



Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024



A LIGHTNING “HOME” GAME AT LAKEWOOD RANCH – Ranchers love the Tampa Bay Lightning! Hundreds turned out for the annual Lightning Watch Party and Youth Ball Hockey Tournament last month. For more pictures, see pages 12-13. Photo by Ryan Angell

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Sarasota Ballet
director · IAIN WEBB

Program 6 | Sarasota Opera House

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Emeralds

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Las Hermanas

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The Sarasota Ballet in Sir Kenneth MacMillian's *Las Hermanas* | Photography by Frank Atura





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CONTACT INFORMATION

Editor:

Lisa M. Barnott
lisa.barnott@lakewoodranch.com

Contributing Writer:

Ernie Soller
efsoller@hotmail.com

Proofreaders:

Sue Chaney
Chris Westlake

Community Programs:

Keith Pandeloglou
keith@lwrcac.com

Graphic Designer:

Kim Collister
kcollister@localiq.com

Editorial Board

Lisa M. Barnott, Rex Jensen, Sue Chaney

Phone Numbers

Community Services Town Hall:
941-907-0202

LWR Common Area:
Maintenance Requests, 941-727-0899

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center:
941-782-2100

Manatee County Government:
941-748-4501

Sarasota County Government:
941-861-5000

Lakewood Ranch Post Office:
941-758-3537

Community Website:
myLWR.com

Around the Ranch offices are at 14400 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL, 34202. The editorial phone number is 941-757-1542. The e-mail address is aroundtheranch@lakewoodranch.com.

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RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE: A STEAK ABOVE

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

Like many Americans, I definitely like a good steak. It doesn't have to be the biggest steak in the house, but I like flavor, and a certain level of tenderness that tells me that I can exercise my taste buds without over-exercising my jaw muscles. Tough, in a good steak, just doesn't make it.

My visit to Ruth's Chris Steak House that opened in Lakewood Ranch – on the southeast corner of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and University Parkway – was my first to a Ruth's Chris. I wasn't sure just what to expect. It's not that I haven't eaten in a really good steak restaurant before. I have – just not this one.

I'd heard good things about Ruth's Chris. I had also done some reading up on the company and its history.

Ruth's Chris Steak House was born in New Orleans in 1965, when Ruth Fertel decided to go into the steakhouse business. The story goes that she mortgaged her home and bought herself an establishment, called the Chris Steak House. She then experimented with cooking methods until she came up with the idea of cooking a steak on a proprietary broiler set at 1800 degrees, and then serving the steaks on plates heated to 500 degrees!

The steaks were great, the place was a success, and the business survived a fire which took the restaurant building in 1976. Ruth was undeterred. She went out and secured another building and continued to make people happy with her great steaks. Her contract, however, no longer allowed her to keep the original restaurant name, so she added hers to it: Ruth's Chris Steak House.

The popularity of the restaurant became so great that Ruth started franchising her winning methods, and now Ruth's Chris Steak Houses can be found in 21 countries.

But, back to the actual Ruth's Chris Steak House experience.

My wife and I had called and made reservations about two weeks prior to our visit, as we weren't sure if we could get a table by simply walking into the restaurant. We had made an early reservation, not wanting to eat late, and arrived at the new Ruth's Chris at our reserved time of 5 p.m. on "Steak Day."

I stopped at the door and let my wife out at the entrance, and then parked my car. She was already seated at our table for two when I walked in a minute or two later, and the wait staff had already moved to make us feel welcome.

We took a look at the menu, which is quite extensive, and since we were a bit inexperienced at eating at Ruth's Chris Steak House, we both chose to order the prix fixe dinner. Our meals included an aged six-ounce filet, broiled to order, topped with three good-sized shrimp, a side order (I chose creamed spinach, and she the mashed potatoes with a hint of garlic), a good-sized green salad topped with croutons and mini tomatoes, and dessert.

The waiter, Anthony, guided us in our selection of just how we wanted our steaks cooked, and brought over a small loaf of warm bread and butter to start us off.



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



We were both pretty impressed by the salads. These were nice-sized salads, made with very fresh greens, and topped with our choice of tasty dressings. If you were not all that hungry, or just wanted something light, you could do a lot worse than ordering one of these Ruth's Chris salads as your meal.

Our steaks arrived in good time, and the waiter mentioned to us to be aware that the plates were very hot. Not only does Ruth's Chris Steak House broil their steaks at 1800 degrees, but the fact that they heat the serving plate to 500 degrees means that your steak won't get cold before you finish it. What a concept!

Our steaks were broiled to perfection, and could not have been more tasty. The creamed spinach was great, and the potatoes made for a good combination.

My dessert consisted of a small round cheesecake, served with

slices of strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. My bride chose to go with vanilla ice cream.

One thing about Ruth's Chris Steak House ... if you go home hungry, it's your own fault. The steaks are great, and you can order your steak "as-is" or order it with various flavor intensifiers, such as blue cheese, among others. As for the size of the steaks, you can go with a small, six-ounce steak as we did, all the way up to something like a "tomahawk" 40-ouncer, or a "Porterhouse for two" – also at 40 ounces.

Ruth's Chris Steak House also offers poultry and fish meals, such as stuffed chicken breast, crab cakes, and lobster mac-and-cheese, as well as gluten-free, keto, and vegetarian plates, and even though steak isn't usually considered low calorie, you can actually get a three-course meal at Ruth's Chris with less than 750 calories!

The new Lakewood Ranch Ruth's Chris Steak House is a place of warm toned décor, and there is a bar on one side of the building, also done in warm tones, with elegant, comfortable-looking bar seating, although you won't find lots of dark woodwork, like some of the "old-time" steakhouses I've seen. The lighting, for the most part, is pretty subdued, but you will be able to read the menu without having to ask for a flashlight.

There have been a number of "finer dining" restaurants that have opened in Lakewood Ranch of late, which means that we will no longer have to endure the drive to downtown Sarasota (especially in season!) to get a truly memorable meal. The addition of the new Ruth's Chris Steak House adds to the joy. We loved our dinner! And that's a good thing!

Hours are 4-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4-9 p.m. Sunday. For more information visit ruthschris.com or call (941)315-6669.

Lakewood Ranch's Waterside Place Wins Gold

The National Association of Home Builders awarded Waterside Place at Lakewood Ranch a gold "Best of American Living Award (BALA)" for the mixed-use community category. Now in its 38th year, the BALA Awards is the building industry's premier residential design awards program.

According to the judges, Waterside Place is "a great Main Street-type setting that emulates a beach/condo style development. The architecture is great, and the city center is clearly successful." The BALA Awards spotlight building industry professionals who have redefined design excellence for homes and communities across North America. Winning projects showcase what building industry professionals need to know to set their product apart.

