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# THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

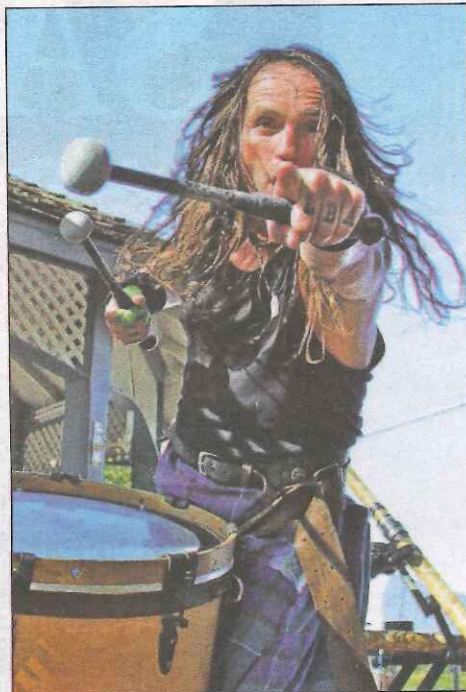
JANUARY 27, 2017

## Celtic Festival This Friday And Saturday

Celtic music will echo along the riverfront on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28 as the Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival returns for its 14th season in Fort Myers. The City of Fort Myers Recreation Division and Celtic Heritage Productions invite you to "don your tartan" and bring your family and friends to the two-day celebration.

The festival opens with a kick-off party at 5 p.m. Friday at Harborside Event Center, located 1375 Monroe Street. Entertainment includes pipe and drum band Albannach, all-sister Irish pop band The Screaming Orphans and Floridian Celtic rock band Rathkeltair. Admission to the kick-off party is \$5. The party entrance is located at the Harborside loading dock at the corner of Bay and Dean streets.

The festival continues at Centennial Park on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. with more than 10 hours of non-stop Celtic music, highlighted by performances from Albannach, The Screaming Orphans, Rathkeltair, West of Galway, Marcille Wallis & Friends and the Kellyn Celtic Arts Irish Dancers. Celtic fare, like meat pies and fish and chips, will be available for purchase, as well as traditional American festival food. Domestic and imported beers will be available. More than a dozen merchandise vendors will sell Celtic wares including



There will be more than 10 hours of music  
photo courtesy City of Fort Myers

jewelry, clothing, music and accessories. Admission is \$12; no charge for children under 12. Festival-goers are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. No coolers are allowed.

For more information, call the City of Fort Myers Parks, Recreation & Special Events at 321-7524 or Celtic Heritage Productions at 941-625-8544.★



Invitation by Lynn Davison

photo courtesy Alliance for the Arts

## Figurative Works Highlight New Exhibit At The Alliance

The Alliance for the Arts February exhibition, featuring Lynn Davison, will run from Friday, February 3 through Saturday, February 25, with an opening reception on Friday, February 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Davison will take part in a conversational walk and talk as she discusses her work in the exhibition on February 11 at 10 a.m.

A graduate of the Ringling School of Art and Design, Davison is a figurative

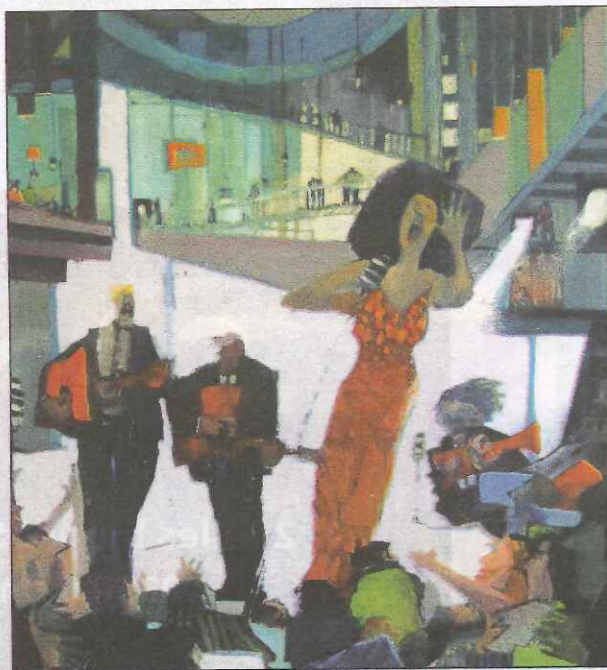
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## Opening Reception At ACT Gallery During Art Walk

Arts for ACT Gallery is hosting an opening reception during Art Walk on Friday, February 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. This month, ACT Gallery will feature the works of Peter Zell and Yvonne Krystman along with ACT Co-op artists.

