VOL. 32 NO. 12

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DECEMBER 2023

Town & River Cruise Club Social Events

By Cecilia Bourdon

The Town & River Cruise Club's first social event of the 2023/24 boating season took place at Snug Harbor on Saturday, Oct. 14. Summer trips and adventures were discussed with enthusiasm by members attending this event hosted by Lyn Morningstar and Edward and Cecilia Bourdon. Doc Ford's Waterfront Restaurant will be the setting for the next social event on Nov. 15. Sue and Don Sena will be hosting this luncheon. Commodore



Cecilia and Edward Bourdon hosted the first luncheon of the season.



Lyn really enjoyed the grouper "wings"!



On Oct. 14, members of the Town & River Cruise Club met at the Snug Harbor waterfront restaurant.





As always, the food was delectable.



Barb and Jim Barrell were happy to chat with old and new friends.

Debbie Haptonstall and her husband Bill will host the Christmas luncheon to be held on Dec. 9 at Deep Lagoon Restaurant. This event will replace our usual Christmas cocktail and dinner dance

party since the condo clubhouse is still undergoing repairs. The Christmas Holiday Boat Parade will take place after this luncheon. We encourage all boaters in our community to decorate their vessels and join in this festive event.

The Town & River Cruise Club was the brainchild of Joe and Helen Fiorillo and was formed with the invaluable help and encouragement of Jack Norman, Keith Johnson, Art Hirtreiter, Dick Padgett and Bill Shorak. The club was organized to bring together residents of Town & River having a common interest in boating. The club's goals are to promote good boating practices; to utilize the advantages of this area as a yachting and boating center; and to promote cruises and social functions.

Town & River Cruise Club on page 4

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Unapproved]

South Pointe South Clubhouse Thursday, October 12, 2023

Call To Order – President Craig O'Donnell Officers, Directors, & Residents Present A quorum was established.

Present: President Captain Craig O'Donnell, Vice President John Kristobak, Treasurer Ann Marie Aeschliman, Directors

Tom Aeschliman, George Winn, Kay Gloris, Marge Byrne, Mark Generales

Absent: Martha Smith, Myriam Lentz, Gary Hudson, Secretary Renee Notes

Approval Of Minutes – September 14, 2023, minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Financials were emailed to the Board. • Outstanding Dues-Three (3) Owners still outstanding in

- paying mandatory dues o 958 Empty Lot
- o Sanchez home may be abandoned. Send both Cert & Regular Mail (forwarding) available to get in touch with the owner about dues.
 - Motion to approve financials-all in favor.

Deeds Of Restriction/Architectural Review Committee

• All Plans/Permits are accounted for at the time of the Board meeting.

Old Business

 Establish Clear Cut Street Director Procedures for HOA Violations - Revised since last minutes on September 14, 2023

- o Initiate HOA Violation Process by Street Directors/ Homeowner compliant through regular review of assigned
- Street Directors are to initially address violations with owners-by face-to-face or phone call or friendly reminder letter.
- o Notify Exec Secretary Donna McClung to compose violation letter to the homeowner as next step if the owner(s) has not addressed the violation in a timely manner.
- o Exec Secretary to send draft violation letter for review by Street Director and Architectural Review Chair
- After review and approval of violation letter, Exec secretary to send via Certified/Return Receipt letter to homeowner in violation of HOA Deeds of Restrictions
- Exec Secretary to send copy of violation letter to all members of the Town & River Board of Directors
- o Follow up to be conducted by Street Director/ hitectural Chair
- o If violation not remediated timely Town & River HOA Board of Directors are to gain agreement on next steps with Homeowner in violation
 - Motion to accept new procedures approved.
 - Mueller Lawsuit
- o Suit over setbacks has been initiated again by owner's attorney.
- o Board to direct DeBoast Law Firm to answer attorney letter.
- o DeBoast Fees and expenses to be paid by Town & River HOA

PAID

New Business

- · New Town and River FL email address for street director's violation reporting
 - o DORviolations@townandriverfl.com
- Please no longer use archreview@townandriverfl. com for reporting violations
- ■This is to keep the violation and architectural business separate for better management.
- A new spreadsheet was developed in Google Sheets for tracking violations. Here is the sheet address. https://docs. google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Z5Tim28A8qbTpzSiQRkdM VN4khybV6qrLtdGqKdz_jw/edit?usp=sharing