The 36-acre Waterside Place – a retail, services, dining, and entertainment destination for the region – is walkable to a wide variety of rental and for-sale neighborhoods designed for every life stage and price point. The town center is home to the Farmers' Market at Lake-



PHOTO BY RYAN ANGELL

wood Ranch, Ranch Nite Wednesdays, live music on the plaza Friday and Saturday nights, monthly Movies in the Park, and the "Sights and Sounds at Waterside Place" music and arts series.

"We are delighted that Waterside Place has received national recognition for its architectural excellence, and its grow-

ing success as a mixed-use community that serves the local population while drawing guests from the broader Tampa Bay region," said Laura Cole, senior vice president of LWR Communities. "Our collection of international restaurants is growing and offers the most diverse array of waterfront restaurants in the area."

New Jewelry Store Debuts at Waterside Place

Cileone Jewelers, with more than 20 years of experience in the premier jewelry industry in Philadelphia, recently opened their doors at Waterside Place in Lakewood Ranch.

Owner Joe Cileone travels the country, meticulously handpicking exquisite, one-of-a-kind fine antique and estate pieces.



PHOTO BY RYAN ANGELL

The store's new showroom in Waterside Place showcases a diverse range of items from various eras, including Art Deco, Victorian, Edwardian, Retro, as well as contemporary designer and bridal collections. They offer GIA graded diamonds, custom-made pieces, and comprehensive jewelry and watch repair services. Customers can also peruse their website, at cileone.com, and call to schedule an appointment or simply stop by the store.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information visit cileone.com or call (941)351-8792.

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PET EMERGENCIES: They Can Be Life-Threatening, Too!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

What do you think of when someone talks about Lakewood Ranch CERT?

CERT is the Community Emergency Response Team of “phase one” in Lakewood Ranch. They are a group of volunteers who, acting in concert with Manatee County Emergency Management as well as FEMA, become the “neighbors helping neighbors” before, during, and after an emergency event in our community.

You may know Lakewood Ranch CERT for its informative sessions on preparing for a hurricane, but they offer so much more. Lakewood Ranch’s 200 plus CERT volunteers train in first aid, learn emergency management techniques, and swing into action when an emergency hits – the times when our regular first responders are totally swamped with requests for assistance.

Recently, Lakewood Ranch CERT put on a slightly different informational meeting at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. The subject was pet emergency first aid.

The pet population of Lakewood Ranch is second only to the human population. We have LOTS of dogs and cats, and they may need emergency first aid just like humans.

So, to fill that education gap in our community, Lakewood Ranch CERT invited a team from the Veterinary Medical Center at Lakewood Ranch, located on State Road 70 just west of the post office, to enlighten us on how to prepare and things to know if our pet has a medical emergency. The Town Hall salons were full of interested residents!

Dr. Wendy Ellis, owner of the practice, came with Dr. Devon Diaz and Dr. Lori Awadalla, plus several members of their office team. This full-service veterinary practice has on staff six general practice vets, nine emergency vets, and two critical care vets, and is open 24/7 every day of the year.

Dr. Diaz began his portion of the presentation by talking about putting together a pet first aid kit, so that you’ll be ready in case your pet needs help fast. He suggested getting a container or bag to store your supplies.

Your pet first aid kit should contain a digital rectal thermometer – a cheap one is fine – and



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

a basket muzzle for your dog, to allow for safe transport, since dogs may get aggressive when they are hurt. Add to that a leash and collar, or a slip lead, a roll of gauze to wrap a wound, a clean towel, non-stick bandages, self-adhesive non-stick tape (sometimes called “sports wrap,” and adhesive tape.

To that, you can add blunt-tipped “trauma scissors,” gloves, a flashlight, tweezers, a bulb syringe, sterile lubricating jelly, a container of saline solution (for cleansing a wound), and hydrogen peroxide, to induce vomiting, in case your pet has swallowed something poisonous. Dr. Diaz suggested that if you are close to a veterinary practice, you should forego administering the hydrogen peroxide, and let the vet handle that eventuality.

Also to go into the pet emergency bag: your pet’s medical records, including your vet’s contact information, especially if you will be traveling with your pet out of the area. That way, if you need to consult a vet out-of-state, you’ll have the records they’ll need to help them assess your pet’s issues.

Dr. Awadalla talked about heat-related injuries to pets. We live in Florida, and it is easy for a pet to get too much sun. Make sure that your pet is not active or “out in the sun” for long periods in hot weather. See to it that your pet is in a cool environment, out of the sun, and



stop any exertion. Also, humidity over 35% can jeopardize evaporative cooling in animals. Get your pet into an air-conditioned place if possible and remove any clothing or gear from your pet’s body.

One good idea, if your pet has been out in the sun for too long and is in distress

– use your garden hose to cool your animal. However, be sure to point the hose away from your pet and run the water until cool water is coming from it BEFORE dousing your pets, since water in a hose that has been exposed to the hot sun will be very hot.

Poisonous things are easy for a pet to get into, from household cleaners and meds, to human food like grapes or raisins or chocolate, to the seeds of plants outside. Chocolate can damage a dog’s liver, and grapes can cause renal failure, while Tylenol is poisonous to cats.

One of my neighbors alerted me to the toxicity of the bright red seeds of “cardboard palms.” I did some research on my own and found that one seed can make your dog really sick, and more than one might kill your pet!

Dr. Diaz discussed the possibilities of snakebites. Again, we live in Florida, where there are several varieties of poisonous snakes, and dogs have a tendency to want to check out snakes, which often results in their becoming snakebite victims.

The doctor suggested that if your dog has been bitten by a snake, that you try to take a picture of the snake, which will assist the veterinarian in making sure that your pet gets the proper antivenin for that variety of snake.

Note: The Veterinary Medical Center at Lakewood Ranch is somewhat unique in that it stocks different varieties of antivenin.

One other poisonous Florida animal to watch out for is called the bufo toad, also known as the cane toad. If your animal has had contact with this toad, rinse the pet’s mouth out with water, and get your pet to a vet ASAP. These toads can also be deadly!

POISON HOTLINES:

- The ASPCA has an animal poison control number (There is a fee for their service): 1-888-426-4435
- Pet Poison Helpline (fee for service): 1-855-764-7661
- Manatee County Animal Welfare: 941-742-5933
- Sarasota County Animal Control: 941-861-9500

Dogs and cats can ingest foreign objects – socks are a good example. Batteries can be highly toxic to animals. If you have a cat, don’t make a practice of putting treats on your kitchen counter. Your cat may get the idea that it is OK to hop up on the counter, and may get burned if it gets on to the stove surface.

Speaking of burns, be careful of hot pavement. If it feels too hot for the back of your hand, it is likely to injure your pet’s paws.

In general, if your animal quits eating, this is a sign that something is wrong. Vomiting, abdominal pain and bloody diarrhea are also red flags. You need to have your pet checked out by a vet.

