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EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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In A Funk By Butch Swank - butch@goodladandswank.com



Photo: Butch Swank, President of Southwest Florida Business Alliance; Owner of Goodlad & Swank Insurance, LLC

I was at the doctor's and was being prepped for a little procedure. While being stabbed with needles filled with anesthetics, the nurse and I had an interesting conversation. It began with how a lot of people seem so tired, irritable, anxious, and just plain hopeless these days. Today, basically, everyone is racing around with too much to do, and everyone you encounter is in the same boat. Yet, some seem quite happy, while others appear miserable.

We were wondering what had changed. Obviously, social media has an outsized influence on everyone. Even if you're not on it, you 100% know someone who is that will readily spout off all kinds of disturbing facts to you about the current state of the world. That behavior is a result of a computer program known as "The Algorithm," and it is widely understood now that social media realized a long time ago, using their algorithms to determine what works best for each user, that people stay on their phones much longer if fed unsettling content versus happy content. In short, the bad news keeps you glued to your phone, so social media companies, to stay profitable, make darn sure to keep your

outrage levels as high as possible. The other item is that we no longer have news organizations. We have propaganda arms based on capitalism. They feed their customers what they want to hear, regardless of the truth, because to keep their business afloat, they selectively cover news they know their customer base will like, and, again, it is rarely something positive. It's, I believe, unintentional, but this results in a divided populace despite us genuinely having so much in common. These two are compelling, but I have a more profound reason to offer.

I have a handful of people that I hold dear that, when speaking with them, I hear these words repeatedly: exhausted, anxious, tired, sad, angry. I feel terrible for them, and it's their own doing. I've nudged more than a few times that perhaps your "diet of news" could be the source, and maybe to put your phone down a whole lot more often. I'm told that is most certainly not the case, and it's just how awful everything is that bothers them. I read a fascinating article quite a while ago that hadn't sunk in until now. It said that this behavior of theirs is called a secular religion. Secular means, I had to look it up, "denoting attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis." Odd, right? A religion based on no religion! In time, it began to make sense because if

you removed the higher power and beauty from religion, you would end up pretty miserable. Having to be faithful to a religion that can only offer outrage with no upside seems pointless and depressing.

So, about a year and a half ago, I made a conscious decision out of intellectual curiosity to take my family to church. I was raised in a household that simply never went to church, and my only experience there was at weddings and funerals. You don't really get to know the vibe of a church in those situations. I was curious about what drew people week in and week out to churches. At first, the songs annoyed me, but the people, unsurprisingly, right from the get-go, were so welcoming and nice to be around. In time, I found my groove and started to feel the songs rather than just recite the words. A bit further down the road, I had several moments of profound beauty that kind of snuck up on me, and I found myself quite emotional, which is not typical of me. The pastor said that was not uncommon and that she regularly sees tears of joy during a service. Now, she totally could just have been saying this so that I didn't feel like such a giant wuss, but I'm going to stick with her story. Also, the more I went, the better I got to know everyone, and in doing so, I realized we represented so many different walks of life, yet it sure felt

like we were all a big family.

Ok, ok, I will get to my point. Our news and social media aren't doing us any favors. If you are finding yourself in a funk, I say, at a minimum, really re-think what you allow yourself to see each day. The solution here is easy - change. Blind Melon has a song with a great lyric - "When life is hard, you have to change." Being anxious and demoralized makes you think everything is happening TO you. It takes away the ability to realize that you are in control of your life and that change is possible. Finally, if you're truly miserable, GO to church. I triple-dog dare you! It will be odd initially but hang in there and stick around for a couple of months. I strongly feel that a lot of what was bothering you will be replaced by a newfound appreciation for life and your fellow man. You will WANT to be a better you, and in my book, trying to become just a little better each day is one of the most effective recipes for a better life. Both humans and religion have been around for thousands of years, and the benefits of faith have undoubtedly helped humans as a whole to grow and develop. So, regardless of whether you're in this secular religion, if you're feeling low, start going to different churches, find one you like, and then stick around for a while. Speaking from my own experience, I am confident you will not regret it! 🍏

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Casino Royale Sets Fundraising Record Submitted By Rob Spicker

The Animal Refuge Center is proud to announce the 10th Annual Casino Royale raised a record amount of donations. Preliminary figures indicate \$50,000 was raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, the live auction and raffle.

“We are thrilled the community has once again been so generous in its support of the ARC,” said Board Vice President Rob Spicker. “All the proceeds will allow us to continue providing care to cats and dogs in Southwest Florida, who through no fault of their own, find themselves homeless, injured or abandoned. Thank you to everyone who came and helped support our mission.”

