# Charlotte Sun a 

## Mother found in bar, left five kids in car

North Port woman charged with child neglect

## By AnNe EASKER <br> Stafe Writer

GULF COVE - A North Por mother was arrested early Wednesday after allegedly leaving her five children - including a pair of newborn twins - in the car while she stopped at a bar. Kristie Johnson, 35, planned to take her kids, ages 5 years, 3 years, 11 months, and two home in Rotonda West, according to her husband. He had to go do an estimate for a job around 6:30 p.m., and when he came home later that night, nobody was there.
When he called Johnson's phone, their 5-year-old daughter answered and said they were at
McDonald's. He called a second McDonald's. He called a second
time around $11: 45$ daughter answered again. She said she did not know where the were, and her mother was not in the car.
He asked her to describe the area, and the 5 -year-old said she saw trees, a fence, and a building with little lights. He told her to blow the horn to get an adult's attention, but no one came to the
The f
The father then left the house spotted his wife's car in the parking lot of Bandito's Bar and then blocked it in.
A responding deputy spoke to the bartender, who said Johnson had been in the bar about 30 minutes and had two Smirnoff vodka sodas. questions from law enforcement

> NEGLECT|4

## CORRECTION

The Englewood Chamber of Commerce's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony is set for 8 a.m. Friday beginning at Lemon Bay Cemetery, 500 S. Indiana Ave., Englewood. A story in Tuesday's Sun included an incorrect date. Following the ceremony, a program and breakfast will be
offered across the street at the chamber office, 601 S. Indiana Ave. All are welcome.


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## Woman stranded in shower for four days

## North Port resident hospitalized for extended exposure to water

## By TOM HARMENING

## Staff Writer

NORTH PORT - A woman fell and became stranded in her shower for up to four days, authorities said. in the 5000 block of Adina Circle in North Port, was discovered Tuesday evening suffering from injuries from the constant fall of the water during that time.
The 66 -year-old woman was reportedly recovering in Blake Medical Center in Her son called authorities Tuesday evening. It is not known exactly when she fell.
"There's no reason for anyone in this city to be stranded in a shower for four days. ... If you live in a neighborhood where an elderly person lives alone, make it a point to check on them from time to time. They could have an issue."

- Josh Taylor, North Port Police spokesperson

She was airlifted to Blake Memorial Hospital in Bradenton with what was at first believed to be second-degree burns to her back.
It wa It was later determined that she was not suffering from burns, but exposure to of time.
reportedly resting comfortably on Wednesday. North Port Police spokesperson Josh Taylor said her plight is a good example of why the city has established the H.E.A.R.T.S. program. and has little contact with others, our HE ARTS.

STRANDED|4

## H.E.A.R.T.S. <br> The H.E.A.R.T.S. program, which

 stands for Helping Ensure Active Response by Telephoning Seniors, was set up in North Port"to help ensure the welfare of our senior H.E.A.R.T.S. volunteers call those registered for the program every morning between 7-8 a.m. "If the call recipient does not answer the phone, volunteers are trained to take necessary steps, which may include contacting a list of emergency contacts or dispatching emergency personnel. It is a program for North Port For more For more information, contacMandy West at 941-429-7341

## CAN FILONS AFFORD TOV VOTE?

## It feels like we're being robbed'



Robert A. McDuffie of Port Charlotte held up an opinion column published in the Sun in 2017 that he carried around while collecting signatures on petitions for a constitutional amendment to restore felon voting rights in Florida.
Do bills on felon voting rights undermine will of people?

## By LIZ HARDAWAY

STAFF WRITER

Robert A. McDuffie is a convicted felon who collected 5,000 signature from area residents for six months with the hope of voting again. just for him, hough. More than 1 million felons in Florida would
have their voting rights restored thanks to The Voting Rights Amendment 4, as long SB 7086 in the Florida as they completed "all Senate and HB 7089 in terms of sentence including parole or proba tion," according to the amendment. But some lawmakers in Tallahassee have proposed bills to define a served behind bars.

Senate and HB 7089 in
the Florida House of the Florida House of
Representatives, defines Representatives, defines completing the sentence as the parole and probaamendment, along with fines, restitution and "any fines, restitution and "any

BILLS|4

WHAT'S AMENDMENT 4?
The historic amendment, Amendment 4, passed by voters in November, would allow more than a million ex-felons to be eligible to vote, as long as they've completed their sentence and weren't convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense.
But lawmakers have been debating over what it means to complete someone's sentence, what "murder" means and what a "sexual offense" is.
—Source: Tampa Bay Times

## BILLS IN FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Bills have been filed in both the Florida House and Senate, which propose felons pay back all court fees and fines, in addition to restitution costs, before being potentially eligible to vote. You can read them online: -HB 7089: www.myfloridahouse. gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.
aspx?Billld=66272\&Sessionld=87

- SB 7086: www.flsenate.gov/Session/ Bill/2019/7086?pref=full
"There's 67 supervisors of elections across the state... We have got to give them some clear guidelines on who will be eligible and who will not be eligible to have their voting rights restored." - Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte)


## In wake of Amendment 4, there's disagreement about sentence completion

By LAWRENCE MOWER and DAVID OVALLE DAVID OVALLE Tampa Bay Times

TALLAHASSEE - If you ask former Miami-Dade Circuit udge Stanford Blake, the hundreds of dollars in court fees convicted felons have to pay are not part of their sentence. "In my opinion, court costs

## do not amount to a

 he said this month. But if you ask Pinellas Clerk of Courts Ken Burke, they're,an integral part of someone's an integral part of someone's
sentence in his county, right next to a prison sentence. "How can it not be part of the sentence?" Burke said. Welcome to the new deba surrounding Amendment 4.

What seemed like a simple amendment restoring the right to vote to nearly all felons who have completed their sentence has become Legislature.
Republicans and Democrat - and even judges and court clerks - can't agree on what it means to complete someone
sentence.
And court fees, which can total more than $\$ 1,000$, are Already, national figures like New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have dubbed it a "poll tax," and others have accused the

## Liquor store fined for buzz cut

Tree topping is bad for the tree

## by betsy calivert

Staff Writer
Stiffer penalties for code violations kicked in this month with a $\$ 2,5$
fine imposed on $A B C$ Fine Wine and Spirits for cutting off the tops of 10 trees，including oaks． It was the company＇s third violation of the rule，said Zoning Official Shaun Cullinan．The other violations were in 2015 and 2017 at the U．S 41 location． ＂If you＇ve cut trees

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Above ates do not incudue sales ax．
before，you know better，＂
Cullinan said of why the Cullinan said of why the second offense jum．
from $\$ 100$ to $\$ 250$ ． from $\$ 100$ to $\$ 250$ ． practices that landscap practices that landscap business need to follow． Commissioners
adopted steeper fines in November，jumping from $\$ 25$ fines to $\$ 100$ for the first offense．
The rule，which is not limited to Charlotte County，is that landscap ers may not buzz off the top of trees．Aesthetics
is not the main prob－ lem，according to code enforcement official Topping damages the
tree．
＂Plant scientists and arborists unanimously agree that tree topping is an unjustifiable tree management practice，＂wrote Linda Chalker－Scott，a pro fessor of horticulture at the University Tree topping elimi nates a dominant central nates a dominant central ing multiple branches to compete．The tree must thereafter be constantly pruned to keep the new， heavy branches from breaking off，Chalker Scott stated．
＂Pruning a tree yearly is certainly not environ mentally sustainable or cost－effective，but does
keep tree cutters in busi ness，＂the horticulture professor noted． Cullinan said the county has not been able to determine which landscaping company or landscaper has been topping trees for ABC．


This is how the trees look at ABC Fine Wines and Spirits after improper landscaping－for the third time in four years．The company was fined $\$ 2,500$ ，or $\$ 250$ for each of 10 trees，which represents the new，stricter code violation fee schedule．Local management has said landscaping is handled by the central office in Orlando．No one has acknowledged knowing which company did the work．Tree topping damages the tree，making it harder to maintain，and providing more work in the future for landscapers．

Various store managers have told the county，and the Sun，that the compa－ ny＇s central management controls that work． The Florida company， which dates back to 1936，is family owned and based in Orlando． Central offices did not return calls for comment

The county spoke with on－duty manager Nicholas Johnston at the time of the citation on March 12，Cullinan said， and he acknowledged prior violations． manager reached manager Brian Walker on March 25．Walker won－
dered how many other
businesses are fined for this offense．
Not many，said
Cullinan．
Cullinan said the coun－ ty is disappointed not to know the landscaper． ＂We would like to cite them，and educate
them，＂he said them，＂he said．

## Deputies find battery suspect in tree

Man faces domestic violence，resisting law enforcement charges

| By ANNE EASKER Staff Writer | battery | battery were filed at the end of that investigation． Then，on Tuesday， | a K9 Unit． <br> K－9 Anubis tracked through the area，lead |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | onymous tipst | puties to a tree Coop |
| wanted on do | om seve | ported a person wi | d cl |
| cha | ne | a | ey heard a limb s |
| dues | osaid | Kevitt Boulevard and | ey looked up and saw |
| ternoon after fleeing | ooper | outh McCall Road in | ooper，according to |
| deputies and hidin | abbe | Englewood． | CSO Spokesperson |
| a tree，according to | ， | deputy respo | atie Heck． |
| e Charlotte County | ed her in a headloc | nd saw Cooper walki | Cooper complie |
| ， | dragged her from a | South Access Road． | ders to clim |
| Christopher Coop | a wooded | er spotting | ee and was arrested．In |
|  |  |  | dition to |
| stic battery ch |  | hrough traffic acros | ttery charge，he was |
| emming from an | But Co | South McCall Road． | arged with resisting |
| cident at the Tringali | fore la | Deputies f | of |
| nter in Englewood on | riv |  | 隹 |
| ch 21，according |  |  | obatio |
| ess release． | immediately find him． | searching for the suspect | County． |
| Deputies responde | rges for domestic | aviation |  |

Charges for domestic
end of that inved at the Then，on Tuesday an anonymous tipster reported a person with warrant was in the area of Kevitt Boulevard and Englewood． A deputy responded on South Acooper walking After spotting the pad． vehicle，Cooper ran awa through traffic across South McCall Road． Deputies formed a perimeter around using aviation and ount
Email：anne．easkereyoursun．com
COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## Want to WIN $\$ 500$ ？ <br> Who doesn＇t？

Take a few minutes to tell Pulse Research，an independent research firm，a little about how you prefer to get your news and entertainment，and where you shop．

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PulseResearch．com／SunNewspapers to take the survey and be entered to WIN！
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Kindergarten Round－Up All Charlotte County elementary schools will be holding Kindergarten Round－Up events Round－Up events

April 8 －April 12 for
parents and guardians of children who will be
5 years old on or before 5 years old on or before
Sept．1．A video on the sept．1．A video on the
round up is available at yourcharlotteschools． net．Parents or guardian should take their child＇s
proof of date of birth proof of immunizations， proof of physical exam and proof of residence to the school in their district．Contact the elementary school in your district for times．


Fundraiser for Community Cats of Charlotte
A yard sale will be held from 8 a．m．to 2 p．m．on Saturday，March 30 at the Triton Stone parking lot located on the corner of US 41 North and Kings
Highway in Charlotte Highway in Charlotte
Harbor．All proceeds are for Community Cats of Charlotte to spay／neuter feral cats in the county

## Fantasea event

 to benefit Florida Sherrif＇s Youth RanchesThe Charlotte County Sheriff＇s Office，as－
sisted by the Lemon sisted by the Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary，
will be hosting a char－ will be hosting a char－
ity FantaSea Fishing Tournament to benefit the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches from 5 p．m． to 11 p．m．on April 6 at Hurricane Charley＇s， 300 W．Retta Esplanade， Punta Gorda．Enjoy a night of food，games， live music and dancing． Tickets are $\$ 150$ per cou－ ple．Attendance is limited
to the first 200 sold For to the first 200 sold．For 941－575－5252．

> Millennium

Now Accepting Meuw Patients for Pediatrics \＆Primary Care
2015 TOYOTA COROLLA L
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$\$ 25,097$ Pus axa and fees.

2018 NISSAN FRONTIER PRO tock 1 Th

2019 TOYOTA AVALON XSE Stock\# 7698HA
\$31,051 pus axandifes.

## School officials face critics over racial issues

Lots of questions, no easy answers in Black History Month school dispute


## FELONS

## Republican-controlled

 Legislature of keeping people from voting. The results could, indeed, keep hundredsof thousands of potential of thousands of potential
former felons off the voter rolls. This is an issue that
would impact hundreds of thousands of people in the Tampa Bay area," said Neil Volz, political director for the Florida Rights Restoration coated for Amendment 4 cated for Amendment 4.
"It is not as easy as folks think it is."
Court fees are not to be confused with court fines and restitution, which
many agree are consid many agree are consid-
ered part of someone's sentence.
Fines are written into state law, but they're judge when someone convicted of a particular crime, such as drug trafficking, which carries a
$\$ 50,000$ fine. Restitution

BILLS

## FROM PAGE 1

cost of supervision or other monetary obligation," or court fees.
"It's a revision", "It's a revision," McDuftie said. "We)
all worked very hard to make this happen and now it feels like we're being robbed."
McDuffie also believes the amendment was "clearly worded." It took more than 760,000 signatures for
the proposed amendthe proposed amend
ment to get on the ballot.
"It is my present
understanding that fees and fines are not a consideration or requir ment for clemency," McDuffie continued. "So why would they require it now for restoring except for political expediency?"

