

The

February 11, 2022

ENGLEWOOD REVIEW

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The Englewood Drum Circle gathers every Sunday year-round, weather depending. They gather at the north end of Englewood Beach about an hour to an hour and a half before sunset. *Photo by Les Beery*

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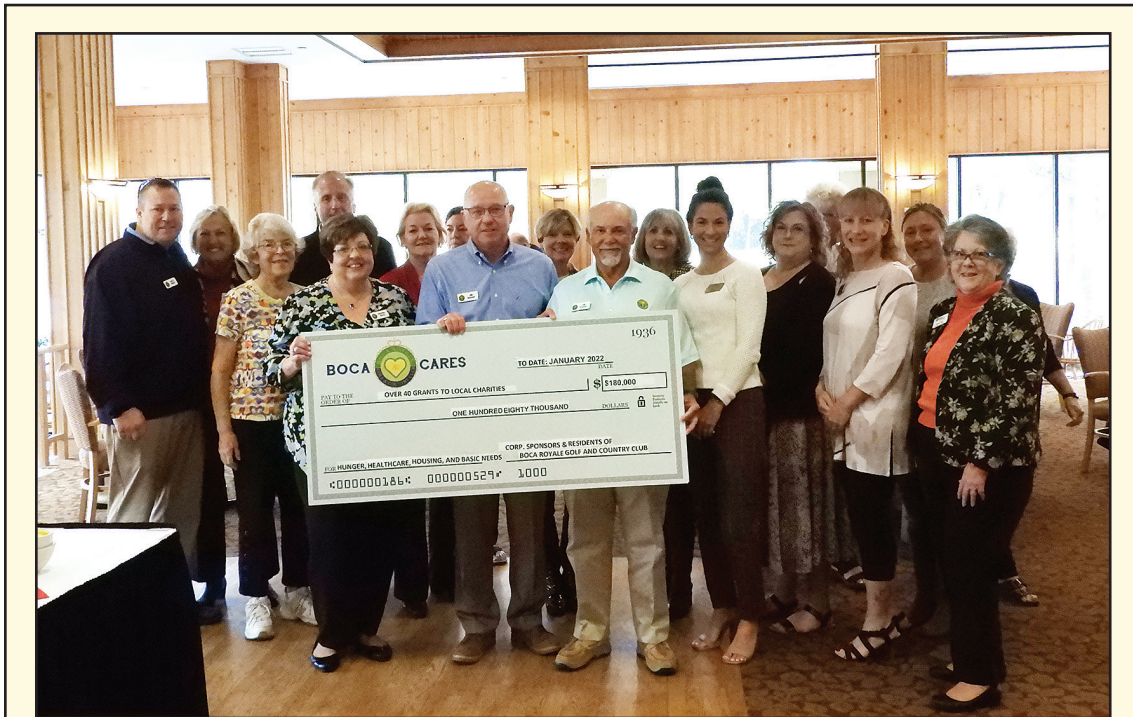
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Around the Town



On January 25th, Boca Cares Foundation announced the recipients for the Fall 2021 Boca Cares grants. The Fall 2021 grant recipients were Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Center Place Health, Inc., Englewood Helping Hand, Englewood Youth Foundation, Family Promise of South Sarasota County, Jesus Loves You Ministry, Josh Provides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation, Salvation Army of Sarasota County, and The Twig Cares. Since its inception, Boca Cares has now awarded over \$180,000 in grants to local charities in the Englewood community. Boca Royale Golf and Country Club residents are invited to contribute \$200 annually per household to the Foundation. Public charities that focus on services to children, families, seniors, and veterans may apply for a grant, and the grant recipients are selected by the Boca Cares Board. To learn more about Boca Cares, visit bocaroyalecares.com. Photo by Ken Hubley.

Pig Pickin', Pancakes, & Crafts

The 8th Annual Pig Pickin', a two-day extravaganza at Gulf Cove United Methodist Church, is **Friday & Saturday, February 11 & 12**. The Arts & Craft Fair runs **Friday, 10am to 6pm**, and **Saturday, 8am to 4pm**. Pig Pickin' and Cookie Dash table are **Friday, 11am to 7pm**. Just \$15 will get you a generous portion of Chef Alfred's pulled pork or turkey plate plus lots of extras. **Saturday morning, 8am to 12:30pm**, is Boy Scout Troop 776's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for \$12. Gulf Cove UMC is located at 1100 S. McCall Road in the Gulf Cove area.

Edgewater Rummage Sale

Don't miss the Edgewater Club Annual Rummage Sale on **Saturday, February 12, 8am to 1pm**. Select your finds from household goods, kitchenware, appliances, books, tools, furniture, craft supplies, jewelry and more. Pick up some delicious baked goods while you are there. A 50/50 raffle will also be held. Turn on Blue Heron Drive off SR 776 and then right to 2840 Waxwing.

Manta Market

Come browse the Manta Market at Lemon Bay High School at 2201 Placida Road on **Saturday, February 12**. The Market has it all: watercolors, acrylic paintings, prints, photography, pottery, jewelry, fused glass, stained glass, mixed media art, customizable gifts, wearable art, home decor, gifts for your pets, beauty and health goods, custom wood turned art, woodwork and carvings, garden sculpture, handmade furniture, holiday gifts, plants, seashells, and more. Food available for purchase: BBQ, funnel cakes, donuts, fresh fruit smoothies and other sweet treats and baked goods. Each month is a little different - you will see your favorite vendors and there will always be some new ones to check out. Free convenient parking and restrooms available. Open **9am to 2pm**. The next Manta Market will be **March 5**. Follow the Manta Market at www.m.facebook.com/LBHSMantaMarket.

Woodmere Park Garage Sales

Woodmere Park Community Garage Sale season is here! The sales will take place at Woodmere Park, 3951

Woodmere Park Blvd, Venice. Shop for bargains on **Saturday, February 12** and **Saturday, March 12** from **8am to noon**. There will be indoor and outdoor vendors onsite. Free admission for shoppers.

Lunch & Learn Lectures

Manasota Beach Club's Lunch & Learn series continues through February on **Mondays, noon to 1:30pm**. Program topics are **February 14**: John Burroughs: Learning to Write, Naturally." The presenter is Dr. John Lutz, a resident of Englewood and great grand nephew of John Burroughs, a well-known naturalist. **February 21**: If you dig archaeology, Ryan Duggins' talk will be of interest. His talk, "Sarasota's Submerged Prehistory: Recent Investigations at Manasota Key Offshore," describes how recent archaeological investigations located a 7,000-year-old Native American ancestral burial site in the Gulf of Mexico near Venice. **February 28**: Jon Thaxton, former Sarasota County Commissioner and current Director of Gulf Coast Community Foundation, will speak on Florida Scrub-Jay

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Publisher
 Tom Newton
 TomNewton@englewoodreview.com
Sales Team
 Cheri Cushman
 Ad Sales Support
 Marilyn Johnson
 MJohnson@englewoodreview.com
 Ed Kellam
 Ed@englewoodreview.com
Content Team
 Chris Cameron
 Bulletins
 Deb Driscoll
 Graphics
 Susan Smith
 Graphics
 Contributors: Kimball & Les Beery,
 Amanda Glam, Dean Laux,
 Sharyn Lonsdale, Robert Reil, Todd Tracy.

Press Materials: englewoodreview@comcast.net
Ad Materials: graphics@englewoodreview.com

**Newton Studios, Inc.,
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 370 West Dearborn Street,
 Suite B, Englewood FL 34223
941-474-4351 fax: 941-474-8317

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County and was one of the 241 Americans killed in the May, 1983 attack on the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. "The vision of the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Park is to recognize and honor the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice of all our veterans and first responders," said Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, a Gaines Fund board member.

Fascinating Stories from Our National Parks
 Charlotte County Libraries and History presents *Fascinating Stories from Our National Parks*. Individuals will have the opportunity to see this great presentation at three different library branch locations. Join author and performer Penny Musco as she shares fun and surprising facts and stories about the national parks. Musco is the author of *Life Lessons from the National Parks* and has been an artist in residence for the National Park Service. The programs are free and open to the public. No reservations needed. Masks are recommended but not required. **Wednesday, February 16, 2pm**, Englewood Charlotte Public Library, 3450 North Access Road. **Thursday, February 17, 1:30pm**, Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. **Thursday, February 17, 5pm**, Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson, Port Charlotte. For information, contact Bill MacDonald at **941-613-3192** or Bill.MacDonald@charlottecountyfl.gov.



Pastor Garry of Fellowship Church invites the community to hear the Larry Stephenson Band in two free concerts on **Sunday, February 20 at 8:30am and 10:30am**. This award-winning group has been entertaining audiences for 30 years, including their numerous performances on the Grand Ole Opry, RFD-TV and headlining festivals and concerts across the US and Canada. The group is led by Music Hall of Fame member and 5-time Male Vocalist of the Year Larry Stephenson. Fellowship Church Worship Center is located at 140 Rotonda Blvd. West. Complimentary refreshments of coffee, juice, fruit & pastries will be served in the Fellowship Hospitality Cafe beginning at **9:45am**. Nursery & children's programs are available. You can also watch live online at watchFClive.com. For more information, please contact the church at **941-475-7447** or log on at www.fcenglewood.com. All are welcome!

Stories (and Maybe Our Next State Bird?). The Lunch & Learn presentations are held at MBC, 7660 Manasota Key Road. The cost is \$30, plus taxes/gratuity. Reservations are required due to limited seating. All presentations are outside with social distancing and masks required, except while eating at your table. For additional information and reservations, contact MBC at **941-474-2614** or www.manasotabeachclub.com.

only) and includes a certificate, gift, and flower while supplies last. Bring your own beach chairs and enjoy a romantic evening on the beach. Registration is required. Call **941-861-PARK (7275)** for more information. Nokomis Beach is at 100 Casey Key Road, Nokomis, and Siesta Beach is 948 Beach Road, Siesta Key.

Military Memorial Ribbon-Cutting
 The Charlotte County Commission will commemorate the completion of the Military Services Memorial at the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at **11am, Wednesday, February 16**. The event is open to the public and all veterans are encouraged to attend. Gaines Park is located at 20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte. The Military Services Memorial was funded by the William R. Gaines Jr. Veteran Memorial Fund. Gaines lived and went to school in Charlotte

Say 'I Do' Again
 #SRQCountyParks and Friends of Sarasota County Parks present *Say 'I Do' Again* on **Monday, February 14, 4:30 to 7pm**. Celebrate a renewal of wedding vows at sunset at either Siesta or Nokomis beach. Arrive as early as **4:30pm** for best parking and check in. Music, light refreshments, and photo opportunities are available at **5pm**. The non-denominational service is performed promptly at **6pm**. The day of registration cost is \$25 per couple (credit card

Reducing Plastics Series
 Learn how to reduce plastic pollution with sound tips on waste reduction, recycling, reuse techniques, and more when UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County presents *Reducing Plastics*, a new, open-discussion class focused on the issue of plastic pollution. *Reducing Plastics* takes a deeper look at the impacts of plastic pollution, recycling, challenges and obstacles, and related environmental issues in

Florida and beyond. Shamrock Park & Nature Center is the classroom for the session on *Recycling* on **Wednesday, February 16, 3 to 4pm**, with future sessions planned on waste reduction, composting, and other topics in the series this year. Please register for this event only at uf Sarasotaext.eventbrite.com rather than any third-party websites, as they are not affiliated with UF/IFAS classes and events. Shamrock

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Sonrise Baptist Church, 11050 Willmington Blvd., will be having a gospel concert featuring the Foresters, a family band in full time Gospel Music Ministry, along with Tammy Renee and the Ridge, a local well-known group, on **Saturday, March 26th at 4pm**. A love offering will be taken. Open to the public. For more information, please call **941•475•5363**. Photo: Meet the Foresters.

storing waypoints, routes, and tracks in GPS equipment as a valuable tool to assist navigation for trip planning and execution. Cost for the class is \$45 per person, \$60 per couple sharing workbook, and \$15 per middle or high school student. Masks and social distancing required for this class. For more information and to register for the class, contact Anne Brengle, Public Education Class Coordinator via email: uscgauxflotilla99@gmail.com or phone **508•717•2613** (voice or text).

