Seabreeze COMMUNICATIONS

GRANDEZZA

Gazzette



SEPTEMBER 2026

A Look Inside

GOACCESS ARRIVED SEPTEMBER 1

CREATING YOUR WHOLE BEING COMMUNITY

WILD GRANDEZZA – THE OSPREY

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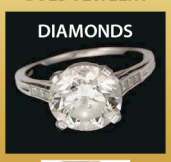
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ARTICLE DEADLINES

Articles for the October issue of the *Gazzette* are due September 18. Send your submissions to sjsherwin18@gmail.com.


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Master POA Report

SARAH HARTMAN

I've enjoyed seeing the pictures and hearing about all the wonderful trips many of you have been taking this summer. I'm not too envious, however, because I've been fortunate to enjoy some wonderful travels myself, including a recent trip to Ireland. I internally debate whether to make a concerted effort to visit the last four or five U.S. states I haven't yet seen. Time will tell whether I decide to check them off my list.

By the time this article is published, we will have completed the transition to our new access control system, GoAccess. A sincere THANK YOU to Peter Dersley, Mike Patricelli, Kevin Ryan, Mickey Wheeler, and Cheryl McFarland, who all put in a lot of effort to ensure the change was as seamless as possible. The contribution of their expertise and time is greatly appreciated. If you have an opportunity, please take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

Following our three-month summer hiatus, the Master Board will resume meeting on September 24 at 5:00 p.m. In the meantime, I thought I'd provide a quick mid-year financial snapshot. As of the end of June, we remained on budget despite a few unexpected expenses related to fountain repairs and a lightning strike that damaged some of our electronic equipment. Much like maintaining our own homes, there always seem to be a few surprises that arise throughout the year. Fortunately, our financial position remains strong, and we have been able to manage the unexpected costs.

During these quieter (and wetter) summer months, those of us who are here year-round get to continue to enjoy the abundance of wildlife and the vibrant colors of the trees, shrubs, and flowers that flourish with the summer sunshine and daily rain showers. Earlier this week, this Anhinga was by the lake near the tee box on #3, far more interested in drying its (her?) wings than my presence. I appreciated the opportunity for a close-up, since many of my wildlife photography attempts end with the subject running, hopping or flying away before I can get the picture!



SEPTEMBER
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GoAccess Arrived September 1

Grandezza's New Visitor Management & Access Control System Is Now Live

Grandezza transitioned to **GoAccess**, our new Visitor Management & Access Control system, on September 1.

By now, all residents should have downloaded the **GoAccess mobile app**, created their username and password, verified their resident account information, and begun authorizing guests and vendors using either the **GoAccess app** or **Website** http://goaccessresident.com

If you have not yet completed these steps, please do so now.





Residents are encouraged to use the GoAccess app or website to manage their guest and vendor access. For residents who are unable to use either of these options, the **Guest Registration System** remains available for authorizing guests and vendors by telephone.

Need Assistance?

A comprehensive **GoAccess Resource Page**, including instructions and helpful information, can be accessed under **"Announcements"** on the Grandezza Master website home page at grandezzamaster.com.

If additional assistance is needed, please contact:

Cheryl McFarland cmcfarland@vestapropertyservices.com

EDITOR'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Kindness is the only service that will stand the storm of life and not wash out. It will wear well and will be remembered long after the prism of politeness or the complexion of courtesy has faded away.

~ Abraham Lincoln

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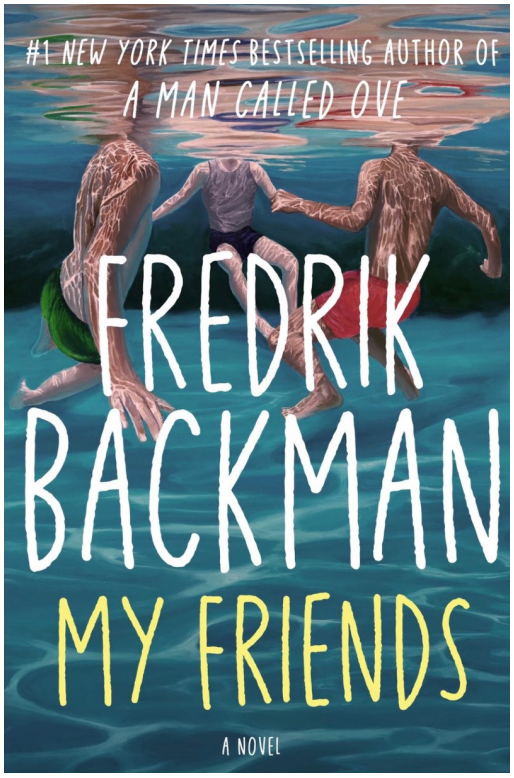
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Reader's Corner – My Friends

BARRY S. BLANK



Fredrik Backman is best known for *A Man Called Ove*, but you won't be disappointed if you pick up *My Friends*. I'd recommend this book to anyone who had close friends in childhood — the kind of friendships that shaped a whole era of your life. That said, don't be fooled into thinking this novel is only for men; women will enjoy it just as much.

The story begins with a runaway teenager, Louisa, who carries an old postcard bearing a reproduction of a famous painting that was once owned by her deceased mother. She intends to disrupt an art auction as a kind of protest against hypocrisy. She believes rich collectors know little about art or God, beyond paying for art dedicated to God without any real interest in God at all. She also questions how the value of art can be measured beyond its price tag. When Louisa is thrown out of the auction, she encounters an old man outside the back door, and the two end up spray-painting graffiti on the building's exterior together. The old man happens to be the artist who painted the masterpiece, and he decides Louisa is someone special.