Guests at Casino Royale played

the night away at the craps, blackjack and poker tables or tried their luck at roulette. A buffet dinner was provided by the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. Nine items were featured in the live auction, including two 7-night trips to Antigua. At the end of the night, guests cashed their winnings in for raffle tickets to try and win one of a dozen baskets and prizes.

This year’s Casino Royale was presented by Paul and Rosalie Watson. The next major fundraiser for the Animal Refuge Center is the Starlight Auction on November 25th at the Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. Sponsorship information will be available soon at www.animalrefugecenter.com



Photo: 10th Annual Casino Royale

The Animal Refuge Center is Southwest Florida’s largest no-kill shelter. Our philosophy avows that once an animal is accepted for adoption, it will not be destroyed to make

room for another. Our mission is to shelter, adopt and educate. All donations go directly to our efforts to care for and find homes for as many animals as we can. 🍎

Women’s Montage Club By Rita Artwoh

The Montage Women’s Club is a social and philanthropic club open to all women residing in Lee County. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Club at Pelican Preserve, 9802 Pelican Preserve Blvd, Fort Myers 33913 (community entry off Treeline Avenue between Colonial Blvd and Daniels Pkwy). There is a short social period beginning at 10:30 a.m., a business meeting at 11:15 a.m., lunch at Noon and an informative speaker program at 1:00 p.m. The meeting adjourns at 2:00 p.m. Within the organization are

various interest groups for members’ participation. Membership is open to both year-round and seasonal residents. We encourage you to visit Montage.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24th. Our speaker will be Tiffany Wood, Crime Prevention Specialist from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office (Community Response Unit). Officer Wood will address “Frauds, Scams and Cons,” which can occur in a variety of different ways, and she will give us advice

on how to ask and answer the question: “Does it sound too good to be true?”

Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and the menu selections will be either the regular entree of roasted airline breast of chicken (in a mushroom and tomato demi) mashed Yukon potatoes, sauteed spinach, and flourless Chocolate Cake for dessert. The plant-based vegan entree will be carrot Osso (slow roasted carrots, mushrooms, tomato, vegetable demi) veg-an mashed potatoes, sauteed spinach

and fresh fruit for dessert.

Montage Women’s Club is currently at their maximum number of 125 members permitted by our Club By-Laws, but we maintain a waiting list and when a slot becomes available, interested women are contacted to join. If you would like to attend a Montage meeting, need further information, or would like to make a reservation, please call Rita Artwoh at (239) 703-7787. Reservations cut-off to attend this meeting is Noon, Thursday, August 17th. 🍎



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State Of The Region Announcement Submitted By Alexa Wespiser

State of the Region will place a strong emphasis on SWFL Inc.'s policy priorities, centering around crucial areas such as workforce housing and talent development. This event will also encompass an array of topics including transportation, infrastructure, and the challenges arising from the region's increasing population and projected growth. "State of the Region brings together a diverse lineup of speakers and panelists from various parts of Florida, all gathering to delve into the discussions surrounding the trends, economics, and policies that have a direct impact on Southwest Florida's Community," said Tiffany Esposito.

Join us for an in-depth exploration of these critical subjects, engaging in solution-oriented discussions on how Southwest Florida can effectively overcome the challenges that our businesses encounter daily. State of the Region will be held on Thursday, September 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the esteemed Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. Tickets can be conveniently purchased at www.swflinc.com/sotr. For any inquiries or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please feel free to contact

Hannah Phillips, SWFL Inc.'s Director of Programs and Events, at Hannah@SWFLinc.com.

At SWFL Inc., we are dedicated to the well-being, safeguarding, and advancement of businesses in Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties. To fulfill this commitment, we actively pursue viable solutions that foster business success we strongly encourage you to visit our website and explore the "Development" section. Here, you will discover valuable insights into our legislative priorities, as well as contact information for the federal, state, and county elected officials representing Southwest Florida. This ensures that your voice is effectively heard and considered. Additionally, you will find The Florida Scorecard™, an interactive online tool that identifies and monitors key metrics crucial to Florida's present and future economy.

If you are unable to attend the State of the Region event, but still wish to stay informed about legislative updates and actively contribute to shaping our community's future, we warmly invite you to subscribe to SWFL Inc.'s email updates. If you'd



Photo: State Of The Region Event

like to start receiving legislative updates from our team via email, please contact Tiffany@SWFLinc.com. We send out advocacy updates every two weeks to keep you informed on current issues impacting our region and how we can make a difference together.

ABOUT SWFL INC.

SWFL Inc. is a regional Chamber of Commerce serving businesses in Lee, Collier and Charlotte Counties.

