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EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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Strawman vs Steelman

By Butch Swank - butch@goodladandswank.com



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

I write a lot about how we, as a society, treat one another and see things. I feel it's needed because there seems to be a real disconnect between the experience of our day-to-day lives and what the news media feeds us. They tell us the sky is falling, that hate is everywhere, and, Great News, our economy is fantastic. It's to the point that I'm now patiently waiting to be informed the sky is actually green.

Years ago, there was an uproar when trophies for everyone in kiddie soccer were introduced. I'm a bit of a softie and, at the time, could see no real harm in

giving all the kids something. The people arguing it's a slippery slope believed that trophies for all would result in those kids growing up without learning to overcome and conquer adversity. Hindsight, as they say, is 20/20, and it's become evident they may have been right. As an employer, I have encountered many young people who genuinely have a tough time navigating the difficulties of "real life." Way back then, I thought, why not give the terrible soccer players trophies - it's nice! Now, I can appreciate that many of those players never got a chance to learn the valuable lesson that the pain of losing can motivate you to become better. Getting no trophy could have encouraged them to focus and be determined to improve instead of accepting a meaningless trophy as good enough. Lo and behold, with these new

and hard-earned abilities, those kids would naturally want to compete and perhaps even become true champions. I appreciate that not everyone would do this, but maybe by giving every single player a trophy, we robbed the potential strivers of the pain needed to force themselves to get better. In short, we inadvertently taught most of these players that being just "okay" was good enough. In short, we promoted mediocrity over the struggle for excellence.

As adults, we're certainly far from perfect, but we do have the power to make ourselves better day by day, and I have one idea for how to do that. I think most people have heard of a strawman argument. If not, in a debate/conversation, it's hearing another's side and then mocking it before offering your "superior"

counterargument. It dawned on me that all the current media feeds us are strawmen because it's seemingly always delivered from only one "superior" perspective, and we've become accustomed to this over time. We do it in our own lives, too. However, there is an alternative to this. Enter the steelman. This approach means you listen, really listen to someone, and then repeat back their argument as best you can. If you get it wrong, you ask them to help you better understand it, and you go back and forth until you fully get it. Now, depending on your motivation, you can either proceed to rip their argument to shreds or, if you're feeling gracious, you can share your side and point out how your perspective has more benefits than theirs. Ideally, you can turn what these days be-

Continued on Page 02



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Continued from Page 01

comes an instant argument into a constructive conversation. Remember those? Yes, we used to disagree about all kinds of things and yet remain family, friends, and neighbors. It's sadly the case these days, but here's some good news: just because you disagree with someone, that does not mean you need to write that person out of your life, no matter what the news tells you. If the trophy for winning an argument was losing a relationship, you should really consider if that trophy was worth it, right?

I say this because I believe our news media knows exactly what they're doing. They minimize any chance of steelmanning. It also does not matter if your news is from the left or right; both sides do it. Isn't it absurd that I just wrote left or right "news," and you didn't bat an eye? When I sat down to write this, I had never considered that point either, and it just now dawned on me. It's truly astonishing how much we've been programmed to listen and not think. Regardless of what they say, America is still the greatest place to live on the planet and has the absolute best people on Earth. Next time you consider entering verbal

warfare with someone, I simply ask that you pause for a moment and instead really listen to them. Take their words seriously, and don't dismiss them. Repeat back their words until they agree you get their point. And here's the important part: you then lay out your perspective until they understand your side, too. By your listening earnestly, I reckon they'll do the same for you. I cannot guarantee that everything will be roses after, but I do guarantee you just upped the odds that you'll still be friends or family after you're done. Also, you two will, probably for the first time in a long time, really understand where you are both com-

ing from and maybe find some common ground instead of being divided even further. Think about it: the news media wants further division, and I believe more steelmanning is an effective way to counter this. The reality is that we do live in trying times, and nobody is coming to save America but ourselves. We're not elected officials and cannot change policies, but we absolutely all have the power to do this. So, let's get to work unearthing all the truly common ground we share and begin appreciating each other again. That's damn sure better than any meaningless trophy, right? 🦁

SWFL Business Alliance's 2023 Fall Luncheon

By Cameron Belen

The SWFL Business Alliance put together an outstanding lunch to allow open networking between business professionals and those who wish to expand their knowledge in the business world. Many showed up interested in learning about business growth and were able to connect and socialize with business owners in the local area.

The meeting featured two highly influential speakers sharing information about development in the East Lee

County and Cape Coral areas. John Talamage, Director of Economic Development for Lee County, and Nita Whaley of Miloff Aubuchon Commercial & CC Real Estate Services offered their knowledge and expertise in their fields to their attentive audience.

Pastor Larry Gregory awarded plaques to Luke Rowell, from Hightower Construction, Roofing & Solar, Katrina Salokar of Paradise Creative Group, and Butch Swank of Goodlad & Swank Insur-

ance, LLC for being significant supporters of the Lehigh Fireworks at 4th of July Freedom Fest this year.

