Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020



HOLIDAY FESITIVITES LIGHT UP THE RANCH: The annual Holidays Around the Ranch drew crowds to enjoy caroling, a snow slide, performances and, of course, the arrival of Santa! For more photos see pages 18-19. Photo by the Lakewood Ranch Digital Photography Club.

INSIDE: TAYLOR MORRISON'S NEW CULINARY CENTER OPENS Page 8

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Page 10 COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND EVENTS Page 26

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In Lakewood Ranch, just off SR 70: 14405 Arbor Green Trail, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

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Advertising Sales/Circulation: Around the Ranch is published by Lakewood Ranch Media which is solely responsible for its content. The Herald-Tribune is responsible for the printing, distribution and sales production of this newspaper. The articles and editorial viewpoints contained in this publication are written solely by Lakewood Ranch Media with the assistance of the Community Services Office and other offices in Lakewood Ranch, none of which are associated with the Herald-Tribune.

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Del Webb Lakewood Ranch Offers New "GenYou" Floor Plans

Del Webb has introduced three new series of "GenYou" floor plans at Del Webb Lakewood Ranch.

Del Webb Lakewood Ranch's new GenYou series will consist of a dozen new floor plans, featuring zero-entry walk-in showers, pointof-use storage, widened hallways and a flexibility in space design that reflects buyers' preferences and passions.

"Our new GenYou home designs now offered at Del Webb Lakewood Ranch were born from feedback solicited from our current and prospective homebuyers," said Josh Graeve, vice president of sales for Pulte-Group's Southwest Florida Division. "We reprioritized space and maximized functionality to reflect how our active residents spend time in their homes, whether it's cooking gourmet meals, entertaining family or practicing a new hobby."

The "Scenic Series" offers three two- to four-bedroom, two- to three-bath open floor plans ranging from 1,405 to 2,211 square feet that capitalize on space and each offer a separate flex room for personalization into a home office, media room or hobby space.

Within the "Distinctive Series," five floor plans with 1,670 to 3,037 square feet offer two-to five-bedrooms.

Offering 2,269 to 3,659 square feet, the four floor plans of the "Echelon Series" offer a variety of elevations and exterior color palettes, along with large kitchens and open living spaces and ensuite bedrooms.

Four new professionally decorated models



showcase the innovative design and livability of the GenYou floor plans, officials said, with large kitchens and open floor spaces.

Del Webb Lakewood Ranch features a 21,000-square-foot clubhouse with a resort-style pool, state-of-the-art fitness center and movement studio, and tennis, bocce ball and pickleball courts. A full-time on-site lifestyle director plans a full schedule of community events, classes and activities, while the Lake House Restaurant and Bar offers an opportunity to meet new friends.

Del Webb Lakewood Ranch offers unlimited recreational and social opportunities, along with parks, lakes, nature preserves and more than 150 miles of trails and sidewalks for hiking and biking within the master-planned community of Lakewood Ranch.

For more information visit lakewoodranch. com.



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Taylor Morrison's new Culinary Center At Esplanade in Lakewood Ranch opens

Taylor Morrison recently held a grand celebration of its first-ever culinary center at Esplanade Golf and Country Club at Lakewood Ranch. Invitees toured the culinary center and learned more about the communities Taylor Morrison is bringing to Lakewood Ranch within the next year: Esplanade at Azario, and Park East at Azario.

The 15,000-square-foot culinary center offers "world-class" culinary experiences exclusive to Esplanade residents. Residents and their guests are able to enjoy new opportunities including fine dining, cooking classes, wine tastings, and more.

The culinary center complements the existing resort amenities including a resort-style pool, poolside Bahama Bar and Grill, shaded lounge chairs, poolside tables and covered cabanas; a state-of-the-art wellness center designed with fitness rooms and equipment, aerobic rooms, spa and salon services, lockers and shower rooms. There is also a cutting-edge sports center with a pro shop featuring both golf and tennis programs with multiple lighted Har Tru tennis courts. For more information visit esplanadelwr.com.





Sarasota Polo Club at LWR to Host Ranch Nite Wednesdays

Visitors to last season's Market at Lakewood Ranch remember laid-back Wednesday nights at the Sarasota Polo Club; sharing food, fun, activities, and music as the sun went down.

The Market moved to Sundays at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, but the mid-week camaraderie lives on at Ranch Nite Wednesdays.

The "new" event will feature the familiar live music, with local acts by Independent Jones, kid's playground and family-friendly lawn games, and outdoor picnic and table seating. There will be a food truck rally with a rotating lineup of trucks each week, featuring a mix of dinner and dessert options. New this year are libations available for purchase from the Sarasota Polo Club.