## STRANDED FROM PAGE 1 <br> program checks on them every day," Taylor said. H.E.A.A.K.I.S. is an acronym for Helping Ensure Active Response The program is



James Abraham introducing Port Charlotte High School principal Lou Long and Executive Director of Student Services Mike Desjardins.
student services Mike Desjardins speak and answer questions about the incident Monday. Perry declined an invitation to the meeting. She told the Sun she wouldn't be comfortable being an active partici-" Long gave a brief synopsis about what happened: A student who was offended by the poster posted it to social media. His mother later called the school and said he refused to go to school, aikg to do about


## PCHS, the district could

 start councils at other schools. Abraham quickly redirected Desjardins and Long, and reminded them not to get too far from what they came to talkabout: the poster, and its about: the poster, and its "Hinds Hindsight is always
20/20," Long said, "it hu me to hurt my students and staff in that particular matter."
Sandra
Sandra Glover, one of Abraham's students, told Long, "You should have
taken a stand and said ' understand you're upse

| 65) | could inc |
| :---: | :---: |
| That doesn't includ | handed out during s |
| other fees you're | cing, such as interest |
| ely to pay: a public | payments owed to de |
| defender application fe | collectors if you fall ba |
| (\$50) and a state attorney | on your payments. |
| costs of prosecution fee | But are they part of |
| (\$100). | meone's sentence? |
| The money goes to | Stanford Blake, the |
| court clerks and state agencies. | longtime chief administrative judge over |
| Those costs may | Miami-Dade's crimin |
| m small, but it | ivision, said h |
| a significant hurd | consider the |
| r many felons who | the sentences h |
| ready have trouble | out during his y |
| finding work after | the ben |
| leaving prison. | "Restitution is |
| Suddenly, | ing. Court costs a |
| pecting people to | normal fees are thrown |
| pay upward of \$1,000 in | $n$ as something else, |
| fines and fees that have | he said. "In my opinion, |
| hing to do with | he person has d |
| ishment," Miami-Dade | eir time, and complet |
| Public Defender Carlos | ed their probation, the |
| rtinez said. "It's ju | ence is compl |
| way for the governme | Lawmakers and som |
| get money in their | unty clerks d |
| coffers." | since the fees are appl |
| Two bills in the | at the same time as a |
| Florida's House and | sentence. |
| nate would require | Despite the conster- |
| mer felons pay back | tion over fees, the |
| court-ordered fees | mbined costs of fi |
| ore being eligible to | itution can |
| te. The House's version | much more. Both the |
| is broad, h | Ho |

House and Senate bis
you should've said 'This
is what my students feel represent them', because that's what Colin did." The audience clapped up when we should slow up when we should slow down, Long said,
the piece I missed." Desjardins and Long
agreed that, if they could agreed that, if they could
do it again, they would do it again, they would
slow down the deci-sion-making process "I contacted Mr Desjardins at 7:15 a.m
school starts a $7: 20$ I I school starts a 7:20, I
haven't even had time haven't even had time to Long said. "Had I talked to her, she would have said 'did you think about $\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}$, and $\mathrm{z}^{\text {? }}$ ', that's the piece I missed."

He admitted that had he talked to Perry before wouldn't be in Abraham'

## classroom

The audience also questioned them on re"ports that students wear Again" America Great Again" on campus to
support President Donald Trump.
Long said students are allowed to wear hats out side when walking from
one building to another. "It can be anything they want, as long as it doesn't cause
said.
Desjardins clarified that Desjardins clarified that
one student was moved one student was moved
to an alternative school, because of an incident involving a MAGA hat. He said he couldn't elaborate further.
Desjardins said he can't commit to steps such as adding a civics class to the curriculum or mo
diversity training diversity training. He promised he would bring
up the suggestions he received to Superintendent Steve Dionisio.
A few people in the crowd suggested amending the policy of what students can wear on school campuses to ban clothing that is politica
in nature in nature.
saying, "I'm a school uniform guy."
At the end of the discussion, Abraham asked, "What can the people in this room do to hold your feet to the fire?" Desjardins replied: "You
pretty much pretty much have for the
require felons to pay back their fines and restitution. While supporters of Amendment 4 object to fees being required before the restoration of voting rights, they say they dont object to fines
and restitution and restitution
and the result is likely and the result is likely bans for vast numbers of felons, who could spend decades slowly paying back insurmountable fines, restitution and fees while living crime-free
Iives.
The Legislature
should simply let felons vote after serving their prison, parole and but while paying back these costs, according to Julie Ebenstein, senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights
Project Project.
Other
former felons to vot former felons to vote
while they still owe costs while they still owe cos
associated with their crime, she said.
"The question is not
whether they will pay the financial obligations they owe," Ebenstein said. "It's whether Amendment 4 allows the Legislature to disenfranchise people potentially for the rest of their life while they're paying down thei
So far, lawmakers
appear unwilling to appear unwiling to Amendment 4 allowed felons to get their voting rights back "upon completion of their sentences," and lawmakers are including restitution
and fines as part of the and fines as part of the
sentence. In addition lawmakers are adding court fees.
But that interpretation is unconstitutional, according to Ashley Thomas, Florida director for the Fines and Fees Justice Center, a nonprofit
created last year pushing created last year pushing
to reform costs within the to reform costs
"The ability to vote
should never be conditioned on your ability to pay a court cost," Thomas said.
would also require the Florida Department of inmections to inform the restorationenders of voting rights.
"There's 67 supervisors of elections across the
state," said Rep. Mike state, said Rep. Mike
Grant (R-Port Charlotte) "We have got to give them some clear guide lines on who will be eligible and who will not be eligible to have their voting rights restored." Grant agrees with the bills that convicted felons need to pay
their fines in order to complete their sentence and restore their voting rights. He bases this opinion on a Florida Supreme Court hearing regarding the amendment f
2017.
2017.
The hearing involved an advisory opinion to the attorney general. Jo
Mills, a Miami-based lawyer, argued in support

| of the amendment on behalf of its' sponsor, Floridians for a Fair Democracy. Justice | The secretary of state would then talk to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections and other involved entities, and then send this information |
| :---: | :---: |
| Ricky | back to the supervisor of |
| Grant (R-Port Po | elections. |
| Charlotte) asked | "The supervisor of |
| Mills if | elections makes that |
| ould "inclu | judgement," Mills |
| e full payment of any | said. "Ultimately, if th |
| nes," according to a | applicant does not agree |
| transcript of the hearing. <br> "Yes, sir" Mills | with the supervisor of elections, they can go to |
| responded. "All terms | circuit court. |
| eans all terms within | "(The state legislature) |
| rners. So th | is trying to put into |
| licant would have to | statute guidelines that |
| dicate that they have | the supervisors can use |
| mpleted all terms, an | to legitimately, lawfully |
| e secretary of state | and fairly sign folks up |
| ould verify that." | register to vote and |
| The intent was once | make that system uni- |
| a person paid their | form across the state," |
| fines, completed their | Grant said. |
| parole and completed | I'm terribly disap- |
| their probation that that | pointed with the Florida |
| mation would be | gislature)," McDu |
| secretary of | said. "This is a new |
| state, according to Mills. | form of a poll tax and |

intended for seniors
60 and older who live alone, or are disabled and have little or no contact with others. People who are enrolled
in H.E.A.R.T.S. are called in H.E.A.R.T.S. are called daily by volunteers and 8 a.m. and 8 a.m.
answered, the volunteer then calls a list of emergency contacts. Police
or fire officials will be notified if no one can be reached.
"There's no reason for anyone in this city to be stranded in a shower for four days," Taylor
neighborhood where
neighborhood where
an elderly person lives alone, make it a point
to check on them from time to time. They could have an issue.
To enroll in
H.E.A.R.T.S., or to vol-
unteer to be a caller for the program, call Mandy
West at 941-429-7341.
"(We) all worked very hard to make this happen and
now it feels like we're being robbed."
Robert A. McDuffie
is undermining and circumventing the will of the people."
When anyone registers to vote, they have to
check a box that states: "I affirm that I am not a convicted felon, or if I am, my right to vote has been restored." "Currently, it is up
to the individual to to the individual to determine whether his
or her right to vote has or her right to vote has
been restored under been restored unde
Amendment $4, "$ according to Ron Turner, the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections. Charlotte county's Supervisor of Elections, Paul Stamoulis, als agrees with this.

# Police still investigating crash that killed couple 

Authorities not naming driver facing possible charge

## By ALEXANDRA HERRERA

WEST VILLAGES - The investigation into a crash that killed two people
Sunday continues. The crash occurred along U.S. 41 when traffic was slowed after vehicles were leaving CoolToday Park, turning onto U.S. 41 from West Villages Parkway. Thousands of people were leaving
the inaugural game at the inaugural game at
the facility between the Atlanta Braves and Tamp Bay Rays.
George and Rose Almeder, of North Port, were on U.S. 41 returning from a day with friends and southbound in
the slowed traffic An unnamed 20 -year-old unnamed 20 -year-old
woman in a Kia Forte slammed into their Honda Civic.
North Port Police said the Kia's driver failed to stop for the traffic and was traveling at a high struck the Honda. struck the Honda.
Rose died at the scer and George died on the way to the hospital, according to officials. The driver of the Kia suffered minor injuries. In an email Wednesday from North Port Police, said the traffic homicide unit is not releasing the


Rose and George Almeder of North Port were killed Sunday night in a crash on U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail and West Villages Parkway.
name of the driver who homicide unit has 10 caused the crash. days to complete the "They are withholding the name for now because they believe releasing it could hinder their investigation,
stated Taylor in the stated Taylor in the email Taylor said the traffic
homicide unit is currently conducting a full investigation into where she was prior to the crash and where she was coming from. "Alcohol is stil suspected. They are still waiting for the official come back," Taylor said. Taylor said the driver could be facing charges of vehicular manslaughter, but could not elaborate further. It could take up o two weeks before any further details can be
releas about the crash Taylor said the traffic
days to complete the report. North Port Police initially withheld the names of the victims, citing Marsy's Law. Rose and George's son Al identified his parents to the media as the victims. The law was designed to protect the identities of victims of violence, but it also blocks release of the names of those involved in vehicle crashes. Al Almeder told the Sun on Monday that his parents were returning
home to North Port after visiting friends earlier in the day. George, 81, and Rose, 79 , had been married for 60 years. He said his brother, a Sarasota County Sheriff's night after the tragedy.

The Sheriff's Office about the crash noting he department was helping with traffic control at the time of the wreck.
Three other vehicles were struck in the wreck,
a 2011 Toyota SUV whose 2011 Toyota SUV whose 2018 Volkswagen convertible and a HarleyDavidson motorcycle owned by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. No other injuries were was closed most of was closed most A traffic light is due to be installed at the intersection. The light should be installed in about three to Florida Department of Transportation, Taylor said.

Whoops! Driver goes wrong way into swale

By ANNE EASKER

A driver ended up halfway in the swale at Charlotte State Bank on going forward instead of backing out of a parking space. No injuries were reported.

SUN PHOTO BY ANNE EASKER
A deputy checks for passengers in the vehicle that went into the swale at
Charlotte State Bank on Harborview Road and Kings Highway.


## Cops identify man who died at Redneck Mud Park

The Charlotte County Sheriff's
Office has released the name of Office has released the name of the man who died at the Redneck M year anniversary Trucks Gone Wild year an
Event.
Ramon A. Muino Jr., of Clewiston, has been identified as the 27 -year-old who died after a fight between several attendees and security guards. His autopsy has been completed, but the cause of death is still pending toxicology results, which typically take severa Office.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests: - Jeremy Ray Mahoney, 41,100 block of Rotonda Circe, Rotonda West. Charges: nonsupport of dependents, failure to appear, and underlying charge. Bond: none
of Rosebud Circle Port Charloute, 31,9400 block of Rosebud Circle, Port Charlotte. Charges: simple
assault, out of county warrant, petty theft 2nd degree 1st offense. Bond: none. - John Andrew Richardson, 40, homeless of Port Charlotte. Charges: petty theft 2nd degree 1st offense and resisting law enforcement officer or merchant during retail theft. Bond: $\$ 5,000$. - Tracey Ellen Kruse, 37, homeless of Port Charlotte. Charge: trespass failure to leave property upon order by owner. Bond: none. Ave. Port Charlotte Charges, off bond fovfeititeld revocations, grand theft of property more than $\$ 300$ but less than $\$ 5,000$ and possession of harmful new legend drug without a prescription. Bond: none. - Susie Leigh Mechesney, 48, 1000 block of Archer St, Port Charlotte. Charge: out of county warrant.

## pOLICE BEAT

The information for Police Beat is gathered from police, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol, jail and fire records. No e very a arest leads to a conviction and guilt or innocence i sdetermined by the court system.

Bond: 57,500 .

- Andrea Ava Brown, 37,8200 block of Larrimore Ave., North Port. Charges: DUI, refusing to accept
and sign a summons, and out of county wand and sign a sur
Bond: none.
. Shannon Marie French, 32,1400 block of
Minneapolis Ave...North Port. Charge violataion
probation and out of county warrant. Bond: $\$ 7,000$. - Aaron Andrew Wooley, 44, of Deltona.

Charges: out of county warrant, possession of drug paraphernalia, and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence. Bond: none.

- David Daniel Swenson, 35 , of Delonta. Charges:
failure to register motor vhicland possession of failure to register motor vehicle and possession of
durug parapheralia Bond: $\$ 3,500$ drug paraphernalia. Bond: $\$ 3,500$. out of county warrant and possession ofddrus out of county warrant and
paraphernalia. Bond: none.
paraphermalia. Bond: none.
- Kimberly Michelle Senter, 50,12000 block of Henley Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: five counts Hessession of a controlled substance withouta prescription, two counts of possession of drug paraphermalia, selling methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell opium or derivative schedule Ior II, and tampering with or fabricating physial evidence. Bond: $\$ 57,000$.
- Louis Dominink Di Donato Jfr, 48,14900 block of Newcomb Road, Port Charlotte. Charge: driving while license Sus
Bond: $\$ 5,000$.
- Guerdy David Geffrard, 30,4600 block of Kenoska St., North Port. Charge: driving while license suspended 3 rd or subsequent offense. Bond: none.

Charge: driving without license revoked habitual offender. Bond: $\$ 5,000$. . Julie Ann Lafevere, 49 , of Cape Coral. Charge:
violation on protion violation of probation. Bond: none.

## The Punta Gorda Police Departmen

reported the following arrests: - Brian Lee Quillen, 53, 10300 block of Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.

- Gavin Willis Nelson, 40,3700 block of Rosemary Drive, Punta Gorda. Charges: resisting an officer
without violence, leaving the scene of a crash without violence, leaving the scene of a crash
involving property damage involving property damage, and knowingly drving
while license suspended or revoked. Bond: $\$ 9,500$.


## The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

 reported the following arrests: - Jarred Tate, 26, 1500 block of Highway 41 Bypass, Venice. Charges: probation violation, battertouch or strike. Bond: :none. touch or strike. Bond: none

- Ronald Woodmansee - Ronald Woodmansee, 59,4300 block of
Belladonna Avenue North Port Chis violation, aggravated animal cruelty. Bond: none.


