

# BAY WATCH NEWS



VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2

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## The End of an Era...

ON MAY 3, 2020, the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track will run its last race and shutter its doors forever. The final starting call “Here Comes Sparky!” will signal the last time the mechanical “rabbit” will whisk around the track and greyhounds give chase.

It’s the end of a 63-year run, brought about by passage of a statewide amendment that makes greyhound racing illegal at the end of 2020. Almost seven of



*Locals favored the 1971 track’s entrance sign, which advertised “beautiful Bonita.”*



*Bonita Springs’ first greyhound track opened on December 26, 1957, shown here in 1967. Dog handlers were called “lead outs” because they led the greyhounds past the grandstand to the starting gate.*

ten Florida voters approved Amendment 13 in 2018, and soon afterward, three of the state’s 11 dog tracks, including Saratoga, stopped racing. The Naples-Fort Myers track stayed open, but the number of live greyhound races was cut nearly in half.

Although some dispute the revenue numbers, greyhound racing in Florida has been in decline for decades, generating as much controversy as profit for some track owners. Dog racing might have faded out by itself, save for a state law requiring tracks to offer live racing to keep their gaming licenses and operate poker rooms and simulcast wagering.

*continued on page 8*

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# Editor's Notes

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."*

--Michael Altshuler

**DID WE REALLY DO IT?** Have the holidays come and gone already? Already? Don't get us wrong, we love Christmas but man, it's exhausting. So now let's breathe a sigh of relief and celebrate. Our house is ours again, the kids and grandkids have mostly retreated back north.

Let's celebrate that we are all still here. We survived another year. We get to see the sun rise and set over the water and we have family we love. Yes, we all ate too much, drank too much, got too little exercise and probably gained a few pounds. Who cares? Embrace it and enjoy today because it's all we really have. So, go eat the cupcake and drink the wine and tell those around you how much they mean to you. New Year's is not a new start to completely change your life. Why do we make ridiculous resolutions, that we know you will not keep, the moment the words pass our lips? Ringing in the New Year is just the reminder that you are still here. Try something new in 2020. Salsa dance, cook, travel, do yoga, book a trip to Cuba. They say it takes only 30 days to form a new habit. Start today.

*As usual, a reminder:*

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Valerie Gorman and Chris Gorman

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# Contents

- Page 1 The End of an Era...**
- Page 3 Editor's Notes**
- Page 5 Letters to the Editor**
- Page 5 Bald Eagle Report**
- Page 6 Who's Who in Bonita Bay**
- Page 11 Keeping it Local**
- Page 14 25 Ways to be Ridiculously Generous**
- Page 16 Curious Photographer**
- Page 17 BBCS Community Association Meeting**
- Page 18 A World of Danger and Discovery**
- Page 22 Pickleball – Mastering the Art of Dinking**
- Page 24 Let's Talk About Our Lakes and Wetlands!**
- Page 27 Chubb Classic**
- Page 28 BWN's Texting Dictionary**
- Page 31 Bonita Bay Uncorked**
- Page 32 Bridge Lesson**
- Page 37 From the Mayor's Desk**
- Page 40 Property Values**
- Page 41 Community Calendar**
- Page 42 The Inside Story**
- Page 44 Dining Around Town**
- Page 46 Entertainment Calendar**
- Page 48 Tiptoe Through the Tulips**
- Page 52 On the Bookshelf**
- Page 56 Big Screen Movie Reviews**
- Page 59 David Browne – No Mulligans Allowed**
- Page 60 View From a Different Angle**
- Page 60 Real Estate Transactions**
- Page 62 Dining Out with Brendan**
- Page 64 Techno Savvy**
- Page 65 Recipe by Backwater Jack's Executive Chef Cory Bass**
- Page 66 Bonita Bay 2030: Reimagining the Next Decade**
- Page 68 Tide Table**
- Page 69 Capt. Steve Nagy's Fishing Report**
- Page 69 The Seasoned Traveler**
- Page 70 Sudoku, Jumble, Trivia, Animals in the Not So Wild**
- Page 71 Profiles Around Bonita Bay**
- Page 73 Crossword Puzzle**
- Page 74 Classifieds**
- Page 74 Advertiser List**

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# Letters to the Editor

**REGARDING YOUR ARTICLE** entitled, “The Consumption Moment”...publicity like this excellent article requires action by all levels of government to continuously spread the word and remind us that we can make a difference. I have an idea based on the fact that I receive two newspapers every day. Each one is wrapped in plastic and then often both are placed in a third plastic bag. I propose that the industry finds a way to have the USPS allow the

“paper” carriers to deposit the newspapers in our mailboxes with no plastic bags. The man-hours required to wrap the papers in plastic would instead be used to offset the added delivery time this would require.

*Denis Briggs*  
*Lost Lake Lane*

## Bald Eagle Report

*James Unland, Wild Pines*

### A ROUGH FEW YEARS FOR OUR SPRING CREEK AND REGIONAL BALD EAGLES

The number of baby eagles that live to fly has decreased in the past 10 years. In recent years, the two energetic young ones born around Christmas of 2015 did both live to fledge. In the 2016-17 season, one young one lived; the same was true of the 2017-18 season, which would have been the season following Hurricane Irma. Unfortunately, in the 2018-19 season, one eagle lived to an age of about eight weeks, then rather suddenly died.

Our bald eagles’ habitat was deforested over an 18-month period starting in early 2016, and then Irma hit in the fall of 2017. Miraculously, the eagles’ main nesting tree was spared by Irma and the adult eagles vigorously replenished the nest during the fall of 2018.

I started to notice the increasing death rates of bald eagles in our region. This is concerning regarding eagles of any age, but particularly in relation to otherwise robust eagles that are more than four to six weeks old. When young eagles die suddenly, some kind of poison is suspected. Adult eagles bring younger eagles all kinds of small creatures, including small snakes and frogs. Adult eagles usually eat just fish, and during nesting often eat away from the nest so as not to arouse the young.

### ARE CANE TOADS KILLING SOME OF THE BALD EAGLES?

Cane toads were not on my “suspect list” until a couple of people from other nearby regions mentioned them as possible causes of death for various birds including young eagles. Cane toads are intensely poisonous when they secrete their potent venom and are eaten or even licked by other creatures, for example dogs. The growing presence of cane toads has been noted in and around Bonita Bay for at least two or three years.

It is very easy for a bald eagle to pick up a cane toad and basically drop it in the eagles’ nest for their young, just as the adult might do with a small gecko or small snake. Toads and smaller creatures are great for baby eagles to “practice on” as opposed to larger, tougher-skinned fish and this is particularly true during the first 8 to 10 weeks of a young eagle’s life. Obviously, there are also situations where an adult eagle might bring in a smaller fish as well.



*Our bald eagle adults do seem healthy, if a bit lonely*

Think of it this way: a healthy, active 12-year-old child is one of the heartiest creatures on earth. They don’t just drop dead; if such a child dies suddenly, it is from some trauma, abuse, poison, accidental ingestion of a highly dangerous drug or pathogen, etc. That’s the same situation with a 6- to 8-week-old bald eagle.

With all of the lakes in Bonita Bay, cane toads are multiplying at a geometric rate and this is the case in other communities including “golfing” communities with ponds, etc. The toads become ever-present starting in February and continuing through April and beyond -- the exact timetable to be “dinner” for young bald eagles. By the way, these toads have poisoned dogs in our region, including some in Bonita Bay.

Our eagles have had a rough few years, quite honestly, and now may be affected by cane toads in addition to all of the significantly increased noise in the area of their Spring Creek nest. Most of that noise comes from Route 41 traffic and the noise has been exacerbated by the repeated deforestations in the eagles’ general habitat. But leaving aside the bald eagles and their young, Bonita Bay and surrounding communities now have a big challenge from these rapidly multiplying cane toads which, in their own right, have no natural prey.



# Who's Who in Bonita Bay

**JIM HRUBES**

*By Tommy Fleming, Mahogany Ridge*

**JIM HRUBES**, of Wedgewood and St. Louis, was a pilot almost all his life – 52 years, in fact.

He graduated from St. Louis University and received his commission in the US Air Force in 1966. He did his pilot training on the T-38 Talon, a twinjet supersonic jet trainer, at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK. Following training in Florida, he was shipped to the Philippines for jungle survival training, and then deployed to Vietnam's Pleiku Air Base, where he flew missions in the EC-47, the military version of the DC-3, with unique intelligence equipment.



As a second lieutenant, Hrubes joined a unit with 20-something lieutenant colonels and majors. Many had been stationed at the Pentagon and were ready to retire when they were recalled to fly in Vietnam. They were astonished they were once again stationed in a war zone – they couldn't have cared less about flying.

Between the senior pilots who often came up with “maladies” and the new arrivals who were enthusiastic about flying, Jim and his buddies logged an extraordinary number of combat hours. And when they hit the wall -- 300 hours in 90 days -- they had to “sit down” and go on R&R. Jim traveled to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, among others.

One of his favorite downtime activities was soccer – he was on a U.S. team with members of his squadron and they had a big time match against the Royal Vietnamese Air Force in NaTrang, which was a favorite R&R resort. The game was so important that it drew the Vice President of South Vietnam -- Nguyễn Cao Kỳ. Not only did Jim meet the VP, he dined with him and his wife and they had their photo taken together.

Then came the Tet Offensive in January 1968, which was a coordinated series of North Vietnamese attacks in South Vietnam, designed to encourage the U.S. to scale back its involvement. For 32 straight nights, their squadron was hit with rocket and mortar fire. Sirens would go off, the pilots would get out of bed and head to underground bunkers. They found they preferred flying night missions to bunker living.

“Later that spring, we were flying out of a base in the extreme western DMZ. All of a sudden we picked up ground fire.

Before we could gain altitude, we took a couple of hits in the engine. We lost control of the propeller and were concerned we might throw a blade. There was no place safe to land. We decided to head to the coast and ditch the plane in the water. US Ground Air Traffic Control eventually sent us to a point south of the DMZ at water's edge near Huế. They managed to get us down on a small runway made of interlocking pieces of steel instead of in the water. The Marines rescued us AND the plane, towing it into their compound with their Jeeps. Semper Fi!”

Jim did a second tour in 1970-71. “I returned with a different attitude. I was single the first time, engaged, but with few responsibilities. By the second time, I was married and had a child. I flew higher, faster and didn't do the stupid things a second lieutenant might do. This time I flew a KC-135, a military aerial refueling aircraft.”

When he left active duty in 1972, he flew for the Missouri Air National Guard. He was recalled to active duty during Desert Storm in 1990, assigned to the Pentagon. While there, he was loaned to the State Department, flying counter narcotics operations in South America. He retired from the Guard in 1999.

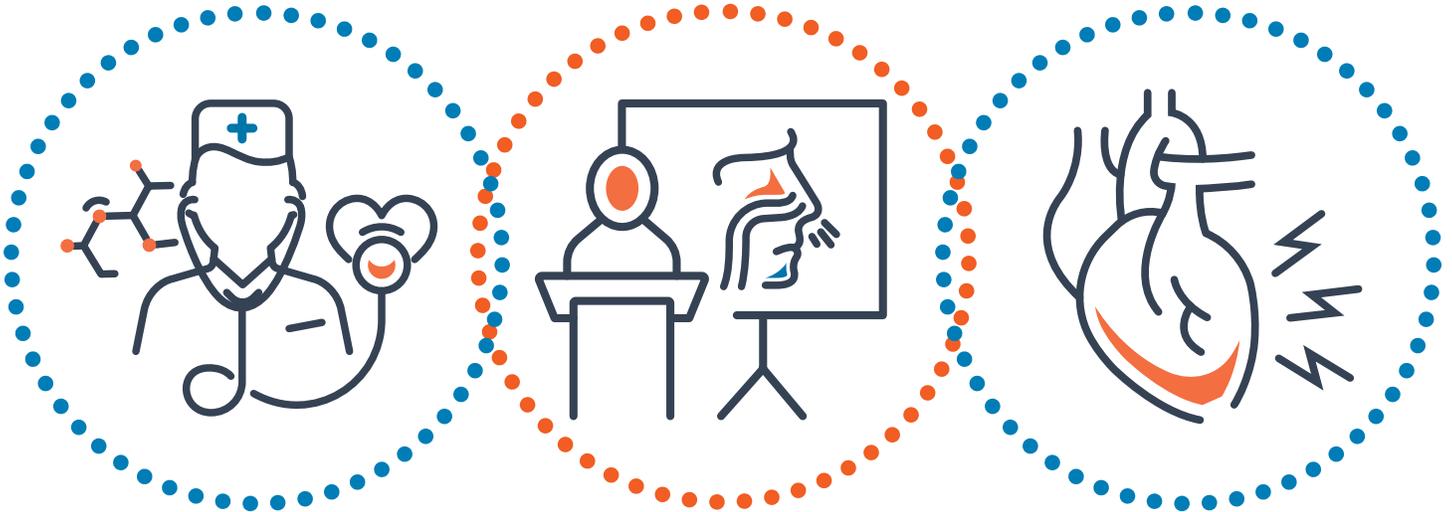
He then joined Monsanto as Director of Aviation, running the flight department. By the time he left, he managed four planes, 21 pilots and eight mechanics. But when German-based Bayer bought Monsanto recently, they started making cuts and one was the flight department. Luckily for the Monsanto pilots, there is currently a severe shortage of pilots so they all had attractive offers. The terrorist activities on 9/11 resulted in stricter flight training rules and reduced interest in flying as a career. Jim now serves on the Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association Board of Directors which is trying to create interest in aviation among young people, as even bigger shortages are anticipated.

How did Jim and his family end up in Bonita Bay? His father-in-law, Bud Anderson, had golfing friends from St. Louis who insisted he consider the very Midwestern culture on the West Coast of Florida. He soon owned a condo in Wedgewood. When he died, he left the property to his two daughters, one of whom is Jim's wife Barbara. She became the property manager, updating the decor and managing the schedule for family members.

When Jim and Barb are in Bonita Bay, they soak up the sunshine at the beach and enjoy all the good restaurants Lee and Collier Counties have to offer. It's their favorite place for R&R.



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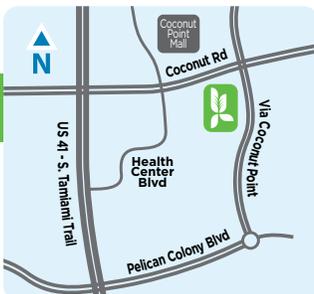
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*The original greyhound track was torn down to make room for this larger facility, which opened for the 1971 racing season and has hosted racing ever since. When the three-level, 250,000-square-foot structure closes in May, a one-story, 30,000-square-foot restaurant and poker room are set to open nearby.*

## Changing Times

In 1957, based on their success with the Flagler Kennel Club in Miami, Florence and Isadore Hecht opened the Naples-Fort Myers track, which the Hecht family has owned ever since. Izzy Havenick, their grandson and spokesperson for the family businesses, told *Florida Weekly* in 2019 that the owners faced losing half their business when greyhound racing ended.

Today, poker is where the action is. A new 30,000-square-foot gaming center is being built in front of the aging grandstand on the south side of Bonita Beach Road. The new building is planned to open in May 2020, just as the old track closes. The owners will then turn their attention to tearing down the grandstand and clearing the acreage for a yet-to-be-determined use.

As another historic building is about to be lost, we look back on the attraction that once drew thousands on race day and made Bonita Springs the biggest thing on the map for miles around.

## Florida Was First

Dog racing has long been a part of Florida history. The Sarasota Kennel Club opened in 1929, and Florida was the first state to legalize greyhound racing in 1931. How a dog

track ended up in Bonita Springs is itself a story. Supposedly, here's how it goes.

In the 1950s, Fort Myers and Naples were the two largest cities along this section of Tamiami Trail. However, a new track couldn't be built in either place because state gaming laws limited the distance between greyhound tracks. Fort Myers was too close to Sarasota; Naples was too close to the Flagler Kennel Club (now Magic City Casino) in Miami. Bonita Springs was chosen by default, being just far enough away from both Sarasota and Miami.

Bonita's track opened to much fanfare on December 26, 1957. But it has irked Bonitans for decades that it was named Naples-Fort Myers, despite being in neither city. However, locals will now have the last word: when racing ends, the entrance sign will be changed to read "Bonita Springs".

## They Came from Miles Around

The fact that the nearest dog racing was in far-flung Bonita Springs didn't deter the gaming public one bit, and patrons came from a 100-mile radius.

When the crowds outgrew the original track, it was torn down at the end of the 1971 racing season. Construction commenced on a 250,000-square-foot, tri-level grandstand and continued at a furious pace. Many doubted the new

track would open just seven months later. The doubters were proved wrong, and the Naples-Fort Myers Kennel Club held its grand opening on December 6, 1971.

A day at the races was a boisterous, bustling, smoky spectacle, packed with people in the betting and beer lines, jostling one another to see their picks cross the finish line. The floors were littered with losing tickets, but it was fun, cheap entertainment.

David Hengel, mail carrier in Bonita Springs in the 1970-80s, remembers the traffic jams around the track on race days. At that time only about 2,000 people lived in Bonita Springs, but the track drew double or triple that. “The crowds were unreal,” he recalls. On matinee days, Hengel says traffic would back up several miles on Tamiami Trail (now Old 41), a narrow two-lane road and the only north-south route in and out of town. “I-75 dead-ended at Bonita Beach Road, so everyone had to exit there, clogging the east-west route as well,” he says.

At its peak in the 1990s, greyhound racing was by far Bonita’s biggest attraction, and it’s only a slight exaggeration to say the track was to Bonita Springs what Churchill Downs is to Louisville. For the marquee 1976 derby, fans packed all three levels of the grandstand: The *Bonita Banner* estimated the crowd at 6,635. Spectators came to the evening event dressed in their finest; winning owners and dignitaries sported top hats and tuxedos.

Today, the glamour of dog racing is long gone.



*The 15’ entrance sign will remain after the track closes, but will finally read “Bonita Springs,” not Naples-Fort Myers.*



*The 1976 Derby was a top-hat affair. David Hecht, whose family still owns the greyhound track in Bonita Springs, is second from right.*



*In the go-go 1970s, greyhound racing was family entertainment.*

### Where Will All The Dogs Go?

The controversy over the treatment and welfare of greyhounds – during and after their racing years – has been intense for decades. But what will happen when racing ends forever in Bonita Springs? The reality is that some employees, many of whom have worked at the track for decades, will lose their jobs. Locally, hundreds of greyhounds – and thousands more when all tracks close at the end of 2020 – face an uncertain future.

Racing greyhounds aren’t owned by the track itself,

or in most cases, by the businesses that operate the onsite kennels. Individual owners will decide what happens to their dogs. Top performers will likely go to tracks in the five states where dog racing is still legal: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Texas and West Virginia.

Other dogs may go to breeders, but the vast majority will be put up for adoption as family pets. Those who have adopted greyhounds say they are loving, gentle dogs that are eager to please and, counter-intuitively, don’t need a lot of exercise. They don’t shed much, rarely bark and are relatively young, ages 2-4, when they retire.