"I am really looking forward to hosting our 'Ranch Nite' this season with

Lakewood Ranch Communities," said James Miller, co-owner of the Sarasota Polo Club. "Lakewood Ranch is growing the food truck participation and 'turning up the volume' on the live music talent. We are developing some additional turf games to complement polo, beginning with a



cornhole league, and we will have our Pavilion bar open for cocktails. This Wednesday evening program could be one of the most exciting additions to our season!"

MVP Sports and Social is hosting the highly anticipated first Lakewood Ranch-based cornhole league. Interest is phenomenal, according to MVP's "commish," and owner Chris McComas, who said 24 teams had signed up weeks before play was to even start. "I'm hoping we get to 40 teams, which would make it completely sold out," McComas said.

Not ready for league play? There will also be free play cornhole boards for those who want to play the game but not commit to the league.

The free, mid-week celebrations kick off at 4 p.m. and last until around 8 p.m. (ending later for league play) through Feb. 26 at the Sarasota Polo Club,

8201 Polo Club Lane, Lakewood Ranch.

For more information about Ranch Nite Wednesdays visit lakewoodranch.com/event/ranchnite-Wednesdays.

MICHAEL W. SMITH

<section-header>

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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Building a true sense of community, through memorable events and social clubs.



On Dec. 11, 2019, 130 people attended the Lakewood Ranch Women's Club's (LWRWC) spectacular Holidays on Broadway Dinner Theatre Charity Fundraiser at the beautiful Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club. Attendees were treated to wonderful holiday songs performed by the talented Belle Canto Women's Vo-



Keith Pandeloglou Director of LWRCAC

cal Ensemble, a gourmet dinner, and music and dancing provided by JB Baxter from More than Music. They also enjoyed a fabulous musical show performed by Jeffery Kin, managing artist director of the incomparable Players Centre for Performing Arts and Player's singers/performers Eliza Morehouse, Kay Siebold and Nancy Creighton, who wowed the audience with their magnificent vocal and dancing talents. A fabulous silent auction and a giving tree contributed to the fundraising success. All proceeds will benefit the LWRWC 's adopted 501(c)(3) charities: HOPE Family Services, helping victims of domestic violence; SMART (Sarasota Manatee Association of Riding Therapy)



From left, standing: Melissa Spillenkothen, interim executive director, SMART; Laurel Lynch, executive director, HOPE Family Services; Peggy Kerwin, executive director, SOLVE Maternity Homes; and Kathleen Cleveland, 2019 LWRWC president and event registration chair. Seated: Susie Bowie, executive director, Manatee Community Foundation, and Monika Templeman, LWRWC charity fundraiser event and publicity chair. Photo by Allyson Sokol

dedicated to enhancing the physical, emotional, and cognitive growth of children and adults with special needs; and SOLVE Maternity Homes, helping pregnant women in need and their babies for over 40 years. Holidays on Broadway Charity Fundraiser truly represented the fun, friendship and community service that signifies the Lakewood Ranch Women's Club and our wonderful LWR Community, because supporting charity and celebrating together is what great communities do!

Thanks to the generosity of our Lakewood Ranch busi-

ness and individual sponsors and 38 donors, Holidays on Broadway raised over \$9,000 to help its adopted charities with their most critical needs. Business sponsors included: Lakewood Ranch Communities/Schroeder-Manatee Ranch (SMR), Adamchak, Bordes Wealth Management, Merrill Lynch, and the Westin Sarasota Hotel. Individual sponsors include Patti and Bob Wrobel, Linda and Ozzie Patzmann, Eileen and Jim Buzzard, Carol Belmont, and Kathleen Cleveland. All our sponsors and donors are true "holiday angels" for helping our charities make wishes come true for those in need!

LWRWC has over 320 members and is a not-for-profit service club founded to improve the quality of life in our community. To learn more about LWRWC fundraising events and the charitable organizations they support, or to join, please visit www.lwrwc.org.

Don't forget each Sunday to start your weekly food preparation at The Market! The Market at Lakewood Ranch is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, in the heart of Lakewood Ranch, across from Main Street. Far from the typical farmers' market, this is a curated gathering of the best flavors in the region, cooking demonstrations, morning yoga and more. The Market offers organic produce, meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, breads, pasta, juices, and prepared foods from over 60 vendors. For more Market info, visit themarketlwr.com.

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Haydn's *The Creation* is a masterpiece of biblical proportions setting the six most famous days in all of history to music though cinematic imagery, soaring choruses and history-making orchestral writing.