This is an active spreadsheet allowing changes to be saved as you type. If you have comments or suggestion on improving the sheet with additional columns for desired information, please provide Donna McClung your request at execsec@townandriverfl.com

Violation spreadsheet to be distributed via email by secutive Secretary before monthly board meetings

- Preliminary discussion about re-drawing Unit line for North Town & River
 - Owners may opt-in without re-drawing
 - Owners may not change Units

ADJOURN

Respectfully, Donna McClung, Executive Secretary, Town & River Civic Association townandriverfl.com P.O. Box 07073 Fort Myers, FL 33919

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE Town & River News FT MYERS FL PERMIT 751

All are encouraged to attend our next Board meeting on December 141

The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

South Pointe South Clubhouse 9734 Foxglove Circle, Fort Myers.

Check out our new website www.townandriverfil.com.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Rooftop Fun

The rooftop bar, open from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., Wednesday and Friday nights atop Sidney's, is fun for everyone with a panoramic 360-degree view of the city and the sunset over the Caloosahatchee River! The Sidney &



Berne Davis Art Center invites the public to come learn, sip, create, celebrate, listen to music and dance the night away! Sidney's sculpture garden and reception area are

from 6 p.m. till midnight. Note: Some nights will carry a nominal cover charge. Enjoy painting, dance, yoga or live music on the rooftop. All ages welcome.

now open to the public on Wednesday and Friday nights

- Wednesday. Dec. 6 Latin Dance with Angela, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 Wednesday Nights at Sidney's presents: D.J. Don Fresh, 8 to 11 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 Davis School of Music Recital, 6 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 15 Friday Nights at Sidney's presents: Briz & Lady
 - Wednesday, Dec. 20 Wine and Paint, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 20 and 27 Rooftop Karaoke, 8:30
- Sunday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Rooftop Party, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Ring in the New Year at Southwest Florida's largest open-air rooftop while sipping champagne or your favorite cocktails and a bird's-eye view of the historic downtown Fort Myers River District. Celebrate New Year's Eve at a ravishing party perched on the rooftop of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Saturday, Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dress is cocktail attire.

Sidney's Rooftop Sculpture Garden offers an unforgettable setting for a classy New Year's Eve celebration with great food, cool drinks, and amazing rooftop views with epic panoramas over the city. This is an opportunity to enjoy exclusive "front-row" seating including lounge furniture, tables and chairs to watch the incredible display of downtown fireworks provided by the River District Alliance. Tickets are \$222 per adult, VIP tables available. Space is limited so don't wait. Guests can enjoy a spectacular celebration with live music, an open bar (ages 21-plus), dancing on an oversized dance floor, extravagant food stations, a late night dessert buffet, a champagne toast at midnight, and more – all with a stylish ambience ideal for a sophisticated New Year's Eve night.

Word Scramble Winter Things

Owns

Esld Ognbtoga Sshticarm etre Iks cark

Eci Iigfnsh Otssnwboo

Word Scramble Solution on page 6

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Yncad scena Ssmharite rsocal

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Tickets include: 2023 New Year's Eve (NYE) swag, heavy hors d'oeuvres by Frisco's, full open bar, and live music by The Lineup Band.

VIP Tickets include: 2023 NYE swag, heavy hors d'oeuvres by Frisco's, full open bar, live music by The Lineup Band. VIP includes premium waterfront seating with best view of fireworks, designated VIP food station with designated cocktail waitress.

Please visit our website www.sbdac.com for more information.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC), 2301 First St., Fort Myers, FL 33901, (239) 333-1933, www.sbdac.com.