## The North Port Police Department reported

 the following arrests:- Kevin Ball, 60,9000 block of Tamiami Trail Venice. Charge: larceny, petty theft, second degree, third offense. Bond: 1,5000 .
Road, North Port. Charge: DU1. Bond: $\$ 120$ -Tanner Pierce, 18, 1700 block of Waltrip St North Port. Charge: possession of a controlled substance, without a prescription. Bond: \$1,500,

OBITUARIES


## CHARLOTTE

Randall Howard Parkinson It is with great sadness that the family of Rand
(Randy) Parkinson (Randy) Parkinson on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at home in Punta Gorda, Florida. Randy was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts on October 9, 195 A native of
Massachusetts, after Massachusetts, after High School, Randy went on to graduate with honors from East Coast Aero Technical School, Aeronautical Maintenance Technology
Course in Lexington Course in Lexington
Massachusetts. As he Massachusetts. As
liked to say, he could liked to say, he could
work on anything that flew. Post-graduation and several odd jobs, he started his own Commercial Cleaning Company, then moved on to own his own Gas
\& Full-Service Station in Cohasset, Massachusetts.


Words of Comfort
If we are loved and remembered, then we live on forever in the hearts those who love us
-Ted Menten

> -Ted Menten

After selling the station back to Mobil, he became a Marketing Director for a Weymouth Telecommunications Company, doubling their income. Randy, whose greatest passion was yachting, had his
captain's license retire captain's license, retired
and started his charter business which also allowed him to captain other vessels and offer his services to train new boaters.
He is survived by his wife, Beverly (Heinstrom) Parkinson; his twin sons, Gregory Parkinson
and Sean (Chantal) and Sean (Chantal)
Parkinson; and his beloved granddaughter Elle Parkinson; all of Port Charlotte, Florida; his brothers, Ronald (Linda) Parkinson of Abington, Massachusetts; Richard Parkinson of Embden, Maine; and Scott (April) Anderson of Franklin, Massachusetts; and several nieces and nephews. be held aration of life will be held at a later date Words of Comfort
Every blade in the field Every blade in the field
Every leaf in the forest
Lays down its life In its season
In
As beantiflly As it weautifully
As.


Words of Comfort
Although the path be all unknown? Although the way be drear?
Its shades I travel not alone when steps of Yours are near. From Daily Devotional Commentary


JAMES W. MALLONEE, P.A. LAW OFFICE
JAMES W. MALLONEE

## PROBATE WILLS/TRUSTS

GUARDIANSHIPS REAL ESTATE
Office Hours - Monday thru Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM
946 Tamiami Trail, \#206, Port Charlotte, FL 33953
871 Venetia Bay Blvd. Suite \#225, Venice, FL 34285
www.jameswmallonee.com
(941) 206-2223

## Our View <br> Farmers Market deal with city raises questions

OUR POSITION: A deal be- ween the Farmers Market and the city of Punta Gorda raises free speech questions, but likely and customers.

Is there a point where free As a newspoper for? As a newspaper, our
, answer tends heavily to "no." Free speech is guaranteed
in our Constitution, in other in our Constitution, in other
than extreme conditions, and is woven into the foundation of our nation. It is one of the tenants of our core beliefs that have made the U.S. great. There are times, though, when the methods used to test the boundaries of public free speech cross a line in the sand.
That is the case, at least with Punta Gorda City Coun with Punta Gorda City Counci
members and the popular members and the popular
Saturday Farmers Market. Last week, acting on a request from Jerry Presseller, the market manager; and the Downtown Merchants Association, the council voted unanimously to lease the association the area where the market sets up each Saturday The association will pay $\$ 750$ run the market like any other festival in town.
By leasing the land, the association can declare the are private property and control access. That means they can kick out solicitors, troublemakers and protesters. The idea was something Presseller said he had been kicking around for a wileo regular pushed his video regular pushed his
The person likes to show up in public with a sign around his neck that says " F . You Charlotte County" (or whichever government entity he is aiming at that day). The F-word is spelled out. It is annoying and offensive. More than one person has protested his act.
We don't like it either. It's a test of free speech that makes no real point
But, like it or not, it would Sometimes you have to hold your nose and weather the stench of free speech when it is something you don't agree with.
However, it appears this person took his speech to extremes more than once after
a vendor at the market asked him to move away from her That made her his target. By all accounts, he began to harass the woman and continued to show up to do so.
Finally, she was able to get a restraining order against him. But the incident pushed Presseller and the association to follow through on their longcontemplated idea of leasing
the land to make the Farmers Market a private event.
While we don't understand how you can designate the streets of a city as off-limits to certain people when they are engaged in peaceful protest, we do understand the motive Presseller told the Sun's Daniel Sutphin that the change will "absolutely make the vendors feel safer ... I think the
city did the absolute right thing (by approving this)."
(by approving this)."
Other free-speech advocates who contacted the Sun agreed there are extremely rare instances where free speech can do real harm to others and that is where you draw the line. While we continue to stand behind free speech for all, w believe in this instance this exerson went beyond simply exercising free speech. We something personal and nasty, and needed a clear response to protect public safety. The city did the right thing.


Letters to the Editor

## Waiting for apology from Trump accusers

 Editor:Now, President Trump has "almost been vindicated after over $\$ 35$ million in taxpayer dollars, and 24 testimony, etc., by one of the "most thorough lawmen," of today's political system (Mueller). If anyone thinks there will be "any" apologies, from his "accusers," think again. For that to happen there must be honor, integrit
and a sense of fair play among these people. among these people. talking about: first of all, the liberal readers of this publication. Then comes those in the Senate and Congress, media, FBI, CIA and so very many more They all owe a "huge" apology to Trump and his
administration.

## Think it will c

Think it will come? Sadly, honor, only vitriol. Gosh maybe Hillary lost the election, because more than "half of America" is sick and tired of the Clinton cartel's corruption? Just sayin. P.S.
Think any of this newspaper liberal, hate-filled readers/ commentators, will apologize?
Nope.
Ronald Hatt
Rotonda West

## Gold rush is on

 for Empire State South EditorIn response to a recent readers letter to the Sun editor/fixer: What's next, 50 story buildings in Punta Gorda?
Here's a "Viewpoint." The Florida gold rush has begun anew. Blue and Areen oceans meet the ey below. Where are we for this view? Atop the world's tallest building, The Punta Gorda Tower, 125 stories, designed to accommodate the world's ichest people. The Arab sheikhs, venture capitalists with taste for the most lavish and pricey housing units in the world with the most magnificent views. Build it and they will come Entire floor condos. It's big green money. Spectacular
telescopic views. Las Vegas, move over, the
on the block.
You have to
Punta Gorda. This is huge That's just Phase 1.

Alan P. Lessman
Punta Gorda

## Trump not living

 in real worldEditor:
When President Trump
esponded to Attorney General Barr's letter from the Mueller report, he prefaced it with "to be honest." I don't understand how a man can say "to be honest," when he has no credibility whatsoeve He then went on to entirely. He cannot tell the entirely. He cannot tell the
truth because I don't believe he lives in the world of reality And this is the man who leads our country?

John Munn
Englewood

## Rich just keep

 getting richer
## ditor:

Economic trends today how a shift of $\$ 2$ trillion a year from the paychecks of the middle class to the bank accounts of corporations almost 100 of which pay no taxes - and the super rich
of the 1 percent that eat our of the 1 percent that eat our
lunch! $F D R$ noted that "the lunch! FDR noted that "the industry is the well-paid worker!"
The era of shared wealth or workers began in 1938, which started high wages and sadly ended in 1973, as worker's salaries started a ong nose dive, and revenues or corporatio egan to rise he 1 percent and corporations have seen taxes lowered, and profits rise. since 1973, workers have for the last four decades lost compensation and pay raises windled, while corporations nd the upper classes have captured after tax profits about 10 percent, of GDP. while workers have lost the same amount in After-Tax adjustments! The share of ncome of our 1 percenters has more than doubled from its 9 percent perch, in 1973 to
its current 22 percent today. The economic landscape for small business has also hanged, and, we are at a ups. Even retail chains are fighting for their lives. A single Walmart in a county forces down countywide by a much as 0.9 percent and 1.5 countywide for retail wages. have seen Walmart with its new grocery stores closing ong reverted chains, and hey saturate chains like Winn Dixie.

Bill Weightman North Port

## Look at actual solar production

## Editor:

I read with interest the etter, "Just hire someon ith brain, calculator," and felt it needed a little
clarification.
While studying solar energy in the physics department at the University of Wisconsinfirst topic addressed in the first topic addressed in the class was the "solar constant,"
1,368 watts/meter ${ }^{2}$ incident at the top of the atmosphere. At the Earth's surface, due o absorption, scattering and reflection, a watt meter perpendicular to the ncoming solar energy would read about 1,000 watts/ meter ${ }^{2}$. Since photovoltaic panels have an efficiency six-hour period an average panel would produce about 900 watts/meter ${ }^{2}$. Thus, a calculated value would ndicate that about 11 meters ${ }^{2}$ of panels would be needed to produce the 10 in the letter, not 4,000 meters ${ }^{2}$.
Calculating the actual output of my 11 year-old PV panels gives me a conservative output of 735 watts/meter ${ }^{2}$ for a day's production, not the 2.5 watts eferred to in the letter. Thus, with the 11 -year-old panels, 13.6 meter ${ }^{\text {a }}$ of panels he 10 KWH per day For a population of 338 million, 1774.8 miles $^{2}$ or an area 42 . miles by 42.1 miles would be needed, not 522,000 miles $^{2}$. t would be approximately he area of Sarasota and Charlotte counties, not the
area of Texas, California, and Montana.
PV panels on roofs of homes, stores, factories, parking lots, etc., would
produce a substantial produce a substantial amount of electrical power. viability.

## Jerry Larson

Jerry Larson
Most people watch other news
Editor:
Faux news claims to be the most watched news, and while this is true, it is also misleading jus.
what they say.
The total number of Prime Time watchers for February are as follows:
Total, 5,646,000
Faux, 2,609,000.
MSNBC, $1,964,000$
CNN, $1,073,000$.
MSNBC/CNN, 54 percent.
Faux, 46 percent.
This shows that the majority of people watching news programs prefer to watch left-leaning news rather than watching the Trump channel. This is another fact that faux new
to ignore

Joseph A. Del Bonis
Rotonda West
Keep Sunseeker out of Live Oak Park Editor:
Concerning the greedy Sunseeker Resort: Snowbirds only want to come to Florida through April. So, this monstrosity will sit on our harbor five to six months blocking our view of the beautiful sunsets and the harbor.
They also closed a road. Thanks Allegient! Money talks. We needed a new bridge more
than a resort.
Please, Charlotte County
commissioners, continue commissioners, continue to keep them out of our historical park Live Oak Point. Read "Our Fascinating Past" by one of our local libraries.

Rosy Tennity
Tennity
Arcadia

## Self-esteem has

 replaced education Editor:"Tax support of private schools not a real bargain." In reply to Mondays gues I am only a father, grandpa

## Lawmakers need to deal with distracted drivers

F
lorida has a lot of distracted drivers, and ey pay more attention to their phones than the other cars around them. They talk, text and dial while weaving in an out of traffic lanes at 70 mph
People die because of People die because of that is true.
Yet, police can't stop
driver and issue a ticke when they catch that person who is texting or otherwise distracted. Our lukewarm anti-texting/ driving law wont let offense. Lawmakers issue is complicated. It inn't.
Too many drivers don't pay attention, and only on
thing will stop that. Pull
 Joe
HENDERSO HENDERSON them over, write a ticket, take their money. Get three
tickets, and you lose your license for six months. I'm for personal freedom as much as the next person. I draw the line if someone winds up in a body cast over a text, though. been having this distracte been having this distracted-
driver debate in Florida forever. Lawmakers have considered various remedies for the last several years, but then they wimp

That's why it's best not to get too excited at
Tuesday's news that the House Transportation \& Infrastructure
Subcommittee unanimously passed HB 107, filed by state Rep. Jackie Toledo, a Tampa Republican. It would allow police to stop drivers who the wheel and make it a primary offense. "Distracted driving has become an epidemic, and it is time Florida join the more than 40-other states that have made texting and driving a
she said.
It now moves to the House Appropriations Committee
Bravo.
But as Jason Ogles
reported for Florida Politics, the Senate is
offering "yeah, buts" to the offering "yeah, buts" to the
companion SB 76. Let the nitpicking begin. Next stop: the dustbin for forgotten bills.
If the Senate bill moves on, it likely will be without
the mandate that would the mandate that would
limit drivers to hands-free limit drivers to hands-free phones. Bill sponsor Sen "For the parents hoping more for hands-free than texting and driving, this is a process. Remember, this is a work in progress." That "progress" is how it
all starts to fall all starts to fall apart.
Take this quote from Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman David Simmons, for instance.
or eating a hamburger, or
drinking a cola, or listening drinking a cola, or listening
to your significant other yell at you, or you are singing with too much gesticulation," he said, "the fact of the matter is, each fact of the matter is, each
of those circumstances of distracted driving could permit a law enforcement officer to go ahead and stop you." I get what he is saying. We don't want a police state, and racial profiling could be an issue if the law is too broad. Point noted. On the other hand, I passed a guy the other day on Interstate 4 in Tampa who was eating a sandwich
while driving. He had a phone in his ear and one hand on the wheel. And yes, his car was weaving a
bit in moderate traffic.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported in
2017 that Florida ranked 2017 that Florida ranked
second in the country for distracted drivers. Thank goodness for Louisiana, I guess.
If hamburger is a distraction for drivers, pull them over.
That would beat starting a 10-car pileup, wouldn't it?
Florida lawmakers need to stop pretending that distracted driving is a complicated issue. It isn't.
Joe Henderson has had a 45 -year career in newspapers, including the Tampa Tribune, where he covered sports, politics and city government. The column moved on
FloridaPolitics.com.