World Champs Welcome Weekend

Celebrate baseball world champions, the Atlanta Braves, at CoolToday Park the weekend of **February 19 & 20**. Some of the highlights include performances by the Venice and North Port HS bands, live radio remotes, family activities, pennant giveaway, scavenger hunt, and a parade with the Budweiser Clydesdales. Concerts by the Bruce Springsteen tribute "B Street Band" on **Saturday** and Josh Stone on **Sunday**. For the latest on the activities planned, visit the CoolToday Park on Facebook or call **941•413•5000**. Spring training game tickets are now available at www.braves.com/springtraining. The stadium is located at 18800 S. West Villages Pkwy, Venice.

Stocks, Bonds, and ETFs

Review low-cost ways to build an efficient portfolio or to grow wealth with market-like returns when you attend the seminar, *Investments: Stocks, Bonds, and ETFs*, on **Tuesday, February 22 at 10am**. Presented by Portfolio

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Sunset/Full Moon Yoga

This month's Sunset/Full Moon Yoga and Crystal Bowls will be **Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 to 7:30pm**, at Englewood Beach. Presented by Loving Light Yoga, you will enjoy gentle yoga while the sun sets, and the full moon rises. Relax and move your body to release tension while embraced in Sound Healing Vibrations. Beginner friendly. Cost \$5. Bring a sheet or blanket. Event is weather permitting so check the website www.lovinglightyoga.com to be sure class is not canceled.

Estate Planning Mistakes to Avoid

Trust Development Officer Kerry Hunter of Englewood Bank & Trust invites you to attend a free seminar, *Estate Planning Mistakes to Avoid*, on **Thursday, February 17 at 10am**. Leslie Lohn of the Law Office of Leslie Lohn, LLC, will present examples of real-life mistakes you can learn from and apply to your personal plan. The seminar will be held at Englewood Chamber of Commerce, 601 S. Indiana Avenue. Registration is required and you can register online at www.Englewoodbank.com/trustservices or contact Hunter at **941•473•3629** or khunter@ebtfl.com.

Community Garage Sale

Mark your calendar for the Englewood Community Garage Sale scheduled for **Saturday**,

February 19 from 8am to 1pm

at the Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 S. River Road. There will be both indoor and outdoor vendors with concessions onsite. Free admission and parking for shoppers. Interested vendors should call **941•861•1980**.

Community Tag Sales

Clintwood Acres is holding its annual Community Tag Sale on **Saturday, February 19**. Sale hours are **8am to 2pm**. Clintwood Acres is located behind CVS Pharmacy and there are four streets off Pine Street participating: Florence Avenue, Elinor Place, Loralin Drive, and Edith Avenue.

GPS for Mariners Class

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 99, Cape Haze is offering a GPS For Mariners in-person boating safety course, on **Saturday, February 19, from 9am to approximately 5pm**. The 8-hour class will be held at the South Gulf Cove HOA pavilion, 14859 Ingraham Blvd., Port Charlotte. The course is taught by members who patrol and are very familiar with local waters. Learn the skills to read a nautical chart, determine depth of water, location, buoys and marker day and night identification, and speed-distance-bearing. You will also learn skills to understand and use GPS equipment to determine your location, and as an aid to navigate to and from desired destinations. Participants will learn the concept of using and

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Manager Chris Eckstrom, MBA, the free seminar will be held in the Englewood Bank & Trust boardroom, 1111 S. McCall Road. Registration is required and you can register online at www.Englewoodbank.com/trustservices or contact Kerry Hunter, EB&T Trust Development Officer, at **941-473-3629** or khunter@ebtfl.com.

Blanchard House Museum Program

The Lemon Bay Historical Society invites you to join them in celebrating Black History Month with a presentation by Dr. Martha Bireda, Director of the Blanchard House Museum of African American History and Culture. She will talk about how African Americans played a significant role in Punta Gorda's history. The program will be **7pm Tuesday, February 22** at the Historic Green Street Church Museum, 510 Indiana Avenue. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. The Blanchard House Museum is located in a historic home at 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Punta Gorda. Originally located three blocks from its present location, the house was built in 1925 and was moved in 2002. It was built for the owner, local fisherman Joseph Blanchard and his wife Minnie. He was born in St. Augustine, and had been a steamboat pilot, and she was a mail order bride from Louisiana.

History of the Intracoastal

Some people swear by the Intracoastal Waterway; some swear at it. Ready for a little history about the often-



The 35th Annual Huge Rummage Sale is **February 24-26** in the Englewood United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 700 E. Dearborn Street. Just about everything imaginable fills the gymnasium-sized hall, inside and out. Shoppers can browse through furniture, small appliances, electronics, toys, clothes, fabrics and crafts, books, artificial flowers, artwork, yard and shop tools, hardware, kitchenware, home décor, and just about everything imaginable at this bargain hunters' paradise. Pay a \$5 "Shop Early Admission Fee" Thursday only at the "Early Bird" Pre-Sale, **February 24 from 3-6pm**. Admission is free **Friday, February 25 from 9am to 3pm** and **Saturday, February 26 from 9am to noon**. Proceeds support local charitable programs. Due to storage being full, donation of all items is closed until otherwise announced after the sale. Mask recommended. For information, see www.Englewoodumc.net, or call Annette at **941-882-4543**.

controversial waterway, once referred to as "The Big Ditch"? Hear about its intended purpose, funding sources, contentious route selection and dredging on **Thursday, February 24 at 11am** when George Miller presents this program for the Venice Historical Society at the Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd, Venice. Register online at veniceareahistoricalociety.org.

Orchids to the Rescue

After not being able to have a show in 2020 and 2021,

Englewood Area Orchid Society is looking forward to their 2022 Show. The show will be held **Friday & Saturday, March 4 & 5, 10am to 5pm**, at the Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park Gym, 6961 San Casa Drive. The show theme will be "Orchids to the Rescue". Venice Area Orchid Society and Sarasota Orchid Society will also be participating in this show. There will be over 9,000 square feet of sales and exhibits, retail orchids and supplies, artwork, books,

and raffles. Free professional advice and culture information will be available. Admission is \$5 and there is plenty of parking. For further information, call **941-697-9237**.

Buchan Fly-In

As the morning sun shines its first light on Buchan Airport on **Saturday, March 5**, you may hear the buzz of a light plane in its landing pattern while a score of volunteers are busily preparing for the 15th Annual Buchan Airport Fly-In, located on the

north end of Old Englewood Road, that is happening from **9am to 2pm**. As many as 40 airplanes of various types including biplane, helicopter, experimental, and other general aviation aircraft, are expected. They will be available for viewing and you can speak with the pilots. The French Artisan is catering a delicious breakfast, so plan to eat here. The menu includes quiche, pastry, orange juice, and coffee for only \$8 and is served **9 to 11am**. Or come later: lunch is served **11am to 1pm** with a choice of hotdogs or hamburgers (food truck), or BBQ sandwiches, chips, and a drink. Numerous exhibitors will be on hand and there will be a raffle of prizes donated by many local merchants. A portion of the proceeds go towards a scholarship for students in pursuit of an aviation career. This is a great opportunity for families, and grandparents who want an opportunity for a fun outing with the grandkids. Please note that Sarasota County Ordinance does not allow pets on the airport property. For more information, contact Dan Harrison at **941-474-1551** or conquestmusic@comcast.net.

Insurance and Contractor Fraud Awareness Tips

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, consumers should be aware of the signs of insurance and contractor fraud. The state has dispatched investigators from the Department of Financial Services Division of Investigative and Forensic Services to Charlotte County to conduct active fraud operations

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and issued an educational guide highlighting the red flags of fraud. Indicators of Storm-Related Fraud are: 1) A contractor or restoration professional who offered to waive or discount your insurance deductible. 2) A contractor or restoration professional that has received payment and has failed to provide any repairs to your home. 3) A contractor or restoration professional who offered to provide repairs at a cash-only discounted rate and has failed to provide repairs to your home. 4) A contractor or restoration professional who pressured you to sign an AOB and has failed to provide any repairs to your home or stopped responding to your contact attempts. To report suspected fraud, call the Department's toll-free Fraud Tip Hotline at **800-378-0445** or visit FraudFreeFlorida.com.

Income Tax Assistance

United Way South Sarasota County is launching three VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Centers for low to moderate income individuals and families. VITA is an IRS program that utilizes certified volunteers to help provide free and accurate tax preparation to those taxpayers with an income of \$66,000 or less annually. A substantial portion of available assistance to lower-income families is accessible only by filing a tax return (assistance such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and more.) The Englewood location will be the Englewood YMCA, 701 Medical Blvd., and open by appointment only on **Wednesdays, 3 to 7pm** and **Fridays, 9am to 1pm**. No Walk-Ins! Appointments may be made online at www.uwssc.org/vita. You can also call **941-484-4811** or email programs@uwssc.com. A list of documents needed can be found on the website as well.

Public Service Announcement

Property Tax Exemptions – The Charlotte County Property Appraiser is now accepting 2022 Exemption Applications. Homestead exemption applications can be filed online. Visit www.ccappraiser.com for further instructions. In addition, applications may be filed in person at one of the office locations: 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte; South

County Annex, 410 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda; and West Charlotte Annex, 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood; or obtain an instruction sheet and application form at www.ccappraiser.com to apply by mail. The filing deadline is **5:00 pm, March 1, 2022**. The telephone number is **941-743-1593**.

Caring & Sharing

Grant Writer Needed

The Jubilee Center, St. David's Episcopal Church, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in need of an experienced grant writer to secure funding. The Jubilee Center serves the economically challenged and homeless population in the Englewood community by providing food, clothing, utilities assistance, and collaborating with other local area agencies. In 2021, the Jubilee Center served over 2,908 clients. This position requires someone with experience in grant research, writing and reporting. It is a part-time, volunteer position. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest with past experience to: The Jubilee Center, 401 S. Broadway, Englewood, FL, 34223.

February OneBlood Drives

The following OneBlood "Big Red Bus" blood drives have been scheduled for **February** in the Englewood area. Please note that blood drives are subject to change at any time. Donors are requested to visit the OneBlood website, www.oneblood.org, to schedule an appointment.
Sunday, February 13, 10am to 4pm: Walmart, 2931 S. McCall Road.
Wednesday, February 16, 8am to noon: Holiday Travel Park, 1475 Flamingo Drive.
Wednesday, February 16, 1 to 4pm: Winn-Dixie (Palm Plaza), 1951 S. McCall Road.
Sunday, February 20, 2 to 5pm: Pet Supermarket, 1951 S. McCall Road.
Tuesday, February 22, 10am to 4pm: Bealls, 1500 Placida Road.
Wednesday, February 23, 9am to noon: Brook to Bay Mobile Home Park, 1891 Englewood Road.
Monday, February 28, 8am to 2pm: Oyster Creek Community, 6651 Oriole Blvd.

Sports

Race to Conserve
 Come on out and enjoy the beautiful natural trails at

the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park in North Port on **Saturday, February 19**. Choose from a 5K run or a 1K or 5K walk. Trails are maintained but not paved. Afterwards there will be a "Wellness Forest" of interactive activities and information about wellness & self-care. Race time is **8am** for runners and **8:15am** for walkers. For more details and registration, go to runsignup.com/race/FL/NorthPort. Cost is \$35 for 5K run and \$12 for 1K or 5K walk. Proceeds will be used toward future land acquisition by the Environmental Conservancy of North Port. The park is located at 6968 Reistertown Road, North Port.

