

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 1, 2022

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| SECTION B



85TH SHELL FESTIVAL TAKES OVER SANIBEL

BY SANDRA YEYATI
Special to Florida Weekly

THOUSANDS OF PARTICIPANTS AND VISITORS FROM around the United States are expected at the 85th Sanibel Shell Festival, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 3-5, on Sanibel Island. This collaboration between the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club and the Sanibel Community Association is the longest-running and most prestigious event of its kind in the

SEE SHELL , B4 ►

AT TOP: The Scientific Room at the San-Cap Shell Club's judged Shell Show inside the Community House.

COURTESY PHOTOS

INSIDE



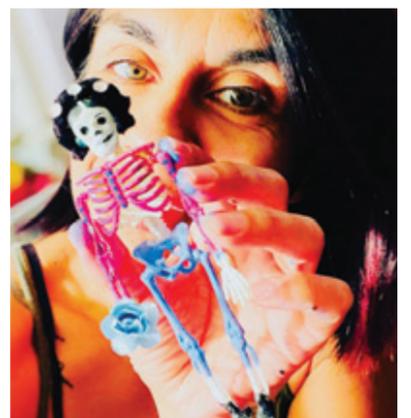
Music

Celtic Woman brings fresh new show to Fort Myers. **B12** ►



More music

MercyMe on tour to promote new album, "Inhale/Exhale." **B18** ►



Notables in the Arts

Get to know local artist Sandy Mendoza. **B20** ►

"Avenue Q" musical kind of a Sesame Street for adults

BY SANDRA YEYATI
Special to Florida Weekly

Entertaining audiences with humor and bouncy tunes, the Southwest Florida premiere of the Tony award-winning musical "Avenue Q" is coming to The Laboratory Theater of Florida (The Lab) from Feb. 25 through March 27. Expect riotous laughter as complex adult themes are debated by puppets resembling Sesame Street Muppets. With songs like "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist," "The Internet is for Porn" and "If You Were

Gay," this show is decidedly not for young children, despite the adorable, hand-operated characters.

"There is puppet nudity," Artistic Director Annette Trossbach says with a chuckle. "It has adult language and sexual situations with important life lessons, such as how not to be a racist, why to be open-minded with LGBTQ issues and how to be a good neighbor and care for others. This is meant to be a fun show, and it also sparks conver-

SEE AVENUE Q, B23 ►



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Mrs. T (Tracy Weaver), Gary Coleman (Robert Barner), Kate Monster (Ruthgena Faraco) and Christmas Eve (Liz Mora).



Calendar

Enjoy a full list of things to do around town this week. **B6-9** ►

SHELL

From page 1

In the ! " # \$

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