Lakewood Ranch CERT has several more informational meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2024:

- **April 4th** – “How Secure is Secure,” featuring Manatee County Deputy Tom Kaczmarek discussing prevention of property crimes
 - **June 4th** – Hurricane preparedness for Lakewood Ranch residents
 - **August 24th** – Hurricane preparedness with meteorologist Leigh Spann of WFLA
- All events are at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., 34202.

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance set its sights on the future

By Brittany Lamont

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance celebrated its 19th year at its recent annual luncheon. Outgoing board members were thanked, and new board members welcomed. This year's chairman of the board, Dave Otterness of Willis Smith Construction, was introduced. We also had the chance to look back, celebrating the success of 2023 under the leadership of past chairman Erik Hanson, of Shutts & Bowen.

In 2023 we focused on growth, advocacy, and planning for the future of the Alliance. We gained nearly 200 new members, hosted more than 100 meetings and events, and saw an 11% increase in attendance at our monthly luncheons. We hosted Hob Nob for the first time and there, we connected with 479 members. During Alliance Gives Back, our volunteer initiative, we garnered roughly \$27,000 in economic impact and connected 120 companies.

We prioritized supporting higher education and affordable housing, the repeal of the commercial lease tax, finding stability in the insurance market and more. We began working to find solutions for providing affordable access to childcare, and have made great strides working with state Rep. Fiona McFarland as we've stepped into 2024. We took a trip to Tallahassee to share these legislative priorities with our state delegation, and hosted Chairman's Breakfasts to continue these important conversations.

It doesn't stop there! We introduced our all-



new strategic plan to continue growing, engaging and impacting the business community in the Lakewood Ranch Region as we enter our 20th year of service.

2023 was a great year, and we are continuing our momentum in 2024 with these new members:

- Chari Center of Health
- Childrens Therapy Solutions/ The Women's Center at Children's Therapy Solutions
- Discover Sarasota Tours
- Discovery Point Child Development Center Twelve Oaks
- Edge Therapies LLC
- Florida Home Girls | Compass
- Genesis Organization Development, LLC
- Granite Garage Floors
- JBCC Development
- Manasota Flooring
- Monticciolo Family & Sedation Dentistry
- PR III/Ryan Lakewood Ranch LLC dba Renata Lakewood Ranch Apartments
- SRQ Women's Expo

These businesses made the choice to join our over 700 members and our mission to support the success of our members through unparalleled access to business connections, resources, and advocacy.

For more information on how you can join our mission and grow your business this year,

LECOM Suncoast Classic Returns to Lakewood Ranch

The Lakewood National Golf Club will host the annual 2024 LECOM Suncoast Classic April 18-21. Participants will be able to witness the future stars of the game battle it out to make it on to the PGA Tour while also playing for \$1 million in prize money and 30 PGA Tour cards.

The fan zone will include food trucks, drinks, local business vendors, lawn games, and other activities for the whole family. Tickets start at \$20 for adults. Active-duty military, veterans, first responders, and teachers receive free grounds admission for themselves and one guest with valid ID. Children 17 and under also receive free grounds admission. VIP access is available for \$175 and includes lunch buffet, snacks, and a premium open bar in an upscale venue overlooking the 18th green. Gates open at 7 a.m. each day.



The LECOM Suncoast Classic, a tournament on the Korn Ferry Tour, made its debut on the annual schedule in 2019. It will be held this year with 156 players; competing Korn Ferry Tour alumni include Scottie Scheffler, Cameron Young, Justin Thomas, Will Zalatoris, Tony Finau, and many others.

For more information visit www.lecom-suncoastclassic.com.

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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Building a true sense of community, through memorable events and social clubs.



By Danielle Bugel

As we look back on the past few weeks, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the success of the Lakewood Ranch Community Campout and the Irish Celtic Festival! These events truly brought our community together in a fun and vibrant way, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our amazing sponsors. Special thanks to Tommy's Express Car Wash and Grace Community Church for their generous contributions that helped make these events possible.

Now, as we gear up for the upcoming EGGstravaganza event on March 23 at Waterside Park, we are filled with excitement and anticipation! This annual egg hunt is always a highlight for families in our community, and we can't wait to see all the smiling faces and happy children enjoying the festivities. A big thank you to Grace Community Church for their sponsorship of this event as well.

In addition to the EGGstravaganza, we also have the Youth and Teen Fishing Tournament coming up on April 13 at Lake Uihlein. This is a fantastic opportunity for young anglers to showcase their skills and enjoy a day of fishing with their peers. Pre-register for this event at LWRCA.org and don't forget to bring your fishing pole and a camping/portable chair. Tickets are \$5 for LWR residents and \$15 for non-residents. Ages 5-19 are welcome to participate.

In addition to our exciting events and activities, we are thrilled to introduce a new platform on LWRCA.org that allows non-profit organizations to promote volunteer opportunities within our community! This seamless and user-friendly platform will make it easier than ever for non-profits to connect with individuals who are looking to give back and make a difference. By utilizing this platform, non-profits can share information about their mission, upcoming events, and volunteer needs, helping to create a stronger and more united community in Lakewood Ranch.

For those individuals who are eager to give back and make a positive impact, our platform on LWRCA.org is the perfect resource to find volunteer opportunities that align with their interests and values. Whether you are passionate about helping animals, supporting local schools, or serving those in need, our platform provides a convenient way to discover and sign up for volunteer opportunities. By volunteering your time and talents, you can make a meaningful difference and contribute to the greater good of Lakewood Ranch. Visit LWRCA.org today to explore the available volunteer



opportunities and start making a difference!

Have you checked out our 60+ groups and clubs? Our groups and clubs provide endless opportunities for residents to connect, engage, and have fun! Whether you're interested in sports, crafts, or community service, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Visit LWRCA.org to find your tribe and get involved today!

As we continue to build a strong and thriving community here at Lakewood Ranch, we are grateful for the support and participation of all our residents and sponsors. Together, we are creating memories and experiences that will last a lifetime. Stay tuned for more exciting events and activities coming your way, and let's keep making Lakewood Ranch the best place to live, work, and play. See you around The Ranch!



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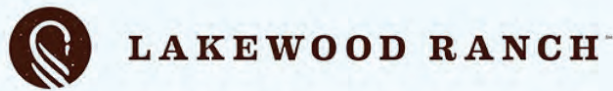
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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY RYAN ANGELL

Lightning watch party Brings Hockey Home to The Ranch

Lakewood Ranch's annual Lightning Watch Party and Youth Ball Hockey Tournament was held in February at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. The team's representatives brought the Blue Crew, autographed prizes, Lightning swag, and more. The Lightning played the Columbus Blue Jackets ... AND WON! The final score was Lightning 4, Blue Jackets 2. Lakewood Ranch has been a proud partner of the Tampa Bay Lightning since 2016.