Adult Sailing Camp

Learn to sail through the Adult Sailing Camp hosted by the Englewood Sailing Association, Inc. The class runs **Monday-Thursday, March 7-10** from **10am to 2pm** at Indian Mound Park, 210 Winson Avenue. Cost is \$195. Register online at www.Englewoodsailing.org. For questions, email info@Englewoodsailing.org or call **941-681-8190**.

Kids' Needs

Golf Tournament
 The 11th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Kids' Needs Greater Englewood FL, Inc. is set for **Saturday, April 2** at Oyster Creek Golf Club, 6651 Oriole Blvd. This is a four-ball scramble team competition. Shotgun start at **8am**. Cost is \$50 per golfer and includes green fees, cart, coffee, donuts, a light lunch, and prizes for low scoring teams. All proceeds go to provide clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and educational programs for needy children in Englewood. For more information and to register online, go to <https://kidsneedsenglewood.org>. Entry fees are tax-deductible.

The items appearing in this column are as accurate as possible. Please call the listed numbers for confirmation. If you have an upcoming event you would like to have considered for "Around the Town" please send info and/or photo to The Englewood REVIEW, 370 W Dearborn St, Suite B, Englewood, FL 34223 or englewoodreview@comcast.net.

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Arts & Entertainment

Your Funny Valentine

Add laughter to your Valentine's Day when you attend *Your Funny Valentine* stand-up comedy show on **Monday, February 14 at 7:30pm**, at the Langdon Playhouse, 1182 Market Circle, Pt. Charlotte. Charlotte Players present two fun and refreshing comedians. Harley Worthit, a talented musician and comic, has entertained thousands in Branson and Pigeon Forge over 25 years with his down-home charm and wit. Tara Zimmerman has been making folks grin for more than a decade with tales of marriage to her beloved husband (B-O-B), family life, and her own misadventures. Tickets are \$24 and may be purchased online at charlotteplayers.org or calling **941-255-1022**.

Creative Liberties Events

Creative Liberties Artist Studios has announced three upcoming events at their studio, 901-B Apricot Avenue, Sarasota. **Friday, February 18, 5:30 to 8pm:** "Wine & Design – A pARTy." Enjoy wine and lite bites and then make fabulous art projects with the studio arts. \$10 per person. **Saturday, February 26, 10am to 4pm:** "Arts & Crafts". Free family-



If Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig von Beethoven, and Peter Tchaikovsky are four of your favorite composers, you certainly will enjoy the first half of the Venice Concert Band's February concert! For the second half of this concert, add to those names, the Broadway songs of Robert Sherman, Elton John, and Leonard Bernstein. By putting these selections together in one program, the band is sure everyone will find musical selections they will enjoy. Two local college students will also be introduced: soprano Katelyn Reinschmidt and tenor Seth Stavarz, to perform selections from "West Side Story." To hear this exciting music, come to the Venice Performing Arts Center at Venice High School on **Monday, February 21, at 7pm** as the Venice Concert Band, under the direction of Robert Miller, performs their concert entitled "Bach to Broadway." Tickets will be available only online on the band's website: www.VeniceConcertBand.com. You must click on the link for "will call." Tickets may also be obtained the night of the concert at the box office of the Venice Performing Arts Center, One Indian Avenue, Venice, for \$14 cash purchase. Director Bob Miller is pictured here.

friendly event features craft beer vendors. **Friday, March 18, 5:30 to 7:30pm:** "Roaring 20's art by studio artists and artisan pARTy Open Studio". Have fun

at a speakeasy-style party with password only access. Wear Roaring Twenties-style attire and BYOT (bring your own teacup) to sip 1920's cocktails while viewing art by studio artists. For more information about this regional artist studio, visit creativeliberties.net or call **941-799-6634**.

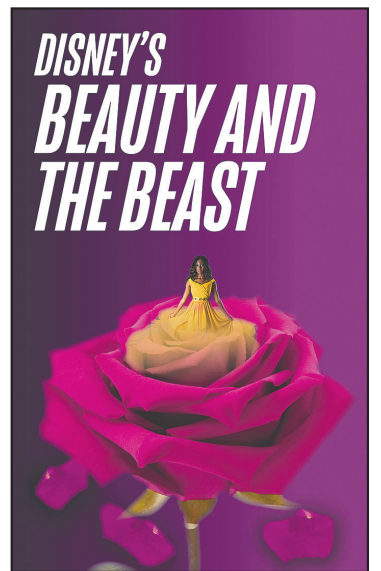
Strings on the Lawn

Concertmaster Ming Gao returns with his string & piano quartet for another spectacular chamber music experience featuring everything from Bach to Broadway on **Sunday, February 20 at 4pm**. This Punta Gorda Symphony event will be held on the lawn on FSW's Charlotte Campus, 26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda. The event is a not-to-miss for the music aficionado or those who want to spend an afternoon relaxing outdoors. Tickets are \$30 adult; \$15 youth/student. Get tickets today at www.pgsymphony.org.

Theatre Today: Process & Production

The Hermitage Artist Retreat brings the next installment of its "Artists & Thinkers" series to Longboat Key with *Theatre Today: Process & Production*, a conversation with Tony Award-winning Broadway producer Tom Kirdahy (Hadestown; The Inheritance; Little Shop of Horrors). This event will be held outdoors on **Friday, February 25 at 5:30pm**, at the Town Center of Longboat Key, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key. A champion of new work and a resident of Longboat Key, Kirdahy will speak with fellow Tony Award winner and Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg about the inextricable link between theatrical development and production, and the multi-year creative journey from an idea to production. Following a successful event in 2021 hosted on the Hermitage Beach, part of the Hermitage "Artists & Thinkers" series, Kirdahy and Sandberg will continue their candid conversation in the town of Longboat Key.

Cahal Dunne in Concert
Cahal Dunne, "Ireland's Piano Man - The Man of Many Jackets", possesses that certain



Travel to a French provincial town where you'll meet smart and beautiful Belle, arrogant Gaston, a castle full of talking inanimate objects, and a Prince under a beastly spell when Venice Theatre presents "Disney's Beauty & the Beast" from **Friday, February 25 through Sunday, March 27**. Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all the wonderful songs from the movie, along with new songs by Alan Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over 13 years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Evening performances start at **7:30pm** and Sunday matinees at **2pm**. Tickets are \$36 adult, \$20 college, & \$15 youth and may be purchased online at venicetheatre.org or by calling the box office at **941-488-1115**. Venice Theatre is located at 140 Tampa Avenue West, Venice.

magical quality known in show business as "It". "It" transcends talent and comes from deep within a great entertainer and washes over an audience, captivating them. This native of County Cork will perform at the Langdon Playhouse on **Sunday, February 27 at 2pm**. Tickets are \$24 (+fees) and may be purchased online at charlotteplayers.org or by calling the box office, 1182 Market Circle, Pt. Charlotte, at **941-255-1102**.

John Denver Tribute
Ted Vigil and the John Denver Tribute Band return to Charlotte County on **Monday, February 28** to give you a "Rocky Mountain High." The concert begins at **7:30pm** at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda. Tickets are \$34-\$39, and may be purchased

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Princess Tea Party

Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Ann & Chuck Dever
Regional Park
6791 San Casa Dr., Englewood

Enjoy a royal buffet, sing along with special guests Snow Queen and Island Princess, and listen to their adventures told in their own words! Free, registration required. Ages 4 and up. 941.681.3760



Fascinating Stories from our NATIONAL PARKS

Feb. 16 at 2 p.m.
Englewood Charlotte Public Library

Join author and performer Penny Musco as she shares fun and surprising facts and stories about our fascinating national parks. No reservations needed. 941.613.3192. Free.

Dazzling Diamonds

Friday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.
Englewood Charlotte Public Library

Learn the basics of diamond painting and receive a starter kit complete with the tools and items needed to create glamorous works of art. Free, registration required. Ages 12-18. 941.613.3192





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Martyna Majok
2018 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner



Helga Davis
2019 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner.



Aleshea Harris
2021 Hermitage Greenfield Prize winner.

Three recent Hermitage Greenfield Prize (HGP) winners – Martyna Majok (2018), Helga Davis (2019), and Aleshea Harris (2021) - return to Sarasota this spring to present their work and speak about their creative process. First, on **Friday, March 4 at 5:30pm**, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and 2018 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner Martyna Majok presents "Building a Play: Exploring the Playwright-Director Collaboration." This will be a conversation on the Hermitage Beach, moderated by Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO Andy Sandberg, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Martyna Majok and her collaborator on the HGP commission, director Caitlin Sullivan. Next up, on **Saturday, March 19 at 6pm**, the Hermitage, in collaboration with EnsembleNewSRQ and New College of Florida, presents the live Sarasota premiere of "Ocean Body," the commissioned work from 2019 Hermitage Greenfield Prize Winner and composer, vocalist, and performance artist Helga Davis, along with her collaborators Shara Nova and Mark DeChiazza. This event is offered both in-person at the Hermitage Palm House Studio and virtually. Then in April, on **Friday, April 8 at 6pm**, to kick off a weekend of events celebrating the Hermitage Greenfield Prize, award-winning playwright, author of "What to Send Up When It Goes Down," and 2021 HGP recipient Aleshea Harris presents "A Theater Maker's Year: What 'Went Down'". Harris' commission is expected in 2023. For more information or to register for a program, visit HermitageArtistRetreat.org. The Hermitage is located at 6660 Manasota Key Road.

at charlotteplayers.org or by calling the Charlotte Players box office at **941-255-1022**.

Short Film Festival

The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor Convention Bureau and Asbury Shorts/USA will present the 8th Annual Punta Gorda Short Film Festival (PGSFF) on **Wednesday, March 2** at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda. This special event, hosted by the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. PGCC starts at **7pm**, doors open at **6pm**. The show combines award-winning films from past years with new international festival honorees, creating a rare opportunity for audiences to see world-class shorts on a real cinema screen instead of a device. Tickets are \$20 and are now on sale online at <https://brownpapertickets.com/event/5344377> or at the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, 252 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda.

"Little Satchmo" Regional Premiere

To the world, Louis Armstrong is iconic – a symbol of musical genius, unparalleled success, and unassailable character. To Sarasota resident, author, and

broadcast host, Sharon Preston-Folta, he was simply "Dad," but almost no one knew he had a child. In 2012, Preston-Folta published her memoir, *Living*

in the Shadow of My Father, Louis Daniel Armstrong, which revealed her secret: Preston-Folta was the offspring of Armstrong and his mistress of over two



The Charlotte Chorale is both honored and thrilled to host Steinway Piano Artist Dr. Tianshu Wang in a special concert event, "Enchanting Music at Twilight," on **Saturday, February 19, 4pm**, at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 701 Carmalita Street in Punta Gorda. Dr. Wang's virtuosity has graced the concert stages of Europe, Asia and North America, including a special solo performance at Carnegie Hall. Tianshu Wang's exquisite technique and sensitivity evoke the full range of deep resonance and delicacy that the piano can produce as an instrument. Her musical phrasing and style will transport the listener both imaginatively and emotionally as she presents beloved masterworks by Mozart, Chopin, Liszt, and Debussy, as well as music from her Chinese heritage. Tickets and reservations for this special solo event are separate from The Charlotte Chorale's regular concert series. Adults: \$40; Students: \$20. Available at **941-204-0033** or www.charlottechorale.com.

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"Say Their Names"
with Saxophonist and Composer
Matthew Evan Taylor
Fri, February 18 @ 5:30pm
Hermitage Beach (Englewood)

Saxophonist **Matthew Evan Taylor** shares an improvisatory jazz concert inspired by the ongoing fight for racial justice.