No single entity oversees statewide adoption programs, but groups sponsored by both pro- and anti-racing interests are working independently to find homes for greyhounds. Sun State Greyhound Adoption is the official adoption agency for the Bonita Springs track. To find out more about adopting a greyhound or supporting their efforts, contact Sharon Dippel at 813-263-3427 or sunstategreyhounds@gmail.com.

*by Bev LaLonde, Bonita Springs Historical Society*

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# Keeping It Local

By BWN Staff Writer

**MEET A ‘TWO-WOMAN FARMERS’** market force of nature.” Jean Baer and Betsy Ventura have single-handedly founded and continue to run nine local farmers’ markets. Betsy has a restaurant and water sports background. She is the foodie of the team and had the initial inspiration. In the early 2000’s, Betsy wanted to establish a platform for local artisanal food merchants and farmers to sell their goods to local residents.

Farmers’ markets began before the Industrial revolution as a gathering spot for local farmers and tradesmen to sell their wares. Today the markets can be found globally. Betsy and Jean were acquaintances for many years before they teamed up professionally. Betsy was looking for someone with the ability to navigate the organizational and public relations side of running a successful farmers’ market and Jean’s professional background in event planning seemed like it could be a good fit. After a heart-to-heart conversation about running a farmers’ market, Betsy had found the peanut butter to her jam.

Both women have lived on Sanibel Island for over 30 years. In 2008, Betsy established a plan to bring a farmer’s market to Bonita Springs. They began small, opening the market five Sundays in a row during the season at a property called Tahitian Gardens, owned by the Roberts family. The Roberts also own the Promenade, and that initial partnership paved the way for the market’s move to its current location at the Promenade in Bonita Springs.

Over time, the women have developed a magic formula. Today, they operate nine farmers’ markets, all in Lee County, from Boca Grande to Bonita Springs. There is a market open every day of the week, two on Thursdays and two on Fridays. They are often forced to split up in order to make sure each event runs seamlessly. Even after a decade, they remain a two-woman team, with the exception of a few people helping them to park cars.

The Florida growing season is October through May. There is one smaller year-round market in Fort Myers but overall, they work 8-9 months out of the year. Their business has grown exponentially over the last 11 years. They find dealing with vendors who want to showcase their new products very exciting. Farmers, restaurants and food trucks can all be found at their markets. There are now somewhere near 150 vendors participating in the various markets. Each market is slightly different depending upon on what the landlord wants. Some markets are laid out with the intention of encouraging people to hang out and mingle, others (like the one in the Promenade) are designed for the public to buy more prepackaged items to take home.

Each vendor is an entrepreneur. Acai Bowl (think smoothie in a bowl) was started by a young Floridian couple at the Merchant’s Crossing market. They have just announced a second location



*Jean and Betsy in the “early launch” days*



*“Service animals” like this miniature pony are often seen at the Farmers Markets*

in Cape Coral. Jean and Betsy both say, “There is something rewarding about seeing a company or product come to life and knowing that they got started at our farmers’ market.”

Despite their success, the woman talk about the challenges they still face, be they the vagaries of the weather, lack of parking or vendors who commit and then fail to show. They have found flexibility and the ability to think on their feet invaluable in overcoming these and other challenges. They have made mistakes. of course, such as choosing the wrong venues and jumping into a location that seemed promising but in the end wasn’t quite right for them. They get requests monthly asking them to expand into different areas, but experience has shown them the value of selectivity and they now take their time deciding when and where to expand. The vendors require an audience for profitability, something they will insist upon before committing. A washed-up shopping center might offer adequate space, but likely wouldn’t result in the foot traffic necessary for a successful farmers’ market.

Today’s markets are more than just another stop in the day; they are a destination. Local artisanal and fresh organic ingredients are a hot topic with today’s chefs, be they professional or just food lovers. Farmers’ markets aren’t just about the food, but the overall experience. Take in the entire event: the smells, the sounds, the interaction with the farmers. One of the most rewarding things about having a local market is talking to the vendors, getting to know them and developing a relationship. Try some samples, or ask s what to do with the fresh zucchini they just sold you. They will undoubtedly give you three delicious recipes using the fresh ingredients you are holding. Try that at Publix.

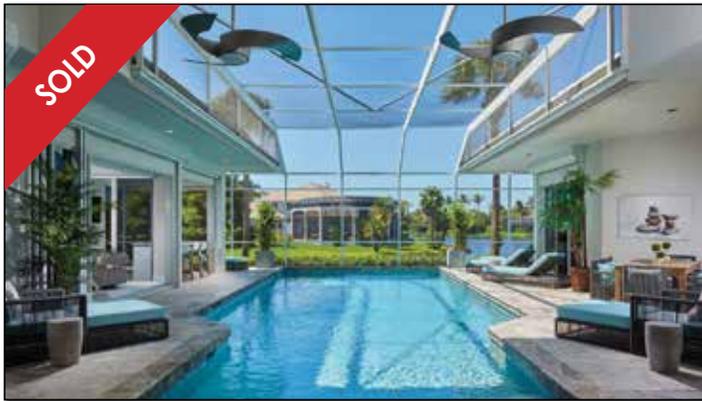
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# 25 ways to be ridiculously generous – and feel ridiculously good

*Adapted from the article by Alexandra Frazen*

**I REALIZED MANY YEARS** ago that when I behave generously, I feel rich. And I like to feel rich. So I choose to be generous. But “behaving generously” doesn’t necessarily mean “donating money” or “giving away your last cookie.” You can share knowledge freely, instead of hoarding it. You can send a hand-written note, instead of a text message. You can make eye contact, instead of checking out. You can make a life-changing introduction for a friend, instead of letting them “connect the dots” on their own. You can do big things. Small things. Simple things. All kinds of things. You will never run out of ideas. You will never run out of love. You will only create more.

What would happen if ...

You said “thank you” 25 different ways, to 25 different people, every day, for the next 25 days?

The possibilities are beyond imagining, but one thing’s for certain: You’re about to become *everybody’s* favorite person.

Starting today, join me in 25 days of ridiculous, shocking generosity.

You don’t need to “prepare.”

You don’t have to “buy anything.”

You don’t need to “give it some thought.”

You don’t have to “clear space on your calendar.”

You just need to fold generosity into your day, in little ways, every day.

Here are 25 prompts and possibilities to inspire you.

(It’s going to feel so good.)

1. Compliment three strangers. Congratulate them on something highly specific – “Way to rock that tricycle, kiddo!” – or simply say: “You look lovely today.”
2. Share your special knowledge by teaching a BBCC class. Been somewhere interesting? Know something about repairs? Use some apps that could be helpful for others? Share.
3. That radio station or podcast you’ve been streaming for months – or years? Become a member. Don’t put it off. And while you’re at it? Send a gushing, praise-filled email to the production team.
4. Introduce yourself to folks you don’t know at the 55<sup>th</sup> hole. Make new neighbors feel welcome.
5. Donate blood. One pint of blood can save up to three lives.
6. If you see a couple taking a selfie, offer to take the picture for them.
7. Volunteer. Get outside of yourself and help others. Check out [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org).
8. Shop at your local charity thrift store. The money you spend there helps others. Habitat for Humanity ReStore and St. Matthew’s House Thrift Store are two examples.
9. Help someone get active. Offer to go walking or running together. Give those Bonita Bay trails a workout.



Shutterstock - Anna Kraynova

10. Tip generously. Figure out an appropriate tip. Then double it.
  11. The next time you dine out, pay for your meal and a stranger’s and chances are the lucky recipient of your generosity will pass it on.
  12. Get outlandishly excited about a small piece of good news from a friend. (“You did WHAT? Just like THAT? You’re AMAZING!”) Model the kind of unbridled enthusiasm that you want to see in the world.
  13. Waiting in line? Strike up a fascinating conversation with somebody who looks bored, sad or checked out. Start by simply asking: “What was the BEST part of your day?”
  14. If you shop online, make your purchase through Amazon Smile. Your purchase will help a cause you care about.
  15. Donate cat and dog food to an animal shelter. Even spare towels.
  16. Drop off your old eyeglasses at Lens Crafters (there are locations in Estero and Naples) as a donation to the OneSight program.
  17. Choose a friend. Grab a notebook. Fill the book with love notes and compliments written by you, and other people, too. Give it to your friend, and tell them it’s a High School Yearbook for the Soul.
  18. Help an entrepreneur with a Kiva donation ([kiva.org](http://kiva.org)).
  19. If you have a good book you’ve read that’s just sitting around on a bookshelf, give it away.
  20. Pray for someone. Or if you don’t pray: send love.
  21. Keep breakfast bars or other protein meals in your car. Hand several to a person asking for money.
  22. Mentor an aspiring entrepreneur through our local Naples or Fort Myers SCORE chapters ([score.org/volunteer](http://score.org/volunteer)). (You don’t have to be an “expert” or know “everything.” You just have to know a few things ... more than they do.)
  23. Read the book “How to Be an Everyday Philanthropist.”
  24. Ask someone, “How was your day – really?” Let that person talk about themselves, past the point of comfort. Lean in. Stay there. Be present. Let ’em ramble. Give it that extra five minutes.
- Day 25:** Be ridiculous and shocking and start this 25-day cycle of generosity ... all over again. Just because you can.



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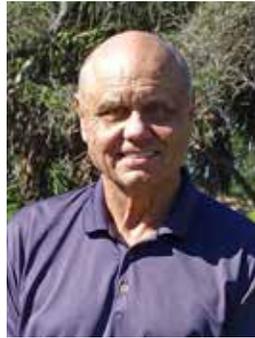
By Maryle Barbé, Spring Ridge

*What is the coldest you've ever been?*



**Chuck Johnson**  
CREEKSIDE

I was the coldest I've ever been at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska – it was around -62 degrees!



**Nick Dalsey**  
HARBOR LAKES

I have been very cold two times that I can remember. The first was shoveling snow in cold and rain in New Jersey; and riding the ski lift at Gore Mountain, enduring bitter cold and wind around 15 degrees!



**Darla Highley**  
CREEKSIDE

I got married in Chicago in 1982 with a temperature of -23 degrees! That was a record for many years and was just recently broken.



**Marilee Johnson**  
CREEKSIDE

I went across the street on Super Bowl Sunday and was so cold with a -20 degree temperature in Dayton, Ohio.



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# BONITA BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2019

By Joyce Eikenberg

**Present:** Hank Gempler, President; Joe Calabrese, Vice-President; Chris Corrie, Secretary; Kim Sharan, Treasurer (on the Phone); Rod McKenzie, Director.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

**President's Report:** Congratulations to the staff for successful tree lighting event. Leadership Forum with presidents of all communities was held with good conversations regarding pending initiatives, including crosswalks.

**Treasurer's Report:** BBCA is in good financial status at this time. Some 27% of the assessments have been paid to date.

**General Manager's Report:** Pickleball project approved and bids are out. Crosswalk improvements are moving forward. Bocce bathroom, no report. Lakes project is moving as expected. The marketing initiative is progressing, with meetings including Fred Fung, the new Club manager and his committee. New gatehouse phones have been working well, just in need of a little tweaking.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** A new drone policy was presented and passed including guidelines for using drones in the community. Anyone wishing to use a drone needs to have a permit from the BBCA. President Gempler reported that the new bylaws will be voted upon at the annual meeting on March 19. The board will be extended from 5 to 7 members.

**Beach:** The beach sand project is in process.

**Government Affairs:** Chris Corrie reminded everyone that the local election will be held on March 17 and will include the replacement of Peter O'Flinn and Gary Dewitt, both of whom have left the City Council. Chris asked for the donation of bikes to Steve Nicks who refurbishes them and gives them away to those in need. [steve.nicks1@gmail.com](mailto:steve.nicks1@gmail.com).

**Lakes Committee:** Rod McKenzie submitted a detailed proposal for the removal of cane toads. The proposal was voted on and passed. There was much discussion on this subject. It was recommended that each neighborhood get its own trapper. This seems to be a real problem in the Bonita Bay community.

**Nominating Committee:** There are two vacancies for this board. Applications for board seats are due January 3.

**Public Comments:** Egrets Landing resident asked for the removal of the stop sign at the corner of Bonita Bay Boulevard and Island Pond Court.

Updating Christmas Lighting at the entrance of Bonita Bay was suggested.

Meeting adjourned.

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Burt and Lizzie have met so many lovely residents of Bonita Bay. It is so wonderful to have many of them as "our dental family of patients."

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# RAISING CHILDREN (AND GRANDCHILDREN) IN THE DIGITAL AGE: A World of Danger and Discovery

By Susie Robinson

**IF YOU ARE AMONG** the millions of grandparents or parents around the world worried about how much technology children are consuming each day, you are not alone. It's happening globally, and we here in Bonita Bay are no different. You likely see it with your young visitors and it is tricky when you may have a different opinion on it than your grown children on the subject.

Whatever your personal philosophy is on this topic, there's little point in arguing that children are growing up immersed in media of all kinds. They are consuming, creating, playing, socializing and engaging in online content for hours each day. While they can and do engage in both active and sedentary ways, in either case they are taking in enormous amounts of information, oftentimes beyond the watchful eyes of even the most diligent parents. These influences can have a frightening impact on your bright, resilient, and cared-for child.

What is there to be alarmed by with all this online interaction? As it turns out, plenty, including:

- **Learning issues.** Problems begin when media use displaces physical activity, hands-on exploration and face-to-face social interaction in the real world, all critical to learning.
- **Sleep issues.** Too much screen time can also harm the amount and quality of sleep.
- **Physical health in general.** The largely inactive nature of online consumption can lead to obesity; back, shoulder, or neck pain; vision problems, and headaches.
- **Disconnectedness from family and friends.** All that screen time can be isolating, leaving children feeling disengaged from their parents, siblings, extended family, and friends.
- **Emotional health and physical safety.** Cyberbullying, sexting, online predators, identity theft—the stuff of parents' nightmares. These issues make malware seem like a walk in the park and provide more than enough reasons to monitor your kid's online activities.

So what's to be done? There is hope if parents are willing to put in some effort.

It turns out that the dangers and pitfalls of online activity for children have everything to do with both *duration* and *content*, so conscientious parents will focus on both. Solutions should be tailored specifically to the age of the child. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents establish the following guidelines:

- For children younger than 18 months, avoid use of screen media other than video chatting. Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality programming and watch it with their children to help them understand what they're seeing.
- For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to one hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the



time spent using media, the types of media and make sure the media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity, and other behaviors essential to overall health.

- Designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms.
- Have ongoing communication about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect, both online and offline.
- Develop a family media plan; advice can be found at [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org).

Beyond these recommendations, one of the most important things a parent can do is be a role model for their children through their own awareness of digital media and online activity.

This is a brave new world, and our ability to shut it all out of our kid's lives is limited, so we will do ourselves and our families a disservice if we ignore the many benefits of the world online, including:

- **Exposure to new ideas and knowledge.** If kids are watching YouTube, don't immediately assume the content they are consuming is inaccurate, dangerous or of low quality. There is a plethora of professionals, veterans, verified educators and just plain geniuses sharing information on a wide variety of subject matters, and for free. You can learn everything from rocket science to carpentry to braiding hair on YouTube. "Google it" can become two of the most powerful words in your home. And let's not forget the good old-fashioned sing-and-dance-alongs that internet classics like "Baby Shark" inspire worldwide.
- **Increased opportunities for different types of social contact and support.** While you're socializing from a private home instead of in public, we know that electronic networks operate with the same principles as more traditional networks do, including attachment, accountability and reciprocity. Children can find companionship and a sense of belonging through support groups and other online resources that may be more specialized, and infinitely more diverse, than available in their physical community.
- **Access to health-related information and advocacy.** Americans tend not to be very "health literate," meaning that the ability to understand basic health information and services needed to make important decisions is limited. There are vast

*continued on page 21*

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## BEACH PARK SHUTTLE

### Beach Shuttle Schedule

#### UPDATED BEACH SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

November 15 - April 30

The shuttle starts every hour on the hour beginning at 9:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.

Shuttle 1/Red - Country Club Blvd/Riverwalk Way		Shuttle 2/Blue - Bonita Bay Blvd	
STOP 1	Cracker Cove	STOP 1	Wedgewood
STOP 2	Lost Lake	STOP 2	Lakeside
STOP 3	Arbor Strand	STOP 3	Sanctuary
STOP 4	River Ridge	STOP 4	Ibis Cove
STOP 5	Riverwalk Park	STOP 5	Deerwood
STOP 6	Laurel Ridge	STOP 6	Hamptons
STOP 7	Montara	STOP 7	Esperia/Seaglass
STOP 8	Burning Tree	STOP 8	Azure
STOP 9	Waterford	STOP 9	Tavira
STOP 10	Riviera	STOP 10	Estancia
STOP 11	Creekside	STOP 11	Vistas
STOP 12	Siena	STOP 12	Horizons
STOP 13	Spring Ridge	STOP 13	Baywoods
STOP 14	Mira Lago	STOP 14	Bay View
STOP 15	Bermuda Cove	STOP 15	Bay Harbor
STOP 16	Wild Pines	STOP 16	Harbor Landing
STOP 17	Crossings	STOP 17	Marina Parking Lot
		STOP 18	Oak Knoll
		STOP 19	Hidden River Court

All passengers should be at the Bus Stop on the hour

Return trips from the Beach Park to the community departs approximately 10-15 minutes after arrival, with the final return trip at 8:30 pm.

All times are approximate.

In an effort to meet the needs of our homeowners, we continue to make changes to enhance your Beach Park experience.

From November 15 through April 30 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m., parking will be available only to residents with the resident pass displayed on the vehicle. Guests and renters are welcome to use the complimentary Shuttle Bus Beach Park phone number: 239-992-9840.

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### A World of Danger and Discovery *continued from page 18*

amounts of resources that are free and widely available online. If we can help our children understand what's available and how to assess the quality and sources of information, our nation's health literacy could improve significantly in just one generation. For teens, the freedom to investigate health-related topics they consider embarrassing or that they otherwise want to keep private from parents can result in better decisions and outcomes.

With a few mouse clicks, children can take trips around the world, access a staggering amount of knowledge, interact with people they would have never known existed and, if necessary, swiftly and stealthily disengage from something or someone when they choose to ... all from the safety of their living room.

Today's parenting mind-set is a world away from the "kids should be seen and not heard" mind-set of the 1950s. We may be spending more time with our children than ever before, yet living in the digital age means that it's harder than ever to keep track of what they are experiencing. We need to listen to our kids, but we also need to "plug in" to their world to help them increase their emotional intelligence and learn to self-regulate these sometimes strange and overwhelming environments.