Your LWR Story

By Maggie Milne

Meet Greg Spring, longtime Lakewood Ranch resident and recent retiree. Greg has deep roots in Florida, where his career in real estate began in Clearwater in 1979. Throughout the 1980s, Greg worked for a custom builder in Saint Petersburg; thereafter he worked for two custom builders consecutively.

In 1994, while working as a sales representative, one of his previous supervisors visited Greg's office and invited Greg to work for them (again). The invitation was for a new community – a master-planned community called Lakewood Ranch.

Greg attended a planning meeting for the proposed community, which included the eight original builders in Lakewood Ranch. He then attended a meeting with the principal developer of the proposed community, and local real estate agents. It was during this meeting that Greg recognized the potential and accepted the opportunity to be part of the Schoeder-Manatee Ranch Inc. (SMR) vision and mission – to develop the top selling master-planned community in the United States – Lakewood Ranch.

In 1994, Greg began his Lakewood Ranch career working for one of the eight original builders. His office, the home model preview display, was located at Desoto Square Mall in Bradenton, where he and his team featured miniature models of the future home developments within Lakewood Ranch. Greg met a young couple from New Jersey to whom he sold the first Lakewood Ranch home. Initially, everyone who knew Greg thought he made a mistake pursuing the Lakewood Ranch opportunity. When SMR broke ground on the first home and residential village, Lakewood Ranch was “out east” in the middle of nowhere. Greg had every confidence he made the right decision to seize a career opportunity with the master-planned community. Greg was right!

In 1995 home models opened within the Lakewood Ranch community. On the first day, business was so brisk, he said, prospective buyers were lined up from home model front doors to the curb, eagerly waiting. Lakewood Ranch proved to be successful from the beginning. Summerfield was the first village developed; some of the original builders creating the four distinct Summerfield neighborhoods included Bruce Williams, Homes by Towne, Arthur Rutenberg, Lee Wetherington, John Cannon Homes, and Todd Johnston Homes.

For his initial year and half of employment with SMR, Greg commuted from Clearwater. But in 1996, Greg and his wife Jan built their home in Summerfield Park, a home built by his employer, Bruce Williams. Greg loved everything about sell-



ing and living in Lakewood Ranch. He believed in everything Lakewood Ranch espoused and offered its residents. Some of the community assets that sold Greg on making Lakewood Ranch his home included the location of the community, its parks and trails, and the developing commercial locations, including the proposed Main Street Town Center. It was evident early on that the Lakewood Ranch community concept offered an inclusive and convenient lifestyle.

In 1998 the first Publix grocery store opened at the Market Square neighborhood plaza. In 1999, Lakewood Ranch Boulevard was completed from State Road 70 to University Parkway. Greg was watching the SMR vision and mission manifest, from homes to infrastructure, to shopping and parks, and the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club. The overwhelming family appeal was an easy sell for Greg and other buyers of new home construction within Lakewood Ranch. SMR broke ground on the Edgewater residential village in 1997, the second village in The Ranch.

Greg will never forget the housing market crash between 2006 and 2008. In early 2008, his career was with SMR, the developer of Lakewood Ranch. He was no longer selling new construction homes for the custom builders, but served as an “ambassador” for The Ranch's new home construction and lifestyle at the Lakewood Ranch Information Center. Through his role as an ambassador, Greg facilitated tours with visitors and interested buyers. Despite the volatility of the housing market, Lakewood Ranch grew exponentially within the first de-

cade of development. SMR created the Lakewood Ranch Information Center as a tool for visitors and potential home buyers. Greg and his colleagues served as tour guides and educators to people visiting the area. The touring aspect discontinued, however, when Lakewood Ranch grew beyond the scope of a reasonable tour experience for visitors. Greg recalls that as implausible as the Lakewood Ranch concept had been for many naysayers, he observed the concept, vision, and mission materialize throughout his career and decades as a resident. As the community grew, so did efforts to educate visitors and potential buyers. The Information Center evolved to include three locations over time: University Parkway and Town Center Road, Town Hall North (formerly Summerfield Community Center), and Rangeland Parkway and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. It is currently located at 8131 Lakewood Main Street.

Although Greg hoped to sell the last home in Lakewood Ranch, just as he had sold the first, the community will continue development for at least another decade. Greg recently arrived at the retirement chapter of his life.

Greg has assisted thousands of Lakewood Ranch visitors and new home buyers, either selling them their new home when employed with a builder or providing information about the community when working for SMR as an ambassador. His experience with the development of The Ranch spans three decades, as Lakewood Ranch celebrates the 30th year of residential development. One the many joyful memories Greg has while serving as an ambassador is the community bike rides and nature walks that he facilitated for 11 years.

Greg is enjoying his retired life from the comfort of his Summerfield home that he built in 1996. In his free time, he remains thoroughly engaged with the lifestyle Lakewood Ranch offers, such as parks and trails, biking paths, Waterside Place and Main Street town centers, and monthly classic car shows. Greg loves everything about the Lakewood Ranch community and is grateful he was part of the vision and mission from the beginning.

We would like to share Your LWR Story!

Include who you are, why you chose Lakewood Ranch, your Lakewood Ranch life now, and what excites you about your Lakewood Ranch future.

Send Your LWR Story and photos to yourlwrstory@lakewoodranch.com.

LWR Financial Audits are in, and Everything Looks Fine

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

During the February meetings of Lakewood Ranch's Community Development District (CDD) boards, Tiffany Mangold, partner from accounting firm Purvis, Gray and Company, presented her company's assessments of Lakewood Ranch's fiscal year 2023 finances. From the Inter-District Authority (IDA) to each of the districts, the reports had one thing in common – they were reported as “unmodified,” meaning that the reports all represented a clean opinion. The reports found no deficiencies in internal controls. They found that fund investments were in compliance with Florida statutes, and that also there were no issues with the management of funds.

So, congratulations to Executive Director Stave Zielinski, his staff at the Town Hall, and the members of the CDD and IDA boards. Results of the audits will soon be available on the Florida state auditor's web site.

Budget setting meetings for the boards will start in March for fiscal year 2025. Zielinski has repeatedly reminded the board members that the coming fiscal year will present challenges, mainly due to greatly increased costs due to inflation. One area in particular which has caused concern is that of paving, especially in the Lakewood Ranch Country Club, where the roads are maintained by Districts 2, 5, and 6. Another major consideration is lake bank erosion mitigation, which may have to be funded with bonds, as the costs for this work is quite high.

FEMA will not compensate Lakewood Ranch for this work. The applications for other FEMA funds to compensate Lakewood Ranch for costs caused by Hurricane Ian are in the final phase of review. Zielinski is hoping that FEMA will grant the applications from Districts 1 and 4, although it appears to be balking at compensating Districts 2 and 5, due to the “gated community” issue.

PAVEMENT CONDITIONS

Lakewood Ranch has authorized a pavement management report, which will give staff and board members a better idea as to where pavement dollars would be better spent in the future.