## After a two-year investigation, a brief holiday

$\Omega_{p}$athartic, it was not The relentlessly report finally ended after report finally ended atter
22-month whodunit that
climaxed to the sound of climaxed
There is no evidence of collusion between Russia and Donald Trump's presidential campaign, Mueller concluded. But, just in case Democrats needed a crumb to sustain them in further pursuit of a longed-for conspiracy, Mueller added that his
findings (or lack thereof) do not exonerate the president of obstruction of justice.
What this means is yet
to be discovered since to be discovered since the report has yet to
be released. What little be released. What little
information that Congres information that Congress far comes from Attorney General William Barr's four page summary.
Surprised by the conclusion? Shocked? Hardly. Most Washington

insiders on my daily rounds gave up the collusion Short of a video showing Trump and Vladimir Putin fist-bumping and chanting Collusion, collusion, collusion, ha! an
indictable charge against indictable charge against
the president seemed the president seemed
increasingly unlikely The vast majority of other Americans surely stopped fretting about collusion and even Russia's interference with the election, the latter of which Mueller did confirm, long before that. Sustaining
suspense for two years isn't possible in the age of Twitter and Instapots - the slow cooker that's fast! Yet — and yet, again -
the show goes on. Indeed,
in the swamp, the show never ends. Always gurgling with gossip and innuend
Washington's croaking and hissing denizens slither and slander along rivulets of intrigue, coiled in wait for conspirators, canards and the occasional
coo-coo bird. Mueller coo-coo bird. Mueller
may have drained away may have drained away
some of the sleaziest serpents, including the axis of deceit that includes Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen and Roger Stone. But, as one who has lived among Florida's marshes and South Carolina Lowcountry, I I can aver that
the swamp persists. Thus, it would seem that Trump has been vindicated. Even some Democratic leaders are ready to accept Mueller's
findings, including Rep findings, including Rep.
James Clyburn, D-S.C. who said Tuesday that the investigation is "a chapter that's closed."
Hallelujah? Not quite. Other Democrats are
still hoping to find fresh

## threads to unravel once

 - and if - the Mueller report is made public. consequential question is why Mueller didn't pursue a charge against Trump for obstruction of justice. After all, Trump did ask then-FBI Director James Comey to end his investigation of adviser Michael Flynn, adviser Michael Fynn. Mueller's answer, as Barr has related it, was that the evidence didn't meet the standard for an indictment. If this sounds said much the same thing about Hillary Clinton when the FBI completed its investigation into whether she had committed a crime by using her personal email account and server while secretary of state Though Comey was deeply critical of Clinton and her staff for being "extremely careless," he said heractions didn't meet the
standards set by previous department investigations Commenting on Comey's report, Trump
It was just announcedby sources-that no charges will be brought against Crooked Hillary Clinton. Like I said, the s Not so rigged today, apparently.
Free at last from the investigation that has dogged him since taking office, Trump wasted no time in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. On Tuesday, his administration
announced that it wants a federal court to fully invalidate the Affordable Care Act. And, in the spirit of his "ully pulpit, he said that "somebody" ought to investigate the origins of collusion allegations, as
well as those in the who he said advanced the conspiracy.
Trump has been building his case for at least two
years that the media are
the "enemy of the people, and most journalists
have heard from his mos havid supporters - either through social media or, in some instances, in person. This has always been a dangerous game for the president to play, but it cant go unsaid media organizations gave disproportionate attention to the Mueller investigation, in large part
filling in gaps through filling in gaps through speculation, supposition and hypotheticals. conversation will take place in newsrooms across the country, even as the swamp continues its cycle of life and decay. Meanwhile, Americans can find solace in the investigation's close and what may be
only a brief holiday from onystilities. It's campaign season after all - and the swamp is hungry. Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@ washpost.com.

## Were you relieved or disappointed with Mueller findings?

A
sk yourself this simple question: news that special counsel that President Trump had not engaged in a criminal not engaged in a crimina were you relieved or disappointed?
Be honest.
If the answer is the latter, then it's time for a
little introspection Every little introspection. Every ful that, as Attorney General William Barr explained in his letter to Congress, "the Special Counsel did not find that the Trump campaign, or anyone
associated with it, conspired or coordinated with spired or coordinated with
the Russian government. despite multiple offers from Russian-affiliated individuals to assist the Trump campaign.' It would have been devastating for our country
if the president of the if the president of the in a criminal conspiracy with a foreign power to undermine our democracy Mueller's finding that he didn't should be cause for celebration by Trump supporters and opponents alike. You do not have to

## MY DENTIST <br> USED A LASER TO TREAT MY GUM DISEASE Bad Breath,

Bleeding Gums

NEW LOW COST DENTURES
DR. SUSAN R. BROOKS General Dentistry
Implants - Nitrous Oxide - Dentures \& One Day Repair - Laser Periodontal Therapy
New Patients Welcome

president to know that it is good that the president did But the sad truth is that many Democratic presmany Democratic preshoping Mueller would find evidence the president had conspired with Russia.


NOTICES


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the in business under the fictitious
name of: Coastal Pools and More located at 3579 S. Access Rd.
Suite D in the County of $\frac{\text { Suite D in the County of }}{\text { Charlotte in the City of Englewood, }}$
Florida 34224 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida De-
partment of State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated at Port Charlotte,
Florida, this 25 th day of March, 2019.
$\frac{\text { David L. }}{\text { Comer }}$
C

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\section*{| CLASSIFIED |
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| WORKS! |} Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09,

Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
undersigned, desiring to engage undersigned, desiring to engage name of: Nautical Sewing LLC
located at 4680 Placida rd, Unit K in the County of Charlotte in the
City of Englewood, Florida 34224 intends to register the said name of the Florida Department of
State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated at State, Talahassee, FL. Dated at
Englewood, Florida, this $\underline{22 n d}$ day
Of February $\frac{\text { Larry Salyers }}{\text { Publish 03/28/19 }}$
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
undersigned, desiring to engage undersigned, desiring to engage
in business under the fictitious
name of: Next Phase Line Co. Iocated at 3592 Delor Avenue, in
the County of Sarasota in the City of North Port, Florida 34286 intends to register the said name
with the Division of Corporations
of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated at
North Port, Florida, this 22nd day
of March, 2019 . Lynn Martin
 Statutes 83.801 to 83.809 , These units will be sold to 04-12-2019 at 10:00 A.M.
Charles W. Gross \#308 Charles W. Grain
Boat \& Traier
All interestel
All interested parties must register
at the Office. Terms of the sale: Cash. A $\$ 50$ Deposit is required for each unit. TheDeposit will be
refunded when al contents Are removed from the facility. Contents
subject to redemption.
 Rd. Rotonda, FI. 33947. PH. 698 -
9410 Publish: 03/28/19, 04/
113796 3668702

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Amerian Value Self Storage
A 23227 Freedom Ave. Po
Charlotte, FL 33980: Ashley Nostdahl AA Charles Cochra
Zina Demer Zina Demler $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Amber Roberson } & \text { D03U } \\ \text { Danielle Foster } & \text { C05U } \\ \text { Paty Hearl } & 0011\end{array}$ Paty Hear
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| $\checkmark$ Find a Car |
| $\checkmark$ Find a Job |
| $\checkmark$ Find Garage Sales |
| $\checkmark$ Find A New Employee |
| $\checkmark$ Sell Your Home |
| $\checkmark$ Sell Your Unwanted |
| Merchandise |
| $\checkmark$ Advertise Your |
| Business or Service |
| Classified - |
| it's the reliable |
| source for the |
| right results |


\section*{| 3134 WORKSHOPS |
| :--- |
| RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY | <br> DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT}

The Board of Supervisors of the
Riverwood Community Development District will hold a workstophop
on Thurscay April 4, 2019 and on Thursday April 4, 2019 and
Wednesday April 10,2019 at Wednesday Apri
$3: 00$ pm. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the budget
for the 2020 fiscal year. The workshop will be held in the Meet-
ing Room of the Riverwood Activity Center, 4250 Riverwood Drive, Port Charlotte, Florida.
There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors may par-
ticipate by telephone. At the above location there may be pres-
ent a speaker phone so that any ent a speaker phone so that any
interested person can attend the interested person can attend the
workshop and be fully informed of
discussions taking place either in discussions taking place either in
person or by telephone communiAny person requiring special ac-
commodations at this workshop commodations at this workshop
because of a disability or physical because of a disability or physical
impairment should contact he
iss trict Office at (954) $603-0033$ at
least two calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact
the Florida Relay Sevice at 711 who can aid you in contacting the
District office.

Each person who decides to appeal any action taken at this work-
shop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verba-
tim record of the proceedings is tim record of the proceedings is
made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.
Robert Koncar
Robert Koncar
District Manager
Publish;
Publish: 03/28/2019
115047 3667788

| Need a new Ride? |
| :---: |
| Find it in the |
| Classifieds! |

## Steal laundry, go to prison

Convicted felon gets 4 years for taking clothes

## By SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

A man is going to prison for four years
after stealing someone's clothes from a local laundromat. According to records from the DeSoto Oounty Sheriff s affice, Clerk of Court Corrections, in January 2018, a deputy saw $7 \begin{aligned} & \text { Clarence } \\ & \text { Thomas } \\ & \text { Pelham }\end{aligned}$ Jr., 54,
standing by the Habitat PELHAM JR. for Humanity. The deputy told him he could Dumpster but could not go through items sorted and discarded by Habitat.
Pelham was searched and a bag was found
Pelham said it contained toys, but one of the boxes in the bag methamphetamine. Another bag attached to his bike also also had a scale that contained some meth, grams. He was arrested on charges of posses substance and pos session or use of drug paraphernalia. He was released the next
on $\$ 3,000$ bond On Jan. 1, 2019, doputies responded where the victim said he had left his clothes in a washer. When he returned later to
pick them up, they pick them up, they
were missing. All of his shirts, pants and estimated the value he $\$ 1,000$. video, Pelham was identified as the man who had taken the victim's clothes. When he was apprehended,
Pelham said he took them because he needed clothes. He was arrested on $\$ 1,500$ bond and released the next day.
Pelha gain on was arrested ailed for failure to appear. He pleaded no theft charges and was sentenced to four years sentenced to four ye
in state prison. His projected release date is Feb. 22, 2023.
DOC records indicate erved prison sentences going back as far as 1983 on charges including burglary of an occupied dwelling or conveyance, traffick ing in stolen property grand theft and pos or ammunition by a convicted felon.

## Newsday Crossword GIANT SOUNDS by Gonsalves and Lim



> Look for a third crossword in The News Wire section.


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle


## American Legion Post 254 plans fest

Legion celebrating century since it was formed at end of World War I

## By TOM HARMENING

 Staff WriterNORTH PORT The American Legion recently turned 100 and the North Port post is planning a to acout celebration century
American Legion Post 254, which has 26 members, is hosting a barbecue, concert and other festivities at its grounds, located at 6648 Taneytown Street, Saturday. The public is invited

There is a nominal
charge for the meal. The American Legion March 1919.
Military officials who were concerned that servicemen - delayed in their return home from Europe after World War I, were getting into mischief - helped to occupy the time of the men. A later constitution was written up in St. Louis in May 1919 . Today, the
organization, which
has nearly 2 million members, has its headquarters in Indianapolis. It advocates for active service members and veterans of all branches of the armed forces. "We expect about a thousand people to American Legion Post 254 Adjutant Skip Felicita said. "We ju pray it doesn't rain." pray it doesnt rain. chance for the public to see the post facility and just perhaps, explore joining the group.


Volunteers and students check out backpacks being distributed for North Port-area students at American Legion Post 254 in North Port. The post is hosting a party Saturday to honor the century of existence of the American Legion.
"Plus, we're going to Performing on stage The event begins have a really good time," will be Maiden Cane and at 2 p.m. and ends at he said. the Dave Chastain Band. 9 p.m.

## School Board takes first look at 2019-20 budget

By VICTORIA VILLANUEVA-MARQUEZ Staff Writer

SARASOTA - The Sarasota County School Board took its first look at the 2019-20 budget Tuesday, agreeing to allow Superintendent Todd Bowden to change the district's budget policy. The board first discussed the budget at a workshop,
with School Board members Eric Robinson and Bridget Ziegler opposing Bowden's request to change the way the district calculates its reserve fund balance. The request wa later approved in a 3-1 vote, with Robinson dissenting and Ziegler absent.
The district's current policy dictates that 7.5 percent
of expenditures must be maintained in reserves.
Misti Corcoran, the distri Misti Corcoran, the district's the state calculates fund balance differently, basing it off revenue instead of expenditures. She added that this prompted Bowden's proposal to change the district's policy. State law requires districts to have at least 3 perc
revenue in reserves. Bowden faced opposition from Robinson and Ziegler who raised concerns about changing the district's 7.5 percent fund balance requirement, with Robinson to keep the reserves promised to keep the reserves at that
level. level.

Bowden said he did not propose changing the current requirement, and
did not suggest lowering requirement to lowering the "What I'm showing to the board is that there's a discrepancy in the way that our fund balance is calculated, compared with other districts and the state," Bowden said. "And so, one of the options that I am presenting to you is
opposed to cutting services to our kids, which is the difficult decisions that you talking about, which is for us to take a look and align our calculation with state statute."
School Board members Shirley Brown, Caroline

Zucker and Jane Goodwin supported Bowden's proposal "I don't know why we came up to this plan of doing it the "But I think we should be in compliance and do it the way the state is doing it."
Brown and Zucker said this change could possibly allow the district to give staff raises Robinson and Ziegler changing the calculation changing the calculation
would not create a better opportunity for staff. "This doesn't create any more money," Robinson said. "This doesn't create a single dollar to give out raises." Goodwin added that the biggest problem affecting the district is the declining
millage. In three years, the district has lost $\$ 94$ million required local effort, she said The preliminary budget for 2019-20 is $\$ 458,859,916$, as of Tuesday's workshop. The projected results for 2018-19 is $\$ 4.51$ million.
District officials also noted that the district saved nearly half a million dollars by using
its own police force. The district will hire 20 additio district will hire 20 additiona stand guard at nearly all its schools, eliminating the need to contract local law enforcement officers next year. The only two schools that will remain staffed by an outside agency are Venice
Elementary and Venice High.


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Smart design in crisp, neat pleats. Our innovative honeycomb construction creates air pockets where light meets color. Available in an impressive range of fabrics, pleat sizes, colors and textures.


Easy, precise light control. Everything from sliding glass doors two bay windows look prettier with our Somnere
Custom Vertical Blinds, which feature easy operation and superior light control. Available in a wide range of vinyl, fabric and aluminum styles and an impressive array of colors, textures and patterns.


Balancing privacy with views and blocking $75 \%$ to $99 \%$ of the heat and harmful UV Rays-Sunscreen shades can do more than just offer privacy and light. Our shades also let you enjoy the outdoor view all through the day. Our designer screen shades are available in 57 fashionable styles with a range of
opacities to bring in just the right level of light.


Sliding panels designed for large openings slide back to a small stack. Available in Soft Sheer, Solar screen, Opaque and room darkening fabrics.