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# Mastering the Art of Dinking

**THE “DINK” IN PICKLEBALL** is a must have shot!

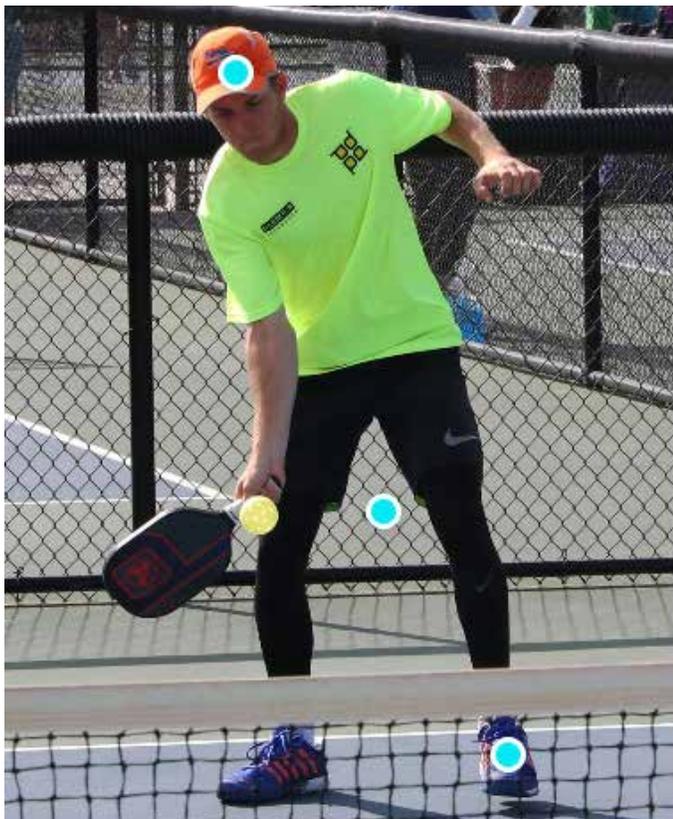
The dink is a slower, softer shot that’s hit in the no-volley zone (aka “The Kitchen”). The shot is intended to drop down once it crosses the net and land in your opponent’s no-volley zone. It should drop very low so that your opponent ends up hitting the ball up high where you can smash it.

The secret to taking your game to the next level is mastering the soft game using the dink. Many players love to smash the ball hard; however top players use dinking to control the game and ultimately win.

The trajectory of the ball as it travels should be high enough to get over the net, and then drop softly. The soft shot and downward trajectory make the apex of the bounce stay below the net. This in turn requires an upward movement to return the shot. If that return is too high, it creates the attackable put away shot.

The dinking stroke is gentle but precise. You want it to be as soft as possible because you don’t want your opponent to be able to return a hard shot to you. The whole purpose of a dink is to make your opponent mess up.

The dink should be a controlled, mindful and focused shot. You want to hit to your opponent’s weaker side, which requires precision. You need to be purposeful when you dink. You want to move your opponent from side to side, by changing the pace or the depth of the ball.



Long, well executed dink rallies are like a game of chess. Both players are trying to create something while at the same time protecting themselves from attack. By taking away height and pace, you limit your opponent’s ability to attack you.

On every shot, we are in one of three conditions: offense, neutral or defense. When you are in balance and your opponents are not, you are on offense; when you are off balance, you are on defense. By remaining in balance and in sync with your partner, you are minimizing the open spaces on the court. Balance is key. You must be balanced to be on offense, and you must be on offense to be able to attack a ball.

When you are on defense, your sole goal is to get neutral. When you are comfortable and balanced, and your opponent is too, you are in neutral. Once there, you can work to get into an offensive position. This may require you to wait and create another attackable opportunity.

A dink will rarely win you a point, but it will very often lose you one!

*Paula Scheb, Director Tennis and Fitness*



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# Let's Talk About our Lakes and

**MANY RESIDENTS SAY** that the natural areas, lakes, wetlands and wildlife are among their favorite things in Bonita Bay. Most residents assume that the natural areas are being managed and maintained by a single management team with the resources they need to minimize lake bank erosion, and to limit the populations of invasive plant species that can crowd out native plants and reduce wildlife habitats. It just makes sense that a community like Bonita Bay, with its sterling reputation of respect for the environment, would place the responsibility for its lakes, wetlands and preserves with one professional team. Except, that's not how things are.

The Bonita Bay Community Association (BBCA) and Bonita Bay Club (the Club) each own about half of the lakes and wetlands. When the financial crisis accelerated the plans of the developer to sell Bonita Bay Club (the Club) to its members and to transfer governance of the Community Association to residents, many decisions were made quickly. Under the developer's plan, golf course maintenance took care of lakes adjacent to the golf course and the Community Association maintained the remainder. There was a sort of "proximity agreement" that permitted workers on either team to work on whatever problem they found including cutting out unwanted invasive plants, regardless of whether that area was Club or Association responsibility. One owner, one checkbook, one plan when the developer owned everything.

Members bought the Club in 2010 and approximately half of the community lakes and over 300 acres of wetlands and preserves were transferred to Club ownership. With so many critical issues at hand during that time, there was no discussion about maintenance responsibilities. Remaining lakes and wetlands are owned by the community and are the responsibility of the BBCA. But in the BBCA turnover documents, the Club was assigned responsibility to maintain the lakes it owned. The Club never saw this document and it was not signed by Club officials, but it was part of the turnover agreements.

It was possible that the developer had reasons to split lakes

and wetlands ownership, so I tracked down Joey Garon, a consultant who had worked with the developer during the 2006-2011 time period when the Club was sold to members. Garon was responsible for organizing and documenting the sale of the Club and chose which lakes were transferred to the Club. With his permission to share this information, here is what Garon recalled:

"In regards to the lakes, it goes way back before my time but here is what I remember. All lakes that dealt with the golf course irrigation system and its feeder lakes were (had been) maintained by the golf course. Additionally, all lakes deemed to be in play from a golfer's standpoint also went to the golf course. All the other lakes were maintained by the HOA (BBCA). When we did the sale and transfer of the golf club to the members, it was done on the fly at record speed. There were really no disputes nor was there actual time for disputes. Before the sale there was never a land survey that distinguished the borders between the golf course and the HOA... so we had to do one and they accepted the survey as provided, knowing they could probably work it out with the HOA later if there were any issues. Not exactly the ideal way to do things but it wasn't an ideal time! Anyway, I would certainly agree if there was one contract to maintain the lakes, you could probably gain some efficiencies."

Other communities are organized differently. About the time Bonita Bay was permitted in 1981, Florida state law created a new entity for community management called a Community Development District (CDD). A CDD created a community management authority to perform community maintenance and to address community maintenance needs separate from a golf club or homeowners' association. Several years after the permitting of Bonita Bay, the developer created a CDD for Mediterra and the ShadowWood communities to share community wetlands and lakes maintenance costs in a logical and practical way, with a separate legal entity. This would surely benefit Bonita Bay, but the CDD needed to be created prior to community construction – it's likely not feasible to do it retroactively. A CDD could serve as a model for Bonita Bay if it were to change management structure for lakes and natural areas.

If lakes and wetlands did not require maintenance, ownership wouldn't really matter – but lake shorelines erode, and invasive plants thrive in natural areas. The structures that maintain water levels to control storm water runoff across the community during storms and rainy months can be compromised as well. The photo to the left shows a concrete control structure on a lake adjacent to the Creekside community and the fifth fairway on the Creekside golf course. The structure in the 2005 (black and white fuzzy photo) was on the shoreline of the lake; today it sits as an island. Is this a problem? Probably.

In 2012 the BBCA formed a Lakes Committee to explore lake conditions and the Club formed a similar *ad hoc* committee.



Creekside Lake 2005

# Wetlands!

By Dave Shellenbarger, Estancia



*Creekside Lake 2019*

The Club committee concluded that there were no problems with its lakes and wetlands and that maintenance programs were not necessary. The BBCA has had a successful wetlands maintenance program in place for over 20 years, assigning a trained botanist and two workers to removing invasive plant populations before they overrun indigenous species. The Club did not have a regular maintenance program for lakes and wetlands but relied on repairs if obvious problems were identified.

In 2019, the Club contracted to treat over 200 acres of wetlands and preserves to remove a variety of invasive plants, including cattails, European climbing vine, Japanese willow and others. Treating large areas resulted in large areas of brown, dead vegetation that slowly decomposes. The result of this program, recommended by the Club Lakes and Wetlands Committee that I chair, could not offer a better demonstration of the advantages of regular maintenance compared to periodic treatment, especially since maintenance is less expensive than remediation.

The BBCA Lakes Committee also faced significant deferred maintenance after turnover in 2012. Since some community lakes at that time were almost 30 years old, significant shoreline erosion had occurred and the committee and staff bid out some significant projects, the most memorable adjacent to the Sanctuary neighborhood. The BBCA Lakes Committee continued to follow engineering study recommendations and spent from \$500,000 to over \$1 million each year to address lakeshore conditions.

The Club appointed a permanent Lakes Committee in late 2017 and commissioned a lakes engineering study in late 2018. After evaluating the study and the condition of all Club lakes, the committee focused on the lakes adjacent to the Bay Island golf course. A particularly environmentally sensitive course, Bay Island was scheduled for reconstruction in the spring of 2019 and repairs were recommended at an incremental project cost of \$500,000. Another lake on the Marsh course that had catastrophic damage from Hurricane Irma, threatening nearby homes, was also repaired at a cost in the low six figures (see photo on next page).

Bonita Bay is spending a lot of money on lakes and wetlands repairs and maintenance, improving conditions, so what's the problem? Bonita Bay is one of the largest gated communities in southwest Florida and economies of scale resulting from doing all community projects together could lower costs and improve work efficiency. The BBCA and the Club bid lakes work separately during 2019, and each project could have cost less if contractors were bidding on all work at one time.

Managing wetlands and preserves in a unified way may provide similar efficiencies. Dealing with invasive plants and wildlife species like iguanas and cane toads without a unified approach is inefficient. Cane toads and iguanas threaten our ecosystem; removing them from land owned by one organization and not the other doesn't solve the problem.

Some residents believe that it's naïve to attempt to keep invasives out of the community ... that it's inevitable that lakes will erode (Just fix them when they fail!) and invasives will crowd out native habitats and wildlife, regardless of what is done. Original development permits require community maintenance ... with fines for non-compliance, so why not wait until forced to repair instead of doing something voluntarily? It's cheaper to "not fight back," to just let nature take its course. This is an understandable argument.

But Bonita Bay is isolated by the Imperial River on the south, Spring Creek on the north, Estero Bay on the west and most notably US-41 on the east. These natural barriers create a somewhat isolated environment that allows us to have increased control over our ecosystems. It's quite possible that invasive plant and animal species can be better controlled because we have separation from neighboring communities, and this degree of isolation increases the chances of meeting community expectations.

Combining well established staff practices of community maintenance could be disruptive and challenging. Organizational "shifts" always are difficult and in the end come down to money. Whatever is spent on preserving and improving the community environment is money spent to protect real estate values and quality of life in the long run. No one wants flooding resulting from failed control structures and eroded lakeshores, or melaleuca trees in place of palms,

*continued on page 22*



**Let's Talk About our Lakes and Wetlands!** *continued from page 22*

or Japanese willow in place of palmettos. The cost of unified maintenance compared to the cost of repairs offers considerable potential in economies of scale, but the challenge is to figure out how to organize it.

Splitting costs in the way that the lakes and wetland ownership is split is no easy matter. Since the BBCA budget is paid by 100% of residents, and the Club dues-paying membership is approximately 60% of community residents, it's not so much of a discussion of "us" versus "them" in cost sharing as about "us" versus "a majority of us." It's an interesting philosophical question when maintaining the quality of lakes and wetlands benefits all residents.

As this article goes to press, the first step exploring joint maintenance is underway. Cane toads threaten the ecosystems on several levels, and there are no effective established practices to control the species. The BBCA and the Club are inviting area pest control vendors to a seminar to learn about initiatives developed within Bonita Bay that may help control these pests. The purpose is to inform established, insured companies about the need for services, with a bid process to follow to select qualified companies to partner with Bonita Bay for a cane toad control program. If this is successful, Bonita Bay may lead the way for area communities to establish best practices for cane toad management.

Looking ahead to the next 20, 30 or 40 years, it's likely that new threats will emerge. Solutions need to be implemented by professional staff, and will best be shaped with a sense of



*Repaired Shoreline Marsh Course #9*

history of the community and an understanding of current and expected future needs. Bonita Bay needs to take its time in arriving at that solution and not rush to make changes, but at the same time, there is a sense of urgency. All stakeholders can come out winners if a thoughtful solution is found.

Maybe this article will start a conversation. Maybe some will want to be involved in finding a solution. And most of all, maybe there's a way to find whatever is best for Bonita Bay today, tomorrow and for the foreseeable future.

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# THE CHUBB CLASSIC

*BAY WATCH NEWS* has had a partnership with the Chubb Classic for many years. A number of our readers have had the experience to Walk Under the Ropes as the grand prize winner of our annual contest and this year is setting up to be a very exciting event again that should not be missed. The legends of the PGA Tour are returning to The Classics Country Club at Lely Resort for the 33rd Chubb Classic, Feb. 13 – 16, 2020, and tickets are now available online. New in 2020 is a third day of the popular Taste of SW Florida, a focused four-day Tournament Experience and an enhanced Michelob Ultra Legends Lounge at the 18th Green.



“The Chubb Classic gives golf fans the unique chance to watch the legends of the game play in the golf capital of the world,” said Kevin Diaz, Tournament Director of the Chubb Classic. “We cannot wait to welcome patrons and players to what is sure to be another exciting year.”

The Taste of SW Florida, introduced originally as a one-day event in 2016 and expanded to two-days in 2017, will now take place all three days of championship play – Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will feature many of the top restaurants in the area and will be highlighted by craft beverages during the 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. tasting experience. Taste will also have an enhanced location, adjacent to the 18th fairway. All Taste tickets include grounds access and are available in limited quantities.

The tournament will also feature four days of public access this year with a focus on experience. The newly named Lely Pass will provide

all attendees with intimate access to the Hall of Famers, major champions and PGA Tour winners that will compete for the 2020 title. In addition to this change in schedule, all tournament tickets include parking at Florida Sports Park. Spectators will board a complimentary shuttle that will transport them to the main tournament entrance located adjacent to the 18th Green.

The Michelob Ultra Legends Lounge provides a birds-eye view of the 18th Green, where Miguel Angel Jiménez won the 2019 Chubb Classic title in a playoff over World Golf Hall of Famer Bernhard Langer and U.S. Senior Open winner Olin Browne. This experience includes catered lunch, afternoon snacks and an open bar.

Kids ages 17 and under will receive complimentary admission with a ticketed adult. Active or retired military members will receive free daily admission. Valid military ID must be present upon entry.

Simple Tournament Schedule: \*Exact gate times and projected tee-time will be released soon.

**Thursday, February 13**  
Official Pro-Am

**Friday, February 14**  
First Round of Championship Play & Taste of SW Florida

**Saturday, February 15**  
Second Round of Championship Play & Taste of SW Florida

**Sunday, February 16**  
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# Texting Dictionary

**IF YOU'RE LIKE US**, you took a language in high school and promptly forgot 99% of what you learned (although “¿dónde está el baño?” will definitely come in handy the next time we’re in Mexico!). But lucky us, we figured we could always rely on English to communicate. Then came cell phones. And texting. And now it seems we have to learn a whole new language if we want to communicate with anyone younger than 50, mostly our kids and grandkids.

So, in an effort to encourage connection (and understanding) we offer you an abbreviated tutorial on 21<sup>st</sup> century communication. You will no doubt be the coolest grandparent on the block when you drop in a timely “LOL.”



Shutterstock

<b>143</b>	- I love you (get it?)
<b>GTG</b>	- Got to go
<b>IDK</b>	- I don't know
<b>IKR</b>	- I know, right?
<b>ILY</b>	- I love you
<b>ILYSM</b>	- I love you so much
<b>IMHO</b>	- In my humble opinion
<b>JK</b>	- Just kidding
<b>LMK</b>	- Let me know
<b>LOL</b>	- Laughing out loud

<b>NVM</b>	- Never mind
<b>OFC</b>	- Of course
<b>OMG</b>	- Oh my god
<b>ROFL</b>	- Rolling on the floor laughing
<b>SMH</b>	- Shaking my head
<b>TIA</b>	- Thanks in advance
<b>TTYL</b>	- Talk to you later
<b>WTH</b>	- What the hell
<b>XOXOXOXOX</b>	- Hugs & kisses
<b>YOLO</b>	- You only live once



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*- Mike Spreckelmeier, Co-Owner & President*





# Bonita Bay Uncorked

**HAPPY WINE NEW YEAR!**

*By Lana Novak, Certified Sommelier, Estancia*

**DID YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE** resolution include drinking better wine? Maybe it was to drink more white or red wine, or just plain drink less?

We are now learning that the reason certain people prefer different wines has more to do with genetics than previously thought. If you are that smug Pinot Noir drinker who drinks nothing else, it may have more to do with your mom and dad than your exquisite palate. I have always been interested in the science of taste. Why does one person chug large amounts of rotgut while another cringes after a tiny sip?

Recently scientists have identified gene mutations that cause some people to hate salmon, think cilantro tastes like soap or run from kale. They have also found genes and certain receptors in our body make us taste wine differently. All you Chardonnay lovers or haters, it's all in your genome. That certainly explains why some of my friends love Two-Buck Chuck!

Without getting too technical and putting you to sleep before your first cocktail, it seems there are numerous factors at play here. First is the discovery of certain gene mutations. The variant of gene T1R3 makes people less sensitive to sweet. They are the ones who put sugar on everything and adore white Zinfandel, because anything else is just too dry. Some genetic variants contribute to people being averse to bitter tastes. They dislike tannic wines, cilantro, coffee or beer. We call them super tasters.

Many people can overcome their genetic preference by repeated exposure to certain flavors. Even children and finicky husbands become more accepting of certain vegetables as they acquire a taste for them. Do you remember your first raw oyster? Was it too slimy? But you love them now!

Another discovery has to do with our taste buds and their receptors. On the bumpy part of our tongue, receptors taste salt, sweet, bitter, sour and umami. The Chinese believe pepper (heat) is another and some believe that fat should be included, although to me that's a texture thing! Just one bitter taste bud can have over 40 different receptors reporting to the brain. Some people have a lot of one receptor but none of another.

So, the variations are endless. Enzymes in saliva, like amylase, are produced in vastly varying amounts in different people. They break down starches and sugars, adding to more statistical variation. That's why some people love the mouth feel of tannin in wine and others hate it.

Adding to the equation are aromas detected by your



olfactory senses and how acute those are. That explains why food is so bland when you have a cold. Alright enough, I can see you are falling asleep!

But why are there so many gene and receptor variations? While only 20% of the population has a copy of a certain bitter taste gene, scientists believe that thousands of years ago, they were the ones who would warn other villagers that something was poisonous or toxic. Pretty cool, huh? (As I sip my red wine.)

Here's more fun stuff. Temperature affects the taste sense of about 25% of the population. They are called thermal tasters and for them the taste depends on the temperature of the wine. Try varying the temperature of your wine to see if it makes a difference to you.

More amusement – the psychological factor! Maximize your guests' wine appreciation at your next party by serving them cheap wine (which is what most people are used to) but tell them it's expensive. They will enjoy it way more than if they knew the real price. It's a proven scientific theory.

That's why some people taste wine and wax-poetic about the fruit, the floral notes, the subtle oak and silkiness, while others say, "It just tastes like wine." There are inexpensive genetic tests on the market, based on your mailed-in saliva sample, that will profile the types of wines your genome prefers. I think the trial and error tasting method is much more fun.

This year my New Year's resolution is never to feel superior when I see someone guzzling swill -- after all, I know it's in their genes. Cheers!