Executive Director Zielinski noted that when Lakewood Ranch contracts for pavement work, the community factors in such things as conditions below the road surface itself, while the

County appears to have a practice of simply milling the top layer of asphalt, and then doing a pavement layer over the milled area, without taking into consideration what defective areas may be beneath the surface.

There were several comments from various board members regarding the deteriorating condition of pavement on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and other main roads, such as University Parkway, where potholes seem to open up on a daily basis, and the road surfaces exhibit a “patched-over-patches” appearance. One thing was very evident: board members feel that Manatee County is not doing enough to maintain those roads.

Since Lakewood Ranch contributes something like 30% of Manatee County's revenue, it would seem that Lakewood Ranch might not be getting a fair return on its tax dollars.

Supervisor Susan Ellis, of District 6, commented at her district's board meeting, that Manatee County plans to re-pave Lakewood Ranch Boulevard in 2029. That's five years from now!

COUNTRY CLUB SALE/EASEMENTS

As the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club has sold, Districts 5 and 6 are granting easements to the Club for such things as golf cart paths and planting areas which lie within their district boundaries.

ETHICS SESSIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

A new Florida law mandates a four-hour ethics session for special district board members, which would include our district supervisors. This may be set up specifically for Lakewood Ranch board members in the near future. The sessions will cover ethics, the Florida Sunshine Law, and records issues.

CELL PHONE SERVICE

Cell phone service in Lakewood Ranch continues to have its challenges. District 1 Supervisor Laura Fox proposed sending a letter to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners asking for their help in getting better service. As Fox put it, there are lots of homes in Lakewood Ranch with no landline, and the bad service can make it hard to even call 911.

GATE ISSUE

Alan Roth, board chairman of District 1, reported that on a recent day he needed to come into the Country Club area in order to transport

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THE UNASSUMING WINE BRO



Our Year Long Journey to Keep it Domestic

I was recently made aware that domestic winemakers have lost 20% of consumer base purchasers within the last year. Though 20% doesn't seem shocking, it has caused a seismic wave in wine production. Though most significant U.S. winemakers will survive this unexpected production change, smaller producers will look over their shoulders, waiting to be bankrupted or bought by much larger producers. So, wine drinkers, we have some work to do.

I'm Vigo, The Unassuming Wine Bro (UWB) – a regular guy who loves everything about wine, including writing about it. I aim to explore the nuances of wine, share my adventures with you, and have a little fun along the way.

After I let this report settle in, I made a trip to our local (and new) Trader Joe's. I scanned the unassuming wine section (i.e., inexpensive), looking for tasty selections that also hit our new goal of being U.S.-grown and produced wine. The following three selections made our goals for this year.

Rating system: UWB symbol. Ratings are given on a 1-5 scale, with five being the highest.

2021 TWO CABS TRADING JABS, ROUGH AND READY WINE PRODUCTIONS

Lodi California, U.S., \$8.99, 14.8% ABV

Two Cabs Trading Jabs 2021 Red Wine Blend is a harmonious convergence of two powerhouse grape varieties, creating a symphony of flavors that dance across the palate. Crafted with meticulous care and attention to detail, this wine exemplifies the artistry of blending, showcasing the best of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc. Upon pouring, the wine presents with a deep, ruby-red hue, hinting at the richness that awaits. The aroma is intoxicating, with bold black cherry, blackberry, and plum notes accented by subtle hints of vanilla and spice from oak aging. Two Cabs Trading Jabs delivers a complex and well-balanced experience on the palate. The robust body of cabernet sauvignon provides a solid foundation, offering flavors of ripe black fruits and a touch of dark chocolate.

Meanwhile, the cabernet franc lends an elegant touch with nuances of red berries, dried herbs, and a hint of green pepper. What sets this wine apart is its impeccable balance. The tannins are firm yet silky, providing structure without overwhelming the palate. The acidity is refreshing, lifting the fruit flavors and adding brightness to the overall profile. The long and lingering finish leaves a delightful echo of fruit and spice.

Two Cabs Trading Jabs is a stellar example of the art of blending. It seamlessly integrates the best qualities of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc, resulting in a wine that is greater than the sum of its parts. Whether enjoyed with a meal or savored alone, this wine will impress even the most discerning palate.

Vigo's rating: 

2021 TWO HEAVY HITTERS, ROUGH AND READY WINE PRODUCTIONS

Lodi California, U.S., \$8.99, 14.7% ABV

Two Heavy Hitters 2021 Red Wine Blend boldly asserts its



2021 Two Cabs Trading Jabs



2021 Two Heavy Hitters



2022 Trading Post Cabernet Sauvignon

presence as a powerhouse blend that showcases the best of two distinguished grape varieties. Crafted with precision and finesse, this wine marries the robust characteristics of its components, resulting in a symphony of flavors and textures that command attention. Upon pouring, the wine reveals a deep garnet color that hints at its depth and complexity. The aroma is immediately captivating, with intense notes of ripe blackberries, dark cherries, and plums layered with hints of cedar, tobacco, and spice. On the palate, Two Heavy Hitters delivers a rich and opulent experience. The dominant varieties contribute distinct yet complementary elements: the cabernet sauvignon offers bold flavors of black currant, cassis, and dark chocolate, while the syrah adds depth with its notes of black pepper, smoked meat, and leather. What sets this wine apart is its seamless integration of flavors and textures. The tannins are firm yet velvety, providing structure and depth without overwhelming the palate. The acidity is well-balanced, lending freshness and vitality to the wine. At the same time, the lingering finish leaves a lasting impression of dark fruit and spice. Two Heavy Hitters is a wine of exceptional quality and character. Its bold flavors, elegant structure, and lingering finish make it a standout choice for wine enthusiasts seeking a memorable and satisfying experience. This wine will leave a lasting impression, whether enjoyed alone or with food.

Vigo's rating: 

2022 TRADING POST CABERNET SAUVIGNON, TRADER JOE WINE PRODUCTIONS

Napa California, U.S., \$10.25, 14.5% ABV

Trading Post 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon embodies the essence of craftsmanship and terroir, offering a journey through the distinctive flavors of its origin. This wine is a testament to the dedication and expertise of its winemakers, capturing the essence of the cabernet sauvignon grape with finesse and elegance. As

the wine pours into the glass, it reveals a deep garnet hue that reflects its richness and depth. The aroma is inviting, with layers of dark fruits, including blackberry, plum, and black currant, intertwined with subtle cedar, tobacco, and a hint of vanilla. On the palate, Trading Post Cabernet Sauvignon unfolds with grace and precision. The mouthfeel is velvety and luxurious, with ripe tannins that provide structure and depth without overwhelming the senses. Flavors of black cherry, cassis, and dark chocolate dominate the palate, balanced by hints of spice and a touch of earthiness. What distinguishes this wine is its impeccable balance and harmony. Despite its bold flavors, it maintains a sense of refinement and elegance from start to finish. The acidity is well-integrated, lending brightness and vitality to the wine. At the same time, the lingering finish leaves a lasting impression of dark fruit and subtle oak. Trading Post 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon is a wine of exceptional quality and character. Its expressive flavors, refined structure, and lingering finish make it a standout choice for wine enthusiasts seeking a memorable and satisfying experience. This wine will leave a lasting impression, whether enjoyed with food or savored.