## Décor \& Designs <br> Window Fashion

Advertisement Adverisement Adveriseme
Texas Grandmother with Leg and
Feet Problems Goes from Near
Cripple to Walking Her Dog Daily

You don't have to suffer anymore. Doctors never tell you about these 7
natural herbs, yet millions of people in China have used them for relief of
leg and feet problems for 3,000 years. In fact, they are guaranteed to reliev leg and feet problems for $\mathbf{3 , 0 0 0}$ years. In fact, they are guaranteed to relieve
your problems
Michael Plane -
National Health Press Mary Lentz of Pla Mary Lentz of Pla-
no, Texas suffered for over twenty years from leg and feet problems
Doctors prescribed one Doctors prescribed one
prescription drug after another. Then electrical stimulation. Then
surgery. But after al surgery. But after al
these treatments - he legs and feet actually felt Mary was fed up with suffering. She took mat ters into her own hands.
At wit's end, she discovAt wit's end, she discov-
ered the best herbs for natural relief. She took them, and within just
days, her leg and feet problems began to dis appear. Now she walks
her Golden Retriever her Golden Retriever
Max every day (which Max every day (whice
she couldn't do before) works in her garden and regularly plays tennis
with friends. with friends.
"If I kept listening to my doctors, I'd be a cripple today. I'd be in a wheel-
chair or in a nursing chair or in a nursing
home. I am so thankful for these remarkable
"I had freezing cold hands snapping and burning feeling and feet and tingling and snapping and burning feeling. It made my life very un-
comfortable. I had a hard time walking, my legs felt Iike they each weighed 50 pounds. Once I got in my car and my feet felt so heavy I couldn't even drive the car.
With Neuroflo I have no more tingling, cold or burning painfull feet. It went away.. It
reaction with it. I'm glad to reaction with it. Im glad to
something good that works.

- Valerie Van Dyke,

Leg and feet problems
could have been almost like a death sentence for
Mary Mary - and a shame for her suffering family. It is
a terrible way to live out a terrible way to live out
what should be the best year of your life.
Neuropathy is like a wildfire. It starts with a small flame, but then
quickly turns into a ragquickly turns into a rag-
ing fire in your feet that ing fire in your feet that
never stops. Left alone or treated in a way that doesn't work, it can ing - or even one of the 86,000 Americans who need a limb amputated the National Institutes of
Health.
At Last - You Don't
Have To Suffer
Anymore
Here's why you have
these problems: Your
arteries have weakened.
Your arteries can't carry
enough blood, nutrients
and oxygen down to
your legs and feet. This
damages your nerves
and causes your burning,
tingling and numbness.
The 7 herbs in the pill
Neuroflo strengthen
your arteries that carry
blood, nutrients and oxy-
gen to your feet and legs.
It improves your circu-
lation so oxygenated
blood goes to the nerves
and repairs them. This
makes your nerves grow
stronger so your pain
fades away and your
legs and feet feel much
younger again.
Until now, scientists
could not combine all
these herbs into one pill


Chinese herbs provide fast relief of leg and feet
tingling, burning and numbness. They do this by tingling, burning and numbness. They do this by
improving the flow of blood, nutrients and oxygen to
your legs and feet to repair damaged nerves.
without losing their full potency, but finally, they
Dr. Ryan Shelton, M.D. says "This is new and diferent. It works for peo ple who've tried many ther things before. It is natural with no side effor your leg and feet for your leg and feet
pain, burning, tingling

> wi
-- they are not getting the oxygenated blood
flow they need to feel healthy. Now you can get a good night's sleep - peaceful,
restful sleep - with no restful sleep - with no
pain, tingling, zinging, itching or zapping. Improve your balance and
coordination. No side effects - safe to take Enjoy your mavorite activities and hobbies
again. Be more active again. Be more active,
have more fun, enjoy life have more fun, enjoy life
more. Don't risk irreversible damage to your feet and hands. Don't get worse and wind up ing home.
Neuroflo is GUARANTEED to work great for you - or you PAY NOTH-
ING with a 90 -day unING with a 90-day un-
conditional money-back guarantee. It is NOT sold in stores or online. No prescription or doctor
visit is required.


Proven Fast Natural Relief For:
$\checkmark$ Blood Sugar Problems $\square$ Varicose Veins $\square$ Swollen Legs $\square$ Spider Veins $\square$ Many other leg \& feet problems

## Special Offer For

 Readers in FloridaThis is the official nationwide release of
NeuroFlo in the United Neuroflo in the United States. And so, the com-
pany is offering a special pany is offering a special
discount supply to anyone who calls within the next 48-hours.
A Regional Order HoAline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal
chance to try Neuroflo. Starting at 7:00am today, the order hotline will be open for 48-hours
All you have to do is call
TOLL-FREE 1-888-387-TOLL-FREE 1-888-3874361 and provide the discount approval code: NEF158. The company will do the rest.
Important: Due to NeuroFlo's recent media exposure phone lines are
often busy. If you call, and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48hour special discount
offer must pay more for NeuroFlo.

## North Port residents post questions on city land use

By TOM HARMENING<br>NORTH PORT — How

should the city develop in the years ahead?
That was the question put to residents at an open house at the
Shannon Staub Public Library in North Port on Monday night. An estimated 30 residents stopped by to view and prioritize the identified major issues
identified by the city identified by the city and its development consulano \& Associates, The posted comments were varied, but
traffic and zoning
and commercial
developments were major
issues.
The
tit
The city has its work cut out for it before the
plan goes before Commissioners later this year.
For example, two of the posted comments were "keep commercial development out of residential areas" and another was


SUN PHOTO BY TOM HARMENING North Port residents looked at potential changes for the city's Unified Land Development Code at an open house Monday night at Shannon Staub Public Library
"put more commercial stores."
One of the attendees, Tom Nicolson, of North Port said many people complain about conditions in the neigh-
borhoods "because they borhoods "because the
do not do upfront due diligence."
"They come in, look at a house and say 'T'll take it" and then later say "I didn't know there was so much traffic on this street," Nicholson
said. "Now, whose fault is
that?
Several of the other comments were based on developing commercial "centers" in North Port. "We need developments (in Punta Gorda)" several people noted. people noted.
The meeting on Monday meeting was the second of two slated on the Unified Land Development Code, which the city wants to have in place by October.

## Charlotte County seeing sand dollars from state for beaches

## By STEVE REILLY

ENGLEWOOD - Charlotte County expects to see $\$ 12.5$ million from the state to help fund its 10 -year beach management effort.
DeSantis still have to approve the DeSantis still have to approve the
Florida Department of Environmenta Florida Department of Environme
Protection's recommendation to provide the $\$ 12.5$ million. That will go a good way toward paying for what is estimated to be a $\$ 35$ million project for
the county's beach renourishment for the county's beach renourishment for Manasota Key.
In November
In November, if all goes well, 1.1 million cubic yards of sand will be scraped off the tops of sand mounds in the Gulf
and deposited along the shoreline from and deposited along the shoreline for
just south of the public Englewood Beach to Blind Pass Beach into Saras County, said Michael Poff, president of Coastal Engineering Consultants, the firm overseeing the project.
The goal is to maintain a 50 -footwide beach. Initially, an additional 30 feet of sand will be deposited along the shoreline to address background erosion.
Charlotte County will contribute $\$ 2$ million annually, while Charlotte property of the Tom Adams Bridge north to the county line - will pay an annual set assessment. Those closest to the Gulf pay additional fees based upon a prescribed formula. Sarasota County has yet to determine its sources of funding for that county's portion of the
project.

## beach easements needed

What: Iime for Gulf front property owners on easements along the Gulf for Charlotte County's beach nourishment program.
Coastal Engineering Consultants will provide
updates at a public meeting of the South Manasota
Sandpiper Key Association andpiper Key Association.
When: 4 pm. April 9 at the Gulf to Bay clubhouse, 225 Beach Road on Manasota Key,
Damian Ochab at dochab@aol.com.
Further into the future, Charlotte County hopes to garner federal funds for beach renourishment through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Greg representing Charlotte County, updated representing Charlotte County, updated effort is going.
"We have had a lot of support throughout the Corps of Engineers and, I think, within Congress," Burns told commissioners. "The key here is the long-term goal. It frustrating in the short term that we haven't gotten where we want to be so far. have federal participation in that you have federal participation in shore proally is a worthy effort to take - even really is a worthy effort to take-e even
if it takes some effort to get there." The county's legislative affairs coordinator, Assistant County Administrator Emily Lewis compared seeking Army Corps funding to running a marathon. The county is in the first kilometers of that race, Lewis said.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Cornhole tourney for cheer
Southwest Allstar Cheer is having a cornhole tournament to help send tw
cheer teams to the U.S. Final in Virginia Beach in May. The tournament is set for 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at End Zone, 2440 S McCall Road. Entry
Fee $\$ 50$ per team or $\$ 25$ fee $\$ 50$ per team or $\$ 25$ per person. Payoat will
$\$ 200$ for first place, $\$ 100$ for second and $\$ 75$ for third, based on 32 teams. Deadline to enter is March 24. There will be a silent auction and a set of corn hole boards will be raffled. For more informatio make a donation, please contact Lori Kimberlin at 941-586-8946 or email her at Lkimbe4440@verizon. net. Checks may be sent to 4064 N . Access Road,

Project Graduation
Lemon Bay High School Project Graduation committee will meet at 7 p.m.
tonight at the Media Center in Lemon Bay High School, 2201 Placida Road, Englewood. The commit-
tee is part of a nonprofit organization that plans a graduation-night gathering each year for the Lemon Bay graduating class. The all-night event includes games, activities,
dancing, prizes, a memdancing, prizes, a mem-
ory walk and lots of food. ory walk and lots of food.
Graduating seniors are en Graduating seniors are en-
couraged to stay with their classmates one last time in this safe environment for the entire evening. The committee meets twice monthly to organize
fundraisers and plan fundraisers and plan
for the event. Parents of for the event. Parents of
all LBHS students are invited to participate. Fo more information, email projgradlbhs@yahoo. com, like Lemon Bay High School Project Graduation on Facebook, or plan to attend a meeting.

Pancake breakfast
First Baptist Church of Englewood will serve free pancake breakfasts from

7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the church,
278 S. Mango St, Englewood. The church is seeking donations to help pay for the roof on its 50 -year-old building.

## Mac users group

The meeting time for the Englewood Macintosh User Group has been
changed to 10 a 12:30 p.m. for the April 4 meeting. The group normally meets on the first Thursday of the month at Englewood's Elsie Quirk Library. The March
meeting will feature a meeting will feature a Q
\& period with presenta \& A period with presenta-
tions on iCloud Accounts by Tom Vandenberg and Fonts by Carl Schwartz. If time allows Carl Gaites will demo a way to stop E-Mail spam. EAMUG meetings
are free and open to users are free and open to users
of Apple devices who want to improve their skill on a Mac Computer, iPhone, iPod or iPad. No need to sign up in advance. More information is available at www.EAMUG.org.

# Our Town: Outdoor Living 

THE BACK NINE
Teeing it up W $\begin{aligned} & \text { hat's the first } \\ & \text { thing you do on } \\ & \text { every hole? Stick }\end{aligned}$
 a tee in the pround and on it, line it up and give it a ride. But wait, how many steps are in that little
process process
alone and how many things can actually go wrong? Plenty.
Trust me, I know because I have executed most of the failures.
So, let's break this down. Putting the tee in the
ground sounds just too ground sounds just too easy. But, do you really of how far you pushed it into the ground? Do you find yourself looking at the ball at times before you hit it and say it's too high or too low. Lord knows I have done this a few times over the years. For me, a good of that tee I have learned to trust my swing with the driver. So if the tee is too high, or too low, I might not get the contact I am looking for.
Now, there are times that I will intentionally set it too high or too low.
If the wind is in If the wind is in my face, I tee it lower and my follow'
through is lower so I don't hang the ball up in the hang the ball up in the higher to give it some lift if I am driving the ball with the wind. But that is an intentional act, one that I panned on doing. The tee is in the ground and the ball is on it. What is your next step? For me, ball and looking down the fairway to see where want to hit my drive (and hopefully have the ball land there). Then, I pick a spot about two feet in front of the tee and use that as my aiming point. With my aiming spot picked out, I walk around stance. I place the clu on the ground behind the ball and set my feet in accordance to my aiming spot. I keep the ball just on the inside of my front foot and set my back foot about shoulder width apart. For me, the trick here is I never take my eye I get myself set. I should not have to look down the fairway if my aiming spot is true. As long as I set myself up to hit the ball over that spot, no problem. After that, it's all about your swing and ball contact. If those two things are good, you should cleanly down the fairway right where you want it to go. Does this always happen? Of course not. But the one thing I have learned about golf is that it is very mechanical. The more time you do something good, and repeat that, the more success has paid dividends in my game. with such a slice that ple in the other fairways weren't safe at time. I started thinking about all of these little things just to drive the ball and started to pay more attention
to each little step in the to each little step in the started my swing. The ted would be up, down, tilted backwards, whatever. I never got behind the ball so my aim was pretty much just give it a whack

GREG|2B

## Sips, sounds \& sand

Four Florida festivals for April
 here's something
bubbling in Florida every weekend, 7. $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { but April } \\ & \text { seems to } \\ & \text { be a busy }\end{aligned}$ seems to
be a busy
month month for fun festivals.
Following are my Jennifer A. picks for HUBER mustfeaturing the best of the Sunshine State.

Sebring Soda
Festival, April 5-6
Whether you call it soda or pop, if you have an affinity for the sweet ened carbonated beverage, the Second Annual Sebring Soda Festival is for you. Florida's fizziest festival includes an

DAY TRIPPER


Rock the Ocean's Tortuga Music Festival in Ft. Lauderdale, April 12-14
Music and conservation intertwine to create one of Florida's most celebrated annual events, Rock the Ocean's Tortuga Music Festival. About 50 musica acts will perform over he three days and Jason Aldean, Flor Rida, Kenny Chesney, Jery the Black Hearts are scheduled to appear.
Tortuga's oceanside setting includes

Conservation Village and is housed with organizations representing Rock the Ocean's five core issues of coral reef degradation, marine pollution, overfishing, shark conservation, and
turtle conservation yeart the festival implemented conservation efforts including using cean-friendly straws, providing canned water nd water refill stations ecycling materials, and contracting with food ngors who sourced 200 miles rom within 20 miles. eral admission pass is
$\$ 239$ and a single-day general admission pass \$135. Children 6 and younger are admitted faily Gates open at noon daily and end around p.m. each night. (1100 Lauderdale; 888-512-7469; TortugaMusicFestival. com)

Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, Clearwater, April 12-28

A 21,000-square-foot tent houses the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival's JENNIFER|2B

## Watching mama


 Bachelor buttons are tiny plants that you can easily miss if you're not looking.