ABOUT SWFL BUSINESS ALLIANCE

SWFL Business Alliance is 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. We focus on top talent with an

outlook toward solutions for quality growth and continuous improvement. Our philanthropic arm leans towards assistance and support for fixes only. Southwest Florida Business Alliance is a place where the best and the brightest are supported and where progress has a new home.

To learn more about the SWFL Business Alliance, go to www.swflbusinessalliance.com 🦁



Photo: Josh Philpott, Staec with Jerron Hull of Aim Engineering & Surveying and Paul Mendoza of The Bold Foundry



Photo: Stephanie Hernandez, Stephanie Ostrowski, and Mary Beck of Goodlad & Swank Insurance, with Michael Meunier of Edward Jones and Charlotte Rae Nicely, Lehigh Community Services & Oksana Sherman of Suncoast Credit Union.



Photo: Over 60 people gathered at the Fall Lunch for SWFL Business Alliance at Plantation Golf & Tennis Club.



Photo: Deb Onnen, Achieva Credit Union, with Jeffery Mason, Bank OZK, and Coleen Jorgensen of Hotwire Communications



Photo: John Talamage - Lee County Economic Development and Nita Whaley of Miloff Aubuchon Realty Group and CC Real Estate Services



Photo: Luke Rowell of Hightower Construction, Roofing & Solar, with Katrina Salokar of Paradise Creative Group and Larry Gregory of Victory Church & Town Center, and Butch Swank of Goodlad & Swank Insurance.

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Autumn Pet Safety

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

It's officially Fall. The leaves are changing color, the weather is more pleasant, and the holiday season is upon us. We love this time of year and so do our pets. We must make sure that we protect our pets from hidden dangers of this season. Below are some tips to help keep your pets safe during the autumn months.

RODENTICIDES (RAT POISONS)

As the days are getting shorter and cooler, mice and rats will begin looking for a place to call their winter home. They are notorious for getting into garages and sheds to protect them from the elements over winter. To control unwanted visitors many homeowners will put out rat poisons. If you use these products in your home, make sure to keep them out of reach of pets. These chemicals are toxic and potentially deadly for your pets. There are several different types with different active ingredients. Whether your pet eats the poison directly or your pet ingests a poisoned rodent each of the products has the potential to kill your pet.

If your pet has ingested a rodent or rat poison, they should be taken to your veterinarian immediately. Make sure to bring the label from the product (or a picture of the entire box) with you so your veterinarian can determine the right course of treatment for your pet.

Remember, when placing this product around your home make sure to keep it away from all your pets and quickly pick up any deceased rodents around your yard to prevent accidental ingestion and exposure to these poisons.

PLANT AND MUSHROOM POISONING

Mushrooms tend to pop up around this time of the year. While not all mushrooms are poisonous, it can be hard to tell which ones are safe. For this reason, it is best to consider all mushrooms growing in your yard or out in nature poisonous.

If you see mushrooms growing in your yard, pick them from the root and throw them out. Scan your yard for them frequently as mushrooms seem to pop up overnight. Also, look out for mushrooms when you take your pets for a walk.

If your pet does munch on a mushroom, call your vet immediately. Mild toxicity can cause gastrointestinal upset, like vomiting and diarrhea. Severe toxicity can cause neurological, kidney, and liver damage, or even death depending on what type of mushroom was eaten.

Chrysanthemum flowers, although very pretty, are toxic. If your pet ingests any part of the chrysanthemum plant it can cause an upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, unsteady uncoordinated movements, and skin rashes.

Any part of the Autumn Crocus plant is extremely toxic to your pet. It can cause multi-system organ damage to the lungs, stomach, kidneys, liver, and nervous system. Symptoms can include loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, weakness, seizures, and even death.

Fall is usually the time when some pet owners change the antifreeze in their vehicles to keep them running smoothly. But this product is highly toxic and should be kept far out of your pets reach. Antifreeze contains a chemical called ethylene glycol and pets are attracted to its sweet taste. However, if a pet ingests even a small amount, there can be serious, and even fatal, consequences. Signs of early poisoning include acting drunk or uncoordinated, excessive thirst, and lethargy.

If you fear your pet has ingested antifreeze, take them to your veterinarian or your local emergency hospital immediately for treatment with an antidote to prevent acute kidney failure.

Clean up spills of antifreeze immediately. You may also consider switching to propylene glycol-based coolants. They are not completely nontoxic, but they are much less toxic than other engine coolants.

ALCOHOL

Whether you are sipping a hard apple cider or enjoying your favorite mixed drink, pets should never be given alcohol. It depresses the nervous system and can also be damaging to the kidneys. Warning signs your pet has consumed alcohol include vomiting, disorientation, and difficulty urinating. Other more serious signs include collapse and coma.