We connect businesses to a re-

gional network of customers, offer educational resources to help them grow in a modern economy, and actively work to solve regional issues that impact the business community.

For more information, please contact SWFL Inc on their website at www.swflinc.com/contact-us/ or give them a call at: (239) 992-2943.



Summer Health Care Series

AUGUST IS HEALTH CARE MONTH AT FOUNTAIN CREST

Things are heating up! Join us as we welcome summer with an August Health Care Series. Enjoy refreshments, and door prizes. **Shawn Troyer of SWFL Mobile Therapy will be hosting the seminars.**

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THURSDAY 8/17 1:00 - BEAT THE HEAT - STAY HYDRATED

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The state will provide \$2 for every \$1 paid towards authorized mitigation projects (up to 2/3 of the project cost or \$10,000). Additionally, there is **NO STATE SALES TAX** on impact-resistant doors, garage doors, and windows until June 30th, 2024.

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By participating in the program, the home's insurance premiums may lower, and the value of the property may increase. After a major storm like Hurricane Ian, buyers are looking for homes that are safer and give them peace of mind.

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August Programs at Riverdale Public Library Submitted By Joan LaGuardia

Next month's roster of activities at Riverdale Public Library offers topics for adults and children. The following activities are free to the public:

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **English Café** - 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Free informal, conversation sessions for adult ESOL/ESL students.
- **Knit and Stitch** - 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 2, 16
A casual, self-guided group of knitters and crocheters that join together to share projects,

ideas and techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring their own projects and tools. Basic materials and supplies are available for newcomers.

- **Book Discussion** - 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 3
Join us as we launch a new book discussion group. For this gathering, there is no pre-selected title. We encourage you to come prepared to discuss your personal pick, whether it's a recent read or a longtime favorite. As the group grows, we will transition to monthly group reads selected several months in ad-

vance, chosen with input from the group.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- **Building with Big Bricks** - 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18
Join us for a short story and Lego building activities. Legos provided for use during this program.
- **Play-Doh Playdate** - 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25
Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join us for a morning of squishy Play-Doh fun. You will build early literacy skills through play.

ABOUT THE RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Riverdale Public Library is located at 2421 Buckingham Road in Fort Myers. For more information about a program or to register, please call the library at (239) 533-4370. Check the Lee County Library System's Web site at www.leelibrary.net to find out about programs at other locations. Call the host library, or Telephone Reference at (239) 479-INFO (4636), for more information about a specific program. 🍏

August Programs at East County Regional Library

Submitted By Courtney Barr

Next month's roster of activities at East County Regional Library offers topics for all ages. The following activities are free to the public:

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **English Café** - 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Free informal conversation sessions for adult ESOL/ESL students.
- **Chess Anyone?** - 2 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28
Rise to the chess challenge and join the fun. Chess enthusiasts of all ages are welcome. Bring your own chess set or use one of ours.
- **Book Discussion: "Jacqueline in Paris"** by Ann Mah - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7
In August 1949, Jacqueline Bouvier arrives in postwar Paris to begin her junior year abroad. Evocative, sensitive and rich in historic detail, "Jacqueline in Paris" portrays the origin story of an American icon.
- **Download Drop-In** - 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 8, 22
Receive personalized help downloading e-books, movies, music and more from Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla, two of Lee County Library System's largest online content providers. Bring your fully charged digital device for this hands-on help session. Note: Please bring any passwords you may need for downloading apps. Kindle users will also need an Amazon account and their password for accessing it.
- **Knit and Stitch** - 5 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 9, 23
A casual, self-guided group of knitters and crocheters that

join together to share projects, ideas and techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring their own projects and tools. Basic materials and supplies are available for newcomers.

- **Lehigh Acres Job Fair** - 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9
Visit the job fair, meet employers and learn about opportunities. This event is free and open to the public. Presented by Goodwill SWFL in partnership with East County Regional Library.
- **Phone and Email Etiquette** - 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9
Here for the job fair? Drop in for our phone and email etiquette workshop. Learn about personal versus professional etiquette to enhance your work performance.
- **East County Craft Club: Beach Towel Tie-Dye** - 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12
Learn and practice different tie-dyeing techniques and create unique designs on white towels. This program is intended for ages 18 and up. Registration is required.
- **Stretch Your Grocery Dollars** - 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18
There are many ways to save on food and eat well without breaking the bank. Learn about budgeting in this session presented by Humana.

of \$8 in one session. Please bring your library card.