# Bridge Lesson

## SAFETY PLAYS

**WE CONTINUE** with the theme of discussing real hands that have been played at local games. South, non-vulnerable, picks up the hand below. East is the dealer and the bidding proceeds P – P – P – 1♠ – P – 1NT – all pass. West leads J♥ and north displays the dummy.

North ♠ K Q 7 6 2  
♥ A K 7  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 6 4 3

South ♠ 9 8  
♥ 5 2  
♦ J 10 6  
♣ A K 10 9 7 5

Reiterating, the first thing to do when playing a no trump contract is to count the number of winners. In this case, there are four off-the-top winners: AK of hearts and clubs. The obvious choice for developing additional tricks is the nine-card club suit. Leading a club from the dummy, East produces the J♣, how should South proceed at this point?

Should they apply the 8 ever, 9 never rule? Absolutely not. If the clubs split 3 & 1, South lacks an entry for the established club tricks after losing the third round of clubs to the Q. If there was an immediate “safe” entry to the dummy, south should win the trick, lead to the dummy and play another club. A safe entry is one that when taken doesn’t establish a suit for the defenders. There isn’t one in this case. Therefore, the proper play is to duck the J♣ or win it and then play the 10♣. These are safety plays. One gives up a trick to assure making their contract.

No matter how the clubs split, even if East holds all four missing clubs, the contract is safe. If West shows out, South can finesse East’s remaining clubs. South must make sure to maintain an entry after establishing the club suit.

Here is the whole deal. As you

can see, west held Qxx of clubs. Without the safety play, south wouldn’t have been able to score five club tricks. Out of the six pairs playing no trump in the south, only one pair made the contract.

**Hand 1** ♠ K Q 7 6 2  
East Deals ♥ A K 7  
E-W Vul ♦ Q 7  
♣ 6 4 3  
♠ 5 3  
♥ J 10 6 3  
♦ A 8 4 2  
♣ Q 8 2  
N  
W E  
S  
♠ A J 10 4  
♥ Q 9 8 4  
♦ K 9 5 3  
♣ J  
♠ 9 8  
♥ 5 2  
♦ J 10 6  
♣ A K 10 9 7 5

**Hand 2**  
West Deals  
Bidding: 1♥ P 2♣ P 3N P P P

♠ K10842  
♥ Q943  
♦ J98  
♣ 9  
♠ A76  
♥ A10852  
♦ AK3  
♣ Q6  
♠ QJ  
♥ 7  
♦ 7542  
♣ AK7542  
♠ 953  
♥ KJ6  
♦ Q106  
♣ J1083

Lead is the 4♣ and dummy’s J♠ wins; South playing 3♣ (count). Plan the play.

You have 8 top tricks and need one more. In spite of those impressive clubs, if you rely on a 3-2 break, you will be giving yourself a 68% chance to make the hand. Instead duck a ♦ at Trick 2, win the likely ♦ return and play the A♦ and K♦. If diamonds break 3-3, dummy’s 4<sup>th</sup> ♦ is your 9<sup>th</sup> trick. If diamonds don’t break, you still have 3-2 clubs break to fall back on. (If you test the clubs first and they don’t break 3-2, you have no entry to the 4<sup>th</sup> ♦.)

*By Sue Wilkening and Fred Scott.*



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For some business owners and entrepreneurs, it may be time to start thinking about the next chapter in life. Others may have an interest in raising capital to continue growing a business, while others may find that transferring ownership to employees or the next generation is the best fit for their needs. Whatever choice you make, careful planning is key to assuring a successful transition. Let's have a conversation to discover where you are today and how we can help you fulfill your long-term goals.



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# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Peter Simmons, Riverwalk

## GREETINGS FROM BONITA SPRINGS!

There is nothing like spending the winter months in our beautiful Bonita Springs to ward off the winter blues. The City hosts many great events, giving you the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful outdoors and mix and mingle with your neighbors. I hope you make it a point to visit our city-center parks and businesses in the next couple of months to see for yourself how much fun there is to be had!



visit [www.bonitablues.com](http://www.bonitablues.com).

Listed below are the scheduled events. Several of the events are held at Riverside Park, located at the corner of Old 41 and Pennsylvania Avenue. If you have any questions, please call 239-949-6262.

**Saturday, March 21 -- Movies in the Park at Riverside Park** – an entertaining family event featuring the movie **Sponge Out of Water**. When the top-secret recipe for Krabby Patties is stolen, Sponge Bob joins forces to battle a fiendish pirate to retrieve the secret recipe. All Movie in the Parks showings begin at dusk.

**Saturday, March 28 -- Celebrate Bonita at Riverside Park – 4 - 9 pm.** This event celebrates the City of Bonita Springs' incorporation so you can join in to wish the City a Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday! Enjoy the country inspired music of the Ben Allen Band – a premier local favorite.

**Saturday/Sunday, January 12/13 – National Art Festival Weekend from 10 am – 5 pm at Riverside Park.** The Center for the Arts Bonita Springs presents three fine arts/craft festivals each year at Riverside Park. Enjoy artworks of 200 national and international artists while supporting the many programs of the Bonita Springs Center for the Arts.

**Farmer's Markets** are held every week featuring fresh, local foods.

1. Every Wednesday from 8 am to 1 pm at the Lemon Tree Lot in downtown Bonita Springs.
2. Every Saturday from 8 am until noon at the Promenade Shops on South Bay Drive.

**Thursday, January 30 – Chamber of Commerce Community Expo from 3 – 6 pm at the Promenade at Bonita Bay.** Visit the walkways, courtyard area and retail spaces where 70+ businesses will showcase their products and services. There will be live entertainment, free water and tote bags. Trolley transportation will be available from Rural King to provide additional parking.

Also, be sure to stop by the new library if you have not done so already. For more information about upcoming city events and private events that are permitted by the city, please visit the city's website at [www.cityofbonitasprings.org](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org) and click on the Services & Departments tab > Communications Department > Special Events.

**Saturday, February 1 at dusk -- Movies in the Park at Riverside Park** – an entertaining family event featuring the movie **Finding Dory**, a heart-warming tale that shows just how important friends and family are. Grab a blanket or your favorite low back lawn chair and come and enjoy a movie under the stars. All Movie in the Parks showings begin at dusk.

Please note that the list is often updated as event organizers apply to host events, so check back often.

Enjoy the seasonal weather. No shoveling necessary!

*Mayor Peter Simmons*

**Saturday/Sunday, February 8-9 -- National Art Festival Weekend 10 am – 5 pm. at Riverside Park.** The Center for the Arts Bonita Springs presents the second of three fine arts/craft festivals this year. Enjoy artworks of 200 national and international artists while supporting the many programs of the Bonita Springs Center for the Arts.

**Saturday, February 22 -- City Wide Clean-Up 2020 from 9 am to 12 pm** – Join the City of Bonita Springs for the annual City-Wide Community Clean-Up. **Meet at 9 am near the banyan tree across from Riverside Park** for coffee, donuts and registration. Lunch refreshments will be provided following the clean-up.

**Saturday, February 29 -- CREW Land & Water Trust Benefit Concert from 5 – 9 pm at Riverside Park** -The CREW and YOU Under the Stars annual concert. The High Voltage Band will rock the crowd with a selection of greatest hits from Motown through today. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate.

**Saturday/Sunday, March 7-8 -- National Art Festival Weekend at Riverside Park from 10am – 5pm** the final fine arts/craft festival this year, at Riverside Park. Enjoy artworks of 200 national and international artists while supporting the many programs of the Bonita Springs Center for the Arts.

**Friday/Saturday, March 13-14 -- Bonita Blues Charitable Festival - Rain or shine event at Riverside Park.** Tickets \$40 - \$60. The two-day event features more than 10 local, regional and international blues bands and all proceeds go to local charities. For more information

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## PENDING SALE



## THE HAMPTONS - \$749,000

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MARINA POINTE  
27721 Marina Pointe Dr.



WATERFORD  
26271 Devonshire Ct. #203



LOST LAKE  
27124 Lost Lake Lane



**THE HAMPTONS - \$699,000**  
 26848 Wyndhurst Ct. #201  
 3 BR + Den, 3 BA, 2-Car Garage

**RECENT CLOSED SALES**



**AZURE**  
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**THE HAMPTONS**  
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# Property Values

A NEW YEAR AND SEASON have begun in our winter paradise. Car carriers have arrived in numbers. Walkers, bikers, golfers, tennis and pickleball players abound. There is post-holiday good cheer because we know we are blessed to be able to spend the season here, while others are forced to suffer through another cold winter up north.

But wait, there is more good news. Financial markets are near all-time highs. Unemployment and interest rates are near all-time lows. The US economy is running like a well oiled machine, hitting on all cylinders. Generally speaking, people who can afford to live in our community feel good about their financial standing and prospects.

The Bonita Bay Club and community have rebounded from the dark days of the great recession of 2008. Club membership is at capacity, with a waiting list, defying those who thought the end was near in 2010 when the members purchased it from the ailing developer.

But, as we all know, there are many factors that affect our property values. Macro examples include uncertainties about the economy and fear of recession, especially as a major election year approaches. Other factors include:

- Neighborhood comps
- Location
- Age and condition
- Upgrades and updates
- Home size and usable space
- Local market conditions

In Bonita Bay, as of this writing, there are a total of 119 properties on the market, broken down as follows:

Single family	27
Villa	9
High rise condo	51
Low and mid-rise condo	32

Average total days on market (DOM) for all categories is 209, with single family and high rise both above that average at 225 and 243 respectively, and villa at the lower end at 134.

In the year ending December 2019, there were 200 closed sales, dead flat with 200 sales in the previous year. During that same period, average DOM increased from 207 to 232, while average sold price per square foot decreased from \$311 to \$301. The overall average sold price of a home in Bonita Bay also decreased from \$867,000 to \$837,000. The ratio of sold to list price stayed even at 95.1%. However, it is important to note that this ratio is calculated on the final list price, which in many cases has been reduced during the term of the listing.

Below are the average selling prices for each category of property over the past three years (in thousands):

	2019	2018	2017
Single family	\$1,194	\$1,304	\$1,220
Villa	\$552	\$750	\$791
High rise condo	\$1,366	\$1,334	\$1,472
Low and mid-rise condo	\$368	\$385	\$377

Sellers and buyers must be aware of the wide dispersion between prices of older versus newer and remodeled properties. The trend continues to be toward the newer coastal contemporary open look and our younger buyers are willing to pay a premium for a smaller home to get that newer look and a new home. The average price per square foot for new homes sold in the past few years in Bay Woods and Woodlake was \$669, compared to an average of \$472 for older homes in the same price category. Very interestingly, the average square footage for the new homes was 4,124, while the older homes was 5,884.

As always we encourage owners to update and improve their properties. Bonita Bay, with its lifestyle and amenities, continues to attract buyers and maintain its status as the best place to live in Southwest Florida.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Women's Alliance of Bonita Bay Club Luncheon with Dr. Amy Egan

January 8, 11:45 a.m.

\$26 per person

Bonita Bay Club Founders Room

Dr. Amy Egan, formerly of the Food and Drug Administration, will speak about the process of bringing drugs to the market and the "Right to Try." Donations of baby supplies for Our Mother's Home would be appreciated. Please call the club for a reservation. 239-495-0200

### The Speakers Assembly of Southwest Florida – Luncheon with James Goldgeier

January 10, 11 a.m.

Hyatt Coconut Point

Members \$50, Guests \$65

James Goldgeier is a visiting Senior Fellow...and Professor of International Relations at the School of International Service at American University.. He will be discussing foreign relations.

### Bonita Bay Club 4th Annual Volunteer Fair

January 20, 2 – 4 p.m.

Bonita Bay Club

Interested in volunteering but don't know what options are available? Join us at the 4th Annual Volunteer Fair to learn about local nonprofits who would love your help!

### Martin Luther King Day

January 20

### Bonita Springs Historical Society Speaker Series – What's the Value of Clean Water? With John Jenkins

January 23, 7 p.m.

Free for members and students, all others \$5

Bonita Springs Lions Club, 10346 Pennsylvania Avenue, West of Old 41 Road

In the first talk of "Water: At A Crossroads," John Jenkins, executive director of Bonita Springs Utilities, follows the flow of water from deep underground aquifers to the faucets in our homes. But how is water quality monitored? Are local sources sustainable? What about wastewater? Jenkins goes beyond the headlines to give the detailed answers you need to know.

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## THE INSIDE STORY

# The Color of Our Lives

*By June Muehr, Creekside*

**COLOR AFFECTS US** psychologically in so many ways. We react to color viscerally, from the time we are very young. Everyone remembers a favorite color from childhood, while we may not remember just why that color was favored. It may have been the red of a favorite toy fire engine, or the purple of soft mittens. It may have been because of the way we felt in our first blue prom dress, or the colors of our favorite team. Rarely does that childhood favorite color survive the test of time, as we are bombarded with visual stimuli constantly while growing up.

By the time we've reached full adulthood, color, in our mind's eye, has become more clearly defined, and our reactions to color are more predictable. Color has become a big part of our psychological make up. The reds and oranges of a fire make us feel more energized. That is why designers usually discourage using a lot of red in bedrooms where quiet and sleep are the goal. Advertisers use red to get attention ... "notice me, and BUY me!" The matador's red cape is used to incite anger in the raging bull. The red color of a Ferrari suggests aggressive speed. The color of blood, the red of a stop sign and the red dress of a sultry sex siren all signal that notice should be taken.

Some of the other colors also suggest an emotional reaction. Take green, for instance. Green tells us to be grounded, stable, at peace and refreshed. Did you ever wonder why it's the color of money? And the securities company that uses a totally green palate in its advertising is hoping to convince us that doing business with them will result in becoming awash in money! We know that eating green vegetables helps maintain a healthy constitution.

Yellow is the color of sunshine and good weather. The yellow happy face emoji reminds us to be cheerful and happy. But dark yellow is one of the least preferred colors. It signals autumn, the dying off of the happy days of summer. Even though people love to see the bright colors of changing leaves, the love affair is short-lived.

Purple has historically been associated with royalty. It doesn't appear that often in nature, although several flowers are at their most beautiful in purple. The color appears less regularly in design, and even then as only an accent color. Some of us have been told that only "old ladies wear purple"!

Blue is the color that surrounds us in subtle ways. The sky and the sea are blue, but tend to be a foil for whatever else is in the visual field. We may not so much focus on the blue of the Mediterranean, but instead the color spectrum of the villages of the Cinque Terre cascading to the sea. The blue of the sky, while wonderful, may play second-fiddle to the fantastic cloud formations. But blue helps us to feel serene, cool and restful. Notice how some insurance companies use a lot of blue to make us feel healthy!



Have you ever wondered why a home decorated only in “Florida Beige” or “Florida Grey” leaves you feeling ambivalent? The inability to commit to color, while being safe, results in a neutral reaction. The inclusion of even pops of color, in flowers, pillows, artwork, etc., rescues an otherwise boring room, and reminds us that real people actually live there!

Understanding the impact of color on our lives helps us to sort out all the information that we process every day. It can help us maximize our pleasure, and it can make us wary of an uninvited intrusion.

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# ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Team members here at Bay Watch News are huge live entertainment fans. There is so much to do "on campus" here in Bonita Bay but there are also so many good venues nearby that are worth taking advantage of. We have had trouble finding a common source for it all and are trying a new feature this year, pulling that together for our readers from a mix of our favorite venues. Some are nearby, some a bit further. This list is not all inclusive of all that the venues may have scheduled. Have other venues or acts you like, let us know at [team@baywatchnews.com](mailto:team@baywatchnews.com).

DATE	WHAT	VENUE	LOCATION	ENTERTAINMENT TYPE	BWN COMMENTS
<b>Most every night</b>	Various	Center Bar Promenade	Bonita Springs	Music	Mon to Thur 7-10pm and Fri-Sat 8-10pm. Sun 5-8pm. Check their website for latest
<b>Most every night</b>	Various	Dog Tooth Sports and Music Bar	Naples	Music	Daily entertainment usually starting about 6pm. Check website for latest
<b>Tue, Dec 31-Sun, Jan 5</b>	Book of Mormon	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Musical theater	Winner of 9 Tony Awards by the creators of South Park
<b>Sat, Jan 4</b>	Brandon Robertson Quintet	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	Emmy nominated upright/electric bassist from Tampa
<b>Tue, Jan 7</b>	Carpenters Remembered	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Music revival	Re-creation of Carpenters arrangements and sound
<b>Wed, Jan 8</b>	Chris MacDonald's Memories of Elvis	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Music revival	Vegas style show with 8-piece band, singer and dancers
<b>Fri, Jan 10</b>	Staged Readings	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Spoken word	Poignant collection of written works
<b>Sat, Jan 11</b>	SW Florida Symphony MW2 The Romantix	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Classical Music	Bruckner, Wieniawski, Beethoven and more
<b>Sat, Jan 11</b>	Villalobos Brothers	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	Violinist, singer songwriter trio
<b>Sun, Jan 12</b>	Poco	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	American country rock band from California
<b>Sun, Jan 12</b>	Blues and Bloody's	Center Bar Promenade	Bonita Springs	Music and food	Second Sunday every month 12 to 7pm.
<b>Tues Jan 14-Sun, Jan 26</b>	Hamilton	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Musical theater	Runaway Broadway hit, different production than above
<b>Sat, Jan 18</b>	The Righteous Brothers	Artis-Naples	Naples	Music	The duo sing their hits...You've Lost that Lovin' Feelin' and more
<b>Sat, Jan 18</b>	Max Weinberg's Jukebox	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	Longtime drummer for Bruce Springsteen's E Street band, audience creates a "live setlist"
<b>Sun, Jan 19</b>	Mary Wilson of the Original Supremes	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	Founding member of the Supremes and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
<b>Mon, Jan 20</b>	Johnny Mathis	Artis-Naples	Naples	Music	Legend sings hits including Misty and Chances Are
<b>Wed, Jan 22</b>	Jesse Cook	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	Canadian combines flamenco, rumba, jazz and other forms
<b>Thu, Jan 23</b>	Robert Cray Band	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	American blues guitarist and singer
<b>Fri, Jan 24</b>	Donnie Baker	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Comedy	Florida based, Indiana native, rude, wacky comedian
<b>Sat, Jan 25</b>	Appalachian Road Show	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	Bluegrass from, you guessed it, Appalachia
<b>Tue, Jan 28</b>	A Star is Born The Concert	Artis-Naples	Naples	Musical Theater	Best musical moments from the original and the remakes
<b>Wed, Jan 29</b>	Robert Earl Keen	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	American singer-songwriter from Houston
<b>Thu, Jan 30</b>	That Golden Girls Show a Puppet Parody	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Theater	Classic TV show meets puppet show. Pretty unique
<b>Thu, Jan 30</b>	Stars of the Sixties with Herman's Hermits	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Music	Starring Peter Noone, singing all their hits
<b>Fri, Jan 31</b>	To Whitney with Love	Barbara Mann Performing Arts	Fort Myers	Music revival	American Idol finalist, LaKisha Jones, sings Whitney Houston and other greats

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# Tiptoe through the Tulips

*Tommye Flemming, Mahogany Ridge*

**ALTHOUGH A TULIP TRIP** has been on my bucket list for years, I don't like traveling from Bonita Bay during season, where we need to count days out of Missouri to prove our residency. But I finally accepted that the tulips weren't going to change their schedule -- I would have to change mine. So last May, my husband Patrick Arnall and I traveled to Brussels for a Tauck river cruise to Amsterdam.