The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA) is a business organization committed to connecting, educating and strengthening the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. The LWRBA's 750+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch. More information is available online at www.LWRBA.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Please visit www.LWRBA.org to sign up for these events.)

YLA Social at PGA Tour Superstore Thursday, January 23 5:30-7:30 p.m. PGA Tour Superstore 8563 Cooper Creek Blvd. Free for YLA members and non-members

Kick off the new year at the Lakewood Ranch Young Leaders Alliance January social! Join us for a night of networking at the PGA Tour Superstore. This is a great opportunity to start off the new year with some new connections. Be sure to bring a friend, this is one event you won't want to miss!

2020 Annual Membership Luncheon Friday, January 31

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The Grove, 10670 Boardwalk Loop \$37 members; \$47 non-members

See what's in store for the Alliance in the coming year. Our 2020 Annual Membership Luncheon will honor our outgoing board members and reflect on the successes of the past year, as well as introduce the 2020 board of directors.

Networking Social: Sarasota Polo Club Wednesday, February 5 5-7 p.m.

Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane Free for members; \$15 non-members

Join us at the Sarasota Polo Club for an evening of networking alongside fellow Alliance members. Enjoy complimentary appetizers, a cash bar, and experience the thrill of "the fastest game on four feet!"

LECOM Suncoast Classic: Women's Executive Breakfast Tuesday, February 11 8:30-10 a.m. Lakewood National Golf Club 17605 Lakewood National Parkway \$35 members; \$45 non-members

Join us at Lakewood National Golf Club, home of the LECOM Suncoast Classic, to hear three successful women discuss their personal stories, what trends they're seeing with women in business and how their work in their communities is helping women with diverse backgrounds and objectives pursue their goals. Sponsored by Merrill – A Bank of America Company.

Alliance LEADS: Business Ethics Wednesday, February 12

7:30 -9 a.m. Keiser University, 6151 Lake Osprey Drive \$10 members; \$20 non-members

Prominent banker-turned-real estate developer Ron Wheeler breaks down the components that make up a company culture of integrity and fulfillment, without sacrificing ethics. Learn how to tell the difference — it's subtle many times — between the right thing to do and fiduciary responsibility, as well as the true value of keeping your word, and the costs of not keeping it.

Luncheon: From Cattle Ranch to Lakewood Ranch Thursday, February 27

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lakewood Ranch Country Club 7650 Legacy Blvd. \$27 members; \$37 non-members

John McCarthy, a local historian and executive director at Historic Spanish Point, joins us to dive into the history of our region. John will uncover the factors that influenced local entrepreneurs as they helped this community prosper, and how those lessons apply to today's business. This luncheon is in partnership with the Rotary Club of LWR.

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PHOTOS BY FRNIE SOLLE

Pet Paradise At Lakewood Ranch...I Should Be So Lucky

BY ERNIE SOLLER, Community Correspondent

A new pet boarding facility has opened in northern Lakewood Ranch.

Pet Paradise of Lakewood Ranch is the 34th in a chain of 35 deluxe "pet resort" -style facilities for dogs and cats, and opened here in Lakewood Ranch in July of last year.

Pet Paradise is a sort of "one stop shop" for your pet's needs. Yes, they provide boarding and grooming, but they have lots more to offer.

For instance, Pet Paradise has a veterinarian on staff, Vikki Porter, DVM, a Cornell Veterinary School trained vet, who is there five days per week. Note: your dog or cat does not need to be a boarder to take advantages of Dr. Porter's services. If your animal needs it shots, they can be administered right here at Pet Paradise. Pet Paradise publishes their veterinary charges, for everything from a rabies shot to microchipping.

Regarding veterinary services, Pet Paradise has a unique program of wellness services, charged on a monthly basis, and geared to just how many services the pet owner wishes to provide for their pet.

Each of the wellness programs contain examination services, an interstate health certificate, standard vaccinations (such as rabies, distemper, parvo, leptospirosis, and Bordetella) and depending on the level of the wellness plan selected, from 2 to 6 days worth of Day Camp per year is included. The higher-grade programs include additional injections such as vaccinations for leukemia and Lyme disease, and the top-tier Premium wellness plan includes such items as electrocardiograms and the spaying or neutering of the client's pet. One big factor in all of the wellness plans is the availability of unlimited office visits, which helps to enable early detection of problem issues in your pet.

But getting back to what most pet owners might be looking for – boarding their pets – Pet Paradise has a range of options to choose from, and they can accommodate lots of new furry friends at one time: this place is, well, huge!