Vigo's rating: 

VIGO'S OVERALL IMPRESSIONS:

Though these selections aren't going to be gold medal awardees at a wine festival, they are solid, inexpensive, domestic red wines that can be enjoyed with a Friday night charcuterie or a Saturday steak dinner. So, raise the red, white, and blue, and let's get going supporting our domestic winemakers.

ATTENTION FANS AND READERS:

Like our Facebook page, "The Unassuming Wine Bros," follow us on Instagram @theunassumingwinebros, or email me at vigoloveswine@gmail.com. Let me know what you think about this article, these bottles, or suggestions for upcoming articles.

THE (PET) DOCTOR IS IN!

By Erin Siems, DVM



Another year is rolling on and another spring is popping up. Of course along with spring comes allergies, and right now we are in the heart of allergy season for both pets and people. Allergies are common in people, dogs and even cats. Just like us, common signs of allergies in pets are itchy skin, watery eyes and sneezing. Left untreated, allergies in our pets often lead to skin and ear infections. The bad news is allergies really can't be cured. The good news is that most allergies can be maintained at a low level with proper care.

The first step is recognizing that your pet has symptoms of allergies. Discussing any concerns such as paw licking, head shaking, irritated skin or ears or watery and red eyes with your veterinarian is a great start. Together you can formulate a plan to help your fur baby be more comfortable. Usually, frequent environmental cleanup is needed: vacuum often, use HEPA

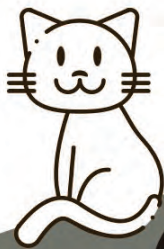


filters and wash bedding in hot water weekly and make sure there is good flea control. Often allergy pets will need more frequent bathing with a hypoallergenic or medicated shampoo, and nutritional supplements like omega fatty acids. Some pets need prescription medications and/or diets to help with the allergies and any resulting infections. Sometimes a visit to the dermatologist is in order.

Don't fear! You don't have to live with the constant jingle of a collar from scratching. There is help out there, just waiting for you to ask. There are many options available, and often a multimodal approach is needed for best success.

Dr. Erin Siems graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2010, and has enjoyed working in both general practice and emergency care. She has been practicing in the Lakewood Ranch/Bradenton area for the past seven years. She enjoys general practice because it gives her the ability to build relationships with her patients and their families. Dr. Siems opened her own practice, Big Paws Animal Hospital in Lakewood Ranch, in May 2020. Email pet questions to reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com.

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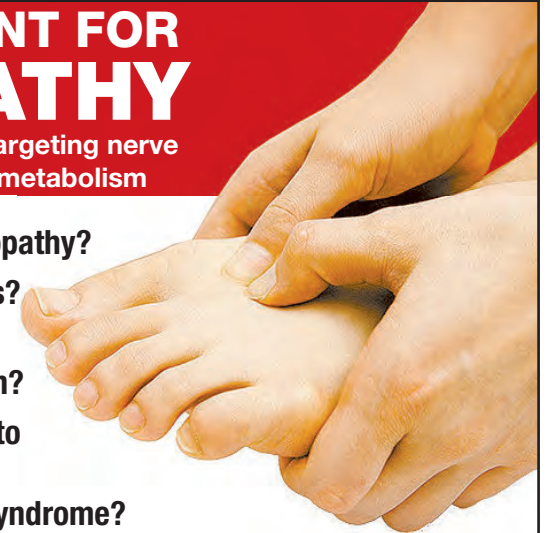
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March Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

Please note that all events will take place at the Chabad House at 5712 Lorraine Road, or at the virtual Chabad House at chabadofbradenton.com/zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Talmud Classes

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

At the Chabad House and on Zoom

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

Torah Studies

Saturday mornings, 9 - 9:30 a.m.

At the Chabad House

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

At the Chabad House

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

Ladies Torah & Tea

Tuesday, March 26, 11 a.m. to noon

At the home of Chanie Bukiet and on Zoom

Join Chanie Bukiet for a weekly dose of delicious tea and Torah learning. The class topic will be "The Spirit of the Matter," living above and beyond the letter of the law. Admission is free. Sponsor a class in someone's memory or honor for \$36.

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sunday, March 24, 9:30 a.m. to noon

At the Chabad House

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

Purim Masquerade

Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m.

At the Chabad House

Join Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch for a Purim Masquerade party. Enjoy Megillah readings, cocktails, music, refreshments, and a masquerade. Event is free. Sponsor for \$180.

Purim in Israel

Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m.

At the Chabad House

Enjoy an interactive Megillah reading and fun festivities at this Israeli-themed Purim celebration with an Israeli-themed masquerade, delicious Israeli dinner, comedy with the Rabbi, charity to Israel, and a "Tour of Israel" featuring letters to the western wall, orange juice squeezing, sand fun, face painting, caricatures, pony rides and more. Prepaid admission – Adults: \$20, Children 3-12: \$15, CHS students come free with pre-registration. Payment at door is \$27 per adult and \$22 per child. Sponsorships are available from \$250-\$2,500.

For more information on any of the ongoing events or to reserve, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at (941)752-3030, email rabbim@chabadofbradenton.com, or visit the Chabad website at chabadofbradenton.com.

AUDITS FROM PAGE 15

a friend to the hospital. He found that because of District 6's "closure policy" he had to drive all the way around to the Legacy gatehouse because he could not enter the area at the Balmoral gate. He commented that since there is now a traffic light at Lakewood Ranch and Balmoral, in addition to a larger turn lane, that this closure policy is, in his opinion, no longer needed, and should be discontinued.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Some residents of the Miramar community off University Parkway at Lorraine Road have complained about the amount of "light pollution" which they say they are now experiencing from the parking lots and building signs on the commercial buildings on the south side of University.

They asked whether these lights could be turned off or dimmed after business hours so as to reduce the amount of projected light coming into their windows.

IRRIGATION ISSUES

District 2 Supervisor Don Avolio noted that many residents don't know how

to maintain their irrigation systems. In addition, he commented that Lakewood Ranch may soon be getting to the point at which no additional irrigation water is available from Braden River Utilities. A lot of the usage is still due to residents over-watering.

GREENBROOK BRIDGE AND PAVILION

The bridge at Greenbrook Adventure Park will be re-decked using the same material currently in use at the Manatee Viewing Center at Apollo Beach. It is a Fiberglass-based material that is pretty much impervious to water damage.