That's how the adventure begins. The artist asks his close friend Ted, who originally bought the painting, to repurchase the artwork, now worth millions, and to give it to Louisa to do with as she wishes. Ted sets off by train to visit another friend who will help sell it, and Louisa insists on coming along, despite his reluctance to accept her as a travel companion.

The train ride becomes the heart of the story, as Ted, a former teacher, and Louisa, a runaway foster child, share adjoining seats.

Backman weaves in timelines from the past, tracing the friendship at the center of the painting. As they travel, Ted answers Louisa's questions about the children pictured on a pier by the sea. The character development is both humorous and captivating, and the writing builds slowly, layer by layer, keeping you interested.

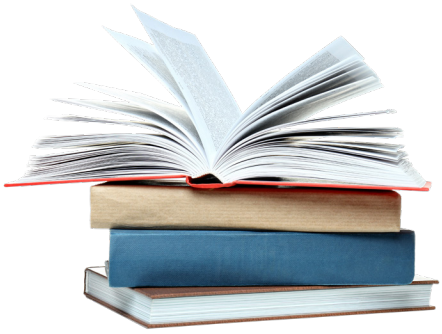
I found myself thinking back to a time in my own life when the days felt endless and friendship felt like everything. It's hard not

to see yourself in one character or another as Ted tells Louisa how it all began. Who doesn't remember getting into trouble with childhood friends, or the kind of adventures only an adult can look back on with a smile?

I laughed, I cried, and I thought about my own early friendships, probably some of the most meaningful of my life.

Fredrik Backman is a master of character development that feels both readable and deeply relatable. *My Friends* is a masterful look at how childhood friendships can last a lifetime and shape who we become.

I highly recommend this novel. Whether you love looking back or looking forward to the future, you won't be disappointed.



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Travel Corner

HELENE & MICHAEL KRAMER

A TIMELESS MAINE VILLAGE WORTH REVISITING

Every summer, we celebrate our anniversary with a little excursion. This year we celebrated our 52nd anniversary with a return trip to Castine, Maine on Penobscot Bay, located on the midcoast, 138 miles north of Portland and 51 miles south of Bar Harbor.





Castine is a beautiful historic village with breathtaking views and an incredible sense of history.

Although it first was settled in 1613 by the French, the English, Dutch and Americans fought over it until it finally became fully part of Massachusetts in 1814. Valued for its deep-water harbor with access to the Atlantic Ocean, today it is the home of the Maine Maritime Academy. It was also the site of the worst naval disaster in American history during the American Revolution with Paul Revere among those involved.

The town has many museums and sites that reflect its history and homes that date back to the 1700s. There are also many newer homes with stunning water views. We always stay





at the Pentagöet Inn. Innkeepers Matt and George are great hosts. They purchased the inn five years ago and worked with the historical society as part of the restoration. They serve a daily hot buffet breakfast, and dinner reservations are a MUST! It's hard to pass on their lobster linguini!

Upon first arriving in this historic village, we recommend the Castine Touring Company where local guides give a golf cart tour of the town. It helped us plan our private time. Remember to bring your walking shoes since there is much to do. Additionally, harbor boat sightseeing tours are available on the Lil' Toot. Depending on the dates you visit, there are several festivals. And, if you are so inclined to enjoy some golf, there is a nine-hole links golf course in town.

Unlike other Maine midcoast sites like Camden or Bar Harbor, Castine never gets overcrowded.





Creating Your Whole Being Community

YVETTE BERNOSKY, B.MS., DIRECTOR OF FITNESS & WELLNESS, *THE CLUB AT GRANDÉZZA*

What creates a whole-being community, a place where people come together to enjoy the good life? Our well-being is shaped by many different factors and the ancient Greeks understood this well. Their gymnasiums were much more than places to exercise. They included lecture halls for learning, quiet spaces for reflection and meditation, and gathering areas where people could connect over conversation and nourishing meals. Their focus extended beyond physical fitness to supporting the whole person.

In 2009, Gallup, Healthways, and Dan Buettner launched the Blue Zones Vitality Initiative to help communities live healthier, longer lives. Their approach is based on creating environments that naturally encourage healthy choices, making wellness a part of everyday life.

When I began my career in fitness more than 35 years ago, I created a vision board with one dream: to build a place where people could improve every aspect of their well-being through movement, education, relaxation and meaningful connection. Looking back, I realize that dream became a reality with the help of many incredible people. Together, we created communities of wellness, just like the one we have here at the club.

Whole-being wellness also includes having a sense of purpose, continuing to learn, nurturing emotional well-being and building meaningful relationships. When these elements come together and are shared with others, they create a true whole-being community. Having a tribe of people who support and encourage one another not only improves health, but also enriches life.

The good news is that you do not need a gym or a club to create a whole-being community. It can begin with just a few people who share a commitment to living well.

Ask yourself:

- Who supports your physical and mental well-being?
- Who challenges you to learn, grow and share new ideas?
- Who do you enjoy gathering with over a healthy meal and meaningful conversation?

Every community starts with one person willing to bring others together. Why not let that person be you?