Presented in partnership with Manasota ASALH.



Hermitage Sunsets @ Selby:
"Violin: Dope, Honest, & Evolved"
Thurs, February 24 @ 6pm
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
(Downtown Sarasota)

Lady Jess, a violin soloist in Beyoncé's band, shares her work and offers insight into the future of music.

Presented in partnership with Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.



To register (required) for upcoming programs:
HermitageArtistRetreat.org





Hailed as a "risk taker" (Huffington Post) whose music is "insistent and defiant" (Lucid Culture), Matthew Evan Taylor is a leading voice at the intersection of musical virtuosity and social justice. He will perform selections from his solo concert "Say Their Names," inspired by the fight against anti-Black racism and police brutality, live on the Hermitage Beach **Friday, February 18 at 5:30pm**. Register at hermitageartistretreat.org (\$5 per person.) The Hermitage is located at 6660 Manasota Key Road.



Artist Series Concerts is delighted to present the young, award-winning Risus Quartet in performance on **Sunday, March 6 at 4pm** at Temple Sinai, 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota. Grand and Gold Medal Prize winners at the 2021 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the Risus Quartet is currently the Young Professional String Quartet in residence at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas in Austin. Their program will include string quartets by Mozart, Beethoven, and Debussy. The Risus Quartet was founded in 2020 by four passionate musicians living in South Korea. 'Risus' in Latin means 'laugh', and the main vision of the quartet is to bring joy and laughter to their audiences. The quartet replaces Quartet Amabile, postponed due to the pandemic. Tickets are \$40 and are available online at www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org or by calling **941•306•1202, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm**.

decades, Lucille "Sweets" Preston. *Little Satchmo*, narrated by Preston-Folta and adapted from her book, has taken the international film festival circuit by storm. The hour-long feature documentary, made for public television, intimately shares her story, and reveals the previously unknown history of Satchmo's life as a family man and father. The regional premiere is **Thursday, March 3, 7pm**,

at Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center, 525 Kumquat Court in Sarasota. The evening will include a Q&A and a presentation by Truly Valued, a local nonprofit that provides services for adolescent girls. For more information and ticket purchase, go to wslr.org/film.

The Last Five Years
Drama Desk winner, *The Last Five Years*, has been produced

around the world and it comes to Venice Theatre **Friday, March**

4 through Sunday, April 3.

The musical was named one of TIME Magazine's ten best shows of 2001. With just two cast members, this beloved modern musical ingeniously chronicles the five-year life of a New York marriage. Curtain time is **7:30pm evenings and 2pm Sundays**. Tickets are \$28 adult, college student \$20, and youth \$15. Purchase tickets online at venicetheatre.org. The theatre is located at 140 Tampa Avenue West, Venice.

5 & 6 at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds, 2333 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte. Performers include Sunny Sweeney, Ava Paige, Erin Enderlin, Cheley Tackett, Diamonds & Whiskey, Shelley Fairchild, Leah Turner, and many more. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Beer garden and food vendors. Tickets \$40 per day or \$70 weekend. For more information and tickets go to www.CrazyWomenCountry.com. A portion of proceeds will go to C.A.R.E. (Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies).

Cancer Showtime Benefit
Venice Theatre is offering another very special event. The Showtime Benefit is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and features some of the area's top talent. Come join them for an afternoon of singing, dancing and just plain fun while helping to support a worthy cause. Be there on **Saturday, March 5 at 2pm**. Tickets are \$22 and may be purchased online at venicetheatre.org. Venice Theatre is located at 140 Tampa Avenue West, Venice.

Rhythm of the Dance
The National Dance Company of Ireland is coming to Venice on **Saturday, March 5** to present Rhythm of the Dance! This incredible live show creates a new era in Irish entertainment, containing a wealth of Irish talent, featuring world and Irish champion dancers, some of the finest traditional musicians and singers who are a big hit everywhere. Combining traditional dance and music with the most up to date stage technology, this two-hour dance and music extravaganza takes the audiences on an exhilarating and exciting, energy-packed time trip through the ages. It's internationally rated as one of the most popular and busiest Irish step dance shows in the world.

Crazy Country Fest
Kick off Women's History Month with two days of live music, food, beer, and more. Crazy Country Fest 2022, Women Supporting Women, takes place **Saturday & Sunday, March**



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One of Cheryl Fausel's watercolors "Tulips."



Robin Leonard poses with the police dog handler and subject of her dog portrait.

Sea Grape Gallery is proud to announce that during the month of February they will be showcasing the artwork of two guest artists - Robin Leonard, portrait artist, and Cheryl Fausel, watercolor artist. Robin Leonard, as a child, wanted to draw her cat. As an adult, she decided she wanted to learn how to draw and realized she truly enjoyed drawing animals using pastels. She began volunteering at the Animal Welfare League where she had endless subjects to choose from for her animal drawings. She currently draws many of the animals at AWL and posts her drawings on social media, helping animals find their forever homes. Cheryl Fausel is an award-winning artist who has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work combines realism with abstraction. Cheryl feels color is important and believes a painting should always tell a story. When working on her art, an emotional reaction evolves as well as an interpretation of an idea which is presented through the design. During February these artists will be on display and can also be viewed on Sea Grape's website at www.seagrapegallery.com. Sea Grape Gallery is located at 113 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda.

Curtain time is **7:30pm**. Seat prices ranges from \$36 to \$120 and may be purchased online at veniceperformingarts.com or call the box office at **941-218-3779**.

Victory Dolls Valentine Show
The Victory Dolls is a company of enormously talented and award-winning local singers/actresses whose nostalgic style is reminiscent of the sophisticated vocals and precise harmonies of the Andrews Sisters. Their vintage look, tight choreography, and lively original musical arrangements combine to create a dazzling All-American show that appeals to audiences of all ages. The mission is to honor Veterans all over the South Florida, city by city, and keep the music from the 1940s alive for all to enjoy with their incredible production and unique harmonies and arrangements. This performance on **Friday, March 25 at 7pm** is a benefit for SWFL Honor Flight. Regular tickets are \$35, and may be purchased online at gulftheatre.org 900 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda.

Spring Fine Arts Festival
Mark your calendars now so you don't miss the 40th Annual Spring Fine Arts Festival set for **Saturday & Sunday, March 26 & 27, 10am to 4pm**. Sponsored by the Rotary Club

of Englewood, the festival will house 110 artists set up on downtown Dearborn Street. Featured artist is Ademir Borgas, a Brazilian artist now living in Cape Coral. The show is free, but Rotarians will ask for a \$2 donation that benefits the Englewood Rotary Youth Foundation. For more information, visit www.Englewoodrotary.org.

La Musica Chamber Music Festival
The critically-acclaimed La Musica International Chamber Music Festival celebrates its 36th season in 2022. Four concerts will be held at the Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota during **April**. Subscriptions to all four concerts are \$195 and include a festival rehearsal pass; single concert tickets range from \$50-\$65. New this season, all music students, ages 18 and under, with accompanying parents, may attend La Musica concerts and open rehearsals for free. For more information about La Musica and the concert schedule, visit www.lamusicafestival.org.

If you have an art event or happening you would like to have considered for "Art Chat," please send information and/or photo to The Englewood

REVIEW, 370 W Dearborn St, Suite B, Englewood, FL 34223 or englewoodreview@comcast.net. Visit our website at www.Englewoodreview.com and check out our interactive calendar where you are invited to add your event.

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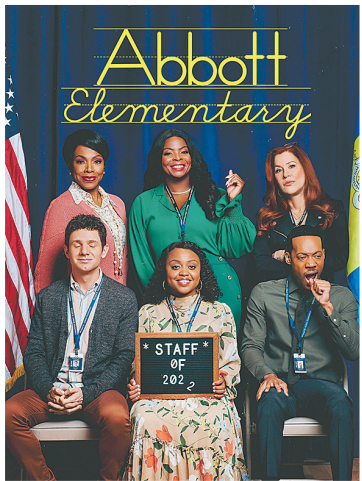
by Amanda Glam
Amanda's PICKS

What I'm Watching

For the first time in a long time, what I'm watching is broadcast network comedies! While the new batch isn't up to the level of my dearly departed faves *Parks and Recreation* and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, these shows show promise and prove that the networks can still produce quality sitcoms. It's not quite enough to fill a column but it's a start.

Abbott Elementary (ABC, Tuesday) is a charming and funny sitcom about teachers in a struggling inner-city school in Philadelphia. Created by and starring Quinta Brunson and wisely filmed "mockumentary" style like *The Office*, sharp dialogue and relatable characters have helped *Abbott* become a hit. Brunson's Janine is idealistic and enthusiastic, but her fellow teachers who have been at the school for decades, not so much. The cast is wonderful although Janelle James as Ava, the principal who has no business being a principal, makes me want to throw my #2 pencil at the TV.

Grand Crew (NBC, Tuesday) follows a group of young black professionals as they deal with life, work and relationships in Los Angeles and hang out at a wine bar in their spare time. Created by Dan Goor and Philip



Augusta Jackson of *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, the show boasts one of the most charismatic casts on TV and it's very funny. It's a joy to watch a sitcom that strives to be smart and relevant, while not skimping on laughs.

Pivoting (Fox, Thursday) is much better than its premise would suggest. Three female friends who have been close since childhood react to the death of another friend with impulsive and life-changing decisions. While the writing is a bit more pedestrian than *Grand Crew* and *Abbott Elementary*, the three leads, Eliza Coupe, Ginnifer Goodwin and Maggie Q, have such great chemistry, that they make the most of tired storylines (bad mom wants to be good mom, nice mom has



a crush on her trainer, etc.) Coupe is the stand-out here as the semi-attentive mom with the awesome husband. Like many Fox sitcoms, *Pivoting* is a bit more edgy with plot lines and language than the average network sitcom.

The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window (Netflix) does not live up to its genius title. It's supposed to be a send-up of all the movies and books where a woman, in this case Anna (Kristin Bell), witnesses a murder and, gosh darn it, nobody believes her. Anna sees "the girl in the window" get killed, but since a personal tragedy has led her to excessive wine drinking and blacking out, she is not the most reliable witness. The problem with *The Woman in the House* etc. is that it doesn't go all in with the humor and parody, creating an uneven and confusing viewing experience. It's also way too long. I will say the last episode and killer reveal is a doozy.



The Gilded Age (HBO) is created by Julian Fellowes, the man who brought you *Downton Abbey* with the same music you listened to when you were watching *Downton Abbey*, but set in 1880s New York City instead of London. It's old money versus new money and opulent homes versus ridiculously opulent homes. The servants are loyal, disgruntled or up to no good and the older generation is doing its best to prevent the younger generation from socializing. Christine Baranski and Cynthia Nixon are fabulous as sisters trying to keep their niece out of trouble. If you can stop thinking "I wonder how much that property would cost in New York today," *The Gilded Age* is very entertaining.

School of Chocolate (Netflix) takes everyone's favorite confection to the next level. I feel like a rock star when I make frosting from scratch, but seeing what these professional

chefs do with chocolate under the guidance of a cool French teacher guy is mind-boggling. A certain columnist may or may not have gotten so hungry watching *School of Chocolate* that she resorted to eating hot fudge sauce out of the jar at 11:30 at night.

Raid the Fridge (Food Network) may not have an intimidating French teacher guy, but it does have a fun premise. Professional chefs have to create dishes from ingredients in fridges that are "exact replicas" of refrigerators of regular people like you and me. Magnets and stuff on top of the fridge provide clues on what might be inside and the winner gets a fridge full of cash. My verdict: Everyone has bacon in their fridge. Beware the "Portland Hipster Fridge" and who in the world keeps their marshmallow fluff in the fridge?