When you bring your cat or dog to Pet Paradise for boarding you will need to bring your pet's vaccination records to make sure that he is protected from common animal diseases. In the case of dogs, the Pet Paradise staff will conduct an assessment to determine your pet's activity level, and to determine whether your pet might be more aggressive than other dogs, or might exhibit anxiety in certain situations. If such conditions appear you will be notified, and your pet may be placed in an area designed to limit any difficulties.

In addition, smaller dogs are able to associate with other smaller dogs in what Pet paradise calls "Tiny Town," so they aren't exposed to having to deal with much bigger animals.

But assuming that your pet is in good shape and friendly, the fun starts.

For the standard daily boarding fee of \$48 (with discounts for additional dogs), your dog gets an indoor suite with two hours of playtime and two potty breaks per day (in early morning and ear-





ly evening). Or you can choose an indoor/outdoor area in which your dog will be able to go outside, (depending on how hot it is outdoors). These indoor/outdoor areas even feature automatically filled water bowls! Pet Paradise is also very careful to make sure that your precious pet's temperature is kept at a normal level and, if it appears that your pet is getting overheated, the staff will check and if needed, place your pet in a cooler environment.

Pet Paradise also has "VIP suites" for the discriminating pooch. These private rooms have TVs, Netflix, a fancy bed with blankets, and a 24/7 webcam service, which allows the pampered pooch's owner to go online and check on their dog's activities at any time while they are away from home. Three nights in a "VIP suite" also means that your pet gets a "go-home bath" before leaving Pet Paradise.

You will note that outdoor play is a big deal at Pet Paradise. Each section of the facility has a pool area that can be used by dogs, and Pet Paradise has doggie life preservers so that even if your pet is not a good swimmer, he can enjoy the pool. And, speaking of pools, Pet Paradise has a very large bone-shaped pool, along with several smaller ones.



As for cat boarding, cats are kept separate from the dogs in "Cat Condos," and for that matter, are generally kept separate from other cats, as many cats do not get along all that well with other felines. Cat boarding runs \$30 per day, with discounts for additional animals.

Pet Paradise also provides pet day care, and there are discounts for owners who wish to pre-pay for services. For instance, a one-day fee is \$40, while a 10-day pass costs \$34 per day, a significant discount.

Pet Paradise has an excellent staff-to-pet ratio of not more than 15 pets per staff member, and – this may be unusual – Pet Paradise has a resident manager who lives on site.

The Lakewood Ranch Pet Paradise is located at 10411 Portal Crossing, south of State Road 64 and west of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. Stop by and take advantage of their "get acquainted" offers.

For more information call (941)209-1021 or visit petparadise.com/lakewood-ranch.

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The Brain Health Initiative

BY DR. STEPHANIE PEABODY PSYC, HSSP, Neuropsychologist, Executive Director

The Brain Health Initiative (BHI) is a cutting-edge, new approach to studying and taking action on brain health and brain illness that's set to revolutionize neuroscience research and innovation to-



ward increasing brain health outcomes while positioning the Gulf Coast as a global leader in scientific discovery.

Formed in 2018 and headquartered on the CORE campus in Lakewood Ranch, the BHI features collaborative leadership from the Academy for Brain Health and Performance and Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. Brain health clinicians, researchers, academics, and innovators from across the Harvard system and throughout the state of Florida, as well as national and global collaborators, are engaged in this collective impact effort to support significant positive brain health and performance outcomes for the greater Gulf Coast region and beyond.

WHY DOES BRAIN HEALTH MATTER?

Brain health is health and is about each of us across our lifespan. Brain illness is about most of us. Every day, globally, lives are touched by brain health and illness. Whether it is our own health that is impacted or the lives of those we care about, there is a lot at stake when it comes to promoting brain health and fighting brain illness.

A healthy and optimally performing brain is essential for living a long and fulfilling life. Unfortunately, one out of three Americans will be impacted by brain illness during the course of their lifetime. By 2030, the World Health Organization estimates that half of the worldwide economic impact of disability will be due specifically to brain-related disability.

Although human life expectancy has increased significantly in recent decades, the extension of lifespan does not correlate well with the extension of a brain healthy lifespan. As the elderly population is projected to nearly double that of the young by 2050, longitudinal brain health research and a proactive approach to brain health promotion and prevention is urgently needed.

Improving brain health and optimizing performance across the lifespan and reducing risk factors for cognitive decline and brain illness may be the most important health priority of the 21st century, similar to the priority of heart health in the 20th century – which is why the BHI has designed a novel strategy to impact lifelong change at the local, national, and global level.

WHAT IS THE BHI'S GOAL?