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

## On the trail at Shell Creek

n a rainy Saturday morning a couple weeks ago, my friend
Debbie and I converged for yet another great Southwest Florida trail run. This time we met at Shell Creek Preserve in Punta Gorda. Shell Creek is one of my favorite places to kayak, and although I've paddled to the preserve
explored it.
Shell Creek Preserve is one of the Conservation Charlotte properties purchased through voter
is an important parcel of conservation
land because it provides a buffer for the city of Punta Gorda's drinking water supply, and will protect it from development in perpetuity. Shell Creek is pretty unique in that it is geologically older than most southwest Florida waterways. The creek bank rises upwards of 10 feet in some places and that results in upland banks, a unique feature for creeks in banks, a unique fea
Getting to Shell Creek Preserve is pretty straightforward - unless you're Debbie. (Sorry, Debbie; couldn't help myself.) The preserve is located off the

## BETTY <br> FROM PAGE 1B

back end of Washington Loop Road at 4334 Nellis Lane. You will know you are almost to the preserve when you reach Nellis Farm on the right. Just beyond preserve parking area. preserve parking area.
There are two loop trails at the preserve, that all total, are about 2.6 miles. Each loop is about the same length and th are stacked one behind the other. They are long and narrow and parallel the creek. On one side of the loop you run along a fence line. Across the fence is a citrus field, with trees in bloom now. I'm told it smelled really pretty, but the oak pollen has smelled nothing.
On the other side of the loop you are not far from the creek

underway.
bank, but the vegetation is thick so you won't see the creek pavilion, you will take a small unless you take the little detour $\begin{aligned} & \text { trail that is located right about } \\ & \text { midway down the creek side of }\end{aligned}$ to the pavilion - I recommend doing that. To access the

Preserve is wide and well
maintained. There is some maintained. There is some
sugar sand, but since we wer running in the rain, the sand was pretty packed. We noticed two varieties of bachelor's button in bloom along the trail - an orange one and a yellow variety. Both are in the
milkwort family and just prety milkwort family, and just pretty
little delicate plants. Of course I stopped and took photos, because that is what a geeky biologist does.
I want to give a shout out to Jason at Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources. Since I had not been to this preserve before, I called to get a little insider information on the trails, trail conditions, etc. The last thing you want to do
is get to a preserve and find is get to a preserve and find
out the preserve is closed for out the preserve is closed for
restoration or that the trails are restoration or that the trails are
not suitable for running Jason was super helpful which made
our run a great experience. Actually, it's worth noting that I've found the land managers at pretty much any park are very passionate about what they do. They want parks and preserves visited, and they want our experience to be good one. Dont be bashfut about giving them a shout. Florida to have many great Florida to have many gre
natural areas to run and explore. Soon many of our trails will be underwater, so seize the opportunity now. The weather's been great, and the wildflowers are in bloom.
"It's not where you take the trail ... it's where the trail takes you." - Unknown.
Betty Staugler is Betty Staugler is the Charlotte
County extension agent for the County extension agent for the
Florida Sea Grant Program Florida Sea Grant Program
and an active runner Contact her at staugler@ufl.edu or 941-764-4346.

${ }_{\text {Monan }}$ APRIL $8^{\text {th }} 2019$ 7.00Pm Charlotte Performing Arts Center 701 Carmalita St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950

LAST SHOW OF THE SEASON! GET YOUR TICKETS!
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or by phone at (863) 494-9362, M-F 9:00am-4:00pm

## JENNIFER FROM PAGE 1B

 main attraction, the Sugar Florida's number one sand sculpting festival, this event celebrates Tampa Bay's most treasured jewels, the sugar-sand beaches and sunsets.Watch sand sculptors fro Watch sand sculptors fro
around the world craft around the world craft
piles of sand into famous piles of sand into famous
destinations and landdestinations and and-
marks. The artists will us marks. The artists will use
shovels, trowels, spatulas, and other items you may find in your kitchen or garage, to create tempo-
rary works of art fitting the rary works of art fitting the
theme, "A Journey Around theme, "A Journey Around the Globe."
The festival has expand-
ed from 10 days to 17 and ed from 10 days to 17 and
includes live music includes live music, a
kids play zone, and sand sculpting classes. Feeling
competitive? April 20 is the competitive? April 20 is the
Pro-Am Sand Sculpting Pro-Am Sand Sculpting
Tournament and April 21, Easter Sunday, is the Family Sand Sculpting Competition General admission for
ages 11 and older is $\$ 10$ ages 11 and older is $\$ 10$
and children 4 to 10 are \$8; children 3 and younge $\$$ are free. Tickets may be purchased online in advance. At the gate, discounted tickets are $\$ 8$ for AAA members, seniors ( 60 and up), active and retired military personnel, police
and fire, and educators and fire, and educators,
when valid identification when valid identification
provided. Admission tickprovided. Admission tick
ets are valid for one day/ night. The exhibit is open night. The exhibit is ope
Mondays to Saturdays, 10 a.m. to $10 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (l Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach; 727-403-0517;
SugarSandFestival.com)

Cocoa Beach
Uncorked,
April 27-28 Now celebrating its
third year Cocoa Beach Uncorked is the perfect event for sipping a glass of wine and wriggling your toes in the sand. Before
entering the Grand Tasting

## GREG

FROM PAGE 1B
and start praying. And my alignment was not consistent. My feet would be wider one time than the next. Or, I would use my
old baseball stance and old baseball stance and have my feet not parallel to the ball, but staggered with my back foot back a little bit. Once I started practicing a routine to keep
these small basic steps the same, it gave me the foundation to make my swing better. Again, the more consistent you do things, the easier it becomes when you try to fix the next step in your game. Don't get me wrong to do this, and then get to do this, and then get
my swing as consistent as it is today. And by no means am I a long hitter from the tee. For that


Lifting a glass at Uncorked. Village, participants have the option of leaving their shoes at the entry way and the tent while tasting, sampling, and celebrating the best of the Central Florida's breweries, chefs, restaurants, and wineries
Located at Alan Shepard Located at Alan Shepard
Park and serving views of the Atlantic Ocean, this is touted as the Space Coast's "hippest beachfront gastronomic event." Water quality is a state issue, and the Marine Resources Council and Cocoa Beach Uncorked are partnering to raise awareness and funds to preserve the Indian River Lagoon
MRC is set to release the annual Indian River Lagoon health update to raise awareness and offer solutions to improve Lagoon health. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age. General admission entrance into the Grand
Tasting Village begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 4 at 1 p.m. and day. General admission cost is $\$ 65$ per day. 2 S Orlando Ave., Cocoa Beach; CocoaBeachUncorked. com)
As always, when heading
outdoors, keep hydrated outdoors, keep hydrated and protect yourself from the sun.
Jennifer A. Huber is just your average 40-some-
thing-year-old gal living thing-year-old gal iving
life solo and writing about her travels on her blog, SoloTravelGirl.com. Listen to her adventures near and far on the award-winning
Solo Travel Girl podcast Solo Travel Girl podcast.
reason alone though, my
accuracy became accuracy became that
much more important much more important it solved some of the issues of hitting out of the rough, or a fairway bunker.
The first steps are often the easiest to forget and to think that they don't matter. If you don't have a routine on the tee box,
maybe you should start maybe you If you aren't to get one. Ir you accurate, start by doing the simple things the same and see if that doesn't make things a little better for you. A golf swing is hard enough to make right. Let's not complicate it with the
easy stuff we can contro easy stuff we can control
Greg Bartz is a tour Greg Bartz is a tour-
nament bass fisherman nament bass fisherman
based in Lakeland. Greg fishes and golfs with his wife and tournament partner, Missy. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@ SummitHoldings.com.

## Featured Event

Free Open Cruise In Thurs. March 28,4 to 7 p.m. Award Winning Beef "0: Brady's, 1105 Taylor St. PG
assisted by SW FI. Region VMCCA. Open to all Collector Cars/ trucks/Special I Interest vehicles ind modified. Inside live music by Joe Obrien. BOGO meal to car show participants. Lee 941-6266-9359.

The Community Calendar items are entered by the event organizers and are run "as submitted." To submit in item, go to wwwyoursun.com, select an edition and dlick on the "Community Calendar"" link on the left Click "Submit Event," and fill out the appropriate information.

## ■ TODAY

Murdock Rotary
Club meets Thurs 7:45 a.m. weekly at Perkins,
1700 Tamiami Tr. Friendliest dub SWFL. Call 941-456-1862 for info
Crafty Ladies
Handcrafted items every Thursday
9-11:30 a.m. (except holidays). Oaks
Cove, Gulf Cove UMC, 1100 McCall, PC.
941-697-5533
Eagles
Eagles 23111 Harborview Road PC 941-629-1645 lunch 11-2pm dinner Rail Retirees Meet Rorl unch at 11 am at the Olymp Rest.3245 Tamiami ITrl, Port Charlote Retire concerns discussed, call 941-979-6468.
Punta Gorda Elks 11-2 Lunch, 2 p.m. Tiki open, 5 p.m. Tiki Trivia, 5-8 Dinner, 6:30-9:30 Charity Bar Bingo @ 25538 Shore PG 941-637-2606, mbrskgsts
Punta Gorda Elkettes Elkettes Thrift Shop Open to 2:30 Public from 11:30 a.m. to

941-637-2606, ext. 110 Punta Gorda Rotary Punta Gorda Rotary meets at noon in PG to be at noon on Thursdays. 219-742-3287.
Pinning Vietnam Vets 3/28 1:30-3:30 at Solaris 4000 Kings Hwy Bikes,Bagpipes free Hot Dogs honoring heroes. Pul
Welcome RSVP $941-255-5855$ SINGLES 50+SOCIAL
W/D singles will meet Thu Mar 28 at $5: 30$ for dinner \& scial at Finslush 508-971-2123

## MWCA Meeting The Manchester Waterway Civic

 Associan on April 9 at S.30 p.m.t.Plant Sa

Deep Creek Garden Club plant sale March 29, 9:00 am.-2:00 pm at 2000 Kings Highway front of Winn-Dixie. 941-627-6752
Eagles
Eagles 23111 Harborview Road PC 941-629-1645 lunch 11-2 pm dinner $5-8$ music by Bar Stool Rodeo

Punta Gorda Elks 11-2 Lunch, 2 p.m. Tiki open, 5-8 Dinner, $6: 30-9.30$ Music by Three of a members \& guests Punta Gorda Elkettes Elkettes Thrift Shop Open to the Public from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ 25538 Shore Drive.,PG, $941-637-2606$, ext. 110

■ SATURDAY
PRAS park cleanup Help Peace RiverAudubon Keep Charlotte Beautiful Cleanup Kiwanis
Park 501 DonoraSt PC 8 a.m. info: Nancy 941-286-0340 PG Farmers Market 8-1 p.m. taylorst. \& olympia ave. $941-$-391-4856 Produce, olives,
pickles, butcher, seafood , pickles, butcher, seafoo
cheese $\&$ live music cheese \& live $m$
Eagles
Eagles
Eagles 23111 Harborview Road PC 941-629-1645 dinner 5-8 Bingo 1-4 Open mic Billy G Punta Gorda Elks 11-2 Lunch, 12 p.m. Tiki open, 5-8 Dinner, 6 p.m. OnHrtrs, 6:30-9:30 Music by Tidal Wave @ 25538 Shore PG 637-2606, mbrs\&gsts

## ENGLEWOOD EVENTS

## Featured Event

Alameda Isle's "Art-Quilt-Craft-Show" Sunday, March 31,2019 from 1-3 P.M. An incredible showing//ale of work by talented people in the park! ITckets fora a Chinese auction of samples of crafts will be sold. Alameda Isles is located at 1 Alameda Grande, Englewood -off SR 776 across from the Boca Royale Golf Course. 248-462-2356.

| - TODAY | 941-861-1980, 9:30-1p. \$2 to play! Family Story Time | Yoga, $\$ 4$ with H2U benefits. 10:3011:30 a.m. Suncoast Aud. 779 Medical |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| French Toast | Thursdays $10: 30$ a.m. Stories, | Drive RSVP: 941-473-3919 |
| Sausage, 0J, Coffee, Unlimited | rhymes, music, and play for child | Card Party |
| French Toast, Fruit, Crafts 8-10:30 a.m. | all ages, Esie Quirk Lib 100 W Dearborn | Call for a table of 4 or to sub. |
| Mobile Gardens Comm Crt Eng1 \$5.00 | 941-861-5000 | Have fun at Lemon Bay Woman's |
| 941-47--9825. | Open Play Pickleball | Club. 51 N. Maple St. 11:30-3. 55.00 |
| Badminton | Englewood Sports Complex, | 941-475-4829. |
| Englewood Sports Complex, | 941-861-1980, 1-4p. \$2 to play! | Blood drive at bank |
| 941-861-1980, 9-12p. All levels | Bingo Rotonda Elks | Big Red Bus, noon to 5, Englewood |
| welcome, $\mathrm{S}_{2}$ to play! | Starts at 6:30 p.m.. Public Invited | Bank \& Trust, 1111 S. McCall Road. Free |
| St Francis Bingo | More players equals bigger prizes. Bar | movie ticket and wellness checkup. |
| Early Bird 10 a.m.. Regular Bingo | food available during games. Members | 941-475-6771 |
| 11 a.m. Doors open at $9: 15$ a.m.. | \& guests | Open Play Pickleball |
| St. Francis Church, 5265 Placida. |  | Englewood Sports Complex, |
| Beg/Impvr Line Dance 9:30 to 11:30 American Legion | - FRIDAY | 941-861-1980, 1-4p. \$2 to play! Suncoast Bridge Club |
| Post 113.3436 Indiana Road Rotonda | Line Dancing | Join our free Bridge Club, meet |
| west. Phone Eve at 9416978733 | 9-30 to 11-30 American Legion Post | friends. Meets 1:30-4:00 in Suncoast |
| Line Dance Club | 113.3436 Indiana Road Rotonda west. | Auditorium 779 Medical Drive |
| 9:30-11:30 a.m., Christ Lutheran | Phone Eve at 9416978733 | Englewood. RSVP: 473-3919 |
| Church, 700 N Indiana Ave. Improver/ | Table Tenn | Dinner \& Jay Smith |
| intermed. line dances. Public | Englewood Sports Complex, | Coconut Shrimp special \& reg |
| welcome. Nancy 941-474-6027 | 941-861-1980, 9:30-1p. \$2 to play! | menu 5-7:30 p.m. Music: Jay Smith |
| Table Tennis | Chair Yoga w/ Ginger |  |
| Englewood Sports Complex, | Join our Health-2-You class: Chair | guests |