THE CLUB AT GRANDEZZA

what's up IN WELLNESS

SEPTEMBER 2026

- **FLORIDA GULF COAST EAR, NOSE & THROAT SLEEP APNEA WORKSHOP**
  September 10 at 3pm in the Formal Dining Room

- **KNOW YOUR NUMBERS**
  September 15 by appointment in the Wellness Office

- **PELICAN CYCLE WORKS PRESENTS: BIKE DAY BIKE REPAIR, TUNE UP & TALK**
  September 17 from 9am-12pm in the Activity Area
  (adjacent to the Membership office)

- **SOUND HEALING**
  September 20 at 10am in The Studio

- **LEE HEALTH WORKSHOP PART 1: FLOURISH AS YOU AGE**
  Septmber 22 at 3pm in the Formal Dining Room

CONTACT YVETTE AT 941-999-1331 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Cook's Corner

JOHN DEJOY

ALL THINGS GREEK SALAD



As the late summer garden harvest appears in Farm markets or in your backyard garden, you may find yourself with an abundance of such items like Cucumbers. At John Palmer's Bistro 44 we came up with this refreshing salad. This is a creative dish to utilize these beautiful veggies. Let's get started.

Note:
*Sometimes for this salad I add some arugula or spinach to help it "stand" up on the plate.

TZATZIKI DRESSING

1 cucumber, peeled and seeded
1.5 cups whole milk Greek yogurt, plain
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 teaspoon kosher salt
.25 teaspoon cracked black pepper
1/3 cup fresh dill. If using dry dill cup this by a third.
1) Peel the cucumber, cut it lengthwise and spoon out the seeds.
2) Place the cucumber in a blender or food processor and puree. Add the garlic. Pulse
3) Add the lemon juice and yogurt and pulse this until it comes together. Taste and season.
4) Stir in the Dill. Remove from food processor and store in a bowl in the fridge.

FOR THE SALAD

(we are thinking all things Greek)
*Always rinse your cucumbers first, slice lengthwise and spoon out the seeds. I like them sliced on the biased with the skin on for this salad. Reserve.
*Julienne a Red Onion, thin and reserve
*Tomatoes—cut into big chunks for this dish, eights or sixes.
*Kalamata Olives, seedless
*Feta Cheese to finish.

TO ASSEMBLE

1) In a mixing bowl, add the cucumbers and tomatoes and dress liberally with the Tzatziki.
2) Place in a chilled plate. Garnish with a red onion, kalamatas and feta cheese.

ADVERTISEMENT

Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Many Americans are fortunate to have dental coverage for their entire working life, through employer-provided benefits. When those benefits end with retirement, paying dental bills out-of-pocket can come as a shock, leading people to put off or even go without care.

Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

When you're comparing plans ...

- Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures — or pay for preventive care only.
- Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of $1,000.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.[1]

That's right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Even if you've had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn't take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.[2]

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... $274 for a checkup ... $299 for a filling ... $1,471 for a crown.[3] Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2025. [2] "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. [3] FairHealth, Inc. National average dental fees. Data current as of July 2025; subject to change.

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Wild Grandezza – The Osprey

KEVIN RYAN

MEET THE OSPREY (PANDION HALIAETUS): NATURE'S MASTER FISHER & ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL BIRDS OF PREY.

Near any body of water in Southwest Florida, the osprey is impossible to miss and even harder to forget. Its piercing call announces its presence, but it is the spectacular plunge from sky to water that reveals what this remarkable bird was born to do: Catch FISH!

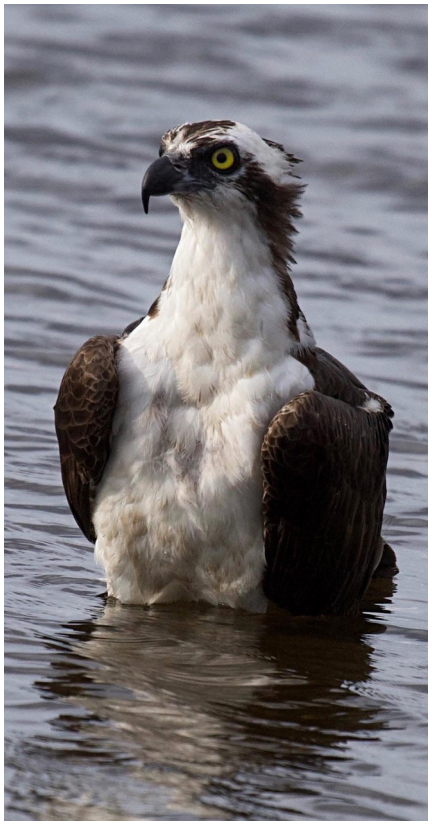
THE OSPREY'S FAVORITE MEAL: SUSHI & THE FRESHER THE BETTER

In North America, familiar examples of avian raptors include eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites (See July's Gazette for the Swallow-Tailed Kite), and of course ospreys. The osprey is unlike other raptors belonging to a unique family all its own. The osprey is the sole living representative of the family **Pandionidae**. Scientists believe this lineage of raptor diverged from other birds of prey millions of years ago, evolving almost exclusively around one food source: FISH.

The osprey is known by many names including the fish hawk, sea hawk, and river hawk. It is one of nature's most specialized and accomplished hunters seemingly built for the sole purpose of catching fish. Powerful talons designed specifically for gripping slippery fish and an almost worldwide distribution has earned the osprey a reputation as one of the planet's greatest fishing birds.

