

NEWS BRIEFS

Bonita Springs Greyhound track celebrates 50th anniversary this month

Greyhound Track's 50th anniversary celebration which starts Thursday evening, Dec. 27. That's the date in 1957 when Southwest Florida race fans first heard "...here comes Sparky".

Since that opening night, millions of patrons have watched more than 200,000 greyhound races at the oval off Old 41 in Bonita Springs.

The anniversary celebration will start on Dec. 27 with musical entertainment highlighting the sounds of that era (Elvis will be in the building), a \$50 Texas Hold'em poker tournament, \$50 voucher giveaways, 50-day free passes and a drawing for a 50-inch television.

"We have acquired through the years a following a loyal patrons and seasonal friends who we hope will embrace our celebration," said Larry Baldwin, the

track's general manager. "The greyhound track has developed a rich heritage within the Southwest Florida and we're hopeful our patrons enjoy more days of prosperity."

Also beginning Dec. 27 and continuing through late February, the track will be offering musical entertainment, price-reduction specials, prize giveaways, old fashion movie nights and a \$50,000 Anniversary Classic greyhound race on Feb. 23 as part of the celebration.

Starting Dec. 26, the track runs 10 live greyhound performances weekly through mid April and the Poker Room is open daily from noon to midnight. Also, simulcast wagering on the nation's premier horse tracks and Florida greyhound tracks is available daily at 11:30 a.m. For information call (239) 992-2411. ■

FGCU cagers at home this holiday season

The days leading up to the Christmas holiday will be busy for FGCU basketball.

The Eagles, in their first year of Division 1 play, have three home games in Alico Arena in three days. The Women host the 'FGCU Holiday Classic' on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 20 and 21. They take on Texas-Pan American on Thursday, Dec 20 at 7 p.m. On Friday they play Memphis or Loyola at either 5 or 7 p.m.

The Eagle men take the floor on Saturday, Dec. 22 as they host the nationally ranked Butler Bulldogs — a returning



Sweet 16 team from last year's NCAA Tournament. The men will also play host to the Ivy League's Penn Quakers the following Saturday, Dec. 29.

Don't miss this top notch Division 1 College Basketball action right here in Fort Myers. For tickets call 590-7145 or visit www.fgcuathletics.com ■

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