The District 4 board, along with the Operations Department, is still getting information on possible ways to rebuild the fire-destroyed Adventure Park pavilion.

PRESERVE DAMAGE

Someone has apparently cut down some vegetation in a preserve area in the Crossings neighborhood in Greenbrook. This is illegal, as the preserve is District property, and any personal items placed in that area may be removed by the District.

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LAKEWOOD RANCH



WATERSIDE
PLACE

Chad Day Annual Fishing Tournament Will Help Raise Money for Hospice

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

Imagine looking at a picture of a young man, a grinning guy holding a big fish. For Joann Day, the young man in the picture was her son, Chad.

Chad was born while his family lived in New Carlisle, Ohio. They moved to Bradenton in 2000 when he was 10 years old, at first living for about 1-1/2 years in the Carlton Arms apartment complex at the confluence of the Manatee and Braden rivers just east of downtown Bradenton, while the family looked for a more permanent home in our community.

For Chad, the place had a magical draw. He learned how to fish there, and his greatest pleasure, apart from family and friends, was to fish in the waters near his home.

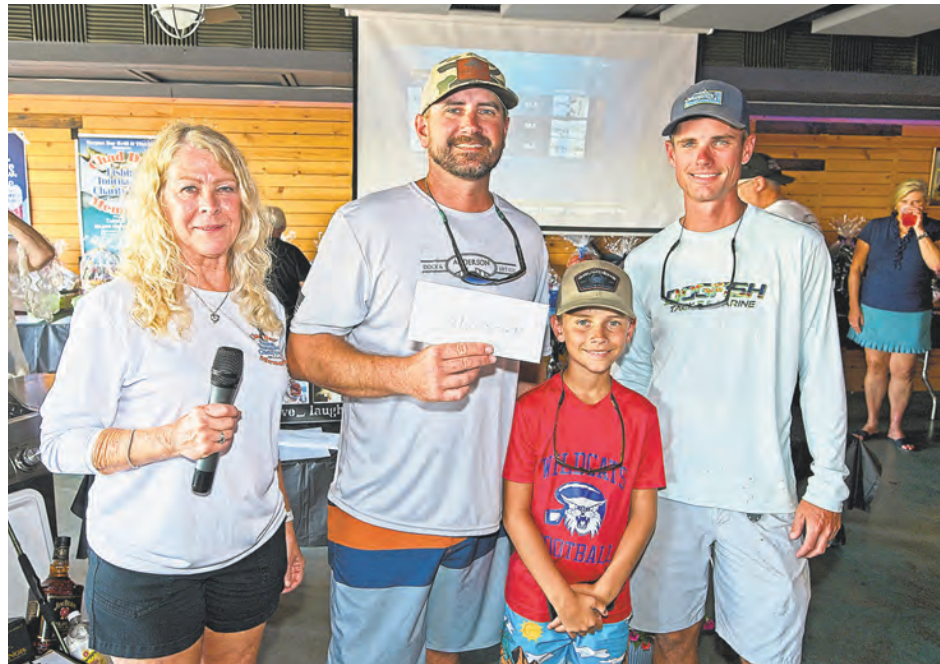
Chad loved the area, loved to fish, and had graduated high school, in addition to learning the welder's trade, making certain that he'd have future job opportunities. At 23, he'd just gotten a new job, and decided to take a few days off to relax and fish at a local pond, when he was felled by a seizure. His body wasn't working right, and the next thing he knew he was on a gurney in an ambulance, and headed to the hospital.

His mom, Joann, remembers being at the hospital waiting area when a group of doctors came toward her – and all of them introduced themselves as oncologists. She learned that, after the doctors had run tests on Chad, he'd been diagnosed with glioblastoma, a fairly rare, and very aggressive, brain cancer – that's what had caused his seizure. Chad had surgery at Moffitt Cancer Center on Feb. 18, 2014.

There is no known way of preventing the occurrence of glioblastoma, and this type of cancer is fatal in a short period of time, even with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation.

Chad died at Tidewell Hospice on May 16, 2015. Tidewell had made his last days as comfortable as possible, and had arranged for his mom – and even his cat – to stay in his room at the hospice facility, which she really appreciated.

After Chad's death, Joann Day wanted to do something meaningful in her son's memory, and she knew that he'd always like to participate in fishing tournaments. Joann decided to hold a commemorative fishing tournament in



The 2023 Tournament



Chad and Joann Day

Chad's memory. She had a strong feeling that she really needed to do this!

She contacted Tarpon Bay Grill and Tiki Bar in Sarasota, and talked with them about her project, and they pitched right in on the program.

The first couple of tournaments had proceeds going to the American Brain Tumor Association, but the organization was located in Chicago, and Joann didn't feel a good connection there. There was no tournament in 2019, as Tarpon Bay was undergoing a changeover, and of course, in 2020, Covid pretty much cancelled almost everything.

She recalled how well Chad had been treated at Tidewell, and decided that Tidewell Hospice would be the recipient of the proceeds from fu-

ture Chad Day tournaments.

When she approached Tidewell about a relationship, they were a little surprised, as they'd never had a fishing tournament, but they got on board with the idea and since then, the Chad Day Fishing Tournament has resulted in almost \$50,000 in donations to Tidewell Hospice.

The Sixth Chad Day Fishing Tournament and Charity Event will take place on Saturday, April 20 this year. Registration must be completed by Friday, April 19, 2024.

There is an entrance fee of \$320/boat, with up to four anglers to a boat.

Each boat is given a measuring tape to record the length of the fish caught (catch and release is the rule). Anglers are warned to not "stretch" their fish – that's a disqualification! The anglers send pictures of their catches to a website, which calculates which fish is heading up the size range for each species.

The Chad Day Tournament species are snook, redfish, and trout. A total of \$6,000 in prizes is up for grabs in the tournament. For each species, there is a first place prize of \$1,000, a second place prize of \$700, and a third prize of \$300.

NOTE: Sunday, April 21 is the deadline for sending in pictures of your catch to the website in order to qualify for prizes.

SPONSOR PACKAGES

Sponsor packages are still available for this year's tournament:

- **The Snook Sponsorship (\$1,500):** Your company logo advertised on multiple banners at the tournament, and also on the Chadday.profishingtournaments.com website, as well as on Dri-Fit tournament fishing shirts. Your sponsorship will also be verbally acknowledged at the awards ceremony!

- **Redfish Sponsorship (\$1,000):** Your company logo advertised on multiple banners at the Tournament, and on the Chadday.profishingtournaments.com website. Your sponsorship will be verbally acknowledged at the awards ceremony.

- **Trout Sponsorship (\$500):** You'll get verbal acknowledgement of your sponsorship at the awards ceremony.

NOTE: There is a deadline for the Snook and Redfish sponsorship packages of March 31, 2024.

IMPORTANT! Please forward your sponsorship wishes and company logo to: jday98@msn.com.

