BIKEWALKLEE

Drive like children (or police) played here

Special to Fort Myers News-Press

Which is more likely to change your behavior: Fear of harming others (including people you might know), or fear of harming yourself?

This is not an esoteric exercise. Rather, it could be key to making our streets, sidewalks and bike paths safer.

Safety is a big issue locally, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. Our region has regularly ranked far too high in the "Most Dangerous" places for walking and biking, evidence of a chronic and, sadly, statewide issue putting far too many people at risk on a daily basis.

How do you make streets and sidewalks safer? Three ways:

Better facilities, meaning properly designed, adequately interconnected and of sufficient quantity to provide a (somewhat) secure network.

Better awareness, by drivers and walkers/bikers of the laws under which they all should operate and the courte-

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PLAY DAYS
ENRICHMENT IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

IF YOU GO
What: Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife
Where: 3883 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday
Cost: $12 for adults; $7 ages 4-12, free for age 3 and under
Presentations: Daily in the Visitor Education Center at 11 a.m. For a complete list of programs go to crowclinic.org
Info: (239) 472-3644 or crowclinic.org

Heather W. Barron
Columnist
Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

During the holidays, thoughts turn to fabulous food and toys for tots. At CROW, our staff and volunteer elves are busy year-round making fun things for our wild babies.

CROW sees approximately 4,000 wildlife emergencies every year. In addition to providing for the medical and nutritional needs of these animals, staff are also concerned for the welfare of the patient. Being in captivity is highly stressful for a wild animal. CROW personnel are trying to help, but the patients do not know that. One way to help ease the stress of hospitalization is to offer appropriate environmental enrichment.

See CROW, Page 3D

Right: Enrichment is designed specifically for each species at CROW to encourage physical and mental activity.

Naples events add dash of fun to holidays

JoNell Modys
Columnist
Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Don't you love celebrating the Christmas season in the tropics? There's something special about lighted boat parades, snowflakes cascading down through palm trees, and shopping in your shorts and flip flops.

If you're new to the area or visiting us from up north, now is the time to enjoy some of the area's favorite annual events, and at the same time, find great one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your holiday list.

Shop with Santa on Fifth Avenue South

Get a jump on the busy weekend at the 44th annual Christmas Walk and Tree Lighting Ceremony led by Santa Claus himself and Naples Mayor Bill Barnett on Thursday night on Fifth Avenue South in downtown Naples, complete with seasonal favorites from area choral groups and bands.

You'll find lots of unique gifts at shops along the avenue like Regatta, Blue Mussel, Wind in the Willows and

See SHOPPING, Page 6D
Enrichment is loosely defined as a dynamic process for enhancing an animal environment within the context of the animals' behavioral biology and natural history. Enrichment is designed specifically for each species at CROW to encourage physical and mental activity.

There are many reasons why enrichment is a moral and medical imperative. For young, wild orphans raised in captivity, enrichment can encourage the development of naturally occurring behaviors, which may increase the animal's survival probability upon release. Additionally, it may provide increased opportunities for exercise, which may help make the animal more physically fit for life in the wild.

Enrichment also enhances mental development and contributes to the reduction of prevention of stereotypical behaviors, which are defined as repetitive patterns with no goal or objective. Examples of this seen frequently in caged wildlife include negative activities such as pacing, circling, over grooming, chewing or licking cage wire, and inappropriate aggression.

There are lots of different fun things CROW can offer its patients, such as natural enrichment items like palm fronds, or man-made items like colorful balls. CROW’s rehabilitation cages all incorporate habitat enrichment, which focuses on the design of the animal’s enclosure and may include densing/