Call your vet immediately if your pet has consumed alcohol. The best remedy is to not expose your pet to alcohol. Call your veterinarian if you notice your pet is acting lethargic or has vomiting or diarrhea. These could be signs your pet has ingested something they shouldn't have. Talk to your veterinarian, even if you are not sure you should bring your pet in for evaluation.

Stay safe and keep your pets safe.

If your furry kid has had contact or ingested any of the items on this list call your veterinarian for help immediately. If your pet has been exposed to something you are not sure of and it is not on this list, contact one of the Animal Poison Centers below.

Pet Poison Help Line
(855) 764-7661

ASPCA Animal Poison Control
(888) 426-4435

ABOUT DR. TILLMAN

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

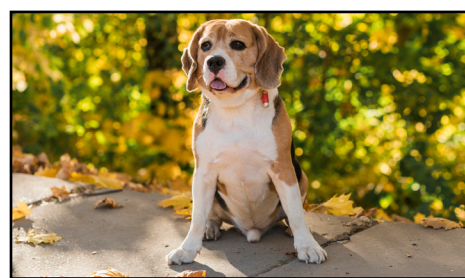


Photo: Portrait Of Cute Beagle Dog Sitting In Park

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LAFCRD Plans for Future Training Facility

By Fire Chief Robert DiLallo



The Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District has big plans for a 7.6-acre plot off Williams Avenue. The sale of this property, owned by the county, was recently approved

by the Lee County Board of Commissioners. This centrally located site is an ideal location for a training facility, as it will allow for multi-company scenarios while keeping crews inside the District. Currently, individual crews are sent out of Lehigh Acres to other facilities in the county for required training. This is detrimental to both the firefighters and the community, as it takes a station out of service while also not providing our firefighters with the opportunity to train as a team for their response to structure or other fires.

The new site is large enough to house a training facility and serve as a site for a future fire station (the nearest fire station to this site is approximately 4 miles away). This training facility was initially planned for the large parcel of land behind Station 102, but that land was determined to be better suited for sale as commercial prop-

erty. While construction on the training facility is scheduled to begin in 2024, a new station would not be added to the location in the near future. Currently, a site at the corner of Leonard Blvd S and Owen Ave is in development for the next scheduled fire station, Station 107. New station sites are determined by call volume and identified needs within our Fire District.

The addition of a training facility within our community will also have a positive impact on our District's ISO rating. ISO is an independent organization that provides communities and businesses with various rating and evaluation services throughout the United States. The purpose of an ISO public protection survey is to gather information to determine a Public Protection Classification (PPC®), which insurers use for underwriting and to calculate premiums for fire insurance. The Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District (District) maintains a rating classification from ISO of PPC 3 for parcels and structures within five (5) road miles of a District fire station and PPC 10 for all parcels and structures that are located more than five (5) road miles from a District fire station. The rating scale created by ISO

notes the best possible classification as a "1", with "10" being the highest hazard risk rating.

The District's long-term goal is to improve our overall ISO rating to a 2 (two), which would be the best possible rating for our community. An important step to achieving this goal is to improve our training rating with the addition of a training facility inside the District. Additional information on our Public Protection Class rating can be found here on our website: <https://bit.ly/LehighISO>

Our District is currently experiencing an increase in new construction as well as a significant population increase. Within the last ten (10) years, the District has seen our overall call volume increase from 10,534 in 2013 to 16,746 responses in 2022, an increase of almost 59% in less than ten (10) years.

Our community acknowledged the need for additional services in Lehigh Acres when they voted in favor of a referendum to modify our District's fire assessment in 2020. Just as was planned in 2020 with the adjustment of the assessment, a new

station is being completed every 3 years. The addition of Station 106 has already had a positive impact on response times to brush fires in its area as well as across the District. Through responsible strategic planning, our current assessment model will continue to support future funding associated with the predicted growth.

The community of the Lehigh Acres Fire District is rapidly growing, and we are committed to continually improving the quality of emergency services delivered to its citizens. As we continue to grow together, we are honored to serve in a manner that reflects our core values; Excellence, Safety, Valor, Integrity, and Dedication.

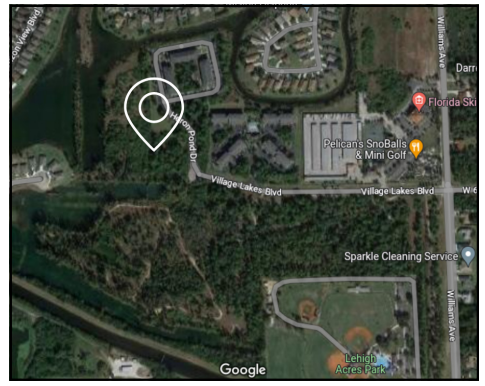


Photo: Map Of Parcel For New Facility

Barris Park

By Melissa Barris

Have you ever had something happen out of the blue that seemed light it was meant to happen. Some would call it coincidence. Terry and Melissa Barris would call it divine intervention. This is what happen to them after a shopping trip in preparation of Hurricane Ian. A Lehigh native, Melissa, was surprised when Terry turn down the wrong street and saw a for sale sign. The Couple was shopping around for a half an acre had stumbled upon a acre for the same price. The immediately called the seller and the Barris Park was born.