Crossword Puzzle Across 1. Siberian antelope 6. Tempest 11. Spring month 12. Appeals to God 15. Unit of electric current 16. Thrombocyte 17. Expected 18. Large flightless bird 20. Air hero 21. Dredge 23. Social status 24. Chew on 25. Noble 26. Religious offshoot 27. Smile 28. Ascend 29. Thick flat pad 30. Intimidate 31. Sexual arousal 34. Confuse

Down

36. Type of hat

42. Gammons

45. A rounded projection

37. Bleats

41. Extol

43. Fluff

44. Roll up

46. Sea eagle

47. Superior limb

48. Male witch

54. Passes along

57. Eliminate

58. Flying toys

59. Terminated

56. Medical needle

51. Clobber

52. Cross

1. Japanese warrior

2. Shows up

3. Anger

4. Form of money transfer

5. Brews

6. Broken finger support

7. Follow

8. Pledge 9. Deli loaf

10. Skin pigment 13. Take back

14. Ragout

15. Type of viper

16. Feasible

19. Delicacy 22. Elated

24. Moan and groan

26. Dirty air

27. Petrol

30. Pickpockets (slang)

32. Staff

33. Small part 34. Unclear

35. Designate

38. Aviation station

39. Ticked off

40. Stairs 42. Stallions

44. Soft greasy substances

45. Huge

48. Left

49. Algonquian Indian

50. Composer Jerome

53. Seven in Roman numerals

55. Young boy

Crossword Solution on page 6



Holiday House 2023

Now Through Dec. 31

For 67 years, Fort Myers Woman's Community Club (FMWCC) has been proud to host Holiday House. The members of FMWCC are excited to bring this timeless, treasured Southwest Florida tradition to life once more in a new and exciting fashion.

This year we're decking the halls, or more specifically the windows, of First Street in our picturesque historic downtown river district!

The ladies of the Fort Myers Woman's Community Club invite you to join us in 2023 for a Holiday House Christmas Stroll.

I'll Be Home for Christmas ... If Only In My Dreams is a timeless salute to our military. Enjoy scenes both modern and vintage all along First Street, with the occasional offshoot, of what we want our men and women in uniform to see when they come home to their families for the holidays.



There is **no charge** for our presentation but we invite you to scan the QR codes on the signs in any of the windows to donate as you are able. The invaluable support of our community makes next year's Holiday House event possible!

owners along our stroll path, we will share as we are able. Langford-Kingston house this year? Due to consistent scheduling conflicts with weddings and other events during the holiday season, it has become increasingly difficult to sustain our event at the homes so Holiday House 2023 will take place exclusively along the stroll path to the west of



the Sidney Berne Davis Art Center.

greet anywhere along the stroll path.

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 Boulevard and Daniels Parkway).

Our next meeting will be held early (due to the Christmas holiday) on Thursday, Dec. 14, and our planned program will feature Maestro Andrew Kurtz, music director and CEO, Gulf Coast Symphony, along with a small ensemble of symphony musicians. The Gulf Coast Symphony is the second-largest nonprofit performing arts organization in Lee County.

will be a grilled breast of chicken with natural jus, farro, garlic, walnuts, raisins and green onion, served with chef's choice of both seasonal vegetables and dessert. The plantbased/vegan meal will consist of stuffed delicata squash with farro, garlic, walnuts, raisins, cranberries and green onion, along with a bed of spinach and seasonal vegetables. Dessert will be fresh berries topped with coconut whipped cream. Fresh rolls and butter are always served.

Women's Club

parking is available throughout the river district.

How do I know which businesses will be decorated? I want to see them all! As we firm up details with the business

Is Holiday House at the Burroughs home or

When does Holiday House end? This year's event will

Will there be any place for Santa pictures? FMWCC

Where do I park? We encourage you to enjoy the

run until Dec. 31. Holiday House will be available to the

does not currently have any plans to host a Santa meet and

entirety of the event so there is no designated Holiday House parking. Garages are easily accessible and unmetered street

public for the entirety of the Christmas season!

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 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 lunch.

Luncheon fee is \$28 and the planned regular menu

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 cutoff to attend this meeting is noon, Thursday, Dec. 7.

Let us help make your holiday season special. Whether you're looking for a gift for a loved one or thinking about popping the question, we're here to help make your holiday one to remember. Radiant Diamonds • Brilliant Gemstones Fashion & Designer Jewelry • Estate Jewelry Jewelry Repair • Custom Design • Authentic Atocha Treasure Coins

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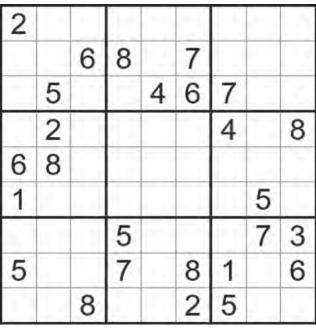
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Sudoku Puzzle



Town & River Cruise Club from page 1

Membership in the club is open to all residents of Town & River, whether you have a boat or not. For additional information or to attend any of the events listed above by boat or car please contact Ken Beebe at (239) 466-1625.