## Day 1, Brussels

The MS Esprit is fairly small, even for a riverboat, holding just 118 passengers. But there is a boatload (excuse the expression) of amenities: Fitness Center, Massage Room, Boutique, Putting Green and more. Our room wasn't huge but had floor-to-ceiling windows with a French balcony.

Our first adventure was in Brussels' historic district -- Grand Place and its opulent guildhalls. Lots of stuff to photograph, including the famous Belgian chocolates and waffles.

At 5 pm, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served as we listened to the evening's entertainment. Dinner followed. This became the pattern each evening.

## Day 2, Brussels

Brussels is the capital of the Kingdom and headquarters for many European organizations, including NATO and the European Union. The site was chosen because it is centrally located but strategically unimportant.

Our morning began at the Atomium, a 338-foot structure resembling atoms, built for the 1958 World's Fair. The tour ended with a visit to a chocolate factory.

Interesting Belgian facts:

- Over 800 different beers are made here.
- Belgians produce 220,000 tons of chocolate annually.
- There are three kinds of waffles:
  1. Liege (thicker, with small clumps of sugar)
  2. Brussels (bigger, lighter, eaten with toppings)
  3. Galettes (thinner, softer, eaten with jam)

## Day 3, Antwerp

Antwerp is Belgium's second largest city, capital of the province of Flanders, where Flemish/Dutch is the official language. French is the primary language in Brussels; and German is spoken by about 10% of the population.

Antwerp is the home of Flemish Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens and was once the diamond capital of the world. Highlights were the city's "kathedral" with its Gothic architecture and Reubens paintings, and the Red Star Line Museum, which told the story of 2+ million European emigrants whose journey to North America began in Antwerp.

## Day 4, Bruges/Ghent

Cruising through Flanders overnight, the ship docked in Ghent and we headed to Bruges ... "the Venice of the North." We were escorted on a walking tour of this gorgeous medieval town, past canals, on cobblestoned streets to the marketplace, famous for its Flemish architecture and the Madonna of Bruges, a marble sculpture by Michelangelo.

In Ghent, a cultural hub and university center, we took a tour of castles, churches and quintessential merchants' homes, and were treated to the local specialty, Ghent noses, a traditional fruit candy. The highlight was the viewing of Van Eyck's triptych "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb."

***Bonita Bay note** -- There was a second couple on our cruise from Bonita Bay -- Dick and Theda Stover from Bay Harbor and Gibsonia, PA. Check out the photo of us with our new found friends in front of St. Bavo's Cathedral.*

## Day 5, Dordrecht/Kinderdijk/Rotterdam/The Hague

Note -- As we changed countries -- Belgium to Netherlands, we changed months -- April to May. I had no idea when I chose the dates that the weather would be so uncooperative -- windy, blustery and downright cold. It was May -- and the temperature never got above 45 degrees!

We docked in Dordrecht, an historic island city which has been named an up-and-coming travel destination, but I'm not sure why. We saw some pretty 500-year-old houses, and the homes of Van Gogh and William of Orange who lived here briefly.

Then, in the midst of a full squall, we headed to Kinderdijk, where 19 original 18th-century windmills -- preserved today as a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- create an iconic landscape. The windmills here move water, while wind mills elsewhere might mill grain or spices. In fact, the windmills are just a small part of how the Dutch manage water. More than 50% of the land is marshy, so they have mills and dams and dikes to help hold back the water.

We then sailed to Rotterdam and transferred to The Hague, the seat of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court. Most foreign embassies are located in The Hague. Following dinner at a private club, we toured the Mauritshuis' Art Museum with its incredible collection -- including Vermeer's Girl with the Pearl and Rembrandt's The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp.



*Tommye Fleming and Patrick Arnall at Keukenhof Gardens near Amsterdam*



*Canals in the medieval town of Bruges, Belgium*



*All of the tulips are from Keukenhof Gardens near Amsterdam*

### Day 6, Utrecht/Lisse

We docked in Utrecht, religious center, then headed to Lisse for the highlight of the trip -- Keukenhof Gardens, the home of famous tulip show gardens. A rolling carpet of color, Keukenhof is one of Europe's most iconic -- and fragrant -- places to witness springtime in all its glory. Each year 1.4 million visitors come here between mid-March and mid-May.

This was one of my best days ever as far as photographic experiences. Over 7 million bulbs, in 800 varieties. An unforgettable experience! I just kept squealing, "OMG. I can't believe this!" Literally, like a kindergartner.

It's hard to explain how spectacular this day was, so I'll let my photos tell the story.

### Day 7, Amsterdam

What had been spring turned to full-on winter. The wind chill factor was something stupid like 18. In May, mind you.

We began our first day in the Netherlands' capital with a cruise through the 17th-century canals -- Amsterdam boasts more canals than Venice. After the cruise we visited the matchless Rijksmuseum, filled with myriad works by the Dutch Masters. We then moved to a special exhibit in honor of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rembrandt. Wow.

### Day 8, Amsterdam

The cruise officially ended on Day 8, but we extended two nights in Amsterdam. Our itinerary included:

- Dutch Resistance Museum, of particular interest as Patrick's uncle bicycled information across enemy lines near Rotterdam and was eventually taken prisoner.
- Floating flower market, which I envisioned as the flower scenes in "My Fair Lady." Sadly, it was a series of stalls on barges, selling bulbs. Not picture perfect.

- Red Light District walking tour. We were told "no" to taking photos of the Sex Workers as digital photos can go viral and cause problems for these legal workers and their customers.
- DeBijenkorf, a department store somewhat on the scale of Harrod's. We couldn't resist buying bowls donned in tulips.
- Anne Frank House ... where the young Dutch girl and her family lived in hiding for two years during the Nazi occupation.

### A few other facts

- The bicycle experience in Amsterdam is breath-taking. I can't warn you strongly enough how the 2.5 million "bikers" rule the city and how little regard they have for the safety of others.
- I did NOT buy tulip bulbs. It is best to buy them online, where they ship when the time is right to plant in your area and you don't have to carry them around or try to get them through customs.
- River cruising is grand: the towns are built right on the river so you spend little time getting to the sights; cruising is gentle -- no waves, no wakes. However, rivers place serious restrictions on the boats that traverse them -- quarters are a little tight.
- The weather was disappointing but we brought along a little of every kind of attire ("There is no such thing as bad weather, simply inappropriate clothing."), but I never dreamed we would be wearing winter/rain gear every day. We even encountered sleet/hail.

I was worried that my expectations of the tulips were so high that I would be disappointed. That was simply not the case. They were the reason I went; they were the reason I found this trip so delightful.



*Bonita Bay neighbors Dick and Theda Stover and Tommy Fleming and Patrick Arnall in front of St. Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium*



*Brussels' Royal Gallery of Saint Hubert, bedecked in spring blossoms*



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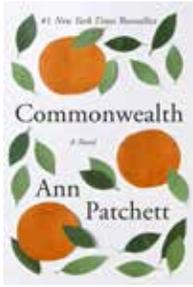
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# On the Bookshelf



## **Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett

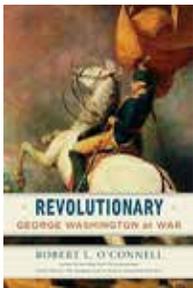
*Shirley Gorman, Oakwood*

Recently, I was reading a column about books. One book the author talked about was **Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett. It was a novel she had previously read but decided to read again, and in her second reading she related to the novel differently than in her original reading. Shortly after, I came across **Commonwealth** in a library in California and decided to read it. As you have probably guessed, it turns out I too had previously read it.

The novel begins when Albert (Bert) Cousins arrives uninvited to the Christening party of Fix Keating's daughter Franny. The longer Bert stays at the party and the more liquor he consumes, the more entranced he becomes with Beverly, Fix's wife, and he eventually kisses her. The Cousins and Keatings divorce and Bert and Beverly end up marrying and moving from sunny California to Virginia. This marriage and move profoundly affect the three Keating children and four Cousins children. Spending summers in Virginia forges affectionate bonds among the children, who commiserate over their shared frustration with their parents.

Decades later, Baby Franny, now in her twenties, whose Christening party resulted in the eventual uniting of the two families, meets famous author Leo Posen. As their affair progresses, Franny tells Posen about her family. Based on her revelations, Posen writes a popular novel called **Commonwealth**, exposing the family's dirty laundry to the world.

Not surprisingly, Posen's book upsets various members of the two families, who are forced to deal with the trauma of seeing their personal history re-constituted for public consumption. The turn in the story reveals themes of love, family, personal responsibility, what brings us together and what tears us apart.



## **Revolutionary: George Washington at War** by Robert O'Connell

*Bruce Stewart, Wedgewood*

O'Connell's biography is captivating. He removes Washington from his pedestal, humanizes him and, most importantly, addresses issues not fully explored by other biographers and historians.

For example, why would an aristocratic, wealthy planter with strong commercial ties to London risk all to lead the revolutionary army when the outcome was very much in doubt? The motivation, suggests the author, arose from Washington's experience in his youth as a colonial officer in the British army. Washington, wanting to follow in the footsteps of his adored half-brother Lawrence, an officer in the British military, volunteered to assist the British in the French and Indian war of the 1760's in which he distinguished himself in a losing cause. Expecting recognition and promotion, Washington was instead humiliated as less deserving British-born aristocrats received coveted appointments and he was discarded.

Never quick to forgive or forget, Washington resented this misuse of British power. He became suspicious of professed royal goodwill and was susceptible to conspiracy theories circulating in the colonies that falsely claimed England intended to enslave Americans. He was also annoyed when, after conquering Quebec, Britain prohibited westward expansion over the Alleghenys in the early 1770's, frustrating his and other land-speculating colonists' enrichment plans.

O'Connell also explores why there was so little support for the royalist cause from the outset. Even prior to 1776, the unhappy colonist core seized the initiative while the majority of neutrals and royalists sat on the sidelines expecting British power to prevail. Sensing a growing opposition, those wanting redress if not outright independence quickly organized and trained state militias as well as socially and economically ostracizing royalists and neutrals. Moreover, reflecting their class, the British officers underestimated the abilities of colonists, and early in the war encouraged their troops to brutalize the local population. All these early actions caused the interior of the colonies to be firmly revolutionary, thus denying the British, thousands of miles from their home base, access to supplies. Washington spotted this advantage and pursued it rigorously.

History is correct in recognizing the huge role Washington played in the ultimate success of the Revolution. His character and demeanor were recognized by both his long-suffering troops and his officers. The author concedes that the Revolution might have been successful regardless of who was in charge once France decided to support the colonies, but O'Connell contends that Washington was the glue that kept the 13 colonies together.

With a clear and unpedantic style, the author supports these conclusions with fascinating anecdotes and original records. This book deserves the attention of any history buff and, arriving as it does at America's time of national discord, provides a fresh reminder of the remarkable achievement of the Revolution and the importance of real leadership during times of national peril.



## Let Her Fly by Ziauddin Yousafzai

*Elaine Brotman, Bay Woods*

Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old advocate for girls' education in Pakistan, was shot in the head by the Taliban. She miraculously recovered, wrote a best-selling book and became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Let Her Fly** by Ziauddin Yousafzai is not her story, but her father's autobiography. He was the one who made her achievements possible. He understood the importance of her education and encouraged all her endeavors. His compelling and inspirational story started with the insecure, stuttering boy living in a mud house in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. When he realized that education was his way out of poverty, he also understood the hopeless situation of his five sisters whose lives were limited in the entrenched patriarchal society. Therefore, while getting a degree in education at nearby Jehanzeb College, Ziauddin made a strong commitment to secure education for both girls and boys. After graduation, he broke with the accepted social norms and started a school for girls in his hometown.

He described his life through very personal and intimate portrayals of himself and close family relationships. As a son, he rejected the beliefs of his father while still respecting him as head of the family. In a loving, arranged marriage, he respected his wife's opinions and encouraged her to learn to read and write. He educated both his daughter and sons, teaching them the importance of equality. When the Taliban took over the Swat Valley, he continued to resist their effort to close all the schools for girls in spite of personal threats to his life. During Malala's long recovery, he moved his family to the UK to be near her. Here he became an educational activist and worldwide leader campaigning for women's education.

He is the kind of progressive Muslim man the world hopes for.

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# Big Screen Movie Reviews

## HONEY BOY

**Director:** Alma Har'el

**Writer:** Shia LaBeouf

**Stars:** Shia LaBeouf, Lucas Hedges, Noah Jupe

**Runtime:** 94 minutes



Shia LaBeouf started performing when he was 10 years old. He became a child star and a young fan favorite working for Disney as the star of the TV show, *Evan Stevens*. The series ended in 2003 after a three-year run and he went on to further fame and fortune with roles in *American Honey*, *Indiana Jones*, three of the many *Transformers*, *Borg vs. McEnroe* and several others.

On July 8, 2017 reportedly at 4 in the morning, LaBeouf, apparently drunk and unruly was arrested. He has a similar experience in 2014. But, this time his tirade at the station was filmed. In October, 2017, LaBeouf was ordered by a judge to get therapy for his substance abuse and anger management issues. The project *Honey Boy* was announced in March 19, 2018 soon after his release of 10 weeks of rehab/therapy.

While in rehab and part of his therapy he was asked to write about his life, particularly, about his childhood and his daddy issues. He described his parents as “hippy” whose marriage split apart when he was young. His father, a three-tour Vietnam veteran, addict, convicted pedophile, served two prison terms, one for attempted rape, and when released from prison became Shia’s roommate and on-set manager. This was shortly after his son was awarded the role for the Disney series.

If your head isn’t spinning yet, let’s go on and think about the movie at hand. Written by Shia Labeouf, while in rehab and starring Labeouf, *Honey Boy* is a story following the life of a young Hollywood actor, Otis (Noah Jupe) for about 10 years starting when he was 10 years old through 22 (Lucas Hedges). His movie father James Loft (Shia Labeouf) joins him as his paid guardian and they live together in a downscale motel near the studio where Otis works.

In spite of what you might think of actor’s generous wages, father and son seem to live from paycheck to paycheck. Their relationship is out and out volatile. Dad can be explosive whenever Otis disagrees with him. Poor little Otis takes the abuse of Dad as an attempt to motivate him to be a better actor. He needs a dad. He wants his dad. This goes on for most of the movie in front of too loud background music to catch all this emotion and Mr. Loft’s blithering diatribes and fits of anger. Finally, at about age 22, Otis finds himself in a rehab facility dealing with issues similar to Dad’s.

Like the movie character Otis, the scriptwriter Shia LaBeouf, was caught acting as a maniac for the second time, ended up in jail and forced to spend 10 weeks in rehab, severely staining his

public persona. Oh, and may have damaged his ability to get future work. But while in rehab his notes of childhood abuse and his claim of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are used as a basis for a script. That script becomes a film shot in LA over three weeks shortly after his release from rehab. It’s gotten a lot of buzz from the press and critics and seemingly, LaBeouf has quickly been rehabilitated, both him personally and his career. You gotta love it. Reputation Management Consultants could not have done better. But maybe, they did?

## A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**Director:** Marielle Heller

**Writers:** Micah Fitzerman-Blue, Noah Harpster

**Stars:** Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys, Chris Cooper, Susan Kelechi Watson

**Runtime:** 121 minutes



Not too long ago, 2018, there was a very good documentary on Fred Rogers and his children’s show, *Fred Rogers’ Neighborhood*. But recently released, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, isn’t so much a story of him and the show as it is about the reach and impact that one man’s goodness and faith had on so many people.

Written by Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster the story follows Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) a seasoned investigative reporter for *Esquire* tasked to write a 400-word profile on Fred Rogers (Tom Hanks). (The actual reporter, Tom Junod preferred his name not be used in the movie.) True to his cynical nature he expects to confirm his view of Fred to be much unlike his television persona. It turns out that Fred is the real deal.

Rogers combined his musical talents (undergraduate degree in music), graduate theological studies (an ordained Presbyterian minister) and sixteen years of writing and TV production (most involving children’s shows) to form the basis of the beloved *Fred Rogers’ Neighborhood* which first aired in 1968. It was to last a total of 33 years.

The show is composed of simple props, a miniature town, hand puppets and a few silly characters. Using these low-tech things and looking directly into the camera and in his slow and measured cadence Mr. Rogers was able to speak directly to every 2 to 5-year-old child looking at him. Against the strong advice of his colleagues, Rogers agrees to the interview with Vogel. What was expected to be a simple interview and a short (negative) profile results in a lifelong friendship and an award-winning lengthy article. As the film progresses, Rogers subtly and touchingly uses his ministerial abilities to help Vogel deal with his own doubts and conflicts with his family.

Some of the scenes are deeply emotional but balanced towards the story of Rogers’ ability to embody the message of the power



of prayer, hope, and forgiveness. After it ends a good movie gives you something to take with you and to think about. *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* is a good movie.

### KNIVES OUT

**Director:** Rian Johnson

**Writer:** Rian Johnson

**Stars:** Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Ana de Armas

**Runtime:** 130 minutes



The wealthy mystery novelist of notable fame, Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) has apparently committed suicide. Except for the anonymous letter to the famous private detective, Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) asking for his intervention the world and lecherous family clan of Mr. Thrombey would have accepted the suicide conclusion.

Detective Benoit shows up at the deceased's huge mansion and immediately confronts and shocks the assembled family clan with his astute observation that Mr. Thrombey would likely not have cut his own throat. Thus, solving the mystery surrounding the death of the mystery writer begins. Director Rian Johnson made his bones as a director with the movie *Brick* in 2005 which he both wrote and directed. His next four movies, all hits, were also written and directed by Johnson. Included in this list was the recent movie *Stars Wars, The Last Jedi*. This puts him among the best writer/directors of popular films enabling him to draw "A" list talent. *Knives Out* presents a smorgasbord of fine actors in roles that push the story of greed and revenge to the limit.

Detective Benoit appears to be as confused as the audience in figuring out this case but in the end he does. Of course, it's difficult and challenging to follow his deep analysis but he finally gets us there. After all, James Bond (Daniel Craig) never fails us. *Knives Out* has a number of comedic moments, a few dramatic ones and provides us with solid entertainment. You'll probably exit thinking, *what the heck just happened*. But not for very long after.

### THE MARRIAGE STORY

**Director:** Noah Baumbach

**Writer:** Noah Baumbach

**Stars:** Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson, Julia Greer, Laura

**Dern, Alan Alda, Ray Liotta, Martha Kelly**

**Runtime:** 139 minutes



The tall, dark and handsome husband Charlie (Adam Driver) is a self-indulgent, super intelligent, loved by everyone and is off-Broadway's up and coming star director. Charlie is universally loved, except by his wife Nicole (Scarlett Johansson). Beautiful spouse and mother Nicole is pretty (no pun intended) much in the same category boat as her handsome husband but she seems to lack the self-indulgent thing. She's tired of living in New York and Charlie's size 15 footsteps and wants to return to her born and raised Los Angeles (really). She is a talented actress, loves LA and thinks she can make it there. Besides she went to NY under the premise that it would be temporary. The opposite of what handsome, self-indulgent husband thought. Oops.

