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DIAMONDS

Home burns in North Naples

Jessica Rodriguez Naples Daily News
 USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Neighbors walked outside to thick smoke after a fire erupted inside a home Saturday in the 800 block of 94th Avenue in the Naples Park neighborhood of North Naples.

As of late Saturday afternoon, the cause of the fire was unknown, said North Collier Fire Rescue spokeswoman Heather Mazurkiewicz. Though the fire appeared to cause significant damage to the home, the dollar amount was unknown as well, Mazurkiewicz said.

Ash Smith, 18, had left the home less than an hour earlier when she got a call from a family member who said "something happened to the house." She was working at Norman Love Confections and rushed to her home about 20 minutes into her shift. She knew her grandfather was home alone.

About 2:30 p.m. Smith arrived to a street blocked by fire trucks from the North Collier Fire Rescue. She

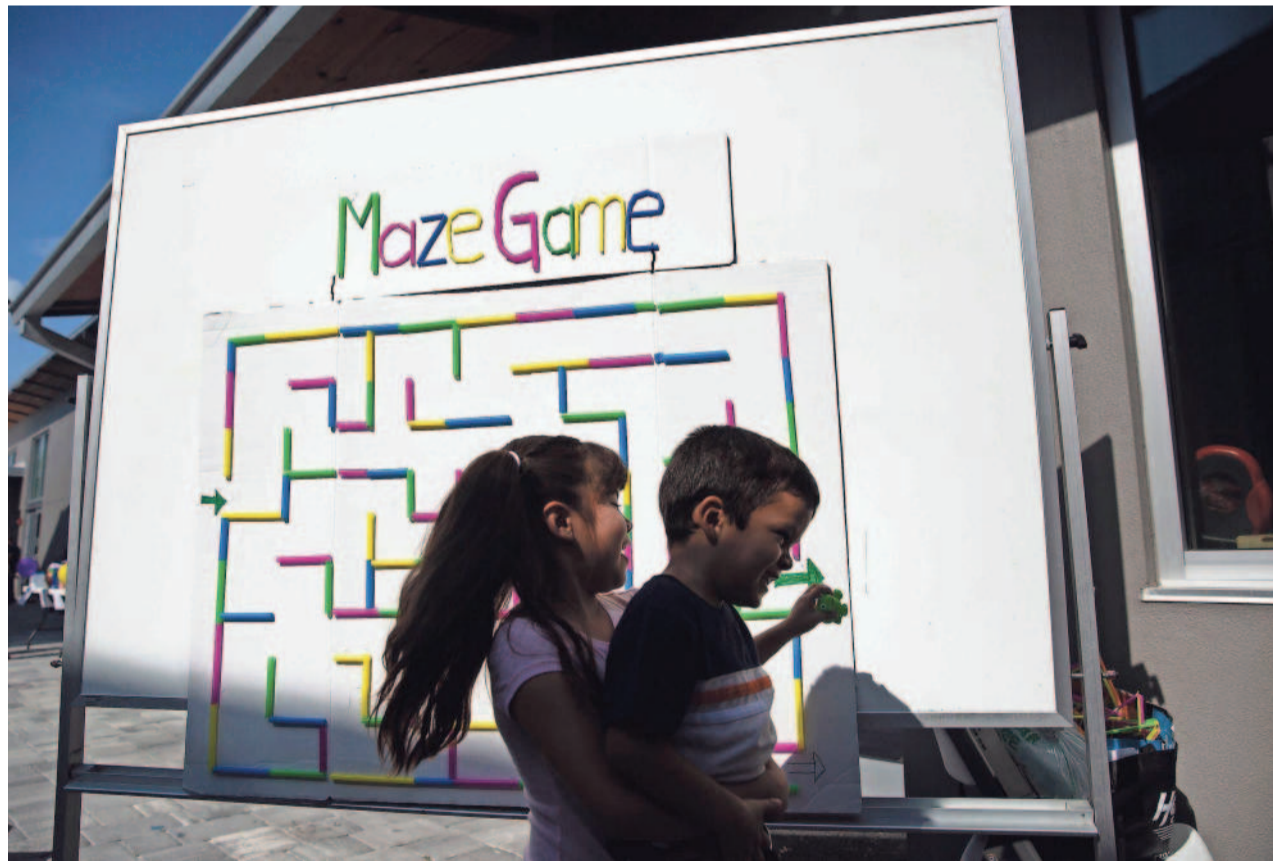
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A North Collier Fire and Rescue firefighter pulls his hose into position as a crew battles a house fire Saturday in the 800 block of 94th Avenue North in the Naples Park neighborhood in North Naples.