Honorata Shue thinks she has the winning ticket.



Honorata Shue









The other prize winners were also thrilled! Marge Byrne



Lyn Morningstar



Barb Barrell



Marge Byrne helps Commodore Deb Haptonstall sell



50/50 tickets.



Paula Williamsen was thrilled to get a prize.

Town & River Civic Association Inc. Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2023	
	Oct 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	12,565.32
First Citizens Bank - MMS	76,537.07
PayPal Account	3,015.53
Total Checking/Savings	92,117.92
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	360.00
Total Accounts Receivable	360.00
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	6,114.69
Prepaid Insurance	2,631.80
Prepaid, Other Expense	250.00
Total Other Current Assets	8,996.49
Total Current Assets	101,474.41
TOTAL ASSETS	101,474.41
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	240.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	240.00
Total Current Liabilities	240.00
Total Liabilities	240.00
Equity	240.00
Prior Year Fund Balance	97,337.99
Net Income	,
	3,896.42
Total Equity	101,234.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EOUITY	101,474,41

Town & River Civic Association Inc. Profit And Loss October 2023

	Oct 23	Jan-Oct 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,680.00
Income - Voluntary	0.00	22,320.00
Total Income	0.00	33,000.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	250.00	4,250.00
Interest Income	17.91	104.62
Misc. Income	0.00	8.16
Total Income	267.91	37,362.78
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	3,910.00
Bank Fees	35.00	350.00
Corp Insurance	526.40	4,930.88
Email Service	0.00	738.75
General Repairs & Maintena	ance	
Canal Dredging	0.00	15,000.00
Total General Repairs		
& Maintenance	0.00	15,000.00
Legal Expense	0.00	1,185.00
Mailing	0.00	749.23
Meeting Rooms	0.00	275.00
Newspaper Postage	315.84	1,564.93
Office Expense	0.00	17.94
PayPal Fees	0.00	291.96
Postage & Delivery	0.00	541.20
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	841.07
Secretary Expense	0.00	1,322.50
Storage Expense	119.79	1,197.90
Website Maintenance	50.00	550.00
Total Expense	1,362.03	33,466.36
Net Ordinary Income	-1,094.12	3,896.42
Net Income	-1,094.12	3,896.42



TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC. OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS - as of May 8, 2023 www.townandriverfl.com

President	Capt. Craig O'Donnell	239-872-3313	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	John Kristobak	724-272-6818	vp@townandriverfl.com
Secretary	Renee Notes	239-209-2072	secy@townandriverfl.com
Treasurer	Ann Marie Aeschliman	239-270-0000	treas@townandriverfl.com

STREET ASSIGNMENTS	DIRECTOR	EMAIL PHONE NUMBER			
Bal Isle Dr E Town & River Rd	Tom Aeschliman	dir1@townandriverfl.com 239-822-3275			
Brevity Ln N Waterway Dr	Marge Byrne	dir3@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923			
Cal Cove Dr Cape View Dr Hatchee Vista Ln Jennifer Ln	Gary Hudson	dir2@townandriverfl.com 239-671-9961			
Clarellen Dr Cypress Lake Dr	Marge Byrne	dir4@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923			
Cypress Lake Cr Joanna Cr Sand Spur Ln	Myriam Lentz	dir5@townandriverfl.com 239-225-8533			
Deep Lagoon Ln Julie Ann Ct	Mark Generales	dir6@townandriverfl.com 239-398-5332			
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347			
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	George Winn	dir8@townandriverfl.com 239-707-8257			
N. Town & River Dr	Kay Gloris	dir9@townandriverfl.com 239-470-6400			
Lake Committee	Renee Notes	secy@townandriverfl.com 239-209-2072			
Deeds of Restriction Committee	John Kristobak	archreview@townandriverfl.com 724-272-6818			
Architectural Review Committee	John Kristobak	archreview@townandriverfl.com 724-272-6818			

Please contact the Director responsible for your street regarding any issues related to Town & River.