So how does this conundrum of sorts get fixed? Well this is a marriage story that ends in the beginning. However, a divorce story can get dragged out. And telling a divorce story requires the applicable battle between the parties. So, it needs a good fight. For most of the runtime of the movie we watch the custody fight over their beautiful (of course) little boy. "He stays in NY with me." "No, he stays with me in LA." The battle allows the great actors/lawyers Laura Dern, Alan Alda and Ray Liotta to entertain us with their great performances as lawyers we all love to hate. And, for the very good actors, Martha Kelly and Julie Hagerty to lighten things up with their great comedy chops.

As Charlie's lawyer tells him in the middle of the story, "...at the end of this (and all the attorney fees) it's just the two parties having to decide what they want to do." *Marriage Story* is the perfect end to a perfect marriage of perfect actors.

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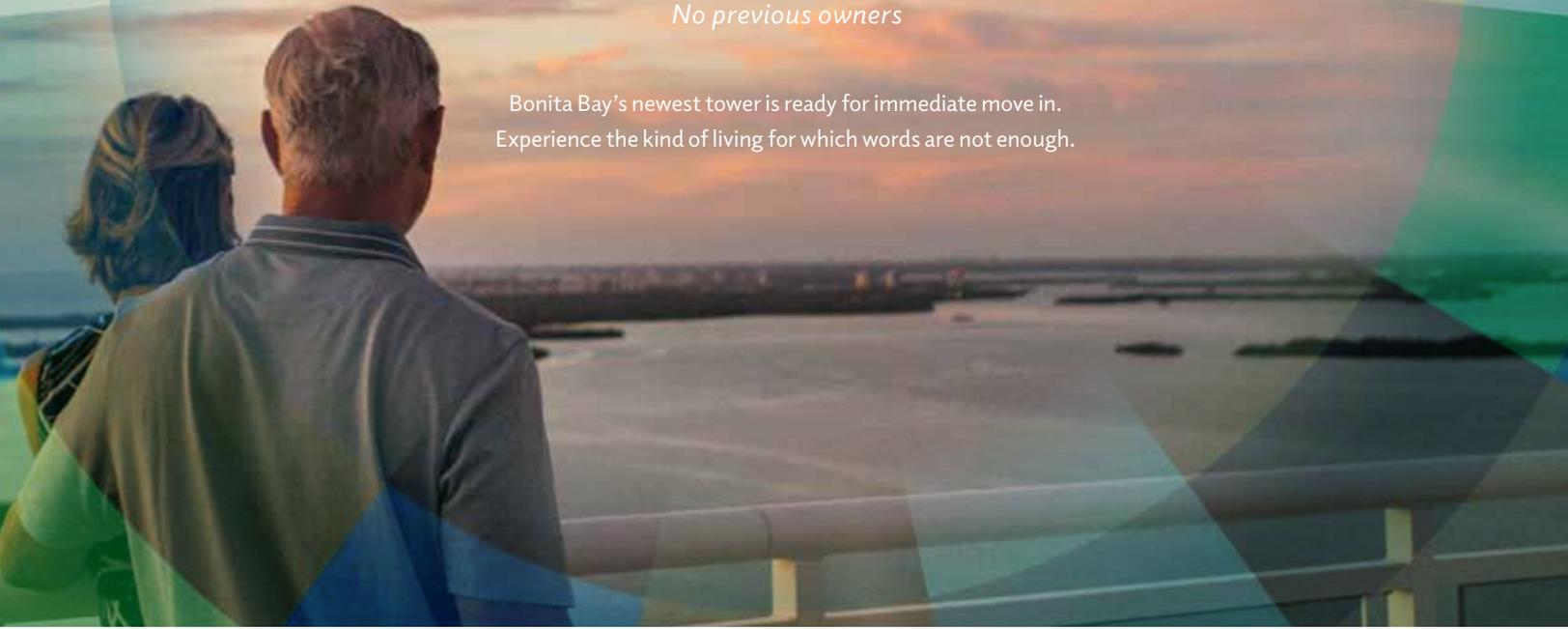
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# No Mulligans Allowed

**MOST PEOPLE** don't think twice about the validation conference for signing their estate planning documents. To them it is routine and a mere formality. However, the Florida rules for signing wills and revocable trusts date back centuries and require strict compliance. Unless every statutory requirement is complied with, your wills and revocable trusts will not be valid.

Florida wills and revocable trusts are not valid unless in writing and signed or acknowledged in the physical presence of at least two attesting witnesses, who must sign their names in the presence of each other and in the physical presence of the testator. A careful lawyer makes sure everyone gathers in the conference room at the same time and no one leaves the room until all have finished signing and notarizing the documents. In my practice, after everyone has signed, I again review all of the signature pages to double check everything was completed correctly, including the unique Florida self-proving affidavit.

These formalities serve as reliable evidence that the testator intended these particular documents to be their legally effective will and revocable trust. They also serve a protective function by minimizing the possibility of fraud in the procurement and provide a single standard for courts to look at determining whether estate planning documents were executed properly.

Florida courts handle several cases yearly addressing the validity of the validation, such as when a testator signed the document alone and then later the witnesses signed, or when the first witness signed and then left the room before the second witness signed the document. In a 2019 Florida Second District Court of Appeal case, a testator signed his first name and then was interrupted by his wife to discuss a particular matter in the will. After the discussion the witnesses and notary signed, but he failed to sign his last name. The court held that half a signature was not sufficient and that the will was not valid. During validation conferences, clients often ask us how they should sign their name, and our answer is always "however you would normally sign it." In the case discussed above, the person customarily signed with both his first and last name. Therefore, leaving off his last name meant he failed to complete his normal signature. Your normal signature may consist of your initials, full name or some other combination. The key point is to sign your name in whatever manner is consistent with your normal signature.

We attempt to avoid having wills and revocable trusts signed outside of our office because we are not able to ensure the strict compliance with the Florida rules. However, from time to time, when a client is up north for the summer and it is critical that the documents be signed immediately because

of a significant change in the documents or the client is not in good health, then we will provide detailed instructions of how the documents should be signed along with sticky notes of where to sign. From our experience, about a third of those documents come back to us improperly signed and this requires the whole process to begin again.

The structure of a validation conference can be even more important when there is a second marriage, unequal distributions among children and when there is diminished capacity. In these circumstances, additional time should be taken to review the documents thoroughly with the client to reduce the likelihood of a contest over undue influence, mistake, fraud or lack of testamentary capacity.

There are no mulligans when it comes time for the validation conference.

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## VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

# When good people have bad ideas

By Charlie Vogt, Montara

**ONE OF THE MANY** nice things about snowbirds returning from the North is greeting old friends, reunited for another season in paradise. This year's returnees will also get reacquainted with some relatively new denizens of Bonita Bay, i.e., the cane toads, also known as Bufo toads. These nasty things are not usually found in Wisconsin or places like that. They are found in Florida, though they are not native to this state either. And unlike snowbirds, these guys don't go away for even a few months. They seem permanent, and unlikely to "go back where they came from" despite many efforts to chase them away. Some hope comes from cold nights, as the little guys don't seem to like getting chilly.

Why call these little toads "nasty" and try to rid ourselves of them? Because, when they get squeezed, their skin oozes a toxic substance that can make a predator sick or die. Not a good thought when you consider all the inquisitive pets we have walking around the neighborhood. One misplaced sniff and disaster could ensue. On top of that they eat little turtles and other things we like having here.

So who are these critters, where did they come from and how did they get from there to here? The answer is: their proper name is *Rhinella Marina*. They come from South America. They're here because they were invited (at least invited to Florida). Another great idea. Nobody is taking credit for being the first to bring these creatures to our shores, but the usual **SUSPECTS COME TO MIND**.

The sugar people (them again) back in the 1930's had trouble with beetles. So they thought to import some big frogs to eat the beetles. It isn't known how long the toads hung around the hot fields (or how many beetles they ate) but they soon hopped the fence (as frogs do) and departed for nicer places to live. They took a liking to shady neighborhoods with swimming pools. Warm Southwest Florida played host to lots of these developments, much to the delight of the Bufos, and eventually

they found Bonita Bay.

Our efforts to get rid of these guys has produced massive piles of captured toads but they seem to be quite prolific. We're emptying the ocean with a thimble. Looks like they're permanent residents. The BBCA has considered paying to have them abated. A price of \$38,000 per year will help clear our common areas. To give an idea of the scope of the problem, one female can deposit as many as 30,000 eggs at a time.

If only our sugar people would have talked to the sugar people in Hawaii, this infestation might have been avoided. There, to get rid of sugar cane rats, they imported mongoose predators. Someone should have told them the mongoose hunts by day and the rats come out only at night. They soon ended up with more of both than they ever dreamed possible.

A similar tactic could be tried here. One species of possum can reportedly eat these toads with impunity. But then we'd end up with a boatload of fat possums.

It could be like the time many years back when we needed to dry up the wetlands so Florida agriculture could better grow things (like sugar cane). So we imported some melaleuca trees from Australia. They soak up water. And soak. And soak. Before long we were overrun with the trees and running out of water. A long, costly (and ongoing) effort has been needed to combat them.

And so it goes. Maybe what we need to combat future disasters is a statewide law: Don't Fool with Mother Nature! But then somebody will come up with a new bright idea.

P.S. This just in: authorities are releasing a special bug "thrips" in the Everglades. THE PLAN is to have them eat up all the Brazilian Peppers that are clogging that ecosystem and our farms. We'll see how that works.

P.P.S. Brazilian Peppers were brought in as a great idea for ornamental landscaping.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Sold Date	Sold Price	Sub/Condo Name	Address	Bedrooms	Baths	Living Area
12/9/19	\$1,450,000	Sanctuary	4332 Sanctuary Way	3 Bed	3	3,428
12/6/19	\$1,510,000	Seaglass	4971 Bonita Bay Boulevard 903	3+Den	3.5	3,088
12/6/19	\$493,500	Wedgewood	26920 Wedgewood Drive 501	3 Bed	2.5	2,274
12/5/19	\$725,000	Lost Lake	27124 Lost Lake Lane	3 Bed	3.5	2,215
12/5/19	\$774,750	Vistas	4751 Bonita Bay Boulevard 301	3 Bed	3	2,616
12/4/19	\$1,550,000	Coconut Isle	26424 Brick Lane	4 Bed	4.5	3,916
12/4/19	\$790,000	Sanctuary	4277 Sanctuary Way	3 Bed	4	2,772
12/4/19	\$294,000	Whiskey Pointe	4021 Whiskey Pointe Lane 202	2 Bed	2	1,345
11/26/19	\$187,000	Wild Pines	3631 Wild Pines Drive 104	1 Bed	1	687
11/22/19	\$394,000	Harbor Lakes	27080 Lake Harbor Court 203	3 Bed	2	1,951
11/21/19	\$500,000	Waterford	26271 Devonshire Court 203	3 Bed	3.5	2,416
11/18/19	\$357,500	Burning Tree	27120 Kindewood Lane	2+Den	2	1,533

# PROMENADE

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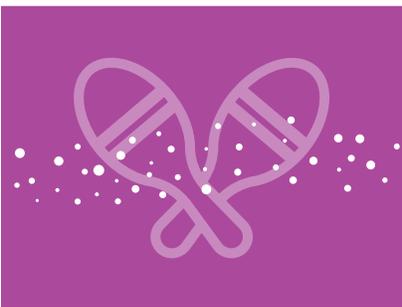
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# Dining Out with Brendan

Brendan Steele, BWN Staff Writer

WHAT ARE YOU in the mood for tonight? Sushi? Italian? Either way, **Cirella's** has you covered! Sure, the two seem crazy to combine into one restaurant, but somehow it works! Over the years, my wife and I have become regulars and it is always one of our first recommendations to our out-of-town guests. We never leave disappointed!

The beautiful thing about this place is the Italian and sushi offerings are on opposite sides of the menu. While the menu and wine list are extensive, you can eliminate half of the options depending on your mood. The sushi menu offers nearly 40 raw and cooked rolls plus sushi and sashimi while the Italian menu features a variety of pasta dishes, flatbreads and pizzas. There is also a full bar, with beer and wine.

My wife and I are sushi lovers and always seem to choose the Captain Platter, an assortment of our favorite sushi that is always fresh and delicious. The platter includes eight slices of sesame ahi tuna sashimi, three pieces of tuna sushi, with a spicy tuna, avocado, asparagus and a scallion martini salad. It is also great to share with others!



This time, however, we were both in the mood for Italian. To start, we ordered the mussels in a white wine sauce. We both chose a glass of Meiomi to pair with our food. We also indulged in the warm bread, garlic knots and olive oil dipping sauce as we looked over the menu for our full course. For dinner, my wife wanted something light. She chose the chicken meatballs topped with mozzarella and the Cirella's salad consisting of romaine, iceberg, olives, red onion,

tomato, provolone, chickpeas, roasted peppers, celery and cucumbers. She chose the small-portion salad and it was more than enough for her. I went with a classic Italian dish, chicken parmigiana served with pasta. The portion was so large that I needed to ask for a take-home box.

Of course, we never leave Cirella's without getting the zeppole, Italian-style fried dough pieces covered in powdered sugar. They are served warm and in a bag that you can shake so all the dough balls are completely covered. The dessert menu also offers cheesecake, tiramisu, chocolate cake and a few ice cream options.

The menu is reasonably priced for the portion sizes and quality. They also have a Happy Hour from 4-6pm with half-priced beer, house wines, cocktails and appetizers. A great deal for great food!

The dining room provides a warm and unique atmosphere with Italian opera masks, a tidy sushi bar and a regular bar. The only drawback is that it is very loud and it makes conversing difficult if seated inside. Luckily there is also a very comfortable seating area located outside that is quieter.

The service at Cirella's is usually great. However, during our recent experience, the restaurant was very busy and the service was slow, which may have been due to the early seasonal wave of snowbirds. This was unlike any of our previous visits in peak season in which they were well prepared to handle a full house without any problems.

I highly recommend visiting Cirella's. Rest assured you will not be disappointed in the food. I also suggest you make a reservation. If you prefer a quiet atmosphere, I recommend requesting a seat outside or going to Harold's up the road (see last month's issue!). With the menu providing both Italian and sushi options, there is something for everyone.

### RATING:

Food: ★★★★★

Decor: ★★★★★

Price: ★★★★★

Overall Experience: ★★★★★



**Shariff Hassan**

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## Techno-Savvy

### ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS ON YOUR PHONE

**WHAT IF YOU'RE USING** your phone to check out what's going on with your NFL or college football team, but the text is far too tiny to read? Or maybe you can read the text with no issue but when you're watching a video it's hard to distinguish what everyone is saying? Maybe the color design of a webpage makes it hard to tell the difference between neighboring hues.

Today we're going to take a closer look at each one of these issues, all of which have to do with something called accessibility. (Note: the explicit instructions here are written for iPhones with the latest software but you would generally follow the same steps on other smart phones!)

In the first scenario, the text is too small to read, or at least to read clearly. What's the fix? The process will be slightly different of course if you're using an iPhone or Android device but generally involves going through the following menus (each menu separated by the ">" symbol):

SETTINGS > ACCESSIBILITY > DISPLAY & FONT SIZE > LARGER TEXT

If you've already cranked up your text size but it's not quite satisfactory, your phone can also be configured to dictate the text to you at any speed you're comfortable with. If using an iPhone:

SETTINGS > ACCESSIBILITY > SPOKEN CONTENT > SPEAK SCREEN

This implements a feature whereby you pull down from the top of the screen with two fingers and you'll get a box that pops up. You can use this to narrate what's on screen. If you don't need that feature but still want some dictation then you can have any text messages received read aloud to you by stating "Hey Siri, read text messages" (it's "Hey Google" on Android phones).

One consideration for software developers is that not everyone who uses the phone can see all the same colors or distinguish between similar hues. For example, if a program is using some text in red for emphasis and green for other highlighted categories, for some folks the difference is indistinguishable. Luckily, almost all contemporary technology has a setting or tool that helps with this issue by doing things like swapping green for blue for example, since people with certain forms of color deficiency see red and green as the same color. To control this setting, there's a submenu located under the visibility portion of the accessibility menu:

SETTINGS > ACCESSIBILITY > DISPLAY & TEXT SIZE > COLOR FILTERS

So what if you're on the phone with someone but it's difficult to make out what they're saying? We're all familiar with closed captions on television, but did you know there are apps that can caption phone calls for you? There are a variety of apps that can provide captions -- such as Subtitles Viewer for iPhone, Clear Captions for phone calls or Live Caption.

Though it's not always obvious, these phones are built, as an industry practice, with user accessibility in mind. In the future these features will become even more integrated and seamless. There are many menus and submenus on your phone, and it may not always be obvious where to find some feature you're thinking of. Often times it's there, you just need to know where to look.

Hopefully now with a little more knowledge, you can get more use out of your technology and use it to make your daily life easier and more seamless.

*Ken Saksa*  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology LLC  
239-410-8603 - krsaksa@gmail.com



# Recipes Ideas

*From Executive Chef and General Manager  
Cory Bass of Backwater Jacks Restaurant*

## CHILLED MAINE LOBSTER PARFAIT

- 12 oz. Maine lobster meat - diced (*except claw - important to have claw knuckle and tail -- this can be accomplished with two 1-pound lobsters that are steamed and meat removed, or you can just buy the meat already pasteurized, but the pasteurized meat won't have as much flavor as doing it yourself!!*)
- 3 whole Haas avocados (*diced into 1/4" pieces, soak in 1:10 ratio of water to lime juice, to keep from browning*)
- 4 oz. of Cajun Dijonnaise (*see recipe below*)
- 2 limes (*cut into wedges*)
- 6 firm sprigs of chive



### Cajun Dijonnaise Recipe

*(Enough for four, with perhaps a little left over -- it's all personal preference)*

- 2 cups mayonnaise (*I would suggest Dukes, because that's the ONLY real mayonnaise*)
- 1/2 cup French Dijon mustard (*Do I need to say Grey Poupon?*)
- 2 Tbsp. of Cajun seasoning (*Paul Prudhomme's Blackening Magic*)
- 1 lemon squeezed (*Squeeze through a sifter to keep the seeds out*)
- 3 tsp. of agave syrup (*in the ethnic section of the grocery store*)

Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a bowl. Should have a nice pink color to it when completely emulsified.