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Rising energy costs coupled with the continued adoption of eco-friendly lifestyles are two factors driving homeowners to seek ways to reduce energy consumption in their homes. Reducing energy consumption is reason enough for many homeowners to make changes around the house, but saving energy sometimes means saving substantial amounts of money as well.

Energy-efficient appliances and eco-friendly building materials can help homeowners reduce energy consumption. But homeowners looking for additional ways to cut cooling and heating costs can address air leaks around the house to make their homes more energy efficient.

• **Identify air leaks around windows and doorways.** Winter in Florida is a great time of year

to identify air leaks. On those cold nights, particularly if it's windy, the cold air makes it easy to detect air leaks. Feel for leaks around windows and doorways when it's cold; you can quickly detect if air is flowing in from the outside. Leaks around windows and doors waste energy because the interior of the home is either colder (in the winter) or warmer (in the summer) than it needs to be, prompting homeowners to turn up their thermostats or rely more heavily on air conditioning units.

Look for leaks elsewhere around the house. While windows and doorways are where many leaks are found, leaks also may be found around plumbing, electrical fixtures and dryer vents. Inspect such areas by feeling for drafts or looking for signs that insects and critters might be entering.

Look up and down. Evidence of air leaks may be noticeable on both the floor and the ceiling. Dirty spots on carpeting and the ceiling may be indicative of air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists. Fixing such leaks may be as simple as applying some caulk.

Go with gaskets. The United States Department of Energy recommends installing foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls. Outlets and switch boxes on exterior walls provide another place for air to leak into a home and drive up energy costs. Properly installed gaskets can cut back on air infiltration, providing an inexpensive way to save energy and money.

• **Cover the kitchen exhaust fans when you are not cooking.** Kitchen exhaust fans can help prevent fires and unfavorable

indoor air conditions when preparing meals at home. But such fans provide opportunities for air to enter a home, so make sure they are tightly closed or covered when no one is cooking in the kitchen.

Air leaks around a house



can waste energy and contribute to high energy bills, particularly during the winter and summer when temperatures outside tend to be at their most extreme. Homeowners looking to reduce

their energy consumption and save money can inspect various areas of their homes for air leaks and immediately address any they discover.

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EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS



Awards

On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, the Englewood Florida Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 81st Anniversary and awarded its annual Excellence In Business Awards at the Englewood Elks Club. Englewood Florida Chamber of Commerce President Kathleen Callahan had the honor of presenting the awards along with Past President Brian Faro.

Congratulations to all these worthy recipients.



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EXCELLENCE



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Excellence in Business Award – Medium Business: Key Agency

(l-r) Kathleen Callahan, David Dignam, Taylor Edwards and Brian Faro



Excellence in Business Award – Small Business: Tailored Inspection
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**Bon Appetit Award – Daytime Dining
Ricaltini's Bar & Grille**

(l-r) Emily Robinett and Brian Faro



**Bon Appetit Award – Evening Dining:
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Sandra "Sandy" Strickler, an associate with the Stiver First International Team at RE/MAX Alliance Group, has received the RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award. This prestigious award recognizes high-achieving real estate professionals for their service to buyers and sellers during their career. Strickler was a loan officer for 30 years before "going coastal" and moving from Pennsylvania to Florida. Her extensive knowledge of the homebuying experience from the lending side makes her uniquely qualified to help her customers flawlessly navigate the real estate transaction process. She is based in the RE/MAX Alliance Group Englewood office at 2230 S. McCall Road and can be reached at **941•716•6400** or Sandy@Stiver.com

Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop Moves

The Homeless Coalition is pleased to announce its new, larger Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop and Unique Boutique location. The 11,000 square foot space is now located at 1931 Tamiami Trail, Unit 13, in Pt. Charlotte (previously the LTM party store). The Unique Boutique will offer high end labels on clothing, shoes, accessories, and housewares. With a new, larger layout, Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop will have a donations center in the back so everything will be in one place. The net proceeds from Fabulous Finds Re-Sale and Unique Boutique will continue to fund the programs and services at The Homeless Coalition to help those in need. The Homeless Coalition is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to alleviate and prevent hunger and homelessness.

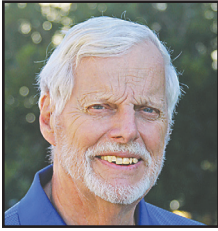
At the Excellence in Business Awards dinner on January 25th, the Englewood Chamber of Commerce installed their 2022 Board of Directors. From L-R: President-Elect Shane Whitmore-Reliable Cabinet Designs; Director Jonathan Varner-Wampler Varner Insurance Group; President Kathleen Callahan-Xpertech Auto Repair; Director Chris Porter-Englewood Sun; Director Linda Fugitt-Grande Aire Services; Director Brian Pope-Pope Insurance; VP of Leadership Kristina Watts-Englewood Bank & Trust; Director Alfred Current-Rowley Insurance & Financial Services; Director Erin Halstead- Michael Saunders & Company; Immediate Past-President Brian Faro-Paradise Exclusive Real Estate; Director Julie Beatty-Englewood Community Hospital; Treasurer Mark Knauf-Mark Knauf CPA; Director Shawn Emery-Emery Auto Care; and Director Richard Jean-Suncoast Central Realty. Learn more about the Chamber at englewoodchamber.com.



On February 4, Gem State Wide Plumbing held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new showroom, now located at 3555 S. Access Road (site of the former Beyond the Sea restaurant.) Gem State Wide Plumbing is a 24 hour/7 days a week plumbing service. Owner, Lou Gemma, has been a plumber for 34 years, and 14 of those years have been spent serving customers in the Englewood area. He started the family business in Rhode Island – one man, one van, and a little baby! Thanks to successful, steady growth in Englewood, Gem now has 37 employees and a larger location to meet your plumbing needs any time of day or night. You can reach them at **941•475•7000**. Pictured is Lou Gemma and staff along with Chamber representatives and community members.

There's a new medical practice in Englewood – Family Doctors of Englewood. The senior care medical practice provides comprehensive primary care to individuals with original Medicare, Humana Medicare Advantage plans, and self-pay patients. Services include geriatric care, preventative care, well woman exams, arthritis care, diabetes care, asthma care, dermatology procedures and minor surgeries, and osteopathic manipulative treatment. Telemedicine is also available. Lab work is done right in the office. Office hours are **Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm**. The office is located at 1951 S. McCall Road, Suite 700 (in Palm Plaza). Phone: **941•205•0520**. Website: familydoctorsofenglewood.com. The four masked individuals in the above photo are (l-r): Dr. Gene DiBetta Jr, D.O., CMO; Dr. Eric Mejia, D.O.; Dr. Catherine Cooper, and Dr. Jeffrey Grove, D.O., CEO.





By Dean M. Laux

Notable NEIGHBORS

His Message Is Clear: Be Prepared

How does an Australian farm boy with “humble beginnings,” to use his words, end up keeping company with kings, queens, heads of state and international celebrities in far-off lands such as Austria, Brazil and Tanzania? Certainly not via a magic carpet, a friendly genie or a very rich uncle. Lawrence Anthony (“Larry”) Wilson can tell you he did it the hard way: on his own.

Born to Lawrence and Judith Wilson in Sydney in 1972 as the youngest of four strapping boys, he was a scrawny kid who got bullied and picked on from the time he was 5 years old. But he was a scrappy one. “Even then I didn’t back down,” he says. “I’d go right back at ‘em with all I had.” As he grew older, he also grew bigger and stronger and faster, and by the time he was a teenager at 6’4” and 265 lbs, most folks wouldn’t want to find out how tough he really was.

“I was a capable but unwilling student in school,” he admits, although he points out that his Mom, a career nurse and healthcare worker, gave him a liking for biology and medicine. “I was more into hunting and fishing,” he says. He was also an outstanding athlete, excelling in rugby, cricket, field hockey

and motorcross biking, which earned him some attention from area sports fans.

The family farm raised beef cattle and dairy cows, and young Larry put in long hours at farm chores every day. When he was old enough, he also spent four evenings a week flexing his muscles as a bouncer at the local bars along Sydney’s waterfront. He took courses in a variety of martial arts along the way, and it was at Sydney’s harbor that he first developed his skills in maintaining order in crowded conditions that could become hazardous—particularly when U.S. Navy sailors were in town on shore leave after a lengthy tour at sea.

“In 1993 I met a gentleman—a former soldier in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe—who had a personal protection company, and he told me that if I came to work for him, I could make big money as a bodyguard, \$50 an hour



In a perfect metaphor for the family’s business, (clockwise from left) wife Aleida, daughter Sophie, son Nicolas and daughter Isabella gleefully form their own protective perimeter around the family patriarch.

for four hours’ work per day compared to the \$20 an hour I was making. That sounded great. But he said I needed some field experience in a war zone setting, to prove to myself that I could operate successfully under

dangerous conditions. I was 21 years old, and the next week I was off from Sydney to Paris, France on a one-way ticket, ready to join the French Foreign Legion and gain that experience.” He signed on with the FFL, but shortly after his arrival in Paris he “became sick enough to pass on a chance to become cannon fodder in a battle zone,” he says. Instead, when he recovered his health he went back to Sydney and worked for a couple of years for his Rhodesian friend, doing close protection for witnesses who were waiting to testify in court.

“I knew then that I had the skill set to make a career by providing protection for others who did not have those skills,” he says. By this time he had taken every martial arts course he could sign up for, and he was ready. There’s a saying that chance favors the prepared mind, and Larry was prepared to make a life of helping others be prepared.

In 1996 he went back to Paris, where he worked briefly for the Australian government and then landed a job as a security officer at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. In that capacity he had duties much like the U.S. Marine Corps guards have at America’s embassies around the world: screen entrants to the property and check the security of the premises daily. “Once you crossed into our UN enclave, you were in our territory, and we had the power to arrest and prosecute any intruder,” he says. That gave him experience in the use of police powers to protect UN property at the massive headquarters building. He also traveled out of Vienna to provide personal protection for UN authorities at conferences and other meetings.

In 1998 he took on a bigger assignment as Special Projects Supervisor for the UN’s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, Netherlands, which was prosecuting war criminals from the armed conflict between Bosnia and Herzegovina. This involved him in mission work for Head Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte in Macedonia, Kosovo and

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Tanzania and providing security for all evidence collected in the cases.

In 2002 the Australian government posted Larry to its embassy in Berlin, where he did background checks on foreign nationals seeking citizenship in Australia. In 2008 he went back to UN Headquarters in Vienna as Senior Security Officer, a position he held for the next six years. It was in those years that he dealt extensively with internationally known figures. "I looked after lots of dignitaries," he says fondly. "The King and Queen of Sweden, the King and Queen of Thailand, our Australian Prime Minister, the Director General of the UN, America's Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and American actor and film director Nicolas Cage. I had dealings with Turkey's President Recep Erdogan, Monaco's Prince Albert and many others."

His responsibilities at the UN included not only close protection of dignitaries but also responding to intrusions on UN property and public protests in the compound or its perimeters, responding to alarms at the UN's highly sensitive narcotics and nuclear research laboratories, and also to medical incidents that might occur anywhere on the property. He provided counter-surveillance and intelligence services to the UN's Threat and Risk Department, and training for the UN's counter-assault team members. In all his years of security work, Lawrence found himself in many a "tight situation," as he puts it, but he was able to use his own training and experience to avoid serious injury and to head off disaster. He put that experience into the training he gave to others. "I wanted them to be prepared," he says. "It's better to be ready for trouble and not experience it than it is to experience trouble and not be ready for it."