Zell is an oil painter who has lived on Sanibel for the past 11 years. Before that, he practiced law in a civil trials firm in California for 32 years, finding time to take art classes at the local community college in the years before retirement. He has won various local awards from arts organizations, including second place at the 2007 Winner's Circle Exhibition. He was nominated for Best New Artist in the Angels of the Arts competition in Fort Myers in 2008. Zell has been a member of various galleries over the

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Red Dress by Peter Zell

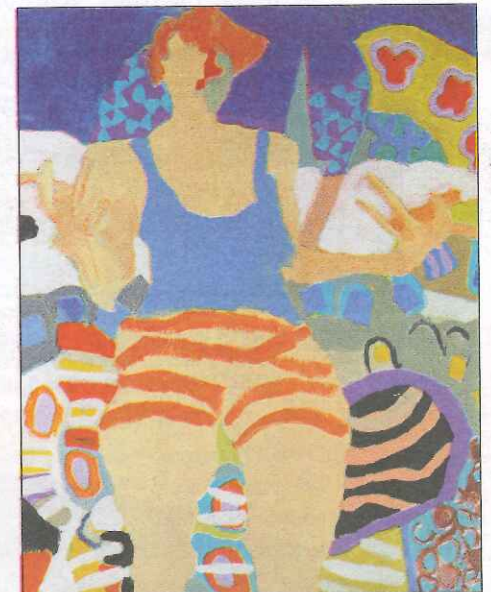
photo courtesy Arts for ACT

## Exhibition Spotlights Senior Talent

Shell Point Retirement Community and the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) are partnering to present a month-long exhibition titled Ageless Creativity: The Artists of Shell Point, which will open concurrently with the annual ArtFest Fort Myers at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 3.

Sponsored by FineMark National Bank & Trust, the show will feature 188 jury-selected artworks, many of which will be available for sale. All work has been produced during the retirement years of the 49 Shell Point resident artists, who range in age from the early 60s to mid-90s. Represented media includes acrylic, watercolor, oil, pastels, pencil, charcoal, clay, fabric, stone, metal, shells, wood, mixed media and photography.

"The goal of the exhibition is to demonstrate that creativity is neither limited nor defined by age," said Marge Lee, Shell Point resident and professional exhibition interpretive



Anita Putnam uses colors, patterns and shapes to capture the joy of being alive, young and female in her work, titled Fresh Paint

photo courtesy Shell Point

planner who conceived the event. "The resulting exhibition is evidence that age does not hinder creativity; instead it is

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## Mixed-Use Building Receives Unanimous Zoning Approval

The Place on First, a new mixed-use building coming to the historic downtown Fort Myers River District, received unanimous Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning approval from the City of Fort Myers during a recent city council meeting. The PUD approval was a result of the support and approval of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Community Redevelopment Agency Board and the Planning Board.

"The support of city staff has been influential in the ongoing success of our project, as we work to create a design that is both modern and reflective of the downtown area's rich history and vibrant surroundings," said David Fry, developer of The Place on First. "We are thrilled to receive unanimous zoning approval and are excited to move onto the next stages of introducing The Place on First to the Fort Myers River District."

Located on the corner of First Street and Jackson, The Place on First is the first true mixed-use building to be constructed downtown in a decade. Fry worked closely with city officials including Mayor Randy Henderson, City Manager Saeed Kazemi and Don Paight, founder of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) throughout the approval process. The Place on First blends historic references with modern elements to meet the demand for a chic urban lifestyle in Southwest Florida. City staff calls the project "an iconic structure within the historic district."

Fry engaged Chris Joiner of Joiner Architecture to design the nine-story



The Place on First exterior street view

photos provided



The Sky Terrace on top of The Place on First

building, which is already being hailed as a hallmark building in the downtown historic district. TDM Consulting provided civil engineering and planning services for the project and Beverly Grady with Roetzel and Andress provided legal counsel for the PUD.

In addition to multiple restaurant and retail destinations and two floors of Class A office space, The Place on First also has a select few homes available on the building's private residential floors, levels 5 to 8, which are accessible by elevator or stairs. Each home includes a covered parking space in the building's first-floor garage, as well as access to luxury features including the ninth-floor Sky Terrace, a splash pool, grill area, fitness studio, two hotel-style guest suites, bicycle storage, and state-of-the-art entry access. Urban style elements throughout the homes, such as brick accent walls and cove lighting, are a part of the building's unique design aesthetic. Ranging from 1,296 to 2,412 square feet in size, floor plans include The Edison, The Heitman, The Jackson and The McGregor, with residences priced from the \$400s to the \$800s.