NEW OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION REQUEST

Town & River Civic Association Inc.

P.O. Box 07073

Fort Myers, FL 33919

For improved communications,

Please update your contact information and go on-line to add to T&R Directory

Name(s):_____

Telephone Number(s):

Town & River Address: _____

Email Address: ______

Mailing or other address, including zip:

Attention members in good standing, who have submitted their contact information, and have agreed to have their contact information published in the online directory, please go to our Town & River website @ www.townandriverfl.com and "sign up for members only directory".

Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only.

GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB



Where Playing In Paradise Is A Lifestyle

GOLF EQUITY MEMBERSHIP

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Reciprocal With 20 + Area Clubs
Year-Round Practice Range
Active Tennis Program
Wellness Center & Day Spa
30 + Complimentary Classes Weekly
Pool & Hot Tub
Waterfront Dining
Social Activities & Events
Initiation Fee \$60,000*

*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$40,000 Pricing subject to current conditions CALL FOR A
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SPORTS EQUITY MEMBERSHIP

Active Tennis Program
Golf Two Times a Month in Season
Unlimited Off-Season Golf
Wellness Center & Day Spa
30 + Complimentary Classes Weekly
Pool & Hot Tub
Waterfront Dining
Social Activities & Events
Initiation Fee \$12,000*

*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$40,000 Pricing subject to current conditions

Our 24,000 Sq. Ft. Wellness Center Offers: TechnoGym Equipment, Group Cycle, Pilates, TRX, Barre, Circuit Training, Golf Diagnostics, Full Service Spa & More.

GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB IS A FINANCIALLY SOLID EQUITY MEMBER OWNED & OPERATED CLUB

Catch The Action

December On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

Two times I look forward to each fishing year. First, when the water warms after winter and bait schools return to our waters. And second, when the water cools to the point baitfish vacate our inshore waters as we approach the end of the year. I love fishing live bait most of the year, but it's a lot of work and time-consuming netting them, not to mention the mess you start the day with. During the cooler months, most fish prefer easier-to-catch shrimp.

December is the month we make the transition and shrimp become the primary diet for most fish. Apart from mullet (a pure vegetarian), there are not any fish I can think of in our coastal waters that won't eat a shrimp. When the water temperature drops to the point that baitfish leave our local waters then shrimp becomes the go-to bait.

Cooler weather gives a big boost for catching sheepshead as the larger ones move inshore and over nearshore reefs. Look for them around structures, including dock and bridge pilings, rock jetties along the

Word Scramble Solution from page 2

Snow Toboggan
Sled Christmas tree
Ski rack Snowboots
Ice fishing Candy canes
Mittens Christmas carols

Crossword Solution from page 2

6	S	Α	1	G	Α			S	Т	0	R	M	F.	
	Α	Р	R	1	L			Р	R	Α	Υ	Ε	R	S
Α	M	Р	Е	R	Е		Р	L	Α	Т	Ε	L	Ε	Т
D	U	Ε		0	S	T	R	1	С	Н		Α	С	Ε
D	R	Α	G			R	Α	N	K		G	N	Α	W
Е	Α	R	L		S	Е	С	Т		G	R		N	
R	1	S	Е		M	Α	Т	E	D	Α	U	N	Т	10
			Е	R	0	T	1	C	1.	S	M			
	В	Е	F	0	G		С	Α	Р		В	Α	Α	S
	L	Α	U	D	k.	Н	Α	M	S		L	1	N	Т
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Α	R	M		W	Α	R	L	0	С	K		В	0	Р
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		K	1	T	E	S			Е	N	D	Е	D	

Sudoku Puzzle Solution from page 3

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

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beach, oyster bars, and most nearshore artificial reefs and hard bottom in the gulf within sight of land. Seasoned anglers fish shrimp on a jig head or a small, very sharp hook with just enough weight to reach the bottom. If you don't mind fishing in the cold, this is your fish. The colder the better for sheepshead. Unlike sheepshead from the northern states, ours are excellent on the table.