Joan is also collecting donations for raffle baskets for the tournament (and she's gotten pretty good at putting together these baskets), and also silent auction items. Some of these auction items have included a set of tires for your vehicle, a hotel stay package, including wine and a restaurant gift card, bottles of wine and vodka, a parasailing experience, fishing charters etc.

If you'd like to send a donation check, please make checks payable to: Tidewell Foundation, and mail them, along with any sponsorship materials you may need to send to:

Joann Day
12118 Whistling Way
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

The location headquarters of the Chad Day Memorial Fishing Tournament/Two Day Charity event is the Tarpon Bay Grill and Tiki Bar, located at 7150 Tamiami Trail in Sarasota (behind the Ramada Inn).

The Tournament would like to see lots of fishing teams, but you don't have to fish to participate in the event.

To donate or register a team, go to: Chadday.profishingtournaments.com.

Let's get fishing!!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Blood Pressure Basics

With Dr. Michael Austen

Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is common enough that you've likely heard of it before, you have it, or you know someone who does. Michael Austen, MD, board-certified family physician at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, answers frequently asked questions that cover what it means, what to look for and what to do if you're at risk.



alcohol use, smoking, significant stress, kidney issues, thyroid issues, sleep apnea, aging and genetics. Having hypertension can put you at risk for heart complications and events like heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney failure.

IS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE GENETICALLY PASSED DOWN?

The short answer is yes, it can run in families, but it can also happen to someone without a family history, too. If your parents or relatives have high blood pressure, you could be at risk, which is why it's important to have routine check-ups.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS?

Depending on the person, it can present differently. However, people often complain of headaches, dizziness, chest pain, anxiety, blurry vision, lightheadedness and fatigue. It's also possible to have no symptoms at all, which is why hypertension is often referred to as "the silent killer."

WHAT IS HYPERTENSION AND WHAT CAUSES IT?

Hypertension is another way of saying "high blood pressure." Blood pressure refers to the force of blood moving through the walls of your blood vessels.

Higher blood pressure can be caused by a number of factors, including poor diet, being overweight, too much salt intake, excessive al-

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I HAVE MY BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED?

If you're concerned about hypertension, I recommend checking your blood pressure twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. It's important to check correctly, which means sitting with both feet flat on the floor, resting for five minutes, then using an upper arm blood pressure cuff. Take note of any symptoms you may be experiencing. You may want to consider implementing a healthier diet and lowering salt intake.

If you don't have concerns, are at low risk and have no family history, then periodic blood pressure monitoring is fine.

HOW CAN I AVOID DEVELOPING HYPERTENSION?

You can lower your risk of developing high blood pressure by staying active, exercising, and monitoring your weight. Implementing a healthier diet and lowering your salt intake is also important, coupled with getting enough sleep and controlling your stress levels. See



your primary care physician annually for a physical check-up and blood-pressure test.

If you need a doctor, visit doctors.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com or call 800-816-4145.

Physicians are on the medical staff of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians.



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JOIN US AT OUR NEXT SHOW!

Every month at Lakewood Ranch, we host the best of local music, visual and performance art the Sarasota region offers.

WESTCOAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

Friday, March 22nd @ 6pm

RISE ABOVE ARTS

Friday, April 26th @ 6pm

Check out all of the events happening around The Ranch!



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Budweiser Clydesdales Visit Lakewood Ranch



Last month, the Budweiser Clydesdales came to Lakewood Ranch Main Street. The visit – which was free to the public – was part of a multi-stop effort to help build excitement for baseball's spring training season. As happened when they visited The Ranch two years ago, hundreds of Clydesdale fans gathered to view and greet the enormous horses on the street.

The 10-horse team, out of Merrimack, NH, includes eight horses who pull the wagon, while two rest.

The Clydesdales history with Anheuser-Busch started in 1933 when August Busch's children surprised him with a six-horse Clydesdale hitch to commemorate the repeal of Prohibition of beer, according to the Anheuser-Busch website.

Shortly after the hitch was first introduced, the six-horse Clydesdale team increased to eight. On March 30, 1950, in commemoration of the opening of the Anheuser-Busch Newark Brewery, a Dalmatian was introduced as the Budweiser Clydesdales' mascot. Now, a Dalmatian travels with each of the Clydesdale hitches.



PHOTOS BY RYAN ANGELL



LAKWOOD RANCH CHARGERS 2024 SOCCER PROGRAMS



2024 SOCCER CAMPS SERIES

SPRING BREAK CAMP: March 25 - March 29, 2024 * Time: 9AM - 1PM

SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #1: June 3 - June 7, 2024 * Time: 9AM - 1PM

SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #2: June 24 - June 27, 2024 * Time: 9AM - 1PM

SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #3: July 8 - July 12, 2024 * Time: 9AM - 1PM

Cost: \$180 (includes a tshirt)

COMPETITIVE PLAYERS CAMP

Open ONLY to Competitive Players - Guest Coach from ITALY
July 22- July 26, 2024 * Time: TWO Sessions (check website)

To get more information and to register visit our website:

WWW.CHARGERSOCCER.COM/LWR



Tropical Nights

A Pirate's Life

a swashbuckling evening benefiting



Meals on Wheels PLUS
OF MANATEE

The 30th Annual Tropical Nights: A Pirate's Life, an event benefiting Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024! Join us for an exciting and entertaining evening in support of our life-saving programs!

All aboard our **Tropical Nights 2024: A Pirate's Life** adventure will enjoy a fantastic evening of *grub* and *grog* provided by SRQ Magazine's Best of SRQ 2023 award-winner, **Grove Ballroom**. Live and silent auctions and interactive entertainment will add to the pirate experience! Live music will also be provided by **Tropical Ave Band**, so practice your *sailor's jig* and get ready for an unforgettable evening benefiting Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee.

Can't attend? Make a donation in support of the event or bid online.

TROPICAL NIGHTS ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Auction open for bidding now!

Auction closes: Saturday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Website: MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org/TropicalNights-Bid



TROPICAL NIGHTS EVENT

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024
6 p.m.

Location: The Grove Ballroom
10670 Boardwalk Loop
Lakewood Ranch, FL

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BIG thanks to the team at Armorvue! From the initial planning & costing with Levi, we were able to get exactly what we wanted for a very reasonable price! (helps that there are finance options too). So,so happy with the result! The install team was on time & super professional, installing our new doors in ONE day. What we really appreciated during the install was the team's attention to detail and kept everything clean during/after the install. We cannot recommend Armorvue enough for doors/window projects!

- Abby C.



Superb quality and great customer service beginning to end. We bought a front door and the window above it from them. If we ever replace the rest of our windows, we will definitely choose Armorvue. Thank you Jenya, Marc, and Jimmy for the great experience.

- Gregory B.

BRING IN YOUR MEASUREMENTS AND PICTURES FOR ON THE SPOT PRICING.

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