Ospreys are opportunistic feeders preferring fish and they will simply catch whichever fish are most abundant in local waters. More than 99 percent of their diet consists of live fish. Rarely, they may also consume small snakes, frogs, smaller birds, or even rodents. These meals, however, represent only a tiny fraction of their diet. Ospreys almost always capture their own meals and unlike bald eagles they rarely scavenge.

Living in Grandezza and spending any time at all around the golf course you will have surely seen one or more of these elite flyers gliding above one of our many well-stocked ponds or possibly perched high in one of the South Florida Slash Pine trees that line the golf course. They frequently build nests high atop these trees which provide a safety net of sorts that offers protection from potential ground-based intruders.



QUICK FACTS

ABOUT THE FISH HAWK (OSPREY)
Adults measure:

- Length: 21–26 inches (53–66 cm)
- Wingspan: 5–6 feet (1.5–1.8 meters)
- Weight: 3–4.5 pounds (1.4–2 kg)
- Females are generally larger and heavier than males
- Both sexes appear similar in plumage.

Their striking appearance includes a white head, a bold dark eye stripe, a white breast and long narrow wings.

Ospreys can be found on every continent except Antarctica near any place where you can easily find fish. They have one of the widest raptor distributions and Florida has one of the largest breeding populations with habitats including oceans, rivers, lakes and reservoirs.



THE OSPREY IS BUILT FOR ONE PURPOSE: CATCHING FISH

Most birds have three toes pointing forward and one backward. Ospreys possess a reversible outer toe. This allows them to grasp fish with two toes forward and two toes backward. This "zygodactyl" grip creates an incredibly secure hold on slippery prey that they will typically carry straight forward through the air as if the fish was swimming in air. This preserves energy in flight as the prey becomes more aero dynamic.

continued →

SPINY FOOT PADS

The bottoms of an Osprey's feet are covered with tiny sharp projections called spicules. These function almost like sandpaper. Together with sharply curved talons, they prevent struggling fish from escaping.



WATERPROOF PLUMAGE

Ospreys, unlike most hawks, frequently become soaked after plunging into water.

Their feathers are coated with oils that repel water while allowing rapid drying.

After surfacing, an Osprey often shakes itself vigorously before taking flight.

CLOSABLE NOSTRILS

One amazing adaptation is their ability to close their nostrils during dives. This prevents water from rushing into their nasal passages when they strike the water's surface while hunting at a high rate of speed.

DEDICATED PARTNERS & A FAMILY FOR LIFE

Ospreys generally mate for life. Every spring the male returns first and begins repairing the nest while awaiting the female's arrival. Osprey nests are constructed primarily from sticks, and they are enormous, typically reaching six feet across, ten feet deep. Pairs frequently reuse the same nest for decades. Unused areas in the nests are also wildlife apartments offering shelter to a variety of other birds.



THE DDT CRISIS

By the mid-20th century, Osprey populations had collapsed across much of North America.

The culprit was **DDT**, an agricultural pesticide which had heavily accumulated within fish. As Ospreys consumed contaminated prey the chemical caused eggshells to become dangerously thin. Osprey parents, as a result, accidentally crushed eggs during incubation. By the early 1970s many nesting territories were abandoned, coastal populations nearly disappeared, and their reproductive success plummeted.

The banning of DDT, habitat protection, cleaner waterways, and installation of nesting platforms transformed the species' future. Ospreys today represent one of conservation's greatest success stories.

WHY THE OSPREY MATTERS

The Osprey is far more than a skilled predator. It serves as a living indicator of the health of our rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastlines. Its dramatic recovery from the devastating effects of DDT demonstrates what can happen when science, conservation policy, and public support work together. Few species are so perfectly engineered for a single purpose with every aspect of its anatomy from



its reversible outer toe and spiny foot pads to its closable nostrils and exceptional eyesight evolving to make it an unrivaled fisher.





Please Pick Up After Your Pet

We all love our dogs—they're part of the Grandezza family! But no one enjoys stepping in or seeing dog waste left behind on sidewalks, lawns, or common areas. Please be a responsible pet owner and pick up after your dog every time. Dog waste is not only unpleasant, it can spread bacteria and harm our beautiful community landscape. Let's all do our part to keep Grandezza clean, healthy, and enjoyable for everyone—two-legged and four-legged alike!

Writers Wanted!

In an effort to make the Grandezza Gazzette interesting and readable to our residents, we invite you to share your stories, experiences, and perspectives. We welcome articles about books, travel, pets, sports, TV and movies, tech, and/or content that will get our community talking and sharing! Just avoid topics such as politics and religion in keeping with our policy of avoiding controversy.

Please try to limit your words to between 200 and 600 words and feel free to include a couple of jpeg photos with high resolution. We'll be happy to give you a byline!

Send your submissions to sjsherwin18@gmail.com.

SHARE A STORY OR TWO ABOUT YOUR BELOVED PET!

Send your story and a couple of pictures to: sjsherwin18@gmail.com.



FORT MYERS Living



PICTURED: ARTIST JASON "SANDMAN" SANDERS OF HERMIT GARAGE RESTORES JAMES DIGIORGIO'S ICONIC YOU ARE HERE SCULPTURE.
See article on page 31.

FEATURED INSIDE

Hurricane Prep: Keep Pets Safe
Page 16

Vacation Rental or Vacation Trap?
Page 19

Building Careers. Changing Lives.
Page 23

SEPTEMBER 2026

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS · BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LEE COUNTY · Goodwill Southwest Florida · Gulf Coast Humane Society · Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA · IMAG HISTORY & SCIENCE CENTER · LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FL SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO

SCAN ME!