Pompano are similar to sheepsheads, in the fact that they will not eat any type of baitfish, they feed primarily on small crustaceans, including shrimp, crabs, sand fleas, small crustaceans and mollusk. Small nylon jigs tipped with a piece of shrimp are deadly for pompano when slowly bounced over a hard or sand bottom. Silly Willy

or Crazy-style jigs have also gained a lot of popularity over recent years. Popular colors are white, pink, and yellow. Sheepsheads and pompano have small mouths, so it is important to use a small hook. If you are unsure of the size, stop in at your local tackle shop and let them hook you up and give you some pointers.

Sea trout are moving off the shallow grass flats to deeper protected areas as temperatures drop with arriving cold fronts. Deep areas around oyster bars, creeks, canals, and potholes are good areas to target. During mild or warmer stretches trout move back over shallower areas. Live shrimp and DOA shrimp under popping corks are deadly baits drifted over flats.

Redfish are located around oyster bars, deeper creeks, hard bottom shorelines, and structures such as dock pilings. Over the past month, anglers caught good numbers of smaller redfish around oyster bars and creeks. December should bring more of the same. Larger reds can be sight fished on the lower tides over shallow flats adjacent to deeper water. This is best done wade fishing, from a kayak, canoe, or a shallow water skiff. Again, shrimp is the best bait, either the real thing or artificial and fly imitations.

Offshore, we can expect hookups with a mix of species around nearshore reefs, ledges, and hard bottom. Bottom dwellers like sheepsheads, snapper, flounder, grouper, grunts, pompano, and permit are a good possibility. Also,



Spanish and king mackerel, bonito or false albacore, barracuda, sharks, and cobia are likely to get in on the action at any time.

As the craziness of the holiday season is upon us, a day on the water is a great way to get away from the crowds. We should see days with great weather and fishing opportunities in between cold fronts to close out the year. Wishing all of you who take the time to read this column a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Stay up to date with fishing regulations by visiting Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission at www.myfwc. com. Also, upload the Fish Rules app on your phone. It has current regulations with pictures

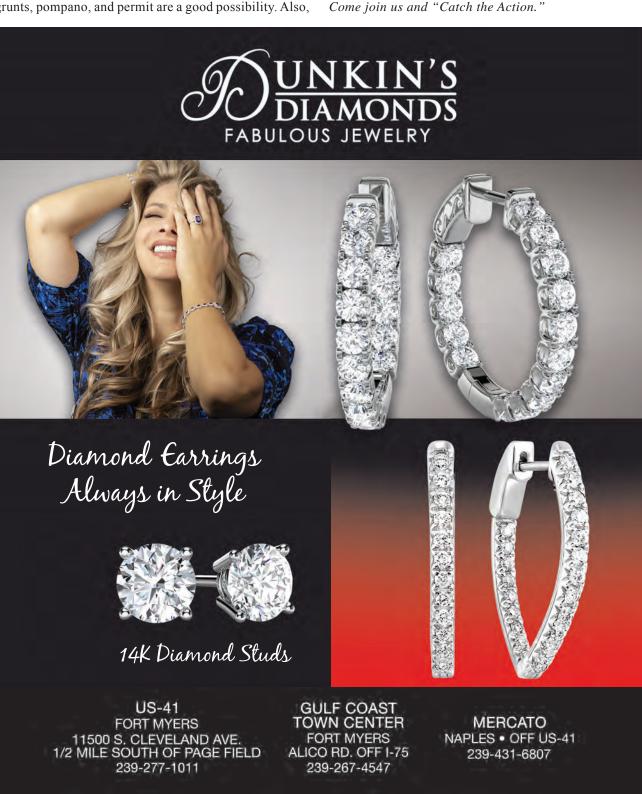
everyone on board has a great time and will return again.

to help identify fish.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 410-8576, website: www.fishpineisland.com, email: gcl2fish@live.com.

email: gcl2fish@live.com.

Capt. Bill Russell is a native and lifelong resident of Pine Island who has spent his entire life fishing the waters surrounding Pine Island and Southwest Florida. For the past 27 years, Bill has been a professional fishing guide who takes pride in customizing each trip to ensure



United Way Kicks Off 2023/24 Campaign

Pacesetter Companies Ignite \$11.3 Million Fundraising Effort

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades celebrated its 2023/24 Campaign Kickoff at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers, where more than 600 business, nonprofits and community leaders gathered to hear updates from the organization. Event sponsors included Busey Bank, Uhler, Vertich, and White Advisors and Publix Super Markets.