Believed to be divine intervention because the next day Hurricane Ian de-

stroyed the for sale sign making notice to the public impossible.

BARRIS PARK is committed to providing the community with a beautiful and serene acre for their most memorable moments. We provide our guests with an acre of spacious blank canvas to create the perfect setting for their special day. The private park is a safe and family-oriented atmosphere for all ages, with hours of fun to enjoy. Our private park is large and surrounded by a richly wooded area to provide ample space for your crowd in a secluded area away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Ideal for weddings, birthday parties, graduations, anniversaries or

family gatherings etc. Convenient parking is available.

The Barris' enjoy offering several free events through the year most of them for

children including this month Truck or Treat on October 28, 2023.

Visit www.barrispark.com for more information.

Continental Women's Club

By Liz Paul

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, November 2nd at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club.

Our November program will feature students from the Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts, who will be performing excerpts from their production of 'Holiday Inn'. You are invited to join us to experience these very talented young people and to learn more about Continental.

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 November is Tuesday, October 24th. Please call Liz Paul at 239-691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation.

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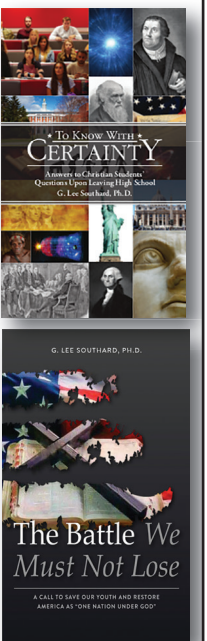
For years Christians have been on the losing side of a battle that must not be lost. That battle is for the loss of youth from the Christian church in America that is having dire consequences for the church and America.

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.

14600 Fair Havens Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33908

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The Club At Renaissance To Host ‘The Autumn Classic’ The Golf Tournament Will Provide Funding For Golisano Children’s Hospital Pediatric Neurosurgery Program

Submitted By Tiffany Whitaker

The Club at Renaissance in Fort Myers will host “The Autumn Classic” golf tournament Thursday, Oct. 26 with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Proceeds will support critical care needs within Golisano Children’s Hospital’s pediatric neurosurgery program. The new program, a collaboration with Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, will help diagnose and treat children with diseases of the brain, spine and nerves. These services will allow children who have neurological conditions that require surgery to receive that high level of care at Golisano Children’s Hospital instead of traveling outside of the area to larger cities, like Miami or St. Petersburg, reducing stress on the child and their family.

Participants in the tournament will re-

ceive a first-class day on the championship-level private course at The Club at Renaissance, gourmet lunch and dinner buffets as well as on-course beverages, live entertainment and the opportunity to participate in live and silent auctions featuring dining experiences, trips and travel, airline certificates and high-value sports memorabilia.

Longtime friend to Golisano Children’s Hospital, World Champion Major League Baseball retired pitcher Derek Lowe will headline the event and serve as a sponsor. Jaguar LandRover of Fort Myers will be the Classic’s exclusive automotive sponsor and provide a hole-in-one prize.

Single golf slots are \$275, with foursomes available at \$1,000. Tickets for dinner and the auction are \$75. Business sponsorships

and hole signs are also available. The tournament is expected to sell out, and space can be reserved by calling 239-343-6076 or visiting LeeHealthFoundation.org/Renaissance by Oct. 16.

For information on the new Johns Hopkins medical partnership, visit LeeHealth.org/Our-Services/Pediatric-Neurosurgery.

ABOUT GOLISANO CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Established by Lee Health in 1994, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a “Top Hospital” three times by The Leapfrog Group. It is the only recognized children’s hospital between Tampa and Miami. Lee Health opened the new 134-bed Golisano Children’s Hospital in May 2017, relocating the children’s hos-

pital from the adjacent HealthPark Medical Center. It includes comprehensive pediatric services including a 24-hour pediatric emergency department, hematology-oncology unit, milk lab, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, and Level II and Level III NICU with 70 private rooms. Golisano Children’s Hospital is proud to have been named Soliant’s 2018 Most Beautiful Hospital in the U.S., a recognition determined by popular vote. Since 2019, Golisano Children’s Hospital has been a proud member hospital of the Children’s Miracle Network. For more information, visit GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org.

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Owners of a site-built, single-family, residential home, or townhouse who are deemed eligible per the inspection are awarded a monetary incentive to improve their homes.

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.**

OTHER BENEFITS OF ADDING STORM PROTECTION

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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A Call To "Action"

By Alex Moffett

My daughter has a saying that always makes me laugh, "Don't talk about it, be about it." It's her version of "put your money where your mouth is" or "just do it." I think it's about "actions speaking louder than words." Action. In my line of work, I have found that "action" is the bridge between procrastination and productivity. It's a difference between failure and success. It's what builds self-confidence and the only way to guarantee momentum for your personal goals, passion projects, and life in general! With all the benefits of active action-taking, why do so many of us choose inaction despite our responsibilities and goals?