Read the September Issue – Out Now!

Local stories, events and good news in the heart of Southwest Florida

fortmyersliving.com

Bear Behavior Levels



IF A BEAR IS...

- Far away
- Easily scared away
- In a tree/standing up/passing through
- Leaving scat, tracks or scratch marks on trees
- Feeding on natural foods (acorns, berries, insects)

Enjoy from a safe distance and never approach a bear.



IF A BEAR IS...

- Not scared away by loud noises
- Eating food/garbage/pet food/birdseed when people are not present
- Protecting food or cubs (charges, blocks food or cubs from people)

Find a safe place, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline to report the behavior.



IF A BEAR IS...

- Approaching people or pets
- Lingering near human use areas
- Entering a tent, building or vehicle
- Physically making contact with a person
- Eating food/garbage/pet food/birdseed when people are present

Find a safe place, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline and the manager should consider closing the area.

FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-3922
or #FWC or *FWC from your mobile phone.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

MyFWC.com

In a Bear's Quest for Calories…

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

In the late summer and early fall, bears are driven to consume as many calories as possible in preparation for denning through the hungry winter months. Bears that eat 5,000 calories a day may increase to 20,000 calories a day during this period. The diet of the average black bear is normally 80 percent vegetable, 15 percent insect, and 5 percent small animals, reptiles and eggs. However, living around humans, bears have developed a taste for people's garbage because it is often higher in calories than their natural food sources. In the table below, common types of human foods are contrasted with how many acorns a bear would have to eat to get the same amount of calories.

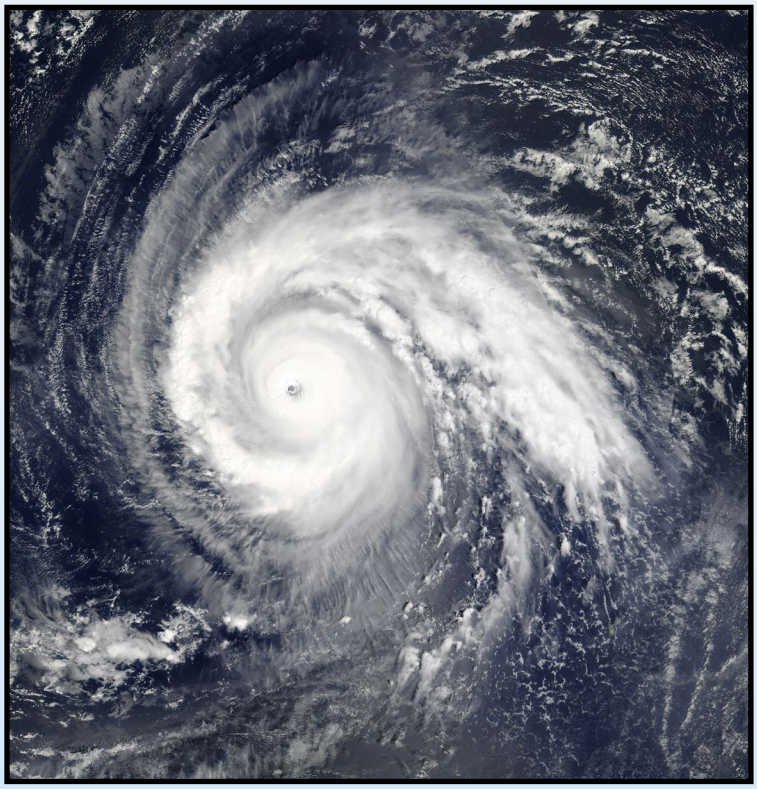


Menu Item	Calories	Equivalent number
Hummingbird nectar (16 oz)	385	101
Bananas (6 med)	920	242
Bread (1 loaf)	1,280	337
Hot dogs (1 lb)	1,456	384
Black oil sunflower seeds (1 lb)	1,740	458
KFC Fried Chicken combo	1,770	467
Hickory nuts (1 lb)	2,051	540
Watermelon (10" whole)	2,464	649
Potato chips (1 lb)	2,560	674
Chocolate chip cookies (1 lb)	3,200	843
Dry feed corn (1 lb)	4,580	1,206
Vanilla Ice cream (1 gallon)	4,960	1,305
Birdseed (7 lbs)	12,180	3,206
Purina dog chow (25 lb)	42,425	11,165

NOW WHAT DO I DO? UNDERSTANDING THE FORECAST

There is a hurricane barreling directly toward your area, and the forecast is being updated hourly. How do you get ready, and when?

When a hurricane is threatening, you must make the decision to stay in your home, seek space in a local shelter, or drive miles away. Staying local may be advantageous (you're not fighting traffic) but also has its drawbacks (crowded shelters with little privacy). Use the guide below to be prepared whatever decision you make.