### Plating

In a chilled martini glass, margherita glass or whatever see-through vessel you choose, layer lobster (make sure you season appropriately before), avocado pieces and Cajun Dijonnaise in small amounts as to get several layers. This creates the parfait effect. Go rather easy on the Dijonnaise, as it is a strong flavor, so it would be 1 oz. of lobster, 1 oz. of avocado, 1 tsp. of the Dijonnaise, layered all the way up



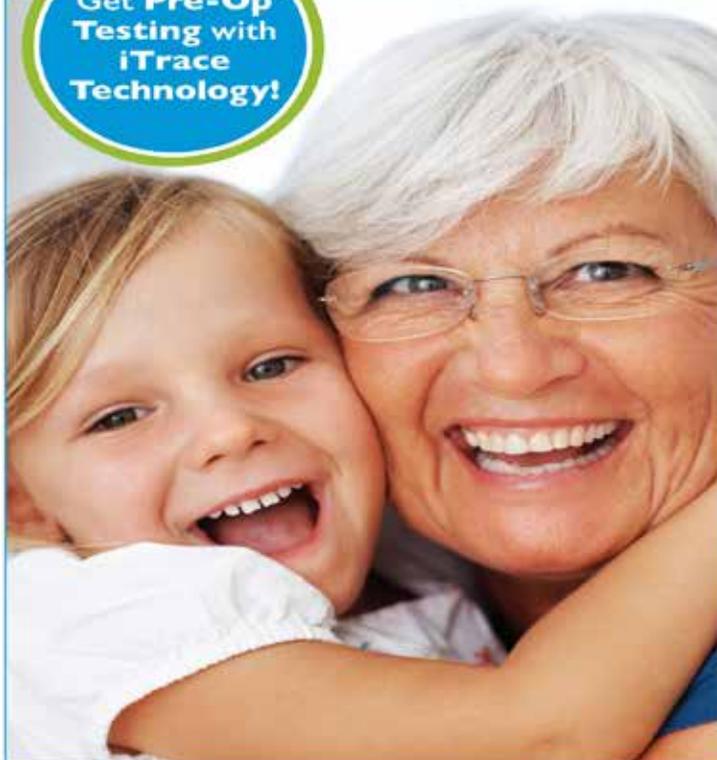
the glass, in alternating layers. When you reach the top of the glass (make sure it's not a jumbo glass), garnish with two lime wedges (cut skin away from fruit on one side of wedge to make a slip for the wedge to fit on the rim upright) and two pretty sprigs of chive.

This is a very simple, yet elegant, recipe to serve at dinner parties or make smaller versions for larger parties (in small little plastic, disposable cups).

Bon Appetit!

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# Bonita Bay 2030: Reimagining the Next Decade

By Darcy Eikenberg, Cracker Cove

**NO SOONER** do the holiday decorations get packed away than the prognosticators and future-tellers blast onto our tv screens, sharing their vision of what the world will look like in the year ahead.

Let's do them one better.

As we barrel at full speed into the Roaring 2020's, let's take a peek a decade down the line, right here in our own backyard.

So, s-t-r-e-t-c-h your imagination and join me in January of **2030**.

Yes, let's envision we're sitting together on the beach, perhaps with a crisp glass of python prosecco (now a South Florida delicacy), and we're looking back at all that's happened since January of 2020.



Bay's landscaping contract is sold to a for-profit offshoot of FGCU. Roadway plots and open spaces are converted to organic hemp farmland, which is planted once a year, saving costs of decorative planting/replanting/planting/replanting. The Hemp Harvest Festival becomes an annual celebration across the community.

The tax benefits of hemp agriculture alone are enough to pay for our new fleet of self-

driving Tesla beach buses, which are now summoned on-demand via smartphone app. Thanks to the explosion of hemp-based products from clothes to housing insulation, the hemp revenue allows Bonita Bay to purchase South Bay Drive's Brookdale senior living center in late 2028. The waiting list grows daily.

## It Starts with The Crash

After the Great Cannabis Crash of 2022, when overly optimistic investments in marijuana-based businesses literally burn down Wall Street overnight, businesses all across the country begin seeking out unique economic advantages.

In our own backyard, the Bonita Bay Club and Bonita Bay Community Association boards suddenly realize that becoming one organization allows them to merge resources and serve their constituents better. Rumor has it that the conversation started after a dramatic bike and golf cart collision on Country Club Drive that sent key board members on both sides to the ER.

As the injured parties consulted Morgan & Morgan (still thriving even after the election of President John Morgan), they discovered no one knew which entity could be sued. Merger conversations began in earnest.

During the transition process, and after paying out-of-state consultants \$735,000 to conduct research and assess strategic branding options, the combined entity is rebranded as ... Bonita Bay.

## But Things Turn Around

The economies of scale allow this new-fangled "Bonita Bay" to innovate and expand its footprint as a top employer in Southwest Florida.

In 2025, the organization completes its buy-out of Highland Woods, beginning the conversion over time to affordable year-round housing for over 700 employees and their families.

Plus, in a breakthrough partnership with the City of Bonita Springs and Bonita Springs Utilities, Highland Woods golf course is converted to focus on watershed conservation and wildlife preservation.

The result of this significant community investment is a proliferation of now-thriving young families. So, the Highland Woods clubhouse is converted to the Shakarian Elementary School. The newly formed SES Junior Bocce team, coached pro bono by the Bonita Bay bocce club, ranks second in the nation by 2029.

In an effort to generate revenue and also to support Vice President Rick Scott's continued efforts to bring jobs to Florida, Bonita

## And Challenges Strike

The decade hasn't all been a bed of rose-flavored hemp, however.

After massive allergic reactions, overflow beds at the newly opened Lee Health Coconut Point Hospital, Bonita Bay recants its mandatory titanium neck chip implant ID for residents and reissues bar code stickers. (It's 1990's technology, but it works.)

We watch as water temperatures accelerated in the Gulf of Mexico, causing the Imperial River to permanently swell and wash away the boardwalks at the Marina. After the second great flood in 2024, Backwater Jack's constructs a sky deck, overlooking the now-risen water directly from the bar. The restaurant is featured in national publications with its innovative plan to catch your dinner real-time as you watch, often while you're sipping your first cocktail.

The 20's see the last set of Baby Boomers retire and consider Southwest Florida as their new home. However, in 2028, Ithaca, New York, hits the lists as a trendy place to retire when heat-sensitive Florida transplants reconsider their southern migration. There've been reports this summer of 2029 that these moves, enabled by Uber car carrier trucks, have also accidentally spread the growth of the dreaded bufo toad, now called "The Hitchhiker."

However, we expect that the former Floridians will have their fill of toad-cicles as the winter months move in soon.

## But You're Probably Not Concerned

When you ask around, though, you discover this. True long-term Bonita Bay residents aren't really concerned with the constant state of changes. In fact, they've embraced it.

Across the decade, our neighbors collectively raise over \$176 million for local charities and provide leadership and direct support for the most important community institutions across Southwest Florida.

Well, I guess some things will never change. Happy new year!

*When she's not dreaming about the future, Darcy Eikenberg coaches leaders and high performing teams so that they're ready for career and business change no matter what the future holds. She also writes regularly at RedCapeRevolution.com, speaks at events around the country and hosts the Bonita Business Podcast.*



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DAY			TIDES FOR LITTLE HICKORY ISLAND					SOLUNAR ACTIVITY
			1 <sup>st</sup> TIDE	2 <sup>nd</sup> TIDE	3 <sup>rd</sup> TIDE	4 <sup>th</sup> TIDE	COEFFICIENT	
1 Wed		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 5:47 pm	3:54 am 1.7 ft ▲	11:16 am 0.0 ft ▼	6:16 pm 1.5 ft ▲	11:42 pm 0.9 ft ▼	48 low	
2 Thu		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 5:48 pm	5:09 am 1.4 ft ▲	11:57 am 0.2 ft ▼	6:49 pm 1.6 ft ▲		34 low	
3 Fri		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 5:49 pm	1:09 am 0.6 ft ▼	6:46 am 1.2 ft ▲	12:38 pm 0.4 ft ▼	7:22 pm 1.8 ft ▲	27 low	
4 Sat		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:49 pm	2:24 am 0.3 ft ▼	8:35 am 1.1 ft ▲	1:19 pm 0.7 ft ▼	7:55 pm 1.9 ft ▲	20 low	
5 Sun		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:50 pm	3:26 am 0.0 ft ▼	10:16 am 1.1 ft ▲	2:00 pm 0.9 ft ▼	8:30 pm 2.0 ft ▲	27 low	
6 Mon		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:51 pm	4:18 am -0.3 ft ▼	11:37 am 1.2 ft ▲	2:40 pm 1.0 ft ▼	9:06 pm 2.2 ft ▲	27 low	
7 Tue		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:51 pm	5:05 am -0.5 ft ▼	12:43 pm 1.2 ft ▲	3:19 pm 1.1 ft ▼	9:44 pm 2.3 ft ▲	41 low	
8 Wed		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:52 pm	5:48 am -0.7 ft ▼	1:36 pm 1.3 ft ▲	3:56 pm 1.2 ft ▼	10:25 pm 2.4 ft ▲	48 low	
9 Thu		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:53 pm	6:31 am -0.9 ft ▼	2:19 pm 1.3 ft ▲	4:33 pm 1.2 ft ▼	11:08 pm 2.6 ft ▲	62 average	
10 Fri		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:54 pm	7:14 am -1.0 ft ▼	2:56 pm 1.2 ft ▲	5:15 pm 1.1 ft ▼	11:54 pm 2.6 ft ▲	76 high	
11 Sat		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:54 pm	7:56 am -1.0 ft ▼	3:27 pm 1.2 ft ▲	6:03 pm 1.1 ft ▼		83 high	
12 Sun		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:55 pm	12:42 am 2.6 ft ▲	8:39 am -1.0 ft ▼	3:55 pm 1.2 ft ▲	6:58 pm 1.0 ft ▼	90 very high	
13 Mon		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:56 pm	1:34 am 2.6 ft ▲	9:21 am -0.9 ft ▼	4:23 pm 1.2 ft ▲	8:03 pm 0.9 ft ▼	97 very high	
14 Tue		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:57 pm	2:29 am 2.4 ft ▲	10:04 am 0.6 ft ▼	4:53 pm 1.3 ft ▲	9:18 pm 0.8 ft ▼	90 very high	
15 Wed		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:57 pm	3:32 am 2.0 ft ▲	10:45 am 0.3 ft ▼	5:24 pm 1.4 ft ▲	10:43 pm 0.6 ft ▼	83 high	
16 Thu		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:58 pm	4:46 am 1.7 ft ▲	11:25 am 0.0 ft ▼	5:59 pm 1.6 ft ▲		76 high	
17 Fri		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 5:59 pm	12:16 am 0.4 ft ▼	6:22 am 1.3 ft ▲	12:05 pm 0.4 ft ▼	6:38 pm 1.8 ft ▲	62 average	
18 Sat		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 6:00 pm	1:49 am 0.1 ft ▼	8:24 am 1.1 ft ▲	12:44 pm 0.7 ft ▼	7:21 pm 2.0 ft ▲	48 low	
19 Sun		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 6:01 pm	3:10 am -0.3 ft ▼	10:30 am 1.1 ft ▲	1:23 pm 0.9 ft ▼	8:08 pm 2.1 ft ▲	41 low	
20 Mon		▲ 7:15 am ▼ 6:01 pm	4:17 am -0.6 ft ▼	12:12 pm 1.1 ft ▲	2:07 pm 1.1 ft ▼	8:58 pm 2.2 ft ▲	41 low	
21 Tue		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 6:02 pm	5:12 am -0.8 ft ▼	9:49 pm 2.3 ft ▲			48 low	
22 Wed		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 6:03 pm	6:00 am -0.9 ft ▼	10:37 pm 2.4 ft ▲			62 average	
23 Thu		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 6:04 pm	6:41 am -0.9 ft ▼	2:30 pm 1.2 ft ▲	4:47 pm 1.1 ft ▼	11:22 pm 2.3 ft ▲	69 average	
24 Fri		▲ 7:14 am ▼ 6:04 pm	7:18 am -0.8 ft ▼	2:49 pm 1.2 ft ▲	5:36 pm 1.1 ft ▼		76 high	
25 Sat		▲ 7:13 am ▼ 6:05 pm	12:04 am 2.3 ft ▲	7:50 am -0.8 ft ▼	3:04 pm 1.2 ft ▲	6:22 pm 1.0 ft ▼	83 high	
26 Sun		▲ 7:13 am ▼ 6:06 pm	12:44 am 2.2 ft ▲	8:20 am -0.6 ft ▼	3:18 pm 1.2 ft ▲	7:10 pm 0.9 ft ▼	83 high	
27 Mon		▲ 7:13 am ▼ 6:07 pm	1:24 am 2.1 ft ▲	8:48 am -0.5 ft ▼	3:32 pm 1.3 ft ▲	7:59 pm 0.8 ft ▼	83 high	
28 Tue		▲ 7:12 am ▼ 6:07 pm	2:06 am 2.0 ft ▲	9:16 am -0.3 ft ▼	3:51 pm 1.4 ft ▲	8:52 pm 0.6 ft ▼	76 high	
29 Wed		▲ 7:12 am ▼ 6:08 pm	2:51 am 1.8 ft ▲	9:44 am -0.2 ft ▼	4:13 pm 1.5 ft ▲	9:50 pm 0.5 ft ▼	69 average	
30 Thu		▲ 7:11 am ▼ 6:09 pm	3:43 am 1.6 ft ▲	10:13 am 0.1 ft ▼	4:40 pm 1.6 ft ▲	10:54 pm 0.4 ft ▼	55 average	
31 Fri		▲ 7:11 am ▼ 6:10 pm	4:45 am 1.3 ft ▲	10:42 am 0.3 ft ▼	5:11 pm 1.7 ft ▲		48 low	

*Solunar activity indicates the most favorable days of the month for catching fish. The strongest activity occurs when there is a full moon or a new moon and is weakest when there is a quarter moon and a three quarter moon.*



# Estero Bay Fishing Report

By Capt. Steve Nagy

**JANUARY MEANS** Sheepshead fishing. These fish are known as the striped bandits and are excellent at stealing bait. These porgies are great table fare, tasty white and flaky meat which can be grilled, blackened or fried.

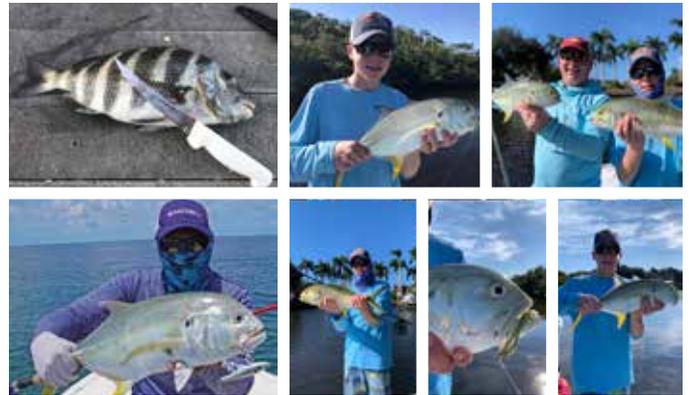
My baits of choice are fiddler crabs, sand fleas and shrimp, all of which work well. Rig any of these baits on a 1/4-3/8 ounce jig head. Cast under docks or bridge pilings, keeping it on the bottom.

If you feel fish pecking at your bait, don't set the hook and don't pull on it, just leave it until the rod tip feels heavy. Then you can set the hook. This is a test of patience and patience will prevail.

The Redfish bite has been good the past few weeks with lots of fish in the 15-22" range. Remember redfish, snook and trout are all closed from Tampa to Gordan Pass Naples.

Pinfish and shrimp work well as bait. I like to use a live shrimp under a popping cork and pin one to the bottom on a knocker rig. This method lets me work the water column from top to bottom.

Jacks are around this time of year and don't disregard them as a trash fish. They are one of the hardest fighting fish pound for pound. They are aggressive, hard-hitting, drag-screaming and eat live bait, cut bait and artificial bait as well. I love to use a top



water plug for them like a Zara Spook or even on fly.

This time of year brings cooler temperatures, beautiful sunrises and sunsets and some really good fishing. Book a fishing trip today and enjoy all that Southwest Florida has to offer on the water.

*Capt. Steve Nagy*  
*www.bonitaspringsfishing.com*  
*239-398-1528*

## The Seasoned Traveler

### TOP THINGS TO DO WORLDWIDE

**ACCORDING TO TRIP ADVISOR**, which gathers information from passengers who contribute voluntarily, the list of "Top Things To Do" is startling!

Do you know the number one top thing to do worldwide? Get a ticket to "Skip the line to see the Vatican, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica Tour." Wow! Not what I expected. But wait till you see the #2 item purchased worldwide ... a ticket to see "Chicago Architecture and River Cruise!" Then we get on to some we'd expect. #3 is "Tuscany in a Day," #4 is Snorkeling Silfra (ICELAND!!!), #5 is Red Rock Canyon Bike Tour in Las Vegas - referring to the area of Sedona, AZ. Then there is the Luxury Canal Tour in Amsterdam combined with the Anne Frank House, the Ubud Tour and Jungle Swing in Bali, an evening food tour by TukTuk in Xi'an China (home of the Terra Cotta Warriors), white water rafting on the North Island in New Zealand, canyoning in Madeira (Portugal), a food and beer tour in Beijing, China by TukTuk, a Barcelona e-Bike photography tour and a cooking class in Chang Mai, Thailand ... really ?

I wonder who has really purchased these items. I've been in the travel business over 50 years and I have never had anyone ask about the Chicago Architecture River Cruise and that's supposed to be the #2 item purchased on the Trip Advisor website-worldwide! Or the Jungle Swing in Bali! And really, snorkeling in ... ICELAND??? How can these be in the top 20 things to do worldwide? What about **my** absolute favorite, Safari in South

Africa or Botswana? Or, seeing the famous Victoria Falls; the stunning stained-glass windows in Saint Chappelle in Paris, or the ones in the Chartres Cathedral; the Pena Place in Sintra, Portugal is very unique and well worth the price of a ticket.

When you visit a particular sight, or do a particular THING, does that become your most memorable event that you would tell others not to miss? The list isn't really about a sight or thing to do that "shouldn't be missed." It's about where people spend their money. What do you spend your ticket money on? Do you visit a place for the accommodations, or the particular sight to see, or the allure of the atmosphere and ambiance? We just visited the Mesa Mota Memorial on the island of Tenerife in the Canary Islands. It was very important for me, and has been on my bucket list for years, but no one ever goes there. In fact, we were the **ONLY** ones there! What is it? Well, I'll let you Google it! It's quite important to the airline/travel industry, but obviously not so important to others!

Do you have something important that you want to see? Something important you want to "do?" Highclere Castle from Downton Abbey is not open to the public all year long! Do it now if that's on your bucket list! Of course, as we all age, our bucket list might change. I'm getting to be a strong believer in Nike's Moto: **JUST DO IT!**

*By Pat Hazen, CTC*  
*Pelican Landing House of Travel*  
*239-948-1000*

# Sudoku Puzzle

Edited by Will Shortz

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

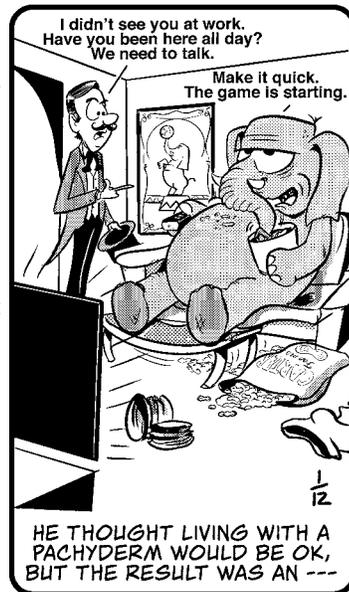
Answers can be found at [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com).  
Click on "Puzzle Answers."