JON AUSTRIA/
 NAPLES DAILY NEWS

GRACE PLACE HOLDS FAMILY LITERACY DAY



Gracie Resendiz, 6, carries Manuel Salazar, 4, while playing with a maze Saturday during Family Literacy Day at Grace Place in Golden Gate.

Reading was far from the only activity offered at the event

Jessica Rodriguez
 Naples Daily News
 USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Kids and parents got their hands dirty with slime and kinetic sand, competed in squat challenges and listened to story time during Saturday's Family Literacy Day at Grace Place in Golden Gate.

For Armando Garcia, the Collier County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Investigation Lab was the most enjoyable part. The 7-year-old was eager to learn how investigators track finger prints and footprints.

Grace Place in Golden Gate offers resources to families in the community

See **LITERACY DAY**, Page 6A



Matt Torres, owner of North Naples Cross Fit, counts the number of squats Carla Garcia, 7, can do in 60 seconds during a fitness challenge during Family Literacy Day. At center, Christopher Sanchez, 11, waits for his turn to take part in the squat challenge.

PHOTOS BY JON AUSTRIA/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Prediction: 1 storm enough



Brent Batten
 Columnist
 Naples Daily News
 USA TODAY NETWORK - FLA.

Hurricane season is difficult to forecast.

But one thing about it is highly predictable.

Sometime in early April, the team at Colorado State University will issue its seasonal outlook and news outlets along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts will eat it up.

Front-page stories will announce the findings of Dr. Phil Klotzbach and his team inspired by the late William Gray.

There's a paradox at play every time the predictions are made.

They're almost always wrong in the sense that they seldom arrive at the actual number of storms when the season plays out.

What value is a prediction that isn't correct?

On the other hand, they focus attention on hurricane season a couple of months before it commences. That's never a bad thing.

Often overlooked in the annual report are two sentences the CSU scientists place high in their introduction each year:

"As is the case with all hurricane seasons, coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. They should prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted."

If the annual prediction serves no other purpose than to get people to read those words, it has done its job.

The science behind the hurricane prediction is mind-boggling.

They take into account things like sea surface temperatures from all parts of the Atlantic Ocean, the multivariate ENSO index, the Atlantic multi-decadal oscillation, and thermohaline circulation.

Using complex formulas and computers, they arrive at their best guess at the number of named storms, the number of hurricanes and the number of major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher. They've been doing it for 36 years, so they have it down to a science, if you'll forgive the pun.

Over about that same period living

See **BRENT BATTEN**, Page 11A



Carla Arias, center, her family, son Nicolas Rodriguez, 2, husband William Rodriguez and daughter Valentina Rodriguez learn how to recover fingerprints from Collier County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Investigator Alicia Craig during Family Literacy Day, held Saturday at Grace Place in Golden Gate.

JON AUSTRIA/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Literacy Day

Continued from Page 3A

through education programs for adults and kids.

The event followed a theme of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Grace Place volunteers and members set up 16 stations for families to visit and enjoy educational activities and games.

Christopher Sanchez, 11, carefully put together an electrical kit while following instructions from a book. Sanchez and his mother, Marlene Urena have been coming to Grace Place since Sanchez was 3 years old.

"This program is great," Urena said in Spanish. "It's a huge benefit for our community and it has helped me a lot with parenting him."

Sanchez hopes to one day pursue a career where he can work closely with technology.

Berenice Garcia watched her two daughters, 4 and 7, compete in an air squat challenge where North Naples Cross Fit coach Matt Torres was measuring how much power they can create with their legs.

Garcia started attending classes at Grace Place two years ago. She attended classes with her daughters and also learned English through the program.

Garcia, who moved to Florida from Mexico about 13 years ago, found out about the resources at Grace Place after her oldest daughter got sick and her doctor suggested the program.

"We don't have family here other than my husband and our kids," she said. "Grace Place really helped me understand that I am not alone. All of our family is still in Mexico but after finding Grace Place, I no longer feel alone."

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