- **Read to Dogs** - 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12
Join us at the library for reading to dogs. The dogs are registered therapy animals who volunteer with their owner/handlers as a team to help improve the literacy skills of children. Children can read down fines or just develop a love of reading through reading to dogs.
- **Bubble Dance Party** - 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17
Families with children through age five are invited to dance, sing and play with bubbles.
- **Preschool Play Date** - 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 24
Children through age five and their caregivers are invited to this special play date. Meet new friends while developing early literacy skills through free play with games, toys and music.
- **Family Movie** - 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26
Start the weekend with a movie. Children ages 6-11 and their caregivers are invited to join us for a family-friendly movie. You bring the snacks and we will provide the movie. Call the library for the movie title before the event. The movie shown will be rated G or PG.
- **Little STEAM Explorers** - 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 31
Children ages 2-5 and their caregivers will have the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts through activities, stories and crafts.

28 - 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19

- Children and teens can earn a \$2 credit on overdue fines for every 15 minutes they read in the designated area for a total of \$8 in one session. Please bring your library card.
- **Library Teen Talk** - 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 15, 22, 29 | 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16 | 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17
High school teens are invited to the library for a discussion about current events, everyday life, library resources and more. Teens will be encouraged to post an answer to a weekly question while socializing and making new friends.
- **TAG: Teen Advisory Group** - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29
Be a part of the East County Regional Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and help make your library's teen area the place to be. TAG members assist with program planning, suggest book titles and help create displays in the teen area. Service hours and light snacks provided. For teens, ages 12-17.

ABOUT THE EAST COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

The East County Regional Library is located at 881 Gunnery Road in Lehigh Acres. For more information about a program or to register, please call the library at (239) 533-4200. Check the Lee County Library System's website at www.leelibrary.net to find out about programs at other locations. Call the host library, or Telephone Reference at (239) 479-INFO (4636), for more information about a specific program. 🍏

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- **Kids Read Down Fines** - 2 - 6 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 1 - 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19
Children and teens can earn a \$2 credit on overdue fines for every 15 minutes they read in the designated area for a total

TEEN PROGRAMS

- **Kids Read Down Fines** - 2 - 6 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 7, 14, 21,



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What Would We Do If a Boeing 737 Crashed at RSW Every Year?

By Terri Lewis

Lee County continues to have an increasing number of fatalities on the roads. We **must** work together to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

In 2022, there were 133 fatalities total. If we were best-in-class for safe roads, **120 people could have been with their families for the end-of-year holidays.** These are unnecessary losses of lives. The total fatalities in Lee County are comparable to a Boeing 737 crashing at RSW every year. Think about how we would react if a plane crashed yearly at the airport!

If this trend continues, Lee County looks to set another increase in fatalities in 2023. We **must** reverse the trend. Our target must be zero.

We strongly encourage governmental agencies, law enforcement, and the community to come together to reduce crashes, focusing on enforcement & infrastructure.

On August 22nd, we plan to meet at the Florida Highway Patrol located at 10041 Daniels Pkwy to address this ill trend. We are asking for 133 volunteers to come dressed in black shirts. These people will lie on the ground, representing those who lost their lives in 2022. Those who have been injured or lost loved ones are encouraged to come dressed in red shirts, standing on the perimeter. All others are invited to attend to show support and engagement.

The press will look to interview attendees, especially those who have lost family members. Please note, those individuals will be asked to speak with law enforcement to ask them what they are doing to help reverse the trend. We encourage that people ask local governmental agencies what they are doing to make in-

frastructure safer for all users.

An overhead video will be shot with a drone capturing the event; these photos and videos will be made available online.

Please review the organizations that are helping sponsor this event below:

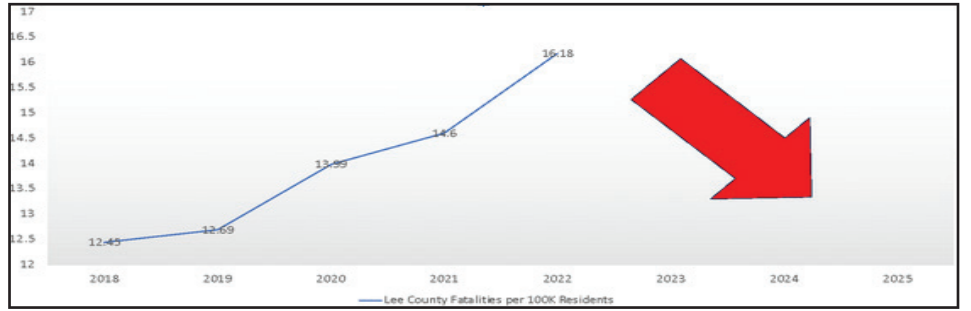
Lee Health Trauma Center – Public, not-for-profit Healthcare system servicing Lee County and surrounding areas. When faced with unexpected situations, our top priority is your safety. We support Lee County in building safer roadways for all modes of travel.