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

GENIOP  
 RVENTA  
 BOAHIP  
 MEHANU  
 CURACE  
 NVIGLI



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○    THE    ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Answers can be found at [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com).  
Click on "Puzzle Answers."

## BB's Animals in the (not so) Wild



BB's Animal In The (Not So) Wild for March is Boomer, a 4-year-old Havanese. He lives with Emory and Karen Waldrop and his older brother Truffles in Marina Pointe. Boomer wins a \$50 gift certificate to one of *Bay Watch News*' favorite pet stores.

Please send a picture of your "Not So Wild" pet to [lauren@bawatchnews.com](mailto:lauren@bawatchnews.com) and you might see them grace the pages of Bay Watch News!

(Editor's Note: Winner is selected by an independent judge.)

## Trivia

- Q1: What is the most popular breakfast cereal in America?
- Q2: The earliest vineyards in California were planted in 1769 by members of which religious order?
- Q3: Who was the Baby Ruth candy bar named after?
- Q4: What two countries are the largest producers of coffee?
- Q5: What laundry detergent's ad tagline was "ring around the collar"?
- Q6: What duo survived a 1909 shootout with Bolivia's cavalry, according to historians?

A1: Frosted Flakes A2: Franciscan Monks A3: Ruth Cleveland, daughter of President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland, the first baby girl ever born in the White House A4: Colombia and Brazil A5: Wisk A6: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid



# Profiles Around Bonita Bay

By Dick Connelly, Woodlake

## Know Your Waitress—Michele Glenn

Sitting at your table at the 55<sup>th</sup> Hole, your cocktail is often delivered by Michele Glenn, the pretty blond waitress. It's possible you never realized that she has **PARACHUTED OUT OF AIRPLANES MORE THAN 600 TIMES!**



"I started sky diving several years ago and I made my first jump on my birthday in 2010," Michele says. "I've been hooked ever since."

She starts at 14,500 feet with other sky divers. As they fall to Earth, they hit 120 miles per hour. At 3,500 feet, she opens her parachute and glides to the ground.

When she lands, she's only going about 10 mph and the impact is minimal. She sky dives at an airfield in Clewiston, FL a little more than an hour away at Lake Okeechobee. The aircraft she jumps from is an 18-passenger Super Caravan.

Michele sky dives more than once a week, often performing aerial gymnastics with other divers. The group forms patterns as they descend at about 1,000 feet a minute. One team she dives with can have as many as 20 participants and is called "Critical Mass." She is also a member of a smaller group called "Four Play."

So what does sky diving training cost? Michele says you generally start with a course that runs 25 sessions and costs about \$2,500. It involves eight ground course sessions, then you start jumping out of the aircraft with a coach to whom you are physically attached. And yes, the coach has a spare parachute as part of his gear. If you progress well, you are allowed to jump by yourself on your 17<sup>th</sup> dive.

When you become a full-time jumper, you are then expected to get a license from the U. S. Paratroopers Association.

How does all this relate to the Bonita Bay Club? Michele (Glenn née Buschbacher) is originally from Michigan and has worked at BBC for more than 10 years. During this time, she has encouraged club members to try sky diving. Norm Roberts is one.

"She arranged for me to sky dive some years ago and I would describe it as wonderfully exhilarating," Norm said. When you leave the plane, the noise is intense, he said, but then the chute opens, and it's wonderfully quiet. And when you land, there no sense of any impact.

Haydn Matthews did two jumps a few years ago at Michele's encouragement. "The first one I did with my daughter and while I was very impressed, I did get dizzy while descending. But the second dive went fine. It's far safer than you would imagine."

Five years ago, Janie Gill was persuaded by Michele to sky dive and loved it. "It was a most wonderful experience," she said, but hasn't dived again.

Another club member who Michele got interested in sky diving is Pat Joyce. "I just did one jump. We didn't tell our kids what I was doing and when I told them after I'd jumped, they said, 'Mom, are you nuts?'"

## Know Your Pro—Hugh Vaughn

One of our busiest golf professionals at Bonita Bay is Hugh Vaughn. He gives an average of five lessons a day, starting as early as 7 am and ending as late as 6 pm. And amazingly, he maintains his sanity.



"I've been giving lessons for more than 30 years," he says, "and I find these sessions challenging and helpful."

He started playing golf when he was 11 years old and, at one point, while on a golf scholarship at Florida Southern College, he was a +3 handicap.

Born in Hershey, PA, Hugh was inspired to take up golf by his uncle Mike Souchak, a tour pro who won several tour events in the 70's. Hugh turned pro in 1988 and worked at several golf clubs in Pennsylvania, including Carlisle CC, Saucon Valley CC, the Country Club of York and St. David's CC in Wayne.

He came to Bonita Bay in 2001, then moved here full time in 2004. He has given more than 300 lessons over the years. Perhaps his most memorable was a woman whose right wrist was paralyzed from polio. He taught her to play golf using just her left arm. "That was the most satisfying series of lessons I've ever given," he said. He also taught a man to relax his hands and arms, slow his tempo and finish his turn. The man gained 40 yards on his tee shots.

Hugh gave a playing lesson many years ago to NBA legend Charles Barkley. "He needed help with his short game and I was able to assist," Hugh said.

The lowest score Hugh ever shot was a 62 in a tournament in 1977. And he's had only one hole-in-one.

## Know Your Guard—Norm Kaye

Norm Kaye works the North Gate on a regular basis and has been doing so for 15 years. "I enjoy dealing with people," he says. "And the people who come by, to see family or friends or come for business reasons are very nice to deal with."



How often are visitors rejected? "I'd say only about one in 50," he said.

Norm was born and reared in Chicago and spent his career in Education. He received his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education at Northern Illinois University in 1953. He then joined the staff at Lincoln College near Bloomington, IL where he worked for seven years.

His next assignment was the University of South Florida in Tampa where he started a Peace Corp Program. His longest education assignment was at St. Leo's College north of Tampa where he worked from 1966 to 1993. At St. Leo's, he chaired the Physical Education Department and oversaw all athletics.

Norm retired from education and came to SWFL to be with his son and grandkids or as he described it, "become the family baby sitter." But then in 2004, probably a little restless (because he's now only 88 years old), he joined the Guard staff at Bonita Bay and started working the North Gate. He works an 8 or 10-hour shift for four or five days a week.

So sometime, if you'd like to meet an extremely articulate, friendly and chatty man, come in through the North Gate and take the left entry lane. You'll enjoy a brief visit.



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# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Will Shortz

## OPPOSITION LEADERS

by Mike Shenk

*Don't get us started!*

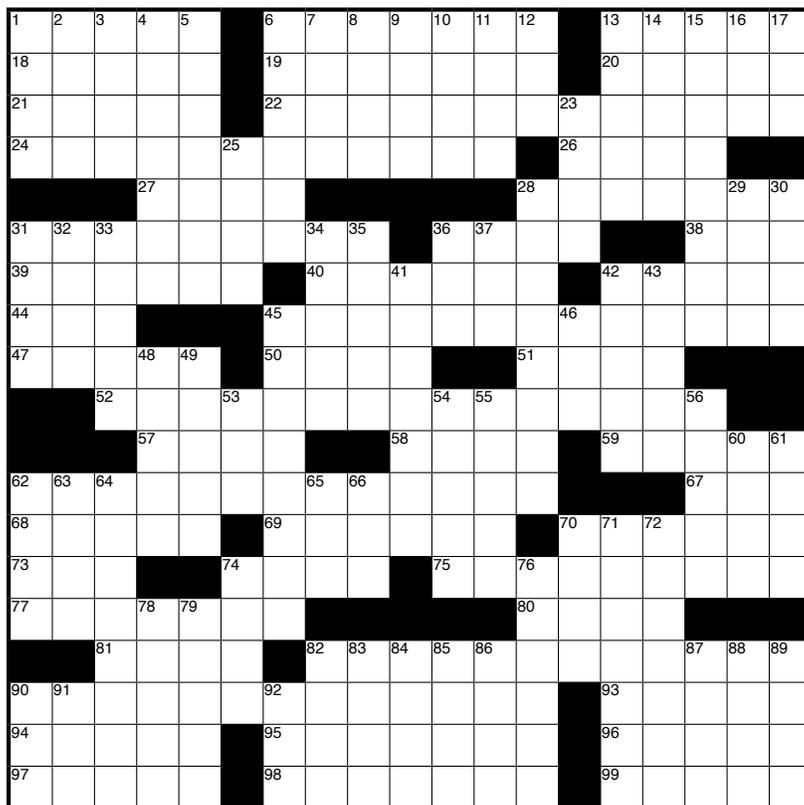
### ACROSS

- 1 Orange impression
- 6 Dozens of clowns, perhaps
- 13 Ottoman official
- 18 Echo answerer
- 19 Gonna soon
- 20 Color of mustard
- 21 Rosalynn's successor in the White House
- 22 Chemise that's free of static cling?
- 24 Where immunologists browse the aisles?
- 26 Actor Schreiber
- 27 Its work is picking up
- 28 Predetermined time
- 31 Followed
- 36 Hunky-dory
- 38 Basket hoop
- 39 Dwight who won a 1985 Cy Young Award
- 40 In a nonchalant manner
- 42 Taking stock, e.g.
- 44 Bug
- 45 Fruit of the Loom knockoffs, say?
- 47 World's smallest island nation
- 50 Usual fare
- 51 Parched
- 52 Functions served by red herrings in mysteries?
- 57 Bill killer
- 58 Recess
- 59 Acid quality
- 62 Divorce seeker's justification that's not warranted?
- 67 Chit
- 68 Young turkey
- 69 21st Amendment, e.g.
- 70 Completely mystify
- 73 Letters on many Delta baggage tags
- 74 Softheaded
- 75 Hedonists
- 77 Verizon's biz
- 80 Stylish enthusiasm

- 81 \_\_\_ Bradley, first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 82 Act as a divorce lawyer?
- 90 What bad calligraphers do?
- 93 Cell part
- 94 Bring together
- 95 There's a lot of talk about it
- 96 Confine to port during the winter, say
- 97 Largish musical group
- 98 Source of edamame
- 99 Handed over

### DOWN

- 1 Pop-pop's spouse
- 2 Mathematician Turing
- 3 Let out pent-up feelings
- 4 Keyed-up
- 5 Reveal
- 6 Frank
- 7 Beyoncé hit "If I Were \_\_\_"
- 8 Howard and Paul
- 9 Growing profusely
- 10 Man's name that's an Italian number
- 11 "Take \_\_\_ from me ..."
- 12 Clinic V.I.P.
- 13 Put forward
- 14 Had a hankering
- 15 Mock serenade for newlyweds
- 16 Bunny boss, familiarly
- 17 Critical concern
- 23 "Flower Myth" painter
- 25 Field workers
- 28 Birds that sing while they fly
- 29 Contretemps
- 30 CPR performers
- 31 Not "fer"
- 32 Young explorer
- 33 Piffle
- 34 Shire of "Rocky"



30 MINUTES / 112 WORDS

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(www.crosswordtournament.com)

- 35 Blotto
- 36 What's up?
- 37 Following
- 41 Following
- 42 Quavering sound
- 43 Pitcher Nomo
- 45 Biohazard symbol, e.g.
- 46 Frat bud
- 48 Challenger
- 49 Beginning of a fitness motto
- 53 Copier tray abbr.
- 54 Singers Gaye and Hendryx
- 55 Devout
- 56 "A Tale of a Tub" writer
- 60 Object of a 1909 "race"
- 61 Shades
- 62 Get \_\_\_ the crack of dawn
- 63 Coin's counterpart
- 64 Talking nonsense
- 65 Field worker, informally
- 66 Be decisive
- 70 Like Elmer Fudd
- 71 Language of the Apostles
- 72 Back in business
- 74 Campus digs
- 76 "Soap" spinoff
- 78 Play broadly
- 79 Proofer's pointer
- 82 Show to potential buyers
- 83 Humble reply to "Great job!"
- 84 Wild guess
- 85 Venerable saint
- 86 Diva delivery
- 87 \_\_\_ the line (obeyed)
- 88 Music's Brickell
- 89 Post
- 90 Small musical group
- 91 SASE, e.g.
- 92 \_\_\_ Islas Canarias

Crossword puzzle sponsored by:

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**BMW-Z8**, Rare Classic Roadster, 2001, V8 400 HP, silver, with red/black leather interior, black convertible top, plus silver hard top. 36,500 miles, excellent condition. For details and pricing, call original owner, Mike. Hidden Harbor, Bonita Bay, (612) 860-4807.

**BOAT FOR SALE** - Avon 640 Adventure rigid inflatable rescue boat. 2015 Yamaha 115 hp motor, under 20 hours. 40+ mph. \$10,000. Call (239) 390-2049.

## Miscellaneous for Sale

**SIX GRAND OPENING COMMEMORATIVE PLATES** of Bonita Bay's golf courses. They are in original box, and never used. There is one for 1990 Creekside, 1993 Marsh, 1994 Bay Island, 1997 Cypress & 2 for 1998 Sabal. Would be a wonderful gift for someone. Best offer. Call (239) 992 3071.

**3 WOOD FRAMED DRAWINGS** (approx 28x22). Drawings of 3 different corals in blue ink on cream background; sold together \$150. If interested in seeing please email for file to download helenescolnick@hotmail.com.

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**BEAUTIFUL VINTAGE FINE CHINA.** Two sets in pristine condition have been in the family since the 1950s and 1960s. To see the items, call Carolyn Gallagher (239) 949-0949, or cell (703) 785-3052. Will negotiate. The Rosenthal Aida pattern has service for 8, 84 pieces, many hard to find serving pieces. White background small blue and pink flowers with green leaves. Starting \$300. - The Syracuse Arcadia pattern has an ivory background with delicate arches of flowers (pink, blue) around the edges. There are 70 items: 10 each of dinner plates, salad plates, dessert plates, small bowls, soup bowls. Set of 8 cups and saucers; lidded sugar bowl and creamer; large serving bowl and large platter. Starting \$300. Call Carolyn at (239) 949-0949, or cell (703) 785-3052.

**RENAISSANCE GOWN.** Beautiful, handmade, Renaissance gown, historically accurate, \$100. The overdress is a lovely dark green velvet with metallic design. It has a light-green satin underskirt and long, light-green sheer sleeves. In keeping with Renaissance style, the matching velvet sleeves can be attached over the sheer sleeves. Dress fits about a size 8. This was a custom-made

dress, worn once for a Mardi Gras ball, and would be a wonderful Halloween costume. Call Carolyn at (239) 949- 0949, or cell (703) 785-3052.

**POOL COVER.** Approximately 15" by 30" insulated "Plastic bubble" cover, \$30. Call Carolyn at (239) 949-0949, or cell (703) 785-3052.

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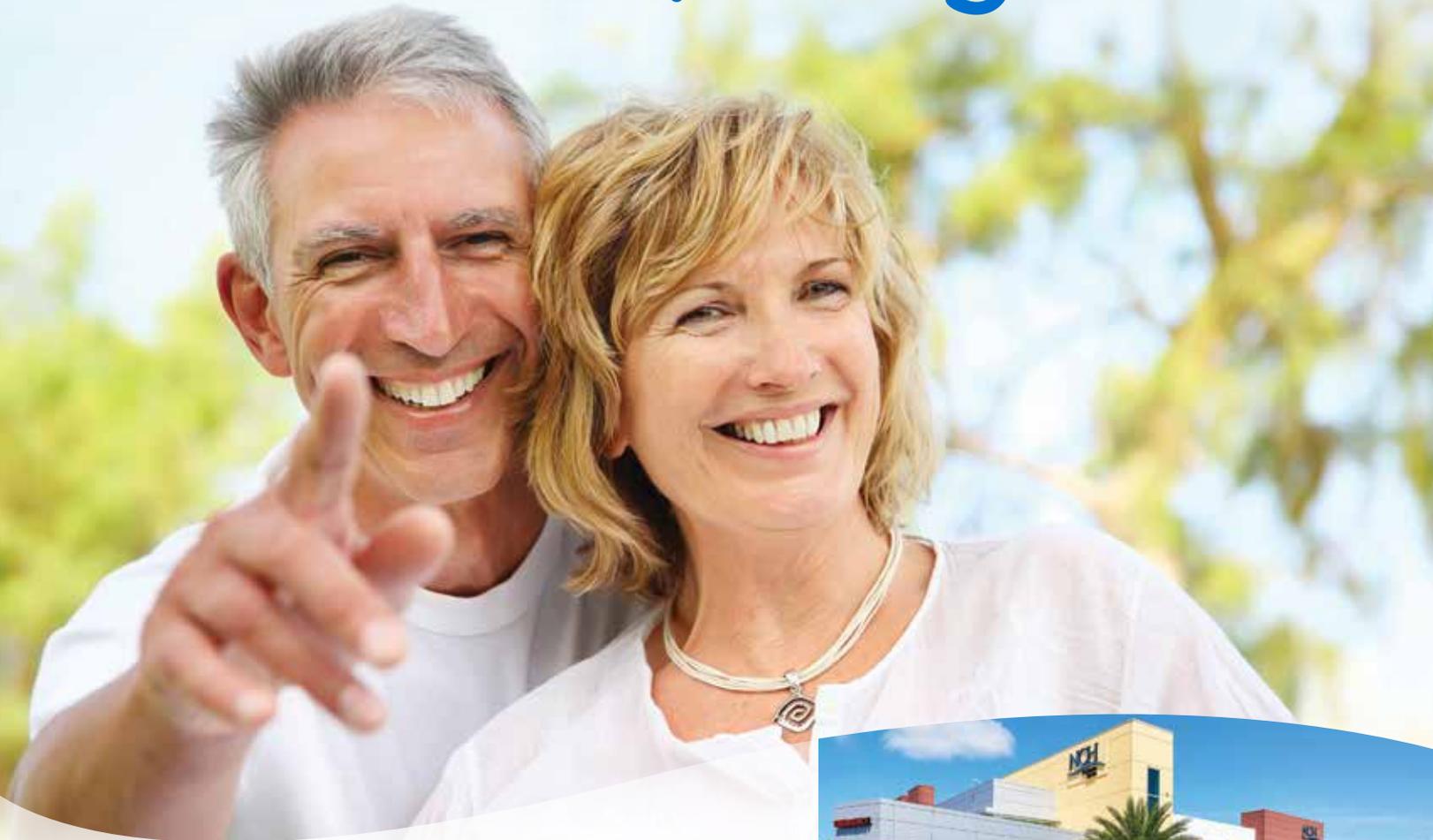
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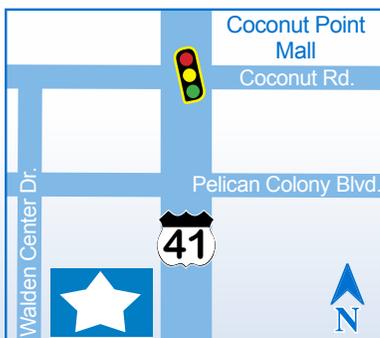


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