In January of 2015 Larry moved over to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Seibersdorf, Austria as Site Security Supervisor. In that capacity he was the primary liaison for the IAEA with the UN's Department of Safety and Security and with the Austrian police. He was responsible for protection of the Seibersdorf nuclear labs and all their personnel, assets and facilities—a

critical job for a high-risk category 2 nuclear site. Not bad for a one-time Australian farm boy who decided to make himself into a protector of others.

Larry did have one occurrence that he wasn't prepared for. He met a beautiful young woman named Aleida in 2010 at UN headquarters, but he found himself not ready to make her acquaintance. "I was still involved in another relationship, which was winding down badly," he says. It seemed that a golden opportunity had passed him by, but some two years later he by chance met her again, and this time his mind was prepared. Things got serious, they became a couple, and they got married in 2015.

"In 2017 my project with IAEA ran out, and Aleida and I decided to move to America," Larry says. "I had job opportunities in New York, and I could have stayed with the UN, but I decided I wanted to have a business of my own and be my own boss."

During the years he was in Europe there were crises everywhere, and in every country hostile environment awareness training (HEAT) was a requirement. "I had developed expertise in that field. I was a weapons specialist, a counter-assault trainer, a tactical medical instructor, skilled in emergency response activity. I had training in threat and risk assessment, fire protection, radiation security measures, incident command and rescue techniques." He felt he could offer that expertise to America, where hostile situations seemed to be becoming ever more frequent and dangerous.

He and Aleida now had some company: their young daughter Isabella and also Sophie and Nicolas from Larry's prior conjugal relationship. "We're a real mishmash of nationalities," he says, all having been born outside the U.S. They moved first to New Jersey and then rather quickly relocated to Florida, where the weather was friendlier. "We love it here in the Englewood area. It's quiet. It's off the beaten track, and people only come in this way if they live here or they're lost. We looked and looked, and we finally found the right home last August. It's a fantastic community and it has fantastic schools. We'll be

staying here and putting our kids through college and letting them build careers of their own."

Lawrence and Aleida have set up a company called Americanequalizer that offers training in tactical medical response, proper pistol and rifle technique, and for local entities, hostile environment awareness and response. He's begun giving talks at volunteer organizations and has already found several new clients in the short time he's been here. "We can show people how to cope with whatever emergencies they might encounter," he says, "and we fervently hope they will never encounter them."

Amen. Now that's a service we could all benefit from.

Dean Laux is exploring interesting folks living in our community. If you know of anyone with an interesting background please send an email to: tomnewton@englewoodreview.com. Include the person's name, contact info and give a brief description of the person's background.

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BY KIMBALL & LES BEERY



Shallow Water Structure

Anglers relate to structure because so many gamefish hang around it. Structure can be anything from a rock pile on an otherwise barren sandy bottom out in the gulf to a PVC pipe that marks a channel or hazard for boaters. Kayak anglers and shore fishermen utilize structure including the pilings of a pier, mangrove roots, oyster bars, and locations like bridges and seawalls.

This confluence of gamefish and anglers around structure is not a coincidence. Baitfish, crabs, shrimp, and other goodies hide in structures to stay alive. The most obvious hiding place around our estuaries is among the roots of the red mangrove. That's why kayakers, flats skiffs, and wading anglers work their way along mangrove shorelines. The abundance of bait draws snook and redfish on a high tide that allows them into this nursery to feed. As with most structure fishing, the challenge for the angler is getting a hooked fish away from the structure. Most structures around saltwater will have barnacles or other sharp shelled attachments that can cut braid or mono with ease. Keeping a snook out of these roots will test an angler's tackle as well as their determination.

Wading anglers and kayakers can approach crab traps, old docks, and seawalls that attract bait and gamefish, too. A word of caution though about crab traps, and the floats that mark them. The trap and the float are usually several yards apart, depending on the water depth and current. Do not cast between them or over the rope that connects them. It's really hard to free a barbed hook from a rope but you should never, under any circumstances, raise or move a trap; that's a big no-no. The alternative is to cut off the lure or hook and leave it



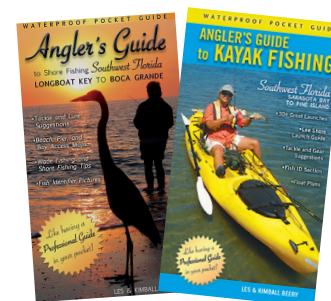
Kim Beery fishes the structure provided by the dock and mangroves.

in the rope where it could inflict a severe injury to the crabber when he checks his traps. They hate this. You would, too.

Bridges are popular places for shore anglers that take advantage of the structure involved and the tidal flows produced by the narrow channel next to the shallow water near the abutment helps, too. On a rainy day, or a sizzling summer afternoon, under a bridge may be the most comfortable spot to fish. Bridges can be especially productive at night when the fender lights draw baitfish and shrimp to waiting snook, snapper, redfish, ladyfish, and others. Sheepshead hang out at the base of bridge pylons where lines can be easily cut on the attached barnacles. As mentioned above, the issue with fishing structure is getting the fish out of it. Snook, in particular, will utilize any nearby structure to free themselves. A little heavier tackle and an aggressive attitude will be needed to land most bridge fish.

How about that lone PVC pipe stuck on the edge of a flat? The most common reason it's there is to mark a deeper area or channel for navigation. We think

of it as structure, not for just the pipe itself, but more importantly it marks a change in depth and that's a type of structure. As low tide approaches, predators and baitfish move off the shallow flats that can, in the winter, be dry at low tide. The bigger fish leave first and stage in nearby deep spots. As the water continues to fall, the smaller baitfish head to these same spots and concentrate there which makes for easy pickings for waiting predators. That's a good spot to be in as an angler. Whether you're a shore fisherman, a kayak angler, or just wading the flats, structure is productive. Use it.



Kimball and Les Beery, authors of *Angler's Guide to SHORE and KAYAK Fishing Southwest Florida*, contribute these excerpts from both WATERPROOF books to promote the excellent fishing available in the Englewood area. They are available locally at Old Florida Gallery on West Dearborn, and for download at www.anglerpocketguides.com & www.amazon.com.



Nature Calls



Stump Pass Guided Walk
Charlie Woodruff will lead nature walks on **Thursdays, February 17 and 24** at Stump Pass State Park. Walkers can join Charlie for a 2.6 mile walk from the parking lot to Stump Pass. The start time is **8:30am**. The park is located at the south end of Manasota Key, 900 Gulf Blvd. Park entry fee is \$3. Pre-registration is required. Contact Charlie at **914-799-0664** to register and for additional details. (Please note that Charlie's area code is 914, not 941.)

Interested in Becoming a Bird Steward?

If you are interested in helping protect and save the shorebirds that nest on the beaches of Florida, plan to participate in

a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, February 22 from 6:30 to 8pm**. Holly Short, from Audubon Florida, will present a zoom talk on bird stewarding to the Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS) members and guests. If you are interested in the zoom talk, please contact Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com for a link. Holly's talk will be followed by an informal roundtable discussion outside in the VAAS rookery pavilion, located on Annex Road behind the R. L. Anderson Administration Building on US 41 in Venice, on **Saturday, February 26 at 10am**, giving people with a possible interest in volunteering a taste of what is involved in various stewardship programs,

including beach-nesting, rooftop nesting, JayWatch, EagleWatch, and the Purple Martin house program. Robert Kraft and Mary Lundeberg will share their experiences with stewarding at Stump Pass and Lido Key. For questions about the Bird Steward Program, contact Stump Pass Park Service Specialist Karina Nieves at **941-964-0375** or karina.nieves@floridadep.gov. Training and details related to the program are currently being developed, so contact Karina or Samantha for more information if you are interested in becoming a bird steward at one of the parks.

Mangrove Chapter Guided Walks
The Mission of the Florida

Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. The Mangrove Chapter serves Charlotte County and southern Sarasota County. For more information, contact them at mangrovechapter@fnps.org.

Saturday, February 12, 9 to 11am: Join Mangrove Chapter's Kate Borduas for a walk at Carlton Reserve, 1800 Mabry Carlton Pkwy, Venice. The walk will cover 1.6 miles of pine flatwood, oak, hammock, and a large depression marsh. Expect a multitude of native plants, lichens, epiphytes, and flowers and bird species.

Wednesday, February 16, 4 to 5pm: Join Dave and Linda Manley from the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a Sunset Stroll at Lemon Bay Environmental Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd. The

pace is slow, with time for questions and observations. The walk is only the short trip on the boardwalks along the mangroves where you may see wading birds or other wildlife, and with luck, the approaching sunset over the bay. Meet at the nature center.

Saturday, February 19, 9 to 11am: Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber for a walk at Manasota Scrub Preserve, 2695 Bridge Street. This will be a leisurely one-mile hike to explore pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, and rosemary scrub habitats. Along the way, participants will learn about the role fire plays in shaping these natural communities and how evolution has equipped many of the native plant species with special adaptations to survive and thrive here in Southwest Florida. Limited pull in parking is available at the main Bridge Street entrance with additional

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Tuesday, March 1, 9 to 11am: Join Bill Dunson and Anne Risberg from the Mangrove Chapter of the Native Plant Society for a nature walk at South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve, 5472 Kenisco Rd., Venice (at the corner of Euclid Rd.) There is a choice of two walks at this preserve. Bill will lead the long loop (about 1.5 miles), and Anne will lead the short loop (about .5 miles). Walking is predominantly on sandy trails and the preserve is mainly scrubby flatwoods with extensive scrub oak stands managed for scrub jays. There are both freshwater and saline wetlands and the long loop extends down to Lemon Bay. The emphasis will be on plant

ecology and identification, and hopefully the wild lupine is in bloom. The leader requests that all participants be vaccinated. No dogs are allowed in this park.

Lemon Bay Conservancy Activities

The Lemon Bay Conservancy activities listed below are open to the public. Lemon Bay Conservancy's mission is to protect and preserve the natural features of Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor, their surrounding waters and uplands, and vital fish and wildlife habitat, through property preservation, environmental education and advocacy for sustainable land and water conservation policies and practices. Membership and volunteer opportunities are open to all who wish to help support their mission. Charitable

donations are always welcome. Many of their activities take place at Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, formerly an abandoned golf course, which the Conservancy purchased in 2010 and continues to enhance the natural habitats. The Preserve is located at 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd and is open to members daily and to the public for scheduled events. Learn more at lemonbayconservancy.org.

Successional Changes

Join Dr. Bill Dunson as he discusses expected transitions over time in plant communities on the east side of the preserve on **Friday, February 18, 10am to noon.**

Juvenile Tarpon Research

On the third Saturday of each month thru April, there will be juvenile tarpon net pulls in Lemon Creek. **Saturday, February 19 at 7:45am** is the next pull and help is always welcome! Volunteers assist in pulling in the net and can observe the research activities. Advance registration required. If you would like to assist, please contact Jim Cooper at **941-979-6258** for full details.

Central Preserve Guided Walk

Take a guided walk with Charlie Woodruff through the central sections of Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve on **Monday, February 21, 10am to noon.** You will learn about the plants and animals that are seen along the way.

Annual Meeting

Lemon Bay Conservancy will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday, February 24**

starting at **5:30pm** at the Cape Haze Community Center, 155 Spaniards Rd., Placida. Following a short business session, the program will feature a presentation and discussion led by Ms. Judy Ott, estuary scientist and educator, and Dr. William "Coty" Keller, local ecologist, on "Lemon Bay - It's Complicated: Ideas for Restoring & Safeguarding Our Special Estuary". The meeting is open to the public. For more information, visit lemonbayconservancy.org and times are dependent on reservations. Reserve by calling Lucia at **941-662-7908.**

Audubon Bird Walk

Join members of Peace River Audubon for a leisurely, early morning bird walk around Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve on **Saturday, February 26, 8 to 11am.** Bring your binoculars.

Estuarine Bird Walk

Take a leisurely walk to the western (estuarine) side of Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve on **Monday, February 28, 10am to noon.** Bring your binoculars.