- The mission of the BHI is to:
- Increase brain health and performance outcomes across the lifespan throughout the greater Gulf Coast region and beyond.



- Create a brain-healthy community prototype that can be manualized and adopted around the world.
- Generate discoveries needed to increase brain health protective factors and decrease risk factors globally.
- Establish infrastructure and platforms that will elevate the Gulf Coast as the "go to" place for brain health scientists, clinicians, innovators, investors and entrepreneurs working across multiple disciplines.
- Promote and build the Gulf Coast as a scientific leader in brain health discovery and innovation throughout the region, state, nation, and world.

HOW WILL THE BHI ACHIEVE ITS GOAL?

The BHI will achieve its mission by:

- Creating cultures within communities that support brain healthy lifestyles in the Florida Gulf Coast region through a collective impact approach that can be measured, manualized and replicated globally.
- Launching the BHI longitudinal study, a multigenerational, epidemiological research study that will follow Gulf Coast residents, visitors, and workforce for decades in order to identify risk and protective factors associated with brain health and performance across the lifespan.
- Initiating a community-based brain health living laboratory, the Brain Health Innovation Lab: a multidisciplinary community of global researchers, clinicians, engineers (e.g., biomedical, artificial intelligence, robotics, neurotechnology) innovators, investors, and entrepreneurs who will propose, financially support, and execute studies designed to validate and conduct feasibility research on cutting-edge innovations and lifestyle interventions (e.g., sleep, physical activity, nutrition, supplements, stress resilience, cognitive stimulation, social engagement, etc.) related to brain health promotion, prevention, early identification, evidence-based intervention, and performance optimization

across the lifespan. Uniquely, the Brain Health Innovation Lab will bring science and innovation into the region where residents, workforce, and visitors live, learn, work and play. Abandoning the sterile environment of a traditional laboratory, this approach was designed with mindful appreciation of the complex and deeply personal factors that impact all aspects of brain health and performance.

The BHI's perspective is that brain health is health and belongs at the forefront of health across the lifespan-not an afterthought when symptoms present. The social and human cost of brain health and illness to American society as a whole is simply too large to ignore. The BHI does not yet have all of the questions, let alone answers but the BHI is working tirelessly to create brain healthy cultures and innovate systems of prevention, early identification and breakthroughs to optimize brain health and performance. Solutions will require both a bottom-up as well as a top-down approach and will involve well-informed communities supporting a culture of brain health and taking action collectively. We have an obligation to mobilize every corner of our community, young and olderincluding legislative, public policy, education and health sectors to inform and educate the public about brain health. Join the relentless movement and become a Brain Health Champion. For more information and the current calendar of events visit www.BrainHealthInitiative.org.

BRAIN HEALTH MATTERS! MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES

This lecture series is designed to improve community awareness about brain health and an individual's ability to take action to optimize daily brain performance, to increase the adoption of brain health-protective factors and to reduce the risk of brain illness across the lifespan.

Attend our monthly lecture series to learn about:

• Overview of terminology to identify brain healthy lifestyle factors that contribute to brain health

• Define and describe protective factors and risk factors associated with brain health and performance

• Summarize brain healthy lifestyle strategies to optimize daily performance, benefit your overall health, and decrease risk of future brain pathology with brain healthy choices

UPCOMING TOPICS FOR 2020

January: John Ratey, MD - Physical Activity February: Uma Naidoo - Nutrition March: Optimizing Good Health April: Meaning/Purpose May: Emotional Well-Being June: Cognitive Stimulation





WHAT IS THE BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE?

Our mission is to increase brain health and performance outcomes across the lifespan through brain health promotion, prevention, early identification, evidence-based intervention, and performance optimization.

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS FOR THE BRAIN HEALTH CRISIS.



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The event featured carolers, the lighting of the huge Christ-decorated in lights and garland. mas tree, an outdoor snow slide, a train, caroling, and other fun performances by local dance and music studios. Nu-

in December, and was enjoyed by children and adults alike! course, the main event was Santa Claus' arrival by carriage,







CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Indivisible Lakewood Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER, Community Correspondent

There have been political clubs in Lakewood Ranch for a long time. Democratic and Republican clubs have existed here for years.

Now, there has emerged a new club dedicated to pushing a progressive agenda in a non-partisan manner. This club is called Indivisible Lakewood Ranch.

One signature wrenching feature of American national politics which emerged during the period from the early 1990s to the present has been the rise of what might be called total intransigence on the part of Democratic and Republican lawmakers. The Mission Statement on the Indivisible website states that their intent is to empower individuals to participate in local, state and national government, in order to elect candidates "who will defend our democracy and be accountable to all its citizens."