LeeConnected - A group of businesses and individuals passionate about Lee County, advocating for new mobility solutions, technology, business models, and partnerships that will safely, cost effectively, conveniently, and sustainably connect communities and businesses. Future. Mobility. Together.

Southwest Florida Business Alliance - A professional alliance of vetted, trusted, performance-oriented business people that seeks to highlight and promote what's best about doing business in Southwest Florida. Community and Progress Have a New Home. swflbusinessalliance.com

Southern Trails Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit focusing on public safety and inclusion. We support developing public space and connecting communities of Southwest Florida to create economic, social, and recreational opportunities for present and future generations.

Friends of BERT: Bonita Estero Rail Trail – An all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) citizen group dedi-



cated to bringing the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) to Lee County communities. Our mission is to generate public support and to advocate for the proposed 14.9 mile Rail Trail project.

East Lee County News - A local newspaper to SWFL. With 62,000+ readership a month, we print 15,000 to 20,000 copies a month, and direct mail 95% of those copies and put the remainder in the marketplace for

pickup. We serve Daniels Parkway, Gateway, Treeline, and Lehigh.

What: Target Zero Lee County
Where: Florida Highway Patrol
 10041 Daniels Pkwy
 Fort Myers, FL 33913

When: August 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

***For more information, contact** press@eastlenews.com.

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Keeping Pets Safe During the Summer Heat Wave

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

Just 4 Pets Wellness Center Keeping Pets Safe During the Summer Heat Wave Summertime is fun time! But with the extreme heat here in Southwest Florida, we must take extra special care of our pets to protect them from developing heatstroke.

Heatstroke is one of the most seen conditions of pets in the summertime. Heatstroke can occur when an animal's temperature rises to a critical level. Normal body temperatures for dogs and cats range from 100 to 102.5 degrees. Anything temperature greater than normal can put your pet at risk of developing this condition. Under extreme conditions, where a dog's temperature rises to 106 degrees (or a cats to 105 degrees) or higher they can suffer irreparable organ damage and even die.

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness.

Some conditions make pets more susceptible to developing heatstroke: very old or very young pets, pets that are overweight, pets with heart or respiratory disease, and breeds such as pugs, bulldogs, boxers, Shih Tzus and other dog or cat breeds with short muzzles will have a harder time breathing in extreme heat.

Here are some tips to help keep your pet safe from the heat this summer.

1. NEVER LEAVE OUR PET IN A PARKED CAR. Even with the windows rolled down, on an average summer day, a parked car can reach temperatures greater

than 105 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. So, do not take a chance on your pets' life. If it is too hot for you, it is too hot for your pet as well. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die due to the hot conditions.

2. LIMIT EXERCISE ON HOT DAYS. Try to limit exercise to the very early morning or late evenings to reduce the impact of the heat. Adjusting the amount of time and the intensity of the activity helps to reduce the impact of the heat on your pet. Be especially careful with pets with white coats or short snots as they will be especially susceptible to the development of sunburn, skin cancer and breathing problems due to prolonged exposure to the heat (and Sunlight).

3. HYDRATE YOUR PET OFTEN. Always carry water to help keep your pet hydrated or make sure your pet always has access to fresh clean cool water. Stop your pet's playtime activity and offer cool water to help cool your pet from the inside. "Pup"sicles (Homemade ice cubes/ treats for pets) are a great treat for pets to snack on and cool off at the same time.

4. AVOID HOT SURFACES. Concrete and asphalt can reach temperatures hotter than the surrounding air. They also continue to release heat well after the sun has gone down. Hot concrete or asphalt can burn your pet's paws and skin severely. Avoid these ar-

reas, if possible, especially during the hottest parts of the day. If grassy or dirt covered areas (not sand, it gets very hot too!) are available for your pet to walk or play on opts for that instead of the sidewalk or asphalt.

5. WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE. If you think your pet is suffering from heatstroke wet your pet's whole body (down to the skin) with cool water (DO NOT give your pet an ice bath!) and immediately take them to your veterinarian or the nearest emergency hospital for additional treatment

Dr. Tillman is a 2002 graduate of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her veterinary practice and work experience focuses on the health and wellness of pets. She is the owner of Just 4 Pets Wellness Center and can be reached at 239-270-5721. 🍎



Photo: Two Dogs Playing On Sunny Day

ABOUT DR. TILLMAN, DVM

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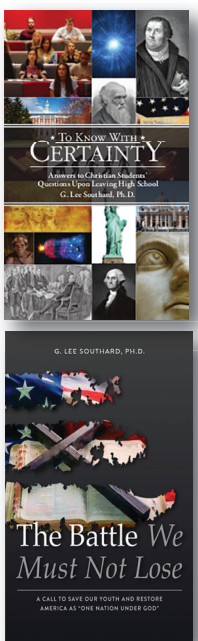


For years Christians have been on the losing side of a battle that must not be lost. That battle is for the loss of youth from the Christian church in America that is having dire consequences for the church and America.