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) Nature Walks

On these casual walks with CHEC volunteers, you will search and learn about plants, animals, fungi, and more that live in Charlotte County preserves. Prepare for each walk with plenty of water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and clothing that will protect you from insects and plants. Advance registration is required. The

*health and safety policies for CHEC programs are subject to change. For information on programs, mask requirements and Covid-19 safety precautions, please call **941-475-0769** or email gerald@checflorida.org. Go to www.CHECflorida.org for a complete program calendar.*

Saturday, February 12, 9am:

Join CHEC on a guided walk through the 81-acre Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot, 5350 Placida Road. Phone **941-475-0769** to register or for information.

Tuesday, February 15, 9am:

Join CHEC on a guided walk through 308-acre Tippecanoe Environmental Park. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh, and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park at 2400 El Jobean Road. Please call **941-475-0769** to register or for more information.

Nighttime Seagrass Wading Trip

Tuesday, February 15, 4:30pm:

Come explore Cedar Point Environmental Park's nocturnal side! This trip will meet behind the Visitor Center at **4:30pm** and take a short, guided hike through the park down to the vibrant waters of Lemon Bay. There, you will have the chance to wade into the water right at sunset with nets and buckets to see what creatures you can observe living in the seagrass flats! Must pre-register by calling **941-475-0769.**

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Seagrass Wading Adventure
Join CHEC at Cedar Point Environmental Park for a free wading adventure through the seagrass beds of Lemon Bay on **Saturday, February 18 at 8:30am**. All participants will be guided approximately a half-mile to the wading site, where they will collect and view creatures of the bay. Participants will need to wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that may get wet during the trip. Participants are also encouraged to wear sunscreen and insect repellent and to bring plenty of drinking water.

Advance registration is required by calling **941-475-0769**. Trips fill up fast! Meet in the Cedar Point Environmental Park Visitor Center, 2300 Placida Road.

Friday, February 18, 9am: Join CHEC on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve, 16259 Joppa Avenue, in Port Charlotte. This 150-acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot.

Tuesday, February 22, 9am: Join CHEC on a guided walk

through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park, 6250 Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Please call **941-475-0769** to register or for more information.

Friday, February 25, 9am: Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park. Meet at the San Casa entrance, 6791 San Casa Drive. Please call **941-475-0769** to register or for more information.

Slices and Scientists Lecture
Come out to Cedar Point at **6pm on Friday, February 25** for a free lecture from a local environmentalist about a myriad of topics relating to Florida nature! This is a great opportunity to learn from an expert about some of the local wildlife and habitats that surround this area here in South Florida. The lecture is open to all ages and will include pizza and refreshments for sale, as well as activities for kids. Speaker and topics TBA. Please register by calling **941-475-0769**.

Sunday, February 27, 9am: Join CHEC on a walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. Covered will be mangrove identification, special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call **941-475-0769** to register or for more information. Bayshore Live Oak Park is located at 23157 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte.

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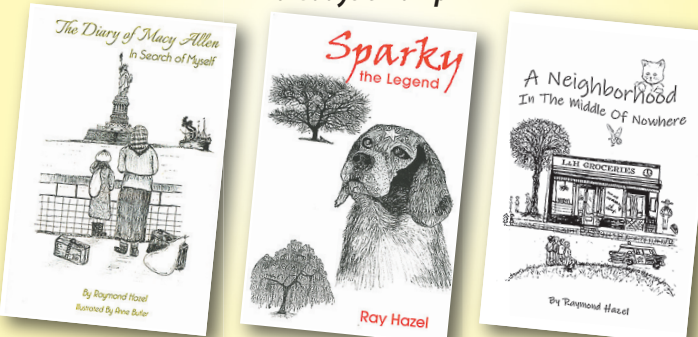
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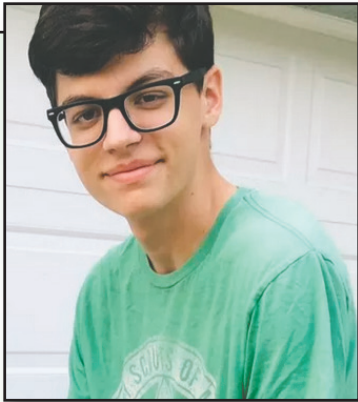
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Keeping Up with KIDS



James Ash, a Life Scout with Troop 26 of Englewood, has started fundraising for his Eagle Project. James will design floating platforms and lead group construction efforts to create new turtle basking platforms for the Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve ponds at 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Turtle basking platforms are helpful for turtles to get the sunlight they need to absorb vitamins and regulate body temperature. More information is available on James' fundraising page: www.gofundme.com and search for James' Eagle Scout Project.



Princess Tea Party

Calling all princesses to enjoy a royal buffet, sing along with special guests Snow Queen and Island Princess, and listen to their adventures told in their own words! This free event will be held at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Dr., on **Saturday, February 12** from **11am to 1pm**. Registration required by calling **941•681•3760**. For ages 4 and up.

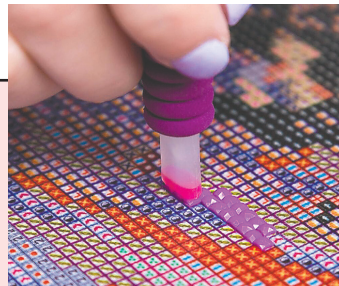
Creation Station

On **Wednesday, February 16**, bring the kids to the Elsie Quirk Library. Come in anytime that **afternoon** to build and create with LEGOs, MakeDo kits, and other items in the new Creation Station area. Projects will be themed around the 2022 One Book Sarasota selection "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba. Elsie Quirk Library is located at 100 W. Dearborn Street. For more information, call the library at **941•861•1225**.

Lifeguard Course Offered

The Englewood YMCA will be running a lifeguard course **Monday through Thursday, March 14 to 17**. The nationally recognized lifeguard certification will allow you to work at any pool. The lifeguard class also includes CPR for the

Professional Rescuer with AED, Oxygen Administration and First Aid. Applicants must be age 16 or older and is open to the public. For more information, call the YMCA at **941•475•1234** or visit www.ymcaswfl.org.



Dazzling Diamonds

Teens can learn the basics of diamond painting and receive a starter kit complete with the tools and items needed to create glamorous works of art. Diamond painting is like both cross-stitch and paint-by-number. Using a self-adhesive canvas, you attach colored resin rhinestones to the pattern on the canvas. This free program for teens, ages 12 to 18, will be held on **Friday, February 25** at **4pm** at the Englewood Charlotte Library, 3450 N. Access Road. Registration required; call **941•681•3736**.

Items appearing in this column are as accurate as possible. Please call the listed numbers for confirmation. If you have an event or happening you would like to have considered for 'Keeping Up with Kids,' please send information and/or photo to englewoodreview@comcast.net.

January Heron of the Month Award Winners

Vineland Elementary School recognizes the following students selected as the Heron of the Month award winners for January. The honor is awarded based on the student portraying the attributes of the Vineland motto "Where Herons SOAR – Show respect, Own actions, Accept differences, Realize potential." The program is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



First Row, L to R: Caleb Angelo, Oakley Cole, William (Liam) Bovee, Brice Ellis. Second Row, L to R: Olivia Cimmino, Jason Gillette, Finn DeVault, Emma Rufin. Third Row, L to R: Kade Hubartt, Kai'ryn Glinton, Ariana Finn, Miliana Laniewski, Ethan Gonzalez, Aria Hendericks.



First Row, L to R: Abigail Schwartz, Elijah Lee, Norechy Billuk, James Mofford. Second Row, L to R: Melanie Lisitsyn, Noah Cooke, Olivia Schwab, Skylar Hobin. Third Row, L To R: Maddison Wheeler, Yulia Krivtsova, Aubrey Souza, Garlin Boling, Mason Poole.

Club Chatter



Rotonda Elks #2710 hosted a First Responders Appreciation Luncheon on January 29 at Rotonda Elks Lodge 2710. The appreciation luncheon was for the local sheriff's office and firefighters. For the stations unable to attend, meals were delivered by Elkettes Jenny Perry and Barbara Kelley. Elk volunteers were retired military Robert Aveno, Lee Hale, Robert Humphrey - PER, Chris and Annette Dardis, Gwyn and Al Topolski, first responder NYPD Lieutenant Kevin Woods and volunteers Diane Johnston, Mel Fowle, Pat Hinton, and Sandy Fisher. Pictured here (l-r): Seated deputies Nicole Kovalsky, Bryant Ekstrom, and John Kranz. Standing: Kathy Dardis - Volunteer Coordinator; Roger Redman - Past Exalted Ruler; Jean Humphry - Exalted ruler; and Jerry Chesney - volunteer.

Sunshine Quilt Guild Show

For a delightful and colorful experience, be sure to visit the Sunshine Quilt Guild Show with its stunning display of quilts. The show takes place on **Saturday, February 12, 9am to 4pm**, at St. David's Episcopal Church, 401 S. Broadway. Some quilts at the show will be marked for sale, and there will be shop vendors and a boutique with handmade items, books, magazines, and baked goods. There is also a trunk show featuring vintage baby quilts and toys. The revenue raised by the show will allow the quilters the opportunity to make needed items for local charities.

Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

The Rotary Club of Rotonda invites you to their Texas Hold 'Em Tournament on **Saturday, Feb. 12, 5:30 to 10pm**. Blackjack, Side Games, 50/50, Super Bowl Pool, Top 10 Payouts, Rebuys and Professional Dealers are all on the table. The tournament will take place at the Rotonda Golf & Country Club, 100 Rotonda Circle. Tickets are \$80 in advance or \$100 at the door. Table Sponsorship is \$250 and includes one Tournament Entry. Cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. \$20 for guests. Call **941-815-4201** for tickets and sponsorships.

RWWC Rummage Sale

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club will sponsor a rummage sale on **Friday, February 25, from 9am to 1pm**



Who loves a bargain? If you do, plan to attend the Lemon Bay Garden Club Rummage and Plant Sale now scheduled for **Friday & Saturday, February 18 & 19, 9am to 1pm**. Free admission. If you want to be one of the first to view the bargains, there will be a Preview Sale on **Thursday, February 17, 10am to 1pm**, with a \$3 admission. Stop by the bake sale for some homemade treats. Pick up some new plants to enhance your flower garden. Lemon Bay Garden Club is located at 480 Yale Street (corner of Yale & Cedar Streets) in Olde Englewood. Proceeds go to scholarships and community projects. For more information or donations, call **413-336-7616**.

at the Englewood Lions Club, 4611 Placida Road. Household items, clothing, craft items, jewelry, and accessories will be available. Proceeds will benefit the club's scholarship fund and local charities. The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club (RWWC) welcomes new members. Residency in Rotonda West is not a requirement. If interested, contact Membership Chairman Claire at rwwcmembership@hotmail.com.

Adult Scholarships Offered

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is offering

two Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Education Scholarships at \$1,500 each. Applicants should be from the Englewood/Rotonda West area and pursuing advanced education or retraining in a college or vocational school. They are intended for those who have had an interruption in their studies and are returning to school. A resume may be sent to GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Attn: Scholarship, PO Box 672, Placida, FL 33946. Deadline: **Thursday, March 31, 2022**. For more information call **917-573-5512**.