Their focus, as stated in their handouts, calls for support of a strong public school system, protection of natural resources, immigration reform, countering political action which benefits only the wealthy, encouraging public safety and responsible gun ownership, maintaining infrastructure, and equalizing access to medical care.

To this end, they encourage their members to attend local "town hall" meetings scheduled by legislators, local, state

Florida Cancer Specialists Opens New Lakewood Ranch Location

Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute (FCS) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in December at its new \$16 million Lakewood Ranch Cancer Center. The region's newest cancer center features nearly 40 chemotherapy chairs, access to clinical trials and 10 examination rooms. The move accommodates the oncology practice's significant growth.

FCS is the largest independent community oncology and hematology practice in the nation with an expanding presence in Manatee and Sarasota counties. The new office also houses the Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation, a nonprofit that provides financial assistance to eligible cancer patients for essential, non-medical living expenses.

Some 100 FCS executive and senior leaders from across the state attended the ribbon cutting.

Recognized by the American Society of Clinical Oncology with a national clinical trials participation award, FCS offers patients access to more clinical trials than any private oncology practice in Florida, officials said. In the past four years, the majority of new cancer drugs approved for use in the U.S. were studied in clinical trials with FCS participation.

Since 2005, FCS has been a strategic research site for Sarah Cannon Research Institute, with special focus on early phase research and drug development.





and federal, and to question the positions of these legislators on pending legislation, thus making their voices known.

Indivisible Lakewood Ranch is working on a grass roots, progressive agenda. They are working to encourage voter registration, so that more people will vote in all elections, and have a say in our government. They hold monthly meetings at which position papers and speakers on relevant topics are presented, in order to educate citizens.

So, if you are looking for a way to make your voice heard, without getting involved in a partisan manner, you may want to check out the Indivisible Club of Lakewood Ranch. Meetings are generally held once a month at the Town Hall. For more information contact Karen Curlin at kcurlin@aol.com.

January Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

Please note that all events take place at The Chabad House located on 5712 Lorraine Road, Lakewood Ranch, unless otherwise noted.

Torah Studies

Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m.

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday night, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m., Shabbat Kiddush at noon

Enjoy warm, family-friendly services at The Chabad House. Saturday morning services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush.

Talmud classes

Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Explore the Talmud and its laws in its original text. No prior knowledge of the Talmud or Hebrew is necessary. Book fee: \$45.

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts Sundays, Jan. 19 and 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Give your child the experience of a lifetime at CHS featuring an outstanding curriculum, professional and warm teachers, handson lessons, CKids motivational system and a innovative Hebrew reading Aleph Champ program.

Torah and Tea

Tuesdays, Jan. 21 and 28, 11 a.m.

Join Chanie Bukiet in her home for a weekly dose of delicious tea and refreshments spiced with lessons on the "Kabbalah of the Aleph Bet" and round the table discussions. Admission is free. Sponsor a class in someone's memory or honor for \$25.

JLI – Judaism's Gifts to the World Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 29, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

JLI presents a new six-session course on how major Jewish ideas have become universal values. An analysis of Jewish contributions past and present allows us to define ways in which Judaism can continue serving as a beacon of light and wisdom for all humanity. JLI courses are sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Cost for the course is \$75, textbooks included.

For more information on any of the ongoing events, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at (941)752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.



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Acapulco: Mexican Cuisine on The Ranch's "North End"

BY ERNIE SOLLER, Community Correspondent

I'm not sure exactly how I heard about it, but the message finally got through to me. There was this Mexican restaurant on the north end of Lakewood Ranch, in the shopping center on the southeast corner of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and State Road 64 and, so I was told, they had really great meal deals on Monday nights.

So, with my appreciation for Mexican food in mind, and ever looking for a bargain, I ventured forth to check things out for myself. And it wasn't "fake news." The Acapulco Restaurant does indeed have great meal deals on Monday nights.

Get this: I had two "Monday" enchiladas (one chicken, one cheese), at \$1 each, a "Monday" order of beans (\$1), a "Monday" order of rice, (also \$1) and TWO glasses of draft Dos Equis amber beer, and my total bill, excluding tax, was LESS THAN TEN BUCKS!

Now, if the food had been served cold, or if the beer had been flat, I might not be telling people about Acapulco, but that was not the case. The food was delivered to my table steaming hot, and quite tasty, and the beer was cold, wet, and just about the perfect complement to the food. And for that matter, the chips and salsa were pretty tasty, too!

But wait! The above listed meal items were not the only Monday specials at Acapulco. Flautas and tostadas – they are also available for a buck on Monday!

