

LOCAL BRIEFS

USF Sarasota-Manatee hosts annual Climate Conference

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee will host the Sarasota-based Climate Adaptation Center's annual Climate Conference on Feb. 9 at Selby Auditorium and tickets are on sale.

The conference, titled "The Triple Threat from Water and the Emergence of the Climate Economy," will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. featuring CAC scientists, academic experts, business leaders and government officials. The event will focus on threats posed by rising global temperatures; rising seas; extreme weather; and how climate action can stimulate the economy.

"Conference attendees will learn about the threat we face and the pathways to action in an engaging inclusive day designed to move our area forward with adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect the Florida way of life," said Bob Bunting, CEO of the CAC.

Title sponsors are the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation and Tommy's Express Carwash. Co-sponsors include Sarasota Magazine, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Climate First Bank, Best Weather Inc., Cumberland Advisors and Triangle Ranch. For information and to purchase tickets, visit theclimateadaptationcenter.org/events.

St. Jude Church's Program for Needy awarded grant

The St. Jude Catholic Church/Hispanic-American Center was recently awarded a \$9,000 grant from the Kathleen K. Catlin Foundation of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to support the church's Program for the Needy.

The program distributes food during the holiday season, provides a resource for the St. Jude's Food Pantry, and also funds food supplies for the Myakka

A holiday salute



Sarasota Marine Corps veteran Carlos Moreira and family recently received a holiday surprise from Wishes for Heroes and Florida Power & Light. PROVIDED BY FPL

migrant worker population and St. Jude's migrant community. The pantry is open year round, with volunteers distributing food twice a week to parishioners in need.

The grant was used in part to purchase 450 food cards for families who registered for the church's Christmas Program. The total families registered included 960 children. For more information and to support programs at St. Jude Church, visit stjudesarasota.org.

Sarasota Opera receives Gulf Coast Arts Appreciation Grant

The Sarasota Opera, now in its 64th season, has received a \$60,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

"We are so appreciative of [Gulf Coast's] commitment to the arts in Sarasota," said Richard Russell, the company's General Director. "They are enthusiastic partners in our mission and through their unwavering support they are assisting in our efforts to build and maintain a culturally vibrant community."

Gulf Coast is underwriting the opera

company's 2022-23 season and will be a production sponsor for Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." For more information, visit sarasotaopera.org and gulfcoastcf.org.

Manasota Beach Club plans 34th 'Monday Lecture Series'

The 34th annual "Monday Lecture Series" at the Manasota Beach Club will feature biologists, planners, historians, ecologists, and anthropologist with a special emphasis on the impact of Hurricane Ian, organizers said.

"While the lecture series has always focused on area ecological and historical/preservation issues, this year we felt obligated to discuss the impact of the hurricane," Manasota Beach Club owner and manager Sidney "Buffy" Crampton said.

The 2023 series begins Jan. 9 with "Coastal Storm Resiliency: MBC's Past, Present and Future" with Crampton, preservationist Steve Avdakov, and engineer Charles Jordan. All presentations are held outdoors at MBC, 7660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood. For information and registration, contact MBC at

941-474-2614 or visit manasotabeachclub.com.

Around and about ...

The **Bradenton Riverwalk Holiday of the Arts Festival** (Riverwalk & Third Avenue West) is today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival showcases original works by artisans from throughout Florida and across the United States, including handmade art in painting, photography, sculpture, candles, jewelry, glass, ceramics, and woodworking. Info: paragonfestival-s.com.

• The **Piano Friends Christmas Meeting** is today from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at State College of Florida Recital Hall, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton. Pro-Am pianists will play an assortment of duets, solos and original pieces, each no longer than 5 minutes. Info: Debye Bernard, 941-504-3818 and axhandle@comcast.net.

• **University Town Center will host an outdoor celebration** today from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in partnership with Temple Emanu-El. The **"Pop-Up Hanukkah at The Green at UTC"** will feature crafts, foods, games, music, and giveaways. Guests are encouraged to donate a new, unwrapped toy for JFCS of the Suncoast to distribute.

• **Temple Beth El of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch**, 5150 Peridia Blvd. E., will host a community festival to celebrate the first night of Chanukah on Sunday from 4-8 p.m. with food trucks, a holiday bazaar, games, singing, dancing, a photo booth, and bake sale. Info: bethel-fl.org.

• The **Literacy Council of Sarasota is offering new online English classes**, from Introductory Basic to Advanced, starting Feb. 9. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by Jan. 13 by contacting LCS program associate Sandra Beltran at 941-955-0421 or sbeltran@sarasotaliteracy.org. Info: sarasotaliteracy.org.

Submissions by Khaliyah Dougan, Danielle McCourt, Peggy Forte, Elyza Wylder, Laurence Kruckman, Hillary Reynolds, Debye Bernard, Elaine Rose Glickman, Meg Durshimer, Ning Tinsley, Tom Melville.