5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

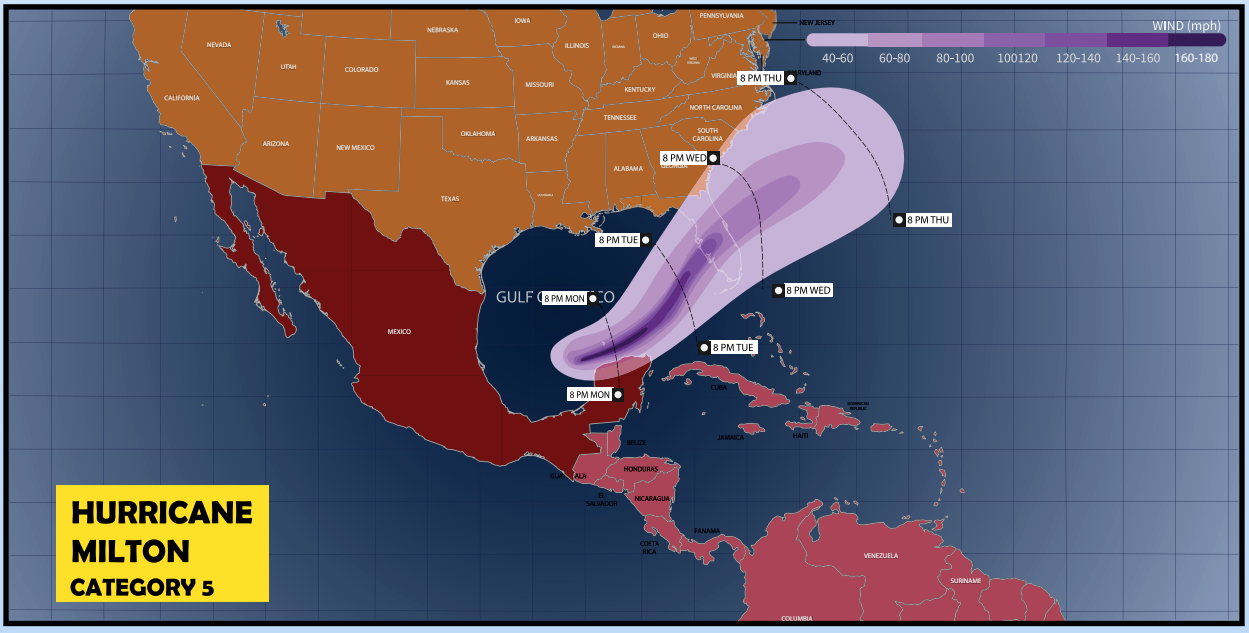
When your area is in the 5-day cone of a hurricane forecast, it indicates a high probability that the hurricane will impact the region within the next five days. This is a crucial moment to put your plans and preparations into action.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, register for a special needs shelter.

3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase, and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all the materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.



HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)
Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

WHEN A HURRICANE STRIKES
Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars and other infrastructure.

Along with hurricane warnings, meteorologists provide information about the predicted category of a hurricane at landfall. There are five categories of hurricanes according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:

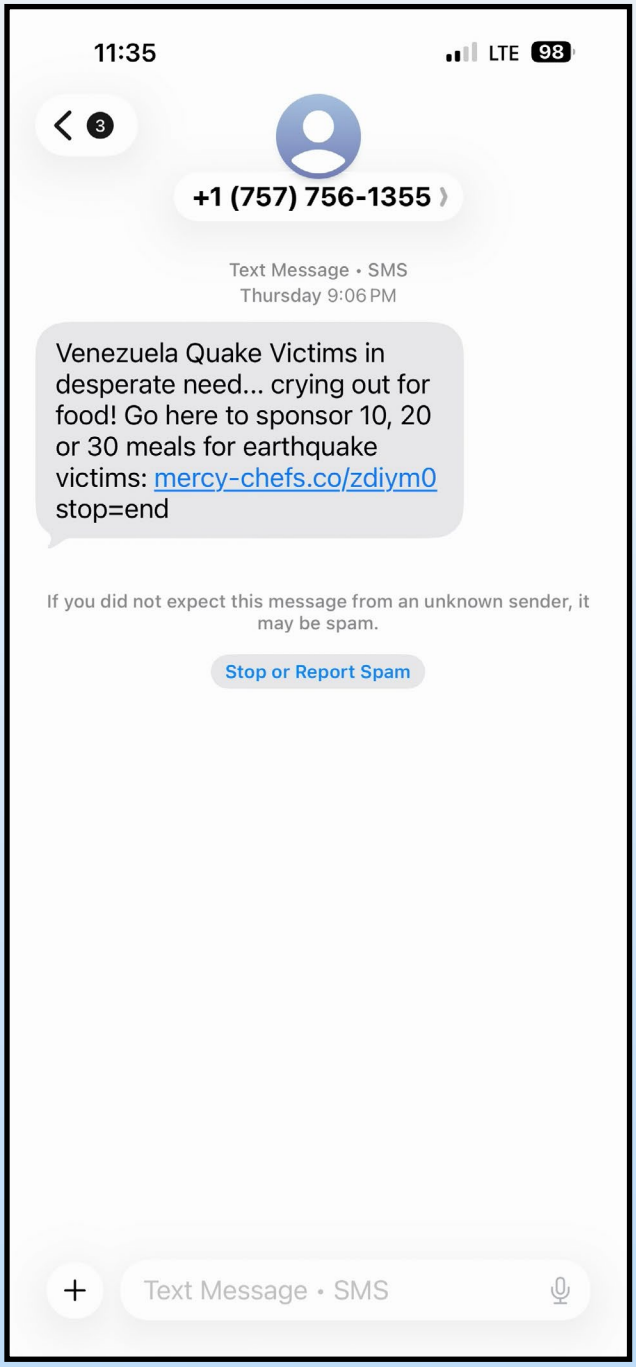
- **Category 1 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 74-95 mph that can produce some damage
- **Category 2 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 96-110 mph that can cause extensive damage
- **Category 3 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 111-129 mph that can cause devastating damage
- **Category 4 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 130-156 mph that can cause catastrophic damage
- **Category 5 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 157+ mph that cause catastrophic damage



DISASTER RELIEF BY TEXT?