Could it be we all suffer through a little process called "activation energy?" In chemistry and physics, activation energy is the minimum energy that is required to activate atoms or molecules to a condition in which they can undergo chemical transformation. In psychology, it's the concept that it takes enormous energy just to start something. In other words, the hardest thing about doing anything is just getting started. After the initial start-up phase, it (whatever it is) actually becomes easier to maintain; this is what we call getting into the flow, keeping the momentum going. It is also noteworthy to know that there are two types of action-takers (depending on your personality and/or personal experiences). They are called "The Dreamer" and "The Planner". These styles may indicate what is really stopping you from taking action toward your life goals and passion projects. By discovering your style, you will also get to understand what kind of action most resonates with you, what actions you should

be taking, and how they impact your goal. So which one are you?

THE DREAMER AND THE PLANNER

If you are The Dreamer, chances are you have lofty goals and are always talking about what you are going to do. You have plenty of grand and elaborate ideas of what you can achieve, but the problem is you have no specific plan to make it happen. The dreamer may spend more time conceptualizing than actually plotting out a viable plan of action to get there. Sadly, because of this, she may never fully realize her dreams. If this is you, please pay close attention to Quick Wins; this section is for you.

If you are The Planner, on the other hand, you may have many ideas and small/short goals that you have set for your big dream, but then you create so many to-do lists and little tasks that you end up overwhelming yourself with momentum paralysis and accomplish nothing. In short, the planner is so prone to lose sight of the big picture that she no longer sees the forest for the trees; like a deer in headlights, she freezes up and does nothing. If this is you, please read on to Massive Actions; this section is for you.

QUICK WINS AND MASSIVE ACTIONS

If you are a dreamer, then quick wins could mean the difference between success and failure. Notice I use the word "failure," but failure

only occurs when you give up. For someone like you who only sees the big picture; small, quick ones are integral to your success so you won't give up.

So here are the rules to the Quick Wins game. Make a decision to do something towards your goal every day. Make sure you choose to work on something you feel you are already good at but just need to tweak or grow in. This way, you will feel stretched out of your comfort without losing all sense of confidence. Don't overthink it, just do it! Your brain will always try to talk you out of doing the very thing that will push you forward. Don't give in to it; just take your step! Make sure you write the task down. Making a list and checking it off will allow you to see that you're actually making headway and will go a long way to ensure that you stay on course. Quick wins over time can empower, motivate, and develop confidence in yourself and competence in your skills. Lastly, quick wins set you up for big action steps that you will still have to take at some point. But if you can see yourself achieving the small wins, you will be more likely to attempt a bigger score when the time comes.

Now let's talk about immediate massive action. If you're a planner and usually get caught up in all the small details, immediate, massive action can really work for you. Because massive action steps will propel you toward your goal in such a big way, you will feel as if you're making big strides, which you are!

So here's how it works: You've got to make

a decision. Massive action only works when you have decided to take a bold step toward your goal or your passion project. Decide on the step and then quickly take action. At this point, you may still be feeling the overwhelming temptation to shrink back after all; this is a massive action step but push past this and just do it! Consider your massive action proof positive that you are committed to your goal. A massive action step will require you to know that you know this is how you want to spend your time, energy, and/or resources. This may look like investing money in your business; it could be investing in a mentor for your personal growth or even making a public announcement about an upcoming event.

Massive actions always create accountability. If you have invested resources in a course, you are likely to finish the course and do well. This is why universities and good coaching programs are worth the price of the tuition. If you advertise that you're having a grand opening and now have people looking forward to attending, you are more likely to make sure you follow through. Your actions have made you accountable. Once you've done it, just rinse and repeat; the more massive steps that you take and the bigger they get, the better the result is in the long term. Keep going!

So, whether you are a dreamer or a planner, the only way to move forward is just to start. Remember, if nothing changes, nothing changes. Your steps don't need to be perfect; they just need to be taken. You will figure it out as you keep moving. AND... Action!

The Craftie Ladies Fall Craft Sale

Submitted By The Craftie Ladies of St. John XXIII Catholic Church

Mark your calendars for The Craftie Ladies Fall Craft Sale! If you've been to one of our fairs before, you know we have a large variety of top quality, homemade items for sale, such as quilts, table runners, jewelry, rosaries, hand-knitted and crocheted items, holiday decor, wreaths, scrubbies, rope bowls, pillowcases, baby items, pet toys, shell roses and so much more.

We have fabulous raffle baskets this year including a Dog Basket, a Cat Basket, an Evening in Paris basket, a Christmas basket, a Santa basket, a Cookie basket, a Pamper Me basket, and others. The drawing will take place at 1 pm on Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Come and join us on Saturday, November 11th, 2023, from 9 am to 5 pm and

Sunday, November 12th, 2023, from 8 am to 1 pm.