"We are so blessed here in Lee County to have heroes walking among us every single day. Anyone can be a hero," said Board Chair Noelle Branning. "We all have a capacity to help someone else, to know when someone needs that hand, and to recognize that we can do better. We all can be heroes today."



Kevin Karnes are superheroes!

be a part of that difference.

Campaign Cochairs Kevin Karnes and Jay Santos spoke

about the power of uniting heroes and the importance of

inspiring hope. They took turns describing how United Way

makes a difference in everyone's lives and how anyone can



Campaign Cochairs Jay Santos and Dawn Belamarich, Toby Belding, Jessica Walker, Gail Markham



Pamela Jenkins-Caggiano of LARC, Inc. was the lucky winner of the two-year Acura Integra lease donated by Scanlon Auto Group.



Michael Siefert, Trevor Whitley, Arnold Gillard, Brian O'Donnell

Pacesetter Cochairs Carolyn Rogers and Gary Matter gave updates about companies and organizations that ran their United Way campaigns early to set the pace for the rest of the community. Pacesetter giving, along with early Alexis de Tocqueville Society giving (individuals who contribute \$10,000-plus annually), has put United Way at 52 percent of the 2023/24 campaign goal of \$11,288,681. There are Jeannine Joy, United Way currently 175 Pacesetters with president and CEO 549 individuals who give at the



Keel Club level (donations of \$1,000-plus annually), including 88 who are Alexis de Tocqueville donors. The total raised thus far is \$5,926,048.

The top eight Pacesetter companies are:

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1. Publix Super Markets 2021	\$1,007,172
2. Carol Beesley's Paw Prints	\$298,000
3. LCEC	\$210,000
4. Lee Health	\$204,903
5. Lee Board of County Commissioners	\$140,000

6. O'Donnell Landscaping, Inc. \$135,013 7. United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Employee \$112,076

8. The School District of Lee County \$100,075

"We cannot thank our Pacesetters enough for the great start to this important campaign," Karnes said. "The \$11.3 million dollar goal is essential to making sure our coworkers, family, friends and neighbors continue to get the help they need."

"We are thankful to all of our donors and volunteers for deeply caring about our community and being true heroes by providing the hope for a better tomorrow," Santos added. "What an amazing start to such an important campaign for our community."

A highlight of the campaign kickoff was when former Campaign Cochairs Beth Hendry and John Clinger gave away a two-year Acura Integra lease from Scanlon Auto Group, a longtime supporter. This marks the 23rd year that Scanlon has donated a vehicle to one generous United Way supporter who contributes at least \$240 annually through a payroll deduction. This year, Pamela Jenkins-Caggiano of LARC, Inc. was the lucky winner.

All money raised through the United Way campaign stays in the local community to help support the local human service network of partner agencies. United Way Partner Agencies such as Harry Chapin Food Bank, Community Cooperative, Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Children's Advocacy Center, Literacy Council Gulf Coast and Boys & Girls Clubs serve a diverse range of needs in the community.

About United Way

In addition to raising funds for human service organizations in our community, United Way



promotes partnerships and of Lee, Hendry and Glades

collaborations among agencies, helping them to work together focusing on issues that continue to improve lives. United Way is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people in our community. United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades was established in 1957 and over \$225 million has been raised and distributed since that time. For more information, please call (239) 433-2000 or visit UnitedWayLee.org.





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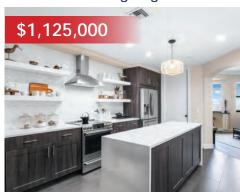
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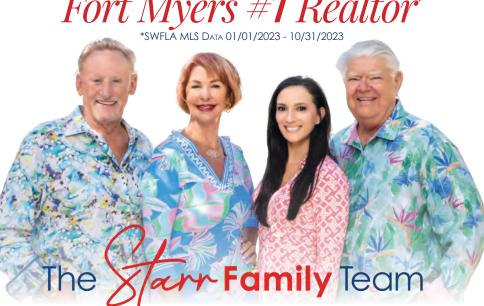


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