The Monday night food specials are not the only great deals at Acapulco. Acapulco has what they refer to as a "Friendly Hour" (otherwise known as a Happy Hour), Monday through Friday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Domestic draft beers go for \$1.75, and frozen strawberry and mango margaritas go for \$3, and lime margaritas – frozen or on the rocks – are also \$3! Well drinks are two-for-one all day, every day.

Tuesdays are "Taco Tuesdays," with tacos going for ... you guessed it ... a buck! Wednesdays bring in beef or cheese burritos for \$1.99 and on Thursdays, kids up to 12 years old eat free when an adult meal is purchased. With meals deals like this it is no wonder that, on the Monday night I tried out Acapulco, the place was pretty crowded.

As for other meal choices, Acapulco has a very extensive menu containing interesting dishes that might not be found at some of the "chain" Mexican restaurants in our area. For example, listed under "House Specialties," there is a dinner called the "Pancho Villa," after the famous Mexican bandit/revolutionary. The Pancho Villa consists of a marinated chicken breast topped with grilled shrimp and tomatoes, served with rice, beans and tortillas.

Have you ever had shrimp soup? Well, at Acapulco, you can order the Caldo de Camaron – shrimp soup served with tortillas. Have you ever had a bacon and mushroom quesadilla? You can get one at Acapulco.

A friend and frequent dining partner ate at Acapulco not long ago, and enjoyed her dinner combination of a burrito and a quesadilla.





Interesting note: My friend told me that on a recent visit to Acapulco, her designer sunglasses fell out of her purse and she did not notice that they were missing until the following afternoon. She called the restaurant to see if they had found her sunglasses and much to her delight, they had! They locked them in the manager's office for safekeeping, assuming that their owner would be looking for them. My friend, who describes herself as a "jaded urban transplant," commented that "back home," those glasses would not have been found. She was most happy that they had taken care of them for her.

Acapulco is a good-sized restaurant, with plenty of table seating, and a separate bar area that has seven large-screen televisions located above the bar, for those who might prefer news or sports to conversation. On the Monday night I visited Acapulco, the bar area was well-attended by those waiting for Monday Night Football. The Acapulco Restaurant has a large fountain just outside the front door and the atmosphere is warm



and welcoming, with a dark brown tiled floor and star-shaped hanging lights and sconces made out of tin, giving the place a nice Mexican ambiance.

So, if you have a hankering for a good Mexican meal, or just want to stop by and enjoy a cold beer or a margarita or two, check out the Acapulco Restaurant.

Meet a friend for dinner, go for lunch (Acapulco has lots of lunch specials, from flautas to fajitas) or bring the kids on Thursday. And enjoy!



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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

January/February 2020

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January 15 – Third Wednesday

Digital Photography, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

January 16 – Third Thursday

• Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m. • Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m. • American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

January 17 – Third Friday

Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
Wine Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 18 – Third Saturday

Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

January 19 – Third Sunday

• Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m. • Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 20 – Third Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
 Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
 Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
 Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
 Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- CERT member meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

January 21 – Third Tuesday

Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

January 22 – Fourth Wednesday

- Women's Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
 Digital Photography, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Iown Hall, 1 p.m
 Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

January 23 – Fourth Thursday

Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

January 24 – Fourth Friday

• Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

January 25 – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT public education session, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

January 26 – Fourth Sunday

- SUGAR, Town Hall, noon
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

January 27 – Fourth Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

January 28 – Fourth Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 29 – Fifth Wednesday

- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

January 30 – Fifth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT skills refresher, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- Women's Club Book Club, Town Hall, 6:45 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27

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AROUND THE RANCH 27

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 26

January 31 – Fifth Friday

• Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m. Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m. Art League Club, Town Hall, noon • Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

February 1 – First Saturday

 Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m. Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m. Digital Photography, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m. Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

February 2 – First Sunday

 Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m. • Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 3 – First Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m. Art League Club, Town Hall, noon • Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

February 4 – First Tuesday

 Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m. • Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m. Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m. • Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 5 – First Wednesday

• Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m. • Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m. • Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m. • Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

February 6 – First Thursday

• Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m. Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

February 7 – First Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon • Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

February 8 – Second Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club. soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT skills refresher, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

February 9 – Second Sunday

· Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m. • Jewish Club, Town Hall, 3 p.m.

February 10 – Second Monday

• Garden Club, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m. • Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m. • Art League Club, Town Hall, noon Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m. Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m. Creative Arts, Town Hall, 6 p.m. • Jewish Club board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

February 11 – Second Tuesday

• Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m. Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

February 12 – Second Wednesday

• Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m. • Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

February 13 – Second Thursday

• Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m. • Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m. • Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m. • Women's Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 14 – Second Friday

• Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m. • Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m. Art League Club, Town Hall, noon • Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon • Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 15 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m. Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

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Lego Menorah Star of Chanukah Celebration, **Moved from LWR Main Street**

BY ERNIE SOLLER, Community Correspondent

nce upon a time (OK, this is ancient history), there was a Macedonian king called Alexander the Great, who conquered much of the then-known world, and established an empire that controlled territory from northern Greece all the way to India.