We hope to see you at our craft fair at St. John XXIII, located on Palomino Lane, just north of Daniels Parkway. Stop by, have a chat, and just maybe you can get some early holiday shopping done!

ABOUT THE CRAFTIE LADIES

The Craftie Ladies came together 14 years ago. The group has grown to nearly 40 talented and dedicated women. All proceeds go directly back into the community. Just a few causes we donate to are: Verity, St. John XXXII Villas, Eva's Closet, Veterans Blankets, ACT, and may more.



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Staying Prepared For The Remainder Of Hurricane Season – “See It, Say It, Make The Call!”

By Mike Welch



Photo: Mike Welch
Let Us Hear From You!
Contact Us At:
voicesoflehigh@gmail.com
Sheriff Marceno writes a poignant article for this month regarding reaching out to our neighbors and the continuing work of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on roadway safety in Eastern Lee County.

Since the advent of the internet many of us spend our time in our own spheres and generally know little about our neighbors and everyday activities around our homes. This often leads residents vulnerable to criminal activity around their neighborhoods. The “watch” of a neighborhood for bad actors and for helping our seniors is a valuable tool for the safety of us all. This really comes to mind during natural disasters

such as Ian when services are strained the need for neighbors to come together. I hope you enjoy the Sheriff’s article. Remember: “See it, say it, make the call!”

As we approach the Holiday Season Major Brenda of the Salvation Army – Lehigh Service Center reaches out to us as end of the year activities are in full preparation. There are several needs in our community from Angel Tree giv-

ing to pantry needs as well as the need for bell ringers for the Christmas Red Kettle Campaign. Please read the article and give Major Brenda a call at 239-491-0671.

The Salvation Army Service Center is located at the Lehigh Towne Centre, 25 Homestead Road N. #42.

Reaching Out, Being Neighborly And Addressing Roadway Safety In Our East District

By Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff
Since the advent of the internet, many of us tend to spend significant time shopping, entertaining ourselves and socializing online. Groceries and necessities are delivered to our front door, communication is done via text or email and many of us are simply spending more time indoors.

sive of waterways) and over 800,000 residents, the eyes and ears of our community members are an enormous component of public safety and depended upon by law enforcement agencies!

Knowing and interacting with your neighbors, periodically gazing out of your windows, checking on senior residents who tend to be more vulnerable and paying closer attention to persons and vehicles entering and exiting your neighborhood make for a more secure and amicable community.

Sharing concerns with local law enforcement has allowed us to keep our paradise safe.

Sheriff Carmine Marceno reminds all Lee County residents to “See it, say it, make the call!”

ROADWAY SAFETY

In addition to traffic operations 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.

Over the last thirty-day period, 36 traffic operations have been devoted specifically to the State Road 82, Gateway

Boulevard, Griffin Drive, Treeline Parkway and Daniels Parkway roadways.

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

The enforcement of traffic laws is a priority and we continue to receive complimentary notifications regarding a dramatic reduction in roadway noise, speeding and reckless driving in the aforementioned areas.



Photo: Group Of People Support Unity Arm Around Together

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Greetings From Your Local Salvation Army Service Center!

By Major Brenda Lane

Can you believe Christmas is only two months away!! Where has the time gone this year. But, before we reach Christmas, we have Thanksgiving to celebrate. We need your help. We would love to be able to supply a few families with the necessary food items for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. If you can help us with that, we would appreciate canned goods such as, green beans, yams, corn, mixed vegetables, beans, jars of gravy. We need dry goods as well, such as, dressing mix, Instant potatoes, mac & cheese, pasta, muffin/cornbread mix, or anything else you might like to share. It would be great to provide some sort of meat, ham, chicken, pork, beef. If you are one of the blessed families to know that you will be able to provide dinner for your family, that is wonderful. However, we have so many families that aren't in that position and need our help. We are asking our community to step up and help us help those who aren't as fortunate. If you are able to help in any way, you can bring your items to our office any day of the week, Monday - Friday 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00. We all have so much to be thankful for and will be doubly blessed as we share with those who need a little help.

Christmas!!! We at The Salvation Army are already in Christmas mode. As stated above, we would like to help families with food for Christmas dinner and would appreciate any help that you are able to provide. We will be helping make the faces of little children light up

on Christmas morning with gifts under the tree!! If you have children 12 years old and younger and are in need of assistance providing toys and food for your family, you can go online starting Monday September 25 through Friday September 29. You will need to register in order to receive assistance. Make sure you don't miss out on those dates. Once the site is closed on the 29th, you will no longer be able to register. You will need to go online at: SAangeltree.org

BELL RINGING !! We will begin taking applications for those who are interested in Ringing Bells for our Christmas




Photo: Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Red Kettle program. You may stop by our office Monday through Friday 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 to pickup your application. We will have our HR hiring Day on Friday, October 27th at 10:00 am at our office on Homestead Rd N. You will want to be here for this event if you are interested in being a Bell Ringer this season. It is a fun time when you ring the bell!! You bring joy to those who pass by your kettle and it in turn will brighten your day as well. So, come be a part of fun Bell Ringer Team. Be sure you have

your ID and Social Security card with you when you come to apply. We look forward to a great Christmas season and need your help to make that happen.