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Nola's Notes



Suncoast Humane Society (SHS) announces, "We. Are. Unstoppable!" as they refer to their years-in-the-making plans of building a new state of the art animal welfare facility that will serve the local region and beyond. The new campus will feature a 4,800 square foot shelter, featuring a cat house with six pods, and 56 dog runs; outdoor dog yard & pool; a 4,400 square foot clinic for vaccinations, testing, and surgery; 7,000 square foot community center with indoor & outdoor meeting space, a 1,100 square foot volunteer center and a courtyard, walking and bike trails with covered places to rest, and room to grow. The 11.5-acre site will be on San Casa Drive, between Avenue of the Americas and Worth Avenue. To accompany the final phase of its capital campaign, SHS has also adopted a new brand look, which recently rolled out as well. With a groundbreaking scheduled for early summer 2022, SHS has raised \$8 million to build its new campus but continues to seek public support to cover contingencies, equipment & fixtures, and one year's worth of operating costs. The campus features innovative design and animal care spaces that will support the health and well-being of animals in their care and will revolutionize the modern approach in animal sheltering. "The FUTURE of animal welfare needs you," said CEO Maureen E. O'Neill. "Together we will save lives, love them all and build it for them. Giving new hope to the helpless takes work, a lot of work and determination." SHS invites you to join them as they embark on a journey that has been long in the making for the 50-year-old organization. To donate, visit www.humane.org/donate. To learn more about how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Bitner, Chief Development Officer, at jbitner@humane.org or **941-681-0085**.

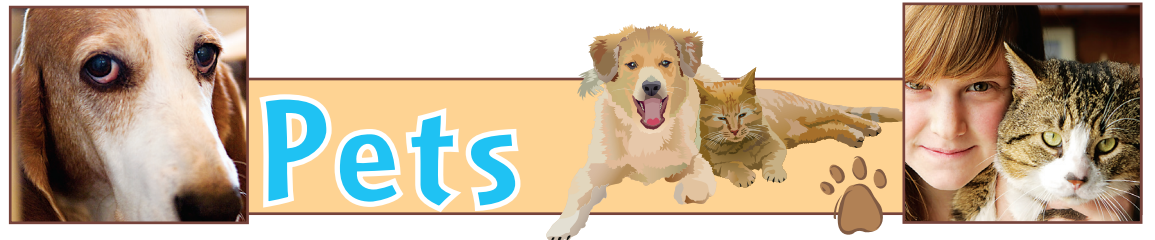
Desperately Seeking Dog Fosters!

Englewood Animal Rescue Sanctuary is in desperate need of fosters for seven dogs that were rescued recently from an animal hoarding situation in North Carolina. Donations are also greatly appreciated to help care for these dogs until they are ready for adoption. For more information, visit the EARS website www.earsanimalrescue.com or call **941-681-3877**.

Help Reduce Pet Overpopulation

February is Spay & Neuter Awareness Month. Animal shelters across the nation will be busy this spring and summer with litters of homeless puppies and kittens, and Florida is no

different. Suncoast Humane Society (SHS) is your local go-to animal shelter, and they are actively combating the problem of pet overpopulation, but they need your help, too! Is your beloved pet spayed or neutered? Your neighbor's or your friend's? SHS will assist you and others by providing low cost spay and neuter services in their Preventive Clinic. Spaying or neutering your pet isn't harmful and it can reduce behavioral problems, as well as increase the long-term health of your best friend. Help stop the wave of pet overpopulation and make an appointment today to get your pet spayed or neutered. Call **941-474-7884 ext. 423** or visit www.humane.org for more information.



These are just a few of the many animals waiting for adoption. You can see all of Suncoast Humane Society's adoptable animals by visiting their Website, www.humane.org.

Meet & Greet and Adoption Hours (By appointment only)

Tues – Fri: 10:00 AM–4:30 PM; Sat: 10:00 AM–3:30 PM

**Contact our Adoption Specialists at 941-474-7884 x 419
6781 San Casa Dr.**

Prissy is a young 3-year-old gal that loves to lay in the sun and watch the birds from the comfort of inside. She is a regal lady who enjoys her private "me" time but will be sure to come to you when in need of attention. She has lived with other pets, but mostly stays to herself in their presence. To meet Prissy, please visit our satellite adoption center at Petco in Port Charlotte or visit www.humane.org.



Zeus is a curious 1-year-old who is very smart and eager to learn. He knows some basic commands but will need patience and direction while he continues to learn others. Zeus has lots of energy and is looking for a home where he can run and play with his new best friend. He would be a perfect match for an active person who is looking for an affectionate partner.



Ask how you can become a foster home for EARS. To see all the EARS animals, visit us at 500 N. Indiana Ave. (SR776), or visit Petfinder.com, or EarsAnimalRescue.com. For information, call 941-681-3877.

Adoptions events are at EARS Tuesday thru Saturday, 10a.m.-3:00p.m.

All of EARS pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped in your name.

Photos by Bobbi Austin

Animal Rescue & Pet Food Store
500 N. Indiana Ave. • 681-3877 (FURR)
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 3pm



Stephan is a handsome, fluffy, 3-year-old, neutered male. He is tiger and white, friendly and has lived with other cats.



Meet **Snuggles**. She is a spayed female kitten full of fun. Snuggles is about 10 weeks old.

EARS Animal Rescue's Thrift Store Is Now Open
Monday through Saturday, 10am to 3pm

353 W. Dearborn Street • 941-460-6757

Donations of clothes and housewares are needed to help the EARS animals.

EARS Animal Rescue's Thrift Store is the shelter's main source of income. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so any donation is tax deductible.

TO THE RESCUE

EARS Assists In Hoarding Situation

By Chris Cameron

Englewood Animal Rescue Sanctuary has reached out beyond Englewood to rescue seven of 63 dogs seized in a horrendous hoarding situation in North Carolina. An EARS volunteer, Sandra Clouatre, is from the area where this tragedy took place and asked her fellow EARS associates if they could provide help as the shelter in Gaston County was overrun. EARS shelter manager Todd Zimmerman and Sandra made the long drive on January 24th and returned the next day with seven of those dogs. All the dogs were basically feral, kept both inside and outside the house in squalid conditions, and had experienced no human touch. They were shy and timid and would bite when



Milo is alert but still very timid around humans.



Milo when first rescued.

approached by a human. There were several dead dogs on the property as well.

EARS staff and volunteers are proving that love can overcome fear and the dogs are beginning their transformation from fearsome animals to pets who are learning to trust humans and value their love and companionship. Two animal behaviorists, one a seasonal visitor from Michigan, are helping teach the fosters how to approach and gain the dogs' trust and work towards socializing them.

This kind of endeavor is very expensive. One of the dogs has already tested positive for heartworms and appointments

for testing have been scheduled for the rest. Treatment for heartworm costs well over \$1,000 per dog and EARS does not have funding for this in their reserves. The dogs also need all their vaccinations, flea control, spaying/neutering, and other medical issues that may be uncovered during vet exams. All the dogs were malnourished and are now being fed a high quality (expensive) pet food by Fromm. EARS is extremely grateful to Laurel Road Veterinary Clinic in Nokomis for stepping up to offer their services for these dogs at a reduced rate; donations to this clinic and earmarked for these dogs' treatment would be most welcome. If you would like to make a donation into the EARS account at the clinic, please call 941-480-9707.

The dogs are small, mixed breeds who are very smart and are approximately 2 to 5 years old. They need lots of love and time plus training to allow their individual personalities to emerge, but Todd Zimmerman believes they will all be little love machines once their faith in humans is established. Their names, given to them by EARS, are Enzo, Milo, Gage, Sasha, Oliver, Rupert, and Charlie.

Sandra, the EARS Volunteer who initially had all the dogs in her home, is working hard to establish the beginning of the trust process with people.

Because the dogs had no real interaction with humans and no experience with the outside world, she stresses that these dogs have a long road ahead of them to overcome these handicaps and it will take individuals who have the patience, love, and time necessary to help them adjust and become a part of a human family. Sandra has no dogs of her own now but has embraced fostering as a way to get her "dog fix" and she likes the challenge of working with dogs to prepare them for their forever home.

I visited with the three dogs who were still in Sandra's care. These dogs are timid but have made amazing strides in accepting humans and follow Sandra around the house as their pack leader. While feeding them chicken bites, all three surrounded me and I was able to pet one of them. They want to love, and the EARS volunteers are allowing that process to happen. Sandra voices the need for foster pet parents for the organization, "The more fosters we have, the more lives we can save."

If you would like to view one of the newscasts about the dogs' hoarding situation, go to www.wbtv.com and search 54 dogs rescued.

Would you like to help these dogs thrive? Two more fosters are needed so the dogs can be placed in individual homes. Volunteers are needed to visit and help socialize the dogs. Most of all, financial donations are needed to provide the care needed for these dogs. If you would like to make a financial donation, the Flanzer Trust is matching donations from \$5 to \$500 made through the EARS website: www.earsanimalrescue.com. For more information, you can call 941-681-3877 or stop by the EARS office/shelter at 500 N. Indiana Avenue.

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Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ponds
- 6. "Unbelievable" musicians
- 9. Invests in little enterprises
- 13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
- 14. Small sailboat
- 15. "Luther" actor
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Detects underwater objects
- 18. Harsh, grating noise
- 19. Steward
- 21. Fencing sword
- 22. Painful places on the body
- 23. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
- 24. Sodium
- 25. Engineering degree (abbr.)
- 28. Small lump
- 29. African antelope
- 31. Electronic point of sale
- 33. Carefully chooses
- 36. Ringworm
- 38. Unrefined
- 39. Drenches

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19				20						21			
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28				29				30	
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42			43		44			
		45					46		47		48		
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61				62			
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

- 41. Type of pants
- 44. Son of Noah
- 45. Spiritual being
- 46. Upton Sinclair novel
- 48. Journalist Tarbell
- 49. Atomic #21 (abbr.)
- 51. Born of
- 52. Rich tapestry
- 54. S. China seaport
- 56. Being without clothes
- 60. Surrounded by
- 61. Remains
- 62. Away from wind
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. One who can see the future
- 65. A very large body of water
- 66. Digs up earth
- 67. Type of screen
- 68. Old Norse poet
- 14. Poisonous perennial
- 17. Gulf in the Aegean
- 20. Clothes
- 21. Chairs
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 25. NY ballplayer
- 26. Impressive in size or scope
- 27. Jacques __, Fr. biologist
- 29. Manhattanite
- 30. Genus of lemurs
- 32. Sings to
- 34. River in southern Italy
- 35. Supplemented with difficulty
- 37. Farewell
- 40. Senior officer
- 42. Utah resident
- 43. Begets
- 47. Boy
- 49. Violently break
- 50. Brief appearance
- 52. Expressed pleasure
- 53. A light informal meal
- 55. Fabric with smooth finish
- 56. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 57. Ancient Greek City
- 58. Close tightly
- 59. Commit
- 61. A way to communicate (abbr.)
- 65. Heavy metal

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Spanish city
- 3. Sudden, very loud sound
- 4. Type of chair
- 5. Tin
- 6. Sea eagles
- 7. Broad volcanic crater
- 8. Some animals have it
- 9. Ottoman palaces
- 10. Divulge a secret
- 11. "A Doll's House" playwright
- 12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 34



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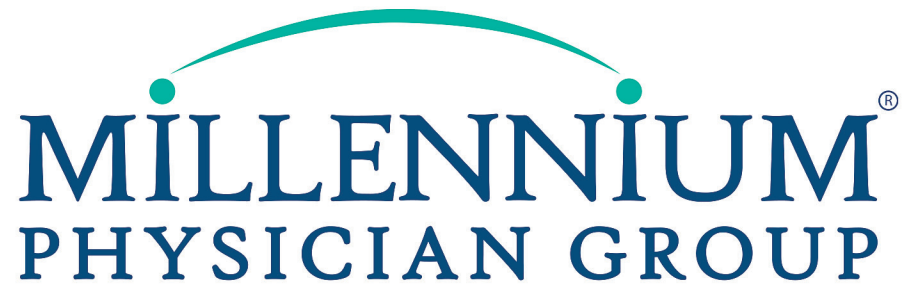


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