

# FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY®

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

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## STAYCATION: 10 great vacations to have (in our own backyard)

**I**t's summer! School's out, the snowbirds are long gone, and you finally have time to take a much-anticipated vacation. Time off? Heck, business is so slow you might not even be missed at work. And therein lies the problem: Due to the unforeseen economic circumstances of the entire country imploding, your vacation budget has shrunk from grande to poquito. You want to get away, you need to get away — from the stress of work, the depression of little or no business, the shrinking value of your 401K and the harrowing stories your friends keep sharing. But New Zealand is out of the question. That Alaskan cruise you've been dreaming about? No way, Jose. Europe, with the additional whammy of a bad exchange rate? Not this year. Even Canada is expensive. And you're not sure Mexico is safe these days. So what's a person to do? No worries, mon. *Florida Weekly* has compiled a handy guide to having a terrific STAY-cation: getaways not too far from home, that offer all the requisite components of a relaxing respite without the expense of jet travel, airport parking lots, roaming charges or rental cars. Enjoy! You deserve it.



SPECIAL FORT MYERS WEEKLY SECTION INSIDE

INSIDE



### 'Saltimbanco'

Cirque Du Soleil's longest running show stops at Germain Arena. **C1** ▶



### Independence Day

And other society events in Lee County. **C20 & 21** ▶



### Business do-gooders

A pair of Fort Myers businessmen were the driving force behind the new brick streets downtown. **B1**

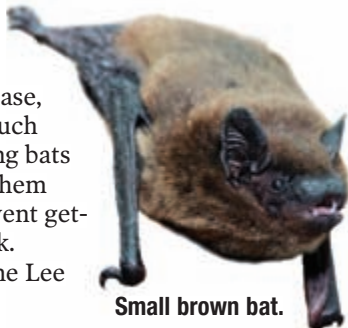
## Bats vital to a healthy environment

BY E.I. ROTTERSMAN  
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"We fear what we don't understand." For some, this fear takes in dark, winged denizens of the night alleged to fly into our hair, land on our necks and suck our blood. The myths and folklore that have surrounded bats throughout time have seemingly endured, creating fear and even hatred for one of nature's most environmentally helpful creatures. The mammal — the only kind that can

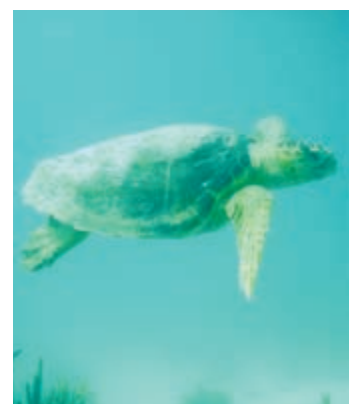
fly — has been maligned as an animal that brings disease and sickness — namely rabies. And though some do carry the disease, precautions such as not handling bats or pestering them will help prevent getting bit or sick. Recently, the Lee

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County Health Department put out a call for help after it was revealed that several kids were playing with a rabid Brazilian free tail bat near the Fort Myers Beach Pier. The incident led to a media blitz in efforts to locate the children, several boys thought to be between the ages of 10 and 12 who may have contracted rabies. If they have the disease and are not given the necessary vaccine, they will die. Rabies is known to be 100 percent fatal.

SEE BATS, A9 ▶



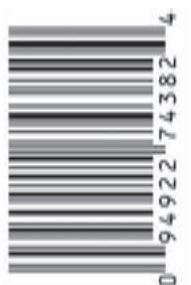
### Sea turtles

Summer is sea turtle nesting season, so steer clear of their nests. **A32** ▶

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