We are located at: The Salvation Army Service Center (Lehigh Town Center Mall/behind Joe's Café) 25 Homestead Rd N #42 (33936) | 239-491-0671

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and pray God's richest blessings on you and your family. 🦋



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Montage Women's Club

By Rita Artwohl

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).

nor aged young female rescues, and they are licensed through the Florida State Foster Care Program and vetted through the FBI, Homeland Security, and Witness Protection Program. Ms. Gaston will share the reality of sex trafficking being right under our noses without us having knowledge of the dire situation.

Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with a short social period, a business meeting at 11:15 a.m., followed by lunch at Noon, and normally an informative speaker program, ending 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 welcome you to visit Montage for a luncheon.

Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and the planned regular menu will be creamy grits with grilled chicken, andouille, tomato with a spicy sauce, green onion, and asparagus and yummy bread pudding. The plant based / vegan entree option will be vegan grits with vegan sausage, beluga lentils, mushrooms, tomato with a spicy sauce, green onion, and asparagus and vegan bread pudding. Fresh rolls and butter are always served.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, October 26, and our planned speaker will be Karen Gaston, Director of Business Development, Wings of Shelter. Wings is a nonprofit organization with three safe homes here in SW Florida. Wings is a long term residential human sex trafficking ministry safe home for mi-

If you would like to attend a Montage meeting, need further information, or would like to make a reservation, please call Rita Artwohl at (239) 703-7787. Reservations cut-off to attend this meeting is Noon, Thursday, October 19. 🦋

General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres

By Connie Puzevic

The General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres will had their first meeting of the 2023-2024 season on Friday, September 15th at 12 (noon) with a potluck, at their new meeting location, RISE Christian Church@ 50 Bell Blvd. North, Lehigh Acres. (PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION)

2024, at the Pelican Preserve Country Club in Ft. Myers with fashions from Chico's of Ft. Myers. All proceeds from the fashion show go to our scholarship fund, which is awarded to single parents from Lehigh Acres who have children living in their home and who have chosen to further their education, and to better themselves and their children.

The General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres is a non-profit organization. The club has been in existence since 1961 and whose mission is to bring together, women of diverse backgrounds, and of all ages, and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow through humanitarian and social events.

The General Woman's Club always welcomes new members and encourages anyone interested in joining the club to call our membership chairperson Betty Smith at 239-850-6617.

QUARTERLY AUCTION

The club meets the third Friday of the month at 1 pm, at the RISE Christian Church. Our calendar year is September through May. We provide scholarships and donate to local organizations (such as Hope hospice) as well as other Lehigh Community services.

The General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres will hold their annual fall Quarter Auction on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Mugs N' Jugs restaurant, at 5512 - 8th Street W, Lehigh Acres -Noon to 3:00 pm.

The club's largest event of the year is their annual fashion show, which this year will be held on March 9,

Food and Drink will be available for purchase through Mugs N' Jugs. Auction paddles are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly back into the Lehigh Acres Community. 🦋



HALLOWEEN - WORD SEARCH

- BATS
- DRACULA
- SCREAM
- BLACK CAT
- FOOD
- SKELETON
- BOO
- HAUNTED HOUSE
- SPOOK
- CHILDREN
- HOWL
- SUGARY
- CHOCOLATE
- JACK O LANTERN
- TREATS
- COOKIES
- LOLLIPOP
- VAMPIRE
- COSTUMES
- MASK
- WEREWOLF
- CUPCAKES
- MIDNIGHT
- WITCHES
- DECORATIONS
- NIGHT
- ZOMBIES
- DELICIOUS
- OCTOBER

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Dates & descriptions provided by www.holidayinsights.com

October 6 Mad Hatter Day

Mad Hatter Day is a great day to be silly and celebrate silliness. The Mad Hatter is a fictional cartoon character depicted in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. The Mad Hatter is always acting silly. On Mad Hatter Day, it is only fair and fitting to act a little silly yourself. So, grab yourself a top hat, and have a very silly Mad Hatter's Day!

October 17 National Pasta Day

On National Pasta Day choose your favorite pasta shape, there's over 600 of them, add your favorite sauce, and chow down! For many of us, the first sauce that comes to mind is red tomato spaghetti sauce. To celebrate this special day, it doesn't matter what sauce you use. All that is important, is that you use pasta noodles.

