

IN HER SHOES

#SWFLstrong: Naples woman walks miles for breast cancer awareness

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‘BIRD BRAINS’

AUDUBON RESEARCHER TALKS
SEABIRDS AT ROOKERY BAY

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THEY ARE THE CHAMPIONS

CARLISLE NAPLES SENIORS
COMPETE IN OLYMPIC-STYLE GAMES

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PLANET KERTH

THE AGONY OF SHOWING WHERE
YOUR RELATIONSHIP SITS

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW *THIS WEEK

ONE

Naples Botanical Garden opens gates for dog days of summer

Throughout the year, Naples Botanical Garden celebrates the special bond between humans and dogs with the Dogs in the Garden program three days a week. During the month of August, they are going to offer it even more.

From Tuesday, August 1 to Thursday, August 31 during the summer hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Garden guests and their dogs are welcome all day long and any day of the week.

The popular program provides pups of all sizes the opportunity to socialize amidst the lush landscape of the Garden. Though a Garden leash-law applies and dogs are not permitted in the Smith Children's Garden, owners are able to escort Fido through acres and acres of the Garden, including down the winding paths, around the waterfall and sloping lawns of the Kapnick Brazilian Garden, and past the Scott Florida Garden to the White Birding Tower.

All dogs are required to be current on vaccinations and registrations, with one dog admitted per adult. Regular admission applies: \$14.95 for adults, \$9.95 for dogs, Garden members and their dogs receive free admission.



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THREE

More than 5,000 lionfish removed so far in Lionfish Challenge

Interested in removing lionfish? There's still plenty of time to compete in this year's Lionfish Challenge, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) statewide removal incentive program.

The program started on Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day, May 20, and ends Sept. 4. Over 5,000 lionfish have been removed from Florida waters thanks to the program, including nearly 3,700 recreational fish removals and more than 1,200 pounds commercially (equates to about 1,400 fish).

The challenge rewards lionfish harvesters with prizes such as T-shirts, tumblers, heat packs for stings, pole spears, an extra spiny lobster per day during the two-day sport season and much more. It only takes 25 lionfish (or 25 pounds commercially) to qualify for the program and the more lionfish you enter, the more prizes you will receive. Plus, all participants are entered into a raffle to win even more prizes such as Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium gift bags, ZombieStickz pole spears and customized ZooKeeper Lionfish Containment Units.

The persons with the most lionfish at the end of the competition will be crowned the Lionfish King or Queen (recreational category) and the Commercial Champion at the Lionfish Safari tournament in St. Petersburg the weekend of Sept. 9.

Think you have what it takes to be crowned the next Lionfish King/Queen or Commercial Champion? Sign up and learn more today by visiting MyFWC.com/Lionfish.



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2 Grace Place supporters rise to the challenge

Grace Place for Children and Families announced the successful completion of its "West Side Challenge." A generous Marco Island family, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered the \$875,000 matching gift in January of this year.

The dollar-for-dollar match was extended in order to secure the remaining \$1.75 million necessary to complete the "West Side" of the Grace Place Campus Expansion Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of Grace Place's loyal supporters, including a substantial grant from the Clark Family Foundation, the necessary matching funds were raised in only six short months.

Scheduled to be completed by August 2017, the new buildings on the "West Side" will offer 28,000 square feet of additional space for family literacy programming. Additions will include learning labs for tutoring and small group English classes; a media resource room; much needed space for staff collaboration and development; and 12 new multi-generational classrooms, including two computer labs and eight early childhood education classrooms.

All the new buildings will be LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), making Grace Place one of the first educational centers in Collier County to acquire LEED certification.

For more information, visit graceplacenaples.org.



Editor's note: The following is a compilation of news briefs and photos from naplesnews.com and the Daily News. Visit our website for full versions and more photos and videos.



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