After natural disasters, we often see the best in humanity, as people give time and money in hopes of easing the anguish of those who are suffering. However, scammers are ready at any moment to exploit empathy in hopes that donations will be made to their bank account and not reach the intended recipients.

After the recent devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, a friend received this text message. At first glance, it sounds like a great way to give, but let's take a closer look and see if you can spot the red flags.



Be wary of unsolicited requests. Is this number familiar to you? If you don't have it in your contacts or get regular texts, it's likely not something you solicited.

Research contact information. Verify the charity's contact details. Look for a physical address and a working phone number and compare these with reliable sources.

Verify the legitimacy of the charity. Research the charity on your own (do not use the link provided) and determine if the charity actually exists. If it does and you decide to give, go through a trusted method of giving, not through the text or other communication you received.

Check the Website URL. Scammers often create websites with URLs similar to legitimate charities. Ensure the website you are donating through is authentic and secure (look for "https" in the URL).

The Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act regulates solicitation of public contributions and requires full disclosure of certain information from persons soliciting contributions in Florida. Consumers can view the online Check-A-Charity tool to look up financial summaries of charitable organizations which are registered with the FDACS. You can also review charities at Give.org, through the Better Business Bureau, or at CharityWatch, an independent charity watchdog.

If you have a favorite charity which you trust and that works with disaster victims, give to it. Charities which have demonstrated their good works in the past are usually safer and have an established reputation to uphold.

When donating, consider donating by credit card. If a charity insists that you give cash, gift cards, or cryptocurrency, it is likely a scam. Credit card donations provide you with more protection should an issue arise.

If you want to learn more about giving safely, visit Donating Safely and Avoiding Scams | Consumer Advice.

THE SEPTEMBER 24TH EAST CORKSCREW COMMUNITY MEETING YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

— What do you need along East Corkscrew?
— Your Child's School Choices
— The Latest Developments Along East Corkscrew

The next Engage Estero and the East Corkscrew Alliance meeting will be held on September 24th at 6 pm at Estero Fire Rescue Station 45 at 18743 Corkscrew Rd (across from Verdana Village.)

The speakers and topics are:

1. Allan Bowditch, Engage Estero's President, will share some of the key findings from the recent survey conducted among East Corkscrew Residents that determined their needs and requirements for your growing community.

2. Nick Cameratta, Founder and COO of The Cameratta Group of Companies, will introduce the K-12 Charter school coming to Kingston.

3. True North Classical Academy will present its plan for a K-12, 3100 student charter school in the Kingston development.

4. Bill Ribble, Board Vice Chair, The School District of Lee will discuss school choice and options your child will have with the various schools available in your East Corkscrew zone. He will explain the evidence-based steps being taken to ensure our middle and high schoolers graduate with high-level literacy skills. He may also share his insights on how he would like to see improvements made in our Greater Estero Schools.

5. Mark Novitski, Consultant to Engage Estero and Chair of the East Corkscrew Alliance, will summarize the various changes and improvements that have or will soon take place along East Corkscrew.

Carpooling is recommended as there is limited parking.

The above meeting is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, so reservations are required. You can make reservations for the event using this link:

https://esterotoday.com/sept2026/

FROM NATIONAL RECOGNITION TO INTERNATIONAL TRIUMPH

• Two Florida Gulf Coast University musicians rise from national finalists to international champions, proving Southwest Florida is producing world-class musical talent.

Recently, Quang Vo and Duy Vu were selected as two of only eight semi-finalists in continued →

the prestigious Piano Arts North American Piano Competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



The achievement is remarkable. Across North American universities, only FGCU and the Juilliard School placed two pianists in the semi-finals. The other competitors represented elite institutions, including the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University, and Northwestern University. For a young music program, it was a defining moment—and a powerful statement that FGCU belongs among the nation's finest.

After an intense week of demanding performances, Quang (on the right side of the photo) advanced even further, earning one of just three coveted spots in the finals, where finalists performed concertos with the acclaimed Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. "The level of competition was extraordinary," said Professor Michael Baron. "I am very proud of both Duy and Quang for not only holding their own but excelling with some of the best young pianists in the country."

Competing against some of the finest young pianists in North America, Quang demonstrated extraordinary artistry, and fellow FGCU pianist Duy Vu distinguished himself in an exceptionally talented field.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL ARTISTIC TRIUMPH FOR FGCU'S BOWER SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

• Le Phuong Pham Makes History with the Hugely Challenging Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3

Le Phuong Pham, a piano performance major at Florida Gulf Coast University, played Sergei Rachmaninoff's significant Piano Concerto No. 3 on August 2 with the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Honna Tetsuji. The concert was held at the Grand Concert Hall of the Vietnam National Academy of Music in Hanoi.

Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto is widely regarded as one of the most demanding works in the piano repertoire, requiring extraordinary technical command, stamina, musical maturity, and interpretive depth. For Le Phuong to undertake

this formidable work at such a young age is an exceptional accomplishment. Most remarkably, she has become the youngest female pianist ever to perform the Rachmaninoff Third Piano Concerto in Vietnam.



As FGCU's music program continues to gain national and international recognition, one thing is increasingly clear: some of the world's finest young musicians call Southwest Florida home. FGCU has become a destination for exceptional musical talent.