To Know with Certainty's purpose is to assuage doubt and build a confident faith based on evidence from the Bible, the sciences and history.

The Battle We Must Not Lose is a clarion call to the church and parents to become the frontline contenders in the faith development of children. It presents the pending consequences of continued inaction and the necessary steps and actions to win this battle for our youth.

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The Dangerous Hot Climate Hits Lehigh/East Lee – Are You Prepared For The 2023 Storm Season?

By Mike Welch



Photo: Mike Welch
Let Us Hear From You!
Contact Us At:
voicesoflehigh@gmail.com

With this writing our world is heating up – for the worse and we must adjust to the new realities. As Florida endures temperatures rarely seen – they are now common. And the vulnerable are a concern for all of us. Lee County Government has opened cooling centers in the Fort Myers metropolitan area and they, along with organizations such as Lehigh Community Services and the Salvation Army are working on other cooling centers including Lehigh. Stay tuned. In addition, if you need help during these times:

Lehigh Community Services
 201 Plaza Drive #3
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
 239-369-5818

The Salvation Army Service Center
 25 Homestead Road #42A (Lehigh Towne Centre)
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
 239-491-6071

ARE YOU READY FOR STORM SEASON? VISIT LEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT: WWW.LEEGOV.COM

This month's Voices once again features further reporting by Sheriff Marceno on the community's deep concern about the progress of his Office's efforts to deal with bad actors on our roadways. The men and women of the Sheriff's Office are making headway. Several arrests, violations and vehicle impounding continue. I hope you find the Sheriff's article interesting.

THE CUBAN AMERICAN WAY RESTAURANT

As Lehigh continues to grow many in our area comment on the lack of restaurants in our area. But decisions for a new restaurant are deep financial commitments for those involved. Also, those operators that own dining facilities ride the storms of these times. However, there are great developments. If you have a chance stop by the Cuban American Way, located at 1254 Business Way, Lehigh Acres. It is the location of the former Knights of Columbus Building. The menu is extensive with both Cuban and Americana cuisine. www.havananightsdeluxe.com 239-230-8142/239-230-8998. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner.



Photo(s): LEFT: Welcome Sign; TOP/BOTTOM: the Cuban American Way interior



LAFCRD Recognizes Local Teen as a Community Youth Hero

By Katie Heck

Our District had a very special guest at Station 102 this evening! Chief DiLallo invited 14-year-old Hunter to visit the station after learning about how he took action during a fire emergency on July 4th of this year. Through social media, our District staff learned that Hunter, while on his way to a fireworks stand in Lehigh Acres, observed an unattended fire in a trash receptacle on the side of a residence. While some people would just drive by, or maybe just call 911, Hunter sprang into action.

Hunter ran to the home from the street and immediately began banging on the door of the occupied home to alert them to the emergency. He then grabbed a nearby hose and

started to extinguish the fire, suffering some minor burns on his legs in the process. The residents of the home began to come outside as the fire was extinguished.

The fire was reportedly caused by fireworks left in a recycling bin. Our District responded to a lot of these types of fires over the holiday weekend, and even responded to a 911 call for this fire, as it was called in by a passerby who couldn't provide an exact location. Hunter was efficient in his firefighting – by the time our engine arrived in the area to investigate, there was no fire or smoke observed in the neighborhood.

For his quick action, and willingness to risk his safety to help others,



Photo: (LEFT TO RIGHT) Firefighter Kelly, Commissioner Carter, Commissioner Cooper, Asst. Chief Ketron, Hunter, Chief Dilallo, Deputy Chief Naranjo, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Sherman, Battalion Chief Midea and Battalion Chief Edinger.

Chief DiLallo presented Hunter with our first Community Youth Hero recognition. The Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District believes that good kids are newsworthy, and while

we know we probably miss a lot of the acts of kindness happening in our community, we are happy we were able to publicly recognize Hunter as a role model for his peers. 🍏

back to SCHOOL

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Right-On-Red, The Good, The Bad And The Ugly; Making Significant Progress Against Speeding

By Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff

Roughly 50 years ago, states began permitting a right turn, following a complete stop, at a red light.