When Alexander died, his empire was divided up among his top generals, who set up kingdoms of their own in these territories. One of those territories was known as the Seleucid Empire, and was ruled by the descendants of Seleucus I. This territory extended from present-day Turkey to the borders of Egypt, and east to the western edge of India.

At the height of this empire, a king named Antiochus III, known as Antiochus the Great, presided over an empire in which he had granted the Jews who lived within his territory a certain amount of autonomy to practice their religion. This, even though there was a movement to "Hellenize" the area by promoting Greek laws and religious beliefs.

His son, Antiochus IV, decided to revoke any autonomy the Jews had, forbidding Jewish worship, desecrating the Jewish temple, and putting up a statue of the Greek god, Zeus, in the temple.

This infuriated the devout Jews of Judaea and led by Judas Maccabeus, they fought one of the ancient world's first guerilla wars against Antiochus IV, taking back the temple around 165 B.C., and destroying the Zeus statue. This was significant because the king had, at the time, an army of over 40,000 soldiers, and his weaponry included several hundred armored war elephants - the ancient world's version of the tank!



PHOTOS BY FRNIE SOLLER

Once the temple had been taken back by the Jews, the problem arose as to how to properly re-dedicate it. Oil was needed for the lamps used in the purification ceremony, but there was only a very small amount available.

Then the miracle happened - the oil held out for eight days, which are now celebrated as the eight-day-long Chanukah.

For numerous years, the Chabad of Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch has held a public celebration of Chanukah on Main Street in The Ranch. One of the hallmarks of this special event has been the ever-changing way that the Chanukah menorah - which holds eight candles - is constructed by the Chabad. One year, the menorah was made of cans of food; another year, carved from a block of ice, and lit from below. There was also menorah of donated socks for the homeless. This year, Rabbi Mendy Bukiet oversaw the construction of a menorah made of ... Lego!

Unlike previous years, when the Main Street Chanukah celebration took place in the mild but dry area of Main Street, this year the weather did not cooperate, and the event had to be moved indoors to the Chabad House on Lorraine Road, north of State Road 70.

It was crowded, but everyone was in a festive mood; especially the kids, who consumed large amounts of goodies and scooped up all the "gelt" (foil-covered chocolate) they could get their hands on.

But first there was the lighting of the Chanukah menorah and the singing of traditional songs. Rabbi Mendy thanked the event's sponsors and spoke of lighting up the world with the Chanukah candle in that, when you become the candle, those around you will bring warmth and light to the world.

Entertainment was provided by a juggler, a face painter, and a crew of folks from Spheres Bubble Show, who were able to raise a giant bubble around one of the Rabbi's sons as he stood in the middle of their bubble hoop.

A little crowded, but still lots of fun. The first night of Chanukah in Lakewood Ranch: the Feast of Dedication, the Feast of Lights.







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AROUND THE RANCH 33

Join the Young at Heart!



Daybreak Adult Day Center is a safe, secure environment designed to meet the social, recreational, and therapeutic needs of older adults who live at home with a loved one but cannot be left alone while their caregiver works or attends to other responsibilities.

- Licensed, safe, and secure day center
- Emotional support
- Promotion of physical and mental well-being
- Nutritious, hot lunch and healthy snacks
- Supervised recreational activities
- Registered nurse on premises

Transportation services may be available.



A program of Meals on Wheels PLUS



Open Monday Through Friday 10920 East State Road 70, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Holiday Cheer

Employees of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. (SMR) chose Turning Points in Bradenton for the company's annual holiday gift and donation drive. People donated such items as clothing, reading glasses, shoes, toiletries, towels, and toys. SMR made a \$1,000 donation earmarked specifically for the veterans' assistance program at Turning Points.



Turning Points provides a variety of services designed to assist individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence at the Bill Galvano One-Stop Center. Turning Point is the one-stop shop for preventing and ending homelessness in our community. They provide day resource services (such as hot showers, clothing, and food), rental and utility assistance for families, veterans' services (employment, housing and healthcare), and free medical and dental care for the uninsured.

More than 10,000 people received help last year with critical services directed to the essential needs of people in crisis.

For more information visit tpmanatee.org.





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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020

\$1.8. B.

Toll Brothers

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