The upcoming season at the Bower School of Music and the Arts and Gulfshore Opera is just around the corner. Don't miss your chance to see talented singers, musicians, and performers with national and international experience right here in our community. Here is the Gulfshore Opera schedule for 2026-27:

https://gulfshoreopera.org/calendar-26-27/

The Bower School of Music and the Arts Program for 2026-27 hasn't yet been released but will be available soon at https://www.fgcu.edu/cas/bsma/

continued →



The above meeting is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, so reservations are required. You can make reservations at:

https://esterotoday.com/oct2026/

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Why Engage Estero Needs Your Donation,

- **Support our students** with scholarships, local teachers, schools, and FGCU.
- Help those in desperate **need in emergencies** and disasters.
- Promote **community health programs** and services and encourage the availability of a local Community Hospital.
- To continue to provide **high-quality communications,** Community Meetings, and Public Forums on key issues, including renting facilities for meetings, providing YouTube videos, podcasts, social media, e-newsletters, websites, and obtaining professional input.
- **To advocate for important issues that threaten our way of life and encourage citizen engagement.**

No Engage Estero volunteer leaders receive compensation for their many hours of work on your behalf. 100% of the donations address the above issues and more.

As a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the IRS, we are fully transparent about how and where your money is used, as required by law. Any amount will help us continue our work for you and our Greater Estero community. Simply click the "Donate" button below to support Engage Estero.

You'll feel good about contributing to help Engage Estero make your voice heard in matters that affect you.

Thank you for your affirmation, encouragement, and generosity. Your donation is tax-deductible:

Allan Bowditch
President, Engage Estero

https://Esterotoday.com/donate

Engage Estero

Donate



Checks can also be mailed to:

Engage Estero
P.O. Box 424
Estero, FL 33929

"Be Informed, Get Engaged, and Make an Impact!"



RESOURCE HUB

GRANDEZZA MASTER WEBSITE
WWW.GRANDEZZAMASTER.COM

Gatehouse
(239) 498-8895

Gatehouse
(GoAccess Guest Registration System)
(727) 516-2802

Address
11450 Grande Oak

Clubhouse
(239) 948-3569

Grandezza Express - Take Out Food
(239) 738-7113

Golf Pro Shop
(239) 948-2900

Tennis Pro Shop
(239) 738-7111

Wellness Director
(941) 999-1331

Golf Maintenance
(239) 947-6296

Vesta Property Services
cmcfarland@vestapropertyservices.com
(239) 947-4552 x 932

Gazzette Editor for HOA
Susan Sherwin
sjsherwin18@gmail.com
(973) 615-4222

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS

Grandezza is a safer community because of Neighborhood Watch.

Avalon	Peggy Dempsey	610-662-2082
Cypress Cove A (Buttermere)	Mike Patricelli	239-464-0780
Cypress Cove B	Kevin O'Neil	239-265-5982
Grande Estates	Mike Bresson	603-812-8455
Oakwood I (bldg 1-8 & 23-29)	Al Meyer	239-313-0580
Oakwood II (bldg 9-22)	Al Meyer	239-313-0580
Sabal Palm	Mark Sherwin	201-370-4160
Santa Lucia	Celia Platt	239-498-8158
Saraceno	Jeanne Basso	239-600-2828
Savona	Sharmin McKenny	239-989-2334
Solemar	Bob Lindgren	651-895-6210
Ville Grande	Steve Bajinski	678-575-2397

REMEMBER-

- **Call 911** for a crime-in-progress (emergency) or
- **Call the police at 239-477-1000** to report suspicious activity/behavior (non-emergency)
- **Call the Grandezza Gate at 239-498-8895** to inform them that the police may be coming and why.
- **Call the Guest Registration System to register a guest at 727-516-2802**
- **Notify your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Alligator Hotline	(866) 392-4286
Animal Control	(239) 432-2083
Mosquito Control	(239) 694-2174
Florida Power & Light	(239) 334-7754
Sunshine Before You Dig	(800) 432-4770
Waste Services of Florida	(239) 332-8500
Free Residential Appliance Pickup	(239) 337-0800

GRANDEZZA COMMUNITY BOARDS AND OFFICERS

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Susan Sherwin	D

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Grandezza Classified Ads

To place a classified ad Grandezza residents may e-mail sjsherwin18@gmail.com. An ad will run for THREE (3) MONTHS beginning with the first submission. Please inform us when the item has been sold or if you wish to have it deleted from the column. Also, you must notify us to continue an ad for an additional cycle after the initial 3-month period has expired or it automatically will be deleted. (Ending cycle of the ad running is noted at the end in parentheses.)

ITEMS FOR SALE

Leather Sofa—black triple power recliner. Perfect condition, purchased in November 2025 for $1,999. Heading North and asking only $1,100. Call or text 309-838-7533 to view at our Saraceno Drive address. (Expires 10/26)

Nearly new Acorn Stairlift. Installed in February 2026. Will fit Sabal Palm Unit #6 from 1106 to 2806. Original price was $13,695; sale price negotiable. Contact Arlene Alderfer (215) 237-3333 (Expires 10/26)

Tommy Bahama Bedroom Set. Double Bed w/ new mattress, 2 nightstands, dresser & mirror. $900. Call or text Georgia (216) 402-4443 (Expires 12/26)

High-end Dining Room Table, 60" round w/ 6 Chairs. $400. All in mint condition. Call or text Georgia (216) 402-4443 (Expires 12/26)





Seabreeze
COMMUNICATIONS

SEABREEZECOMMUNICATIONS.COM

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