The decision was made, partly, as an effort to save fuel during a period where the United States was experiencing significant fuel shortages in the 1970s. In fact, the "Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975," in addition to setting minimum standards for vehicular fuel efficiency, stated that "in order for states to receive federal assistance for mandated conservation programs, they had to enact a traffic law or regulation which, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with safety, permits the operator of a motor vehicle to turn such vehicle right at a red stop light after stopping."

Whether or not this practice actually saves fuel remains unknown.

What is known is that the practice is not "consistent with safety" and has resulted in countless accidents and fatalities.

The safe completion of a right turn on a red signal mandates a full and complete stop. Clearly, a complete stop requires that the vehicle ceases to move forward and that the vehicle is motionless for a detectable period of time.

This requirement is wholly overlooked and often ignored.

Most drivers planning on utilizing the "right-on-red" privilege naturally look only to the left to see if oncoming traffic will allow their right turn. Once a determination has been made to proceed, the driver begins the turn.

This approach fails to assess conditions to the right such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Keep in mind that pedestrians and bicyclists attempting to cross the roadway from the driver's right to the driver's left have a green "walk signal" inviting them to cross

the street.

Today's larger passenger trucks often restrict visibility and drivers may not see children, shorter adults or individuals in wheelchairs who are attempting to cross.

Often, in an effort to clearly see oncoming traffic from the left, drivers advance into the crosswalk and completely block access to those attempting to cross.

Lastly, as a result of failing to accurately judge the speed of approaching vehicles, or proceeding with the assumption that oncoming traffic will slow to allow your vehicle to complete the right turn, drivers enter the intersection with insufficient clearance, forcing oncoming vehicles to brake abruptly or cause a collision.

Let's work together to make Lee County a safer place for all drivers, all bicyclists and all pedestrians by stopping completely prior to right-on-red turns and by taking a moment to inspect conditions to the right of our vehicles.



Photo: Police Car With Flashing Lights

SPEEDING AND ROAD-RACING ISSUES

In addition to work in other areas of Lee County, our Traffic Unit continues to work diligently, at all hours, in response to complaints related to reckless speeding in and around our East District.

Well over 120 hours of traffic operations have been devoted specifically to the State Road 82, Gateway Boulevard, Griffin Drive, Treeline Parkway and Daniels Parkway roadways over the last handful of weeks.

The operations have resulted in the issuing of violations, the impounding of vehicles and in arrests.

Continental Women's Club

By Liz Paul

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club.

Our September program will feature Cecilia St. Arnold, Executive Director, Blessings in a Backpack SWFL. The Blessings in a Backpack program steps-up by feeding children on the weekend. Students return every Monday morning with an

empty backpack, a full stomach, and an eager mind. Join us to hear more about this wonderful program.

Continental Women's Club is a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization established in 1975, and membership is open to women living in Lee County. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 am at The Hideaway Country Club, 5670 Trailwinds Drive, Fort Myers 33907. The cost to attend

the luncheon is \$25. Reservation deadline for September is Tuesday, August 29th. Please call Liz Paul at

239-691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation.

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Dates & descriptions provided by www.holidayinsights.com

August 8 International Cat Day

This is a truly international day, as it is celebrated in most countries around the world. It is a special day to celebrate domestic cats of all kinds. On this day we “cat lovers around the world unite across the globe in a celebration of cats.” This is a day to enjoy our beloved feline pets and to pamper them.

August 9 Book Lover's Day

Book Lovers Day is a great day to celebrate. Just grab an interesting book, find a quiet, cozy place, and crack open the cover. Celebrating Book Lovers Day in August is pleasurable on the deck, under a shady tree, poolside, or in a cozy hammock. If you fall asleep while reading, that's okay. It's all part of the relaxing benefits of being a book lover.

August 13 Left Hander's Day

If you are a Leftie, Then Left Handers Day is just for you! Take a minute to appreciate your left handed friends and loved ones. Don't forget to send them a Left Handed Day Ecard to show your respect.