October 25 International Artist Day

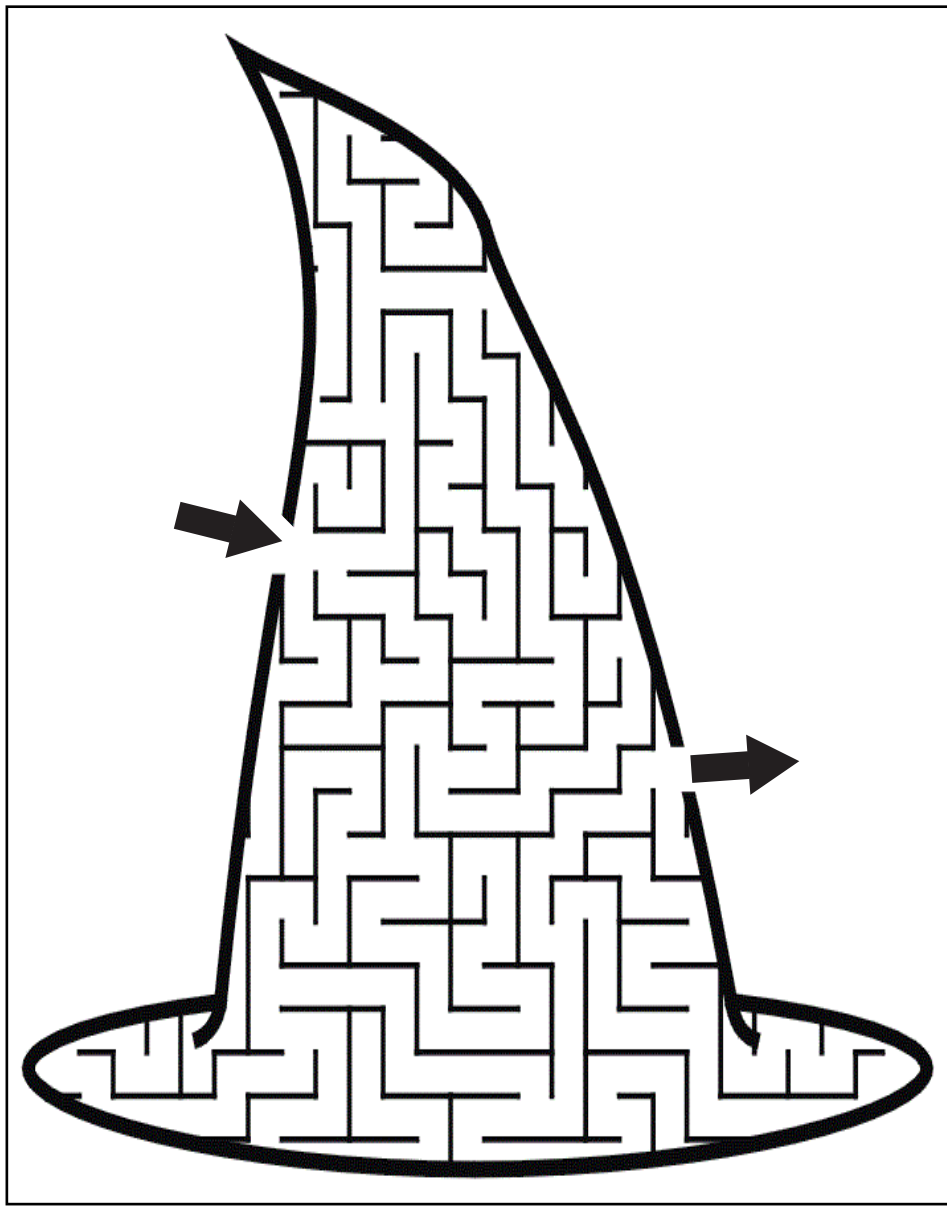
Artists of all kinds are celebrating around the world today, as it is International Artist Day. On this day, we can and should honor and recognize all of the artists who enrich our lives and society in so many ways. It is important to recognize the contributions of artists around the world.

October 27 Black Cat Day

Black cats are considered a symbol of the Halloween holiday. Therefore, it is only fitting the we celebrate Black Cat Day today. Said to bring bad luck, but that isn't the truth. Black cats are sweet and loving like any other cat. So today, hug your black cats and let them know you love them.

October 29 Frankenstein Friday

Frankenstein Friday celebrates the birth of Frankenstein and its creator. Frankenstein is one of the best known horror characters, dating back to the 1800's. We can't imagine the Halloween season without the presence of Frankenstein, lurking somewhere in the darkness.



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

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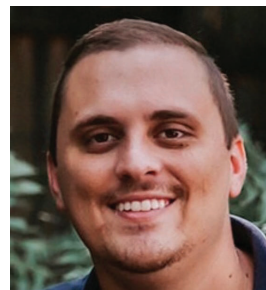


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Nick is extremely knowledgeable about the real estate business! He kept us updated at all times throughout the process. Nick was extremely nice and respectful, never pushy. Thank you Nick!

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3 BEDROOM 2 BATH POOL HOME IN POPULAR VARSITY LAKES



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4 BEDROOM 2 BATH CUSTOM NEW CONSTRUCTION HOME



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