## NORTH PORT EVENTS

## Featured Events

Tree Fair 2019! People for Trees, April 27,10-2. Hundreds of native 3-gallon trees for sale, $\$ 15$. Informational tree"walk/talks",tree climbing demos/(Q\&A by Simply Tress, Fairy House contest, music by Elaine Siver. 4940 Pan Am Blvd. N.Port, (941) 468-2486. www.peoplefortrees.com Stand Up Comedy Night At Common Grounds 3 "Old Hands of Comedy" vs. 3 "New Gun" Stand-Ups. You decide who wins! Common Grounds Hall 12735 STamiami Trail North Port $7: 30,3 / 29 \$ 20$ at www.comedy2.eventbrite.com

## ■ TODAY

Free Tax Help 9a.m.-1 p.m., every Thurs, AARP Activity Center, 14380 Tamiami Tr., NP Conversation Group 10-11:30 am NP Senior Center 4940 Pan American Blvd discuss or a joke to share discuss or a joke to share
North Port Moo Canasta at 11:30 and cash bingo at 7 ! Meatloaf dinner specia 14156 Tamiami Trl NP 941-426-2126 North Port VFW Members \& Guests, Lunch 11-2, Euchre 12-4, Bingo-5 PM, Bowling${ }^{6}$ PM, Kitchen Open $5-7,4860$ Trott
NP 941--426-6865
Yak \& Yarn
10AM Shannon Staub Library 941-861-1740 Socialize with fellow knitting, crocheting and sewing enthusiaxts!
Mexican Dominos 2-3 pm NP Senior Cente

4940 Pan American Blud 941-426- Fish Fry/Rib Dinner 5-7
4940 Pan American Blud 941-426-
2204 The dominoes have dots so come \& play AMVETS 2000 Dinner LAUX Encrusted Ck Parmesan 4:30-7 p.m. pm 00 H @ 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bobby 0 @ 7 p.m. 401 Ortiz Blvd NP 941-429-1999
Book Club ${ }_{6}$ Book Shannon Staub Library ${ }^{941-861-1740}$ Join us for a fun 941-861-1740 Join us for a fun
discussion on our book of the mon NP Concert Band NP concert band presents" Let's Dance" $7: 30 \mathrm{pm} 6400$ W. Price Blvd. North Port, Fl. 941-426-8479 Box
$\square$ FRIDAY

## Basic Exercise

 $\$ 3 /$ class $9-10 \mathrm{am}$ NP Senior Center 4940 Pan American Blvd $941-426-2204$ Join Brenda for agood workout and feel bett
North Port VFW
Members \& Guests, Lunch 11

Fish Fry/Rib Dinner 5-7, Music by Greg Gage 6:30-9
NP $941-426-6865$
Pierogies Take-Out Pierogies/Kielbasa, every Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. St. Andrew Ukrainian Center, 4100 S. Biscayne Drive. North Port 941 786-52
Free Tax Help Free Tax Help AA0:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., every Fri., AARP Tax-Aide, North Port Senior
Center, 4940 Pan American Blvo., Center,
NP
Ukr

Ukrainian Food
Fridays 11 a.m.-6 p.m.. Take-out Pierogi/Cabbage Rolls/Borsch. St. Mary's Hall. 1078 N. Biscayne Drive. North Port, 941-423-2427. Pinochle S2/person 12-3 pm NP Senior
Center 4940 Pan American Blva Center 4940 Pan American Blvd
Rochelle $941-429$ - 887 Same great Rochelle $941-$-22-1887 Same great
game come join in
AMVETS 2000 LAUX
LAUX Executive Board Meeting @
2:30 p.m. Officers be in attendance

## Advertisement <br> <br> TV Talk Show <br> <br> TV Talk Show Doctor's Shocking Doctor's Shocking Revelation

 Revelation}If you suffer bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, diarrhea, constipation, bloating, gas or IBS; beware of digestion remedies like Prilosec ${ }^{*}$, Prevacid $^{\circ}$ and Nexium ${ }^{\circ}$... They Can Cripple You!

By Damian Wexler,
Freelance Health Reporter
ecently, medical professionals Rand alternative medicine experts have taken the airways to reveal a simple secret that digestion nightmares. And people digestion nightmares. And people haven'
since.

## "l’d give anything to make it stop!"

That's what most people will tell you when asked about their digestive problems. "It's just horrible
says Ralph Burns, a former digestion says Ralph Burns, a former digestion
victim. I was tortured for years by victim. I was tortured for years by
my Acid-Reflux. My wife suffers my Acid-Reflux. My wife suffers
with digestion problems too. If she eats one wrong thing, she spends hours stuck in the bathroom dealing with severe bouts of constipation or diarrhea."

## FDA Warns About

Popular Antacids
A recent FDA warning explained that excessive use of antacids could lead to an increased risk of hip, in people over the age of 50 .
So when AloeCure ${ }^{\circ}$ was presented on National TV, you can imagine how thrilled people were to find out they could finally get relief without having to rely on pharmaceutical proton pump inhibitors. But now, your stomach problems could be over by simply taking a pill twice a day. It's as simple as that!
Real Customer Testimonial:


Finally There's Hope... At first, the thought of taking more pills might make some people back away. But in fact AloeCure is doing
amazing things for people who suffer with digestive problems even if they've had them for years.

## Here's how it works.

## Stop Stomach Indigestion

Your stomach naturally produces acid so strong, it can dissolve an aluminum spoon in just 30 escapes into your esophagus, throat and stomach lining, it unleashes the discomfort of Acid-Reflux, heartburn, ulcers and more misery. Add the problems of stress, and "all heck breaks loose.
Dr. Liza Leal, a well known expert on chronic pain management explains... "The AloeCure can work genuine miracles. It buffers high acid levels with amazing speed. So your stomach feels completely at ease just moments after taking it." In fact, it could wipe out stomach discomfort and frantic runs to the bathroom


Doctor recommended AloeCure® may
be the most important application ever ost important application eve
discovered for digestive health

## Until Now,

 Little Could Be Done...But "AloeCure ${ }^{\circ}$ can help virtually anyone. Even people with chronic stomach indigestion can start to feel better right away," says Dr. Leal. And what's really exciting is AloeCure aids in keeping your digestive intestinal distress stops coming back.

As Ralph Burns goes on to say, "I know AloeCure ${ }^{\circ}$ never claimed to be and is only meant to be a helpful supplement. Now though a helpful is the only product I need for all my digestion issues"

## Digestion Defender \#1:

## Balances Stomach Acid

Your first line of defense is calcium malate. This natural acid buffer
instantly sends stomach acid levels plunging. And holds acid levels plunging. And holds acid levels

## Digestion Defender \#2:

Digestion Defender \#2:
Instant, Soothing Relief
AloeCure ${ }^{\circ}$ is brimming with polysaccharides, a "wonder" compound that gently coats the throat, esophagus and stomach carrying instant relief
scorched by excess acid.

## Here's What

Doctors Are Saying!
AloeCure ${ }^{\star}$ is backed by important scientific studies that confirm... aloe calms stomach acid and allows you body to heal itself.
Dr. Liza Leal, M.D \& Chief Medical Officer at Meridian Medical. says, "That's why I recommend it to patients who suffer from bouts of heartburn, Acid-Reflux, ul,
irritable bowel syndrome..,
Dr. Santiago Rodriguez agrees. "Just two pills a day of AloeCure reduces the acids in your stomach by ten times."
Francisco DeWeever, a Certified Nutritional Microscopist, "My patients report their IBS, Crohn's, Colitis, Constipation, Acid-Reflux and a host of other digestive problems have all but disappeared." After conducting an unpaid investigation about AloeCure ${ }^{\circ}$ claims and success stories, pure Aloe Vera most like AloeCure may be eve most important application
discovered for digestive health.

How To Get AloeCure®
This is the official nationwide release of the new AloeCure pill in the United States. And so, the company is offering our readers up to 3 FREE bottles with their order. the is special give-away is available for do is call Thours only. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE 1-877-434-137 Bottle Approval Code: AC100. The Botte Approval Code:
company will do the rest.
Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48 -hour deadline may lose
but on this free bottle but on this free bottle offer.

## SUN <br> Marketplace

Your Source For：Jobs，Real Estate，Cars，Merchandise，Services \＆More
Email：Classifieds＠sun－herald．com
yoursun．com
Toll Free：1－866－463－1638 I Mon．－Fri．8am－5pm
Serving：Arcadia，Englewood，North Port，Port Charlotte，Punta Gorda，Venice

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|  | ESTATE SAL |  | TABLE with Four chairs Like New \$140 954-865-7866 <br> TABLE WITH WHEELS WHITE LIKE NEW \$55 941-763-2581 WINE RACK 2 drawers, storage, decoratve, must see \$150 941-235-2203 | ,000 SONGS shared Demusicshareplus@gmail.com 00 941-662-0865 | AFGHAN \& SWEATER Hand-knit $26^{\prime \prime \prime} \times 311^{\prime \prime}$, white, hints of pinh\& green $\$ 20$ 727-744-5933PACK N PLAY $\$ 25$ |
|  |  | \$30 716-348-6217 |  | BASS/KEYBOARD TCrate BX2115 Thunder, amp w/ $15^{\prime \prime}$ HD speakers \$300 941-764-1516 |  |
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|  | FRI. \& SAT. 9AM-3 4801 SUMMERTREE |  | 6040 TV/STEREOIRADIO |  | GOLF CLUBS GW100/Harrison (Ping Clone) full set Ping Putter EC \$140 941-743-9055 |
|  |  |  |  | OLDING EVAC./ TRANSPORT Chair with Wheels Aluminum \$250 315-525-2364 | LF CLUBS Ping Eye2 irons 3-lw new grips Ping Putter 25 941-743-9055 |
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|  |  | SHELVING WIRE HeavyDuty Chrome 60X18X88"H ad | SPEAKERS BOSE bookshelf \& Yamaha bookshelf speakers you choose \$50 954-642-6599 | MANDOLIN AMERICAN Conservatory by Lyon Healy, very d GC \$275 716 523-0463 | 25 941-743-9055 <br> ADIES GOLF CLUBS Golf ubs, drivers,new bag,pull cart (10), 9 B0 9238453 |
| 41 \& King's Highway, Charlotte Harbor. To Benefit Community Cats of Charlotte, A Non-profit Trap, Spay, Neuter, Return Program. Donate a BagFood for the Cats. | By Estate Sales Specialists B. Moyerman \& Dee Roe $941-475-6273$ |  | SURROUND RECEIVER Denon AM/FM w/remote AVR-2000 excl cond \$95 954-642-6599 | MANDOLIN AMERICAN Conservatory by Lyon Healy very | Yellow Jacket |
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|  |  | TABLE GLASSTOP 4 chairs blonde wicker pink seats ex condition \$75, OBO 941-268-7571 | TV VIZIO 20"FLAT SCREEN WITH REMOTE.EX.COND. \$25 941-200-5718 | 6095 MEDICAL | 4G BATTERY CABLES Corrosion Resistant Best Golf Cart Cables \$129.95/SET. VISIT 941-769-1431 NO TEXT PLEASE |
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|  |  | VANITY TOP Corian with sink \& faucet. Size is $39^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 22^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{d}$. blue pattern \$75 941-815-8999 | LCD MONITOR 24 " Soyo, in storage for years, works excellent \$29 954-642-6599 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Also Installed } \\ & \text { By Commodes } \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  |  | WALL SAFE New Paragon 5 Star complete pkg <br> 23" \$55 941-412-9380 <br> WINE GLASSES Set of 6 rose color, beautiful, 7 1/2". Like new \$10 727-744-5933 | 6065 CLOTHING/JEWELRY ACCESSORIES |  | 26 GOLF CARTS |
|  | SAT-SUN 7AM-2PM 1401 Ewing St. Nokomis arge yard sale with several households contributing. Too many items to list. Many quality child and baby items for all ages as well as a lot of other misc items. |  |  |  | $1$ |
|  |  |  | COWBOY BOOTS leather 2 pair 8.5 Black Pair and Brown Pair. \$70, OBO 440-336-0040 WICKER JEWELRY chest 39 in. tall, 4 drawers, white, Englewood. \$45 856-261-4636 |  |  |
| 21 W. Marion \#312 <br> (Isles Cove Condos, in Back INDOOR ESTATE SALE!! |  | 6035 FURNITURE <br> BED - MATTRESS \& BOX <br> $\$ 100$ <br> $941-629-5550$ |  |  |  |
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| FRI.-SAT. 9A-3P 166 Hi- <br> biscus Dr. P.G,I. Decor, Bahama Cabinet, $54^{\prime \prime}$ Round Table. Art, 50 Unique Tote Bags, Thermador 1000 CFM \& MODRE!! | ANDREW WY Christina's World solid wood fram | BED FRAME King Size, Free Boxsprings (2). No Mattress. \$25. 941-429-1577 <br> BUNK BEDS Solid Oak w/mattress. $31 / 2$ "post. ET brand \$400 941-698-2951 | 6070 ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES |  | Cables Roof Cover |
|  |  |  |  | $\frac{\text { Don't Wait to Fall to Calll }}{25 \text { Years Experience }}$ |  |
|  <br> SATURDAY 7:30-1 14270 Burnt Store Rd GREEN BARN SALE Lots of Furniture and Home Decor. | GERMAN DRAFTING/DRAWING instrument set vintage; with orig. box \$25 941-639-1517 |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ld } \\ & \text { caps } \\ & \text { cof } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  | COFFEE TABLE with 2 end tbls 3pc wood with dwrs, call/text for pics \$140 941-815-8999 COFFEE/SIDE TABLES/SETS various sizes and shapes starting at \$10 941-307-9211 | 1914 RECORD Tra La La \& Irving Berlin's Down in Chattanooga \$30 941-258-0512 |  |  |
| WEDNESAY 3 27 |  |  | 1918 D E McNicol Antique cal endar world time ceramic plate \$15 941-914-6945 | AB BARS, LLC | 941-769-1431 <br> isit DarsGolfCarts.com DELIVER FREE ( 25 MI.) |
|  |  |  |  | Free In Home Evaluation |  |
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## Prepping courts for pickleball

