for providing music planning, organ/piano accompaniment, cantor when necessary for all weekend and Seasonal Masses, as well as weddings and funerals.

Requirements include:
- Knowledge of Catholic liturgy and tradition, experience in instrumentation and music composition, ability to recruit, train, and support a choir.
- Send resumes and letter of interest to: saintisabel@aol.com or Saint Isabel Catholic Church, 3599 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957.

HELP WANTED

SALES FLOOR POSITION
Sales floor position for outgoing individual with interest in cycling. Assist customers with bike/accessory purchases, repair tickets, Segway tour reservations. Detail oriented multi-tasker. Billy’s Bike Shop, 1209 Periwinkle Way, 239-472-3620

NURSERY ATTENDANT
Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ seeks part-time Nursery Attendant for year round on Sunday mornings for infant-4 year olds. Background check and references required. 2-3 years teaching experience preferred. We are a theologically diverse congregation. For more information contact 472-6497.

FOR SALE

Two 2-man Kayak’s Pelican and Cobra with life preservers and oars.
$400 each. 239-472-3133.

WANTED TO BUY

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BOATS - CANOES - KAYAKS

WANTED TO BUY

TOOL BOX

WASHES UP ON SANIBEL

This tool box with motor parts washed up on shore Saturday morning, May 8 about 8:30 on the beach at Sundial Resort on Sanibel Island. To claim call Sundial Resort Security 239-472-4151.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for the After School Program which runs Mon.-Th, 2:30 – 3:15 pm call Linda Reynolds 472-1617

CROW - (239) 472-3644, ext. 231 or volunteers@crowclinic.org

BOATS - CANOES - KAYAKS

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HELP US PLEASE!!
We need volunteers for:
- Clinic emergency patient admissions desk
- Baby animal feeders

Visitor education center greeters and gift shop cashiers

BUY SELL TRADE

BIG CLEARANCE SALE

2431 Periwinkle Way
www.SanibelSeaLifeGallery.com

FINDS

Prescription sunglasses found in parking lot of Limetree Center on Wednesday, February 27. Claim at Island Sun newspaper, suite 2 in Limetree Center, or call 395-1213.
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.

delete answer on page 27

Pets Of The Week

Hi, my name is Benny and I am a two-year-old brown hound mix.

Comments: I have a heart that is as big as the sky and I’m just waiting to share all that love with a new family.

Adoption fee: $20 to $50 off the regular adoption fee of $75 when you draw a discount coupon from Animal Services Holiday Stocking!

I’m Daisy, a domestic female calico short haired cat, two years old.

Comments: I’ve been waiting for months to find my forever home. I’m a beautiful girl and you could make my dream come true by giving me a home before the holidays.

Adoption fee: $20 to $50 off the regular adoption fee of $50 when you draw a discount coupon from Animal Services Holiday Stocking!

For information about this week’s pets, call 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, 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.
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