August 15 Relaxation Day

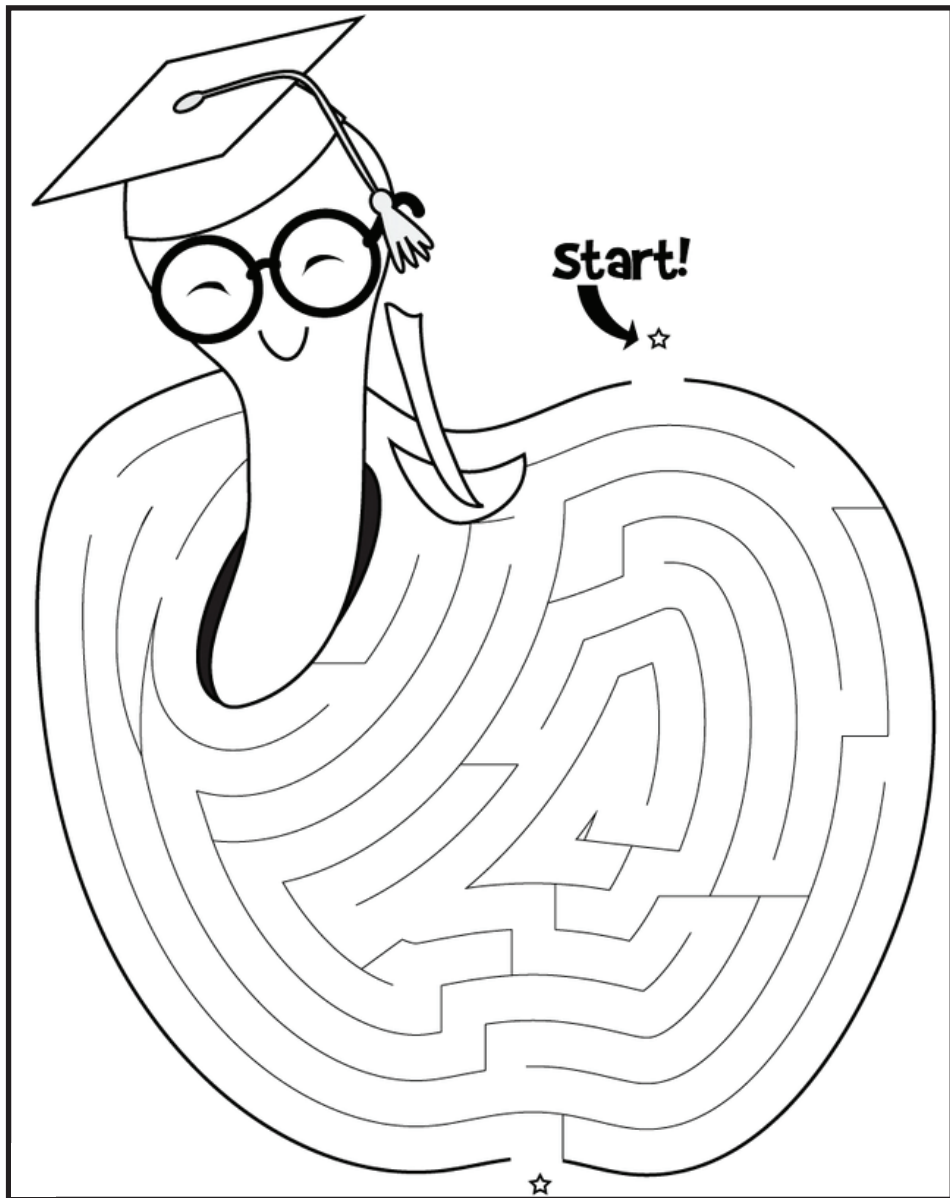
Relaxation Day is a day to kick back and do nothing. Ahhhh! What a great day. The stresses, the hustle and bustle seemingly consumes us, every day of the year. Even Sundays are no longer days of rest and relaxation. There never seems to be a day to just kick back and relax. For those us with a hectic lifestyle, Relaxation Day is a day to look forward to. It provides a break from the madness of your busy work and personal schedule. Today is the day to enjoy either doing absolutely nothing, or partaking in your favorite relaxation activity.

August 26 National Dog Day

National Dog Day has two goals: to honor dogs, and to rescue dogs from homelessness and abuse. It's an opportunity for us to recognize and appreciate the value and importance of dogs in our lives.

August 31 National Eat Outside Day

Summer is almost over, yet you can't get enough of the great outdoors. The sun is bright and warm, the weather is great. National Eat Outside Day couldn't come at a better time. People have been eating outdoors since the days of the caveman. Nowadays, people eat most, if not all, of their meals indoors. Eating outdoors has become more of a special event, than a regular occurrence. National Eat Outdoors Day, is an opportunity to change that, if only for a day.



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

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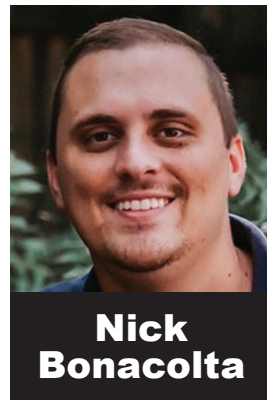
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