The Place on First recently opened a preview studio 2275 Main Street in Fort Myers, which showcases the future building. For more information, call 595 8690 or visit [www.theplaceonfirst.com](http://www.theplaceonfirst.com).

## Tickets Available For Wine & Food Fest Uncorked

SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. is capping off a weekend of giving with the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Uncorked Celebration Party, taking place Saturday, February 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Six Bends Harley-Davidson in Fort Myers. The event follows The Grand Tasting and Live Auction to be held from noon to 4 p.m. at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. The after party will feature live music from all-star lineup The Loving Mary Band and Steeltown Religion, another Renee Morgan Live Presentation. The event is sponsored by Don and Cathy Canterna; Paul and Heather Christie; Patrick and Brooke Denson; Scott and Mary Fischer; Scott and Diana Willis; Morgan & Morgan; Private Client Insurance Services, LLC; Sanibel Captiva Community Bank; Seminole Casino Hotel; Six Bends Harley-Davidson; Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A.; and Royal Shell - Real Estate Sales and Rentals.

In addition to the live performances, the event features American Barrels Bourbon Whiskey, freshly rolled cigars and casual cuisine provided by a lineup of food trucks. Six Bends Harley-Davidson is located at 9501 Thunder Road in Fort Myers and will be closed

to the public for this private, ticket-only event. Tickets to the casual celebration party are \$500 per person and can be purchased at [www.swflwinefest.org](http://www.swflwinefest.org).

The Loving Mary Band, formed by Marti Frederiksen, is a sextet of successful singers, songwriters, producers and musicians. Frederiksen, lead singer and guitarist, has written and produced hit songs for Aerosmith, Ozzy Osbourne, Carrie Underwood and many more. Collectively, the group featuring Frederiksen, Rebecca Lynn Howard, Suzie McNeil, Elisha Hoffman, Andrew Mactaggart and Sara Tomek created a memorable first release using decades of songwriting expertise, four-piece harmonies and their appreciation for classic rock, county and Americana. In addition, The Loving Mary Band recently landed a coveted spot as Steven Tyler's backup band on his inaugural solo tour.

Steeltown Religion features Nashville recording artists Aimee Jane and Eddie Willer. The group writes and performs various genres of music and range from an intimate duo to a full band. Steeltown Religion band members are seasoned players, including guest lead guitarists Kenny Olson (Kid Rock) and Carlo Volhl (Melissa Ethridge, and Lita Ford). The group has shared bills with national acts including Lady Antebellum, Joe Nichols, Billy Currington and many more.

The two-day 2017 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest event includes private Chef Vintner Dinners

on Friday, February 24. During the live auction on Saturday, bidders will compete for the winning bid on a selection of 40 auction lots including exclusive getaways, delectable wine and culinary offerings and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, with all proceeds to benefit SWFL Children's Charities, Inc.'s beneficiaries, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, Florida SouthWestern State College and Florida

Gulf Coast University.

SWFL Children's Charities Inc.'s annual signature fundraiser has raised \$16 million over the past eight years, making it the most successful fundraising event in Lee County and one of the top-grossing wine fests in the country.

For more information, visit [www.swflwinefest.org](http://www.swflwinefest.org).

## Teen Battle Of The Bands

Teen bands of all genres can enter the Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands until February 15. The top three bands will perform live on March 18 at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. All bands are encouraged to visit [www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle](http://www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle) to read the rules, upload an audio or video recording to YouTube and complete the entry form by February 15.

The contest is open to bands of two or more individuals who are residents of Lee, Charlotte, Collier or Hendry counties and are between the ages of 13- to 19-years-old on the date of entry. Proof of age is required. The elimination round will be judged by a combination of judge's panel (60 percent) and online voting (40 percent). Online voting will be open from February 17 to March 1. The final battle will be live at the Reading Festival. The judges will determine the first- and second-place winners and the Popular Choice

Award will be determined by crowdsourcing voting at the close of the battle.

The first-place prize includes an eight-hour studio recording session at Sonic Recording Studios, a professional photo from Laura Michele Photos and a feature article in *Gulf Coast Times*. The battle and festival are presented by the Lee County Library System and are intended to encourage involvement in reading and the arts among middle and high school students.

"The local teen talent is always astounding. We are again very excited about the Battle and the live performance opportunity this contest offers the teens in Southwest Florida," festival coordinator Margie Byers said.

For more information or to enter a band, go to [www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle](http://www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle). Complete author information, schedules of festival activities, partner events, directions to the event and more, are available in the festival app available free at the App Store or Google Play, online at [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) or by calling 479-4636.