## By steve reilly

ENGLEWOOD - Thirty or more people turned out Monday morning at
the Tringali Recreational the Tringali Recreation Center to play a few games of pickleball in the center's symnasium.
Soon they will be able to play outside as well. "II's increasing in pop-
ularity" Englewood East ularity", Englewood East
resident Steve Bell said. resident Steve Bell said.
He's been Hes been playing for
three years at Tringal the Englewood Sports Complex or Rotonda West or the Englewood YMCA. Winter, summer or any other season, it's not unusual to see 30 or more people lining up at
Tringali for two-player Iringali for two-player
pickle ball competitions, pickle ball
Bell said. That's parks officials decided
to make more courts Tringali. A three-member Orlando-based NIDY ports Construction crew pent Monday beginning o transform the center's our tennis courts into multi-purpose courts that or pickleball.
Pickleball might be described as a hybrid of badminton, tennis and ping-pong. It's played on a badminton-size court hith a net about a plastic ball. high and a plastic ball.
According to the USA pickleball Association website, Washington state
businessman Bill Bell and businessman Bill Bell and hen Washington congressional representative with creating the sport with creating the sport to Pritchard's home after playing a weekend
round of golf. They found "sitting around and doing nothing."
The property had an old badminton court so ritchard and Bell looked for some badminton equipment and could not ind a full set of rackets," They improvised a game and started playing with perforated Wiffle band a perforated Wiffle ball." As the weekend prothat the ball bounced well on the asphalt surface and soon the net was lowered to 36 inches. The following weekend, Barney McCallum was introduce to the game at Pritchard's ome. Soon, the three men created rules, relying They kept in mind the original purpose, which
was to provide a game that the whole family Since that improvi sational weekend, the sport grew fast, especially Chong rettirees, and Charlotte County is attempting to keep up Charlotte County hosts the Peace River Picklers League at its South County Regional Park. All other pickleball activities and competitions are scheduled through programming.
The county now has 65 outdoor "blended courts" at the Ann \& Chuck Dever Regional, Bissett, Harbour Heights, Harold
Ave., Midway McGuire Ave., Midway, McGuire Rotonda, South County Regional, and Tringali parks. The county also has

10 indoor courts available to pickleballers. Charlotte intends to outdoor courts and four more indoor courts. County recreational staff has also purchased portable nets that are left
at the courts in Rotonda West and at Port Charlotte Beach parks as a pilot program. Pickleball at Gilchrist
Park comes under Park comes under the purview of the
Punta Gorda. The cost is nominal to reline tennis courts to accommodate pickleball when the courts are scheduled for resurfacing. Resurfacing can run the county $\$ 12,000$ or more, for pickleball can add only a couple of hundre dollars to the resurfacing.

Sentence: 45 days in jail Outstanding fees: $\$ 622$. Brandon I. Basit, 19 2500 block of Luther Road, Punta Gorda. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. withheld on a charge of withessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana. Sentence: six months of probation. Outstanding fees: $\$ 1,087$. $\bullet$ Matthew J. Elston, 27, 3700 block of Ash St.,
Punta Gorda. Charge: carPunta Gorda. Charge: car
rying a weapon in open. rying a weapon in open.
Sentence: 60 days in jail. Outstanding fees: $\$ 407$. - Justin M. Marquis, 23, 3300 block of Elkcam Blvd.., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams
of marijuana and possesof marijuana and posses
sion of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: 30 days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$372.

- Joshua J. Harding, 27,
6600 block of Elmwod 6600 block of Elmwood possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence credit for time served. Outstanding fees: $\$ 572$. - Carl W. Whited, 45, 4900 block of Cromey
Road, North Port. Charge: Road, North Port. Charge:
disturbing the peace disturbing the peace. served. Outstanding fees: $\$ 370$.
- Casey L. Green, 31, 2100 block of Corfell St., Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: eig months of probation. - Anthony S. Jasinski, 28, Depew, New York. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia Adjudication was withheld on a charge of
possessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana. A charge of giving a false name was dropped. Sentence: credit for time served and 12 months on probation. Outstanding fees: $\$ 1,590$.
- Clifford J. Owens Jr. 39, Fort Myers. Charge: phernalia. Adjudication was withheld on a charge of possessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana. Sentence: 30 days in jail and eight months of probation.
$\bullet$ Miquez D. Johnson,
24, St. Petersburg. Charge 24, St. Petersburg. Charge:
possession of drug parapossession of drug parion was withheld on a charge was withheld on a charge
of possessing not more of possessing not more na. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: $\$ 1,139$.
- Jason M. Gilmer, 39, homeless. Charges:
trespassing and posses trespassing and posses-
sion of a firearm or a concealed weapon by a concealed weapon by a 10 months in jail. Outstanding fees: $\$ 702$. - Eunice R. Hutchins, 45, 100 block of Rowla
Drive, Port Charlotte. Drive, Port Charlotte Sentence: 364 days in jail. Outstanding fees: $\$ 1,042$.


## BILL DUNSON'S WILD WORLD The wildlife in your own yard

It may be common to
think that inter think that interesting natural sights are only hill or in

$\binom{26}{2}$Bill DUNSON hill or in some ex-
otic place otic place.
But more But more
often than often than
not if you not if you
are alert to nature's DUNSON $\begin{aligned} & \text { sights and } \\ & \text { sounds, }\end{aligned}$ discover som you may great interest right in your backyard. We have some advantage in that our yard on Manasota Key
has been cultivated for 2 has been cultivated for 2 years as a natural habitat, but some remarkable areas some remark So before you rush off to the nature preserve for a hike, pause for a few moments and look around your yard. You may be surprised how many interesting critters occur there.
Bill Dunson is Professor Emeritus of Pennsylvania State University, thanks to a career spent entirely at
that institution, teaching that institution, teachin
and doing research. Always curious about nature, Bill has dedicated his life to learning and wharing his knowleds. Contact him atWDunson@comcast.net enjoyed hosting a family of screx placed on a palm tree. We hear them calling at night and enjoy seeing the female at the opening of the nest box this time of year.


PHOTOS BY BILL DUNSON
This is the brief season for flowering of one of the most remarkable of our exotic plants, the starburst (Clerodendrum quadriloculare) which has extraordinarily long flowers. It originated in New Guinea and the Philippines and is invasive in the Pacific Islands but has not yet caused problems here. But if you enjoy growing it be
sure and pull up all of the suckers which the plant sends out. It does not appear to set seed since only an unusual pollinator (perhaps a night-flying sphinx moth) would have the extraordinarily long tongue capable of reaching the bottom of the corolla tube.


A common sight on lawns are the flocks of white ibis. How often do we stop to think how remarkable it is that these ibis have accepted human-dominated environments as their own. They have transitioned from a primarily wetland species to feeding also on lawns. Their very long curved beaks are an efficient means of picking up small prey of all kinds that are caught by touch.


A common sight in our yard is the black racer which moves very rapidly, primarily on the ground searching for its usual prey of lizards. It is distinctly different from the rat snakes (corn and yellow) which climb trees very efficiently. It is of course harmless but when it occasionally slides right through an open door it may cause some consternation among those who are ophidio phobic.

We encourage butterflies such as this zebra heliconian by planting passionvines for the caterpillars and firebush for the adults. Toxins from the passionvines are retained in the adults and they advertise this by their bright colors. They fly rather slowly and seem aware of their protected


An occasional visitor which gets trapped on our front porch is this large twilight darner dragonfly. It is beautiful in a subdued fashion and it is a rare treat to hold this remarkable flying and insect-eating machine in your hand.


A predator that occurs in our house is not so warmly welcomed by humans. This is the wall or huntsman spider introduced from Asia, which runs fleetly along the walls and hides in very thin cracks. Although they can be intimidating, they are harmless and are indeed quite a boon in eating roaches. I prefer them to using toxic pesticides but regret that they may eat some of $m y$ prized geckos.

## Prime Minister May says she'll step down if Brexit deal OK'd

She would quit within weeks if agreement is passed and Britain leaves European Union

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May offered up her job in exchange for her Brexit deal Wednesday, telling colleagues she would quit within weeks if the agreement was passed and Britain left the European Union. May's dramatic concession that "there is a desire for a new approach - and new leadership" was a last-ditch effort to bring enough
reluctant colleagues on board to push her reluctant colleagues on board to push her twice-rejected EU divorce deal over the line.
It looked like it might not be enough, as a key Northern Ireland party said it would not be supporting the deal.


Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing street to attend her weekly Prime Minster's Questions at the House of Commons, in London, Wednesday.

## Alaska's Tlingit Code Talkers praised for secret WWII work

 knowing that he and other Alaska Natives had used their Tlingit language to outsmart the Japanese during World War II


Serviceman George Lewis Jr. of Sitka, Alaska, was among the group Serviceman George Lewis Jr. of Sitka, Alaska, was among the group
of long-deceased servicemen who are being hailed by the state in for their life-saving efforts during World War II.


Serviceman George Lewis Jr. of Sitka, Alaska, was one of the servicemen who helped the military outsmart the Japanese with
Tlingit codes they could not break.


Army veteran Richard Bean Sr. of Hoonah, Alaska, was among the group of men who had been forbidden to speak Tlingit as
schoolchildren in their southeast Alaska villages.

Alaska Natives used their Tlingit language to outsmart Japanese during World War II

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Army veteran Richard Bean Sr. died without anyone knowing that he and four other long-
deceased Alaska Natives had used their Tlingit language to outsmart the Japanese during World War II.
Now, they are finally being hailed in their home state for their lifesaving efforts as servicemen.
Earlier this month, legislators passed a formal citation honoring the Tlingit Code

Talkers. State flags were flown at half-staff and later presented to the men's families. Bean and the others had been
forbidden to speak Tlingit as forbidden to speak Tlingit as schoolchildren in their southeast Alaska military with unbreakable codes, as did their more well-known peers, Navajo Code Talkers.
The language of the Alaska Natives had been suppressed by missionaries and teachers trying to "civilize" them, said Rosita Worl, president of the Sealaska
Heritage Institute. The Juneau nonprofit
works to preserve and enhance the cultures of southeast Alaska's Tlingit Haida and Tsimshian tribes. Punishments for students who spoke Tlingit included having their mouths struck with rulers, Worl said. "We're finally ecstatic that there is this recognition that our people served this country, even served this country that wasn't always good to them," she said. The men's contributions went

TLINGIT|8

Charlotessille attacker pleads guilty to 29 hate crimes

Man drove his vehicle into a crowd of counter-protesters

## By DENISE LAVOIE

ap Legal Affatrs Writer
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. - An Ohio man pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal hate crime charges in a deadly
car attack at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Virginia, a case that stirred racial tensions across the country.
Under a plea agreement, James Alex Fields Jr. of Maumee, Ohio, pleaded guilty to 29 of 30 federal charges stem ming from the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017. He did not plead guilty to one count that carried a potential death penalty. His plea agreement says the death penalty Fias taken off the table
Fields appeared stoic, with hands hearing. He did not speak, except to repeatedly respond "yes, sir," when U.S.

CRIME ${ }^{8}$
US will reassign 750 border inspectors as illegal crossings rise by cedar attanasio Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas - The Trump administration said Wednesday it will temporarily reassign several hundred border inspectors as beleaguered forces already stationed along the U.S.-Mexico border struggle to keep pace with the growing number of migrant families who are showing up at the border in poor health and turning themselves in to agents to equest asylum.
Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said he reassignment of 750 border inspec ors would mean longer waits at crossings as the busy Easter holiday nears but that it was necessary to address what he called "an operational crisis." The reassigned officers will process migrants,

BORDER|8

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## Call

941-235-8892 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

## Parkland looks beyond therapy to reach teens after suicides

Community trying to connect with teens who are averse to traditional therapy
by Kelu kennedy
PARKLAND, Fla. - Days after the suicides of two student shooting, community leaders were frantically putting extra services in place Wednesday to try to connect with those hard-to-reach students who are averse to traditional therapy.
A local nonprofit had planned to open a teen wellness center near Marjory Stoneman Douglas
High School on April 30, offering free activities like karaoke night, yoga, kickboxing and
acupuncture for students who weren't interested in talking to a therapist. But Eagle's Hav opened ahead of schedule Monday to address emergency families.
"One teen just wanted to cry yesterday and didn't want to talk Another teen wanted to tell his story about the actual shooting, said Julie Gordon, a licensed therapist and program director of Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options, the nonprofit behind Eagle's Haven.
took place March 16. Cara Aie
told WFOR-TV her 18-year-old daughter Sydney had suffered from survivor's guilt - her the attack. Coral Springs police the attack. Coral Springs police
Officer Tyler Reik confirmed Monday that a Stoneman Douglas sophomore apparently killed himself Saturday, but officials were still awaiting autopsy results. The boy's name was not immediately released. The newly opened wellness center in a nondescript, mostly empty office space offered cookies, fruit and coffee for
those who want just to check it out until they start holding
after-school activities. The
students are on students are on spring break this week, making reaching them outside a central location
more difficult. In the aftermath of the Valentine's Day shooting that therapy groups have struggled to get traumatized students in the door. Some feel re-traumatized talking about it; some only want to talk to friends who were there and under stand what it's like; others still perceive a stigma around "One of the
been is that the parents want to bring the kids in to talk and then the kids come in and they don't we're just another therapist"" JAFCO executive director Sara Franco said. Their hope is that the wellin the door and offer an outlet to release some of those emotions, emphasizing that talk therapy is not the only solution. But free traditional therapy also
will be offered for those who want it, and therapists will even go to students' homes, if that's more comfortable

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Hail dings windshields, breaks windows in Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -A
series of hail storms in central series of hail storms in central
Florida dinged up car windFlorida dinged up car wind
shields and blew off pool sc shields and blew off pool se
in an unusual sight for the in an unusual sig
Sunshine State.
In tiny Trenton, the streets were covered in so much hail that it resembled a snow covering Wednesday morning. Workers from the public safety department in the city west of
Gainesville posted photos to Facebook showing a backhoe cleaning up the icy mess.
Florida Today reports that pool enclosures were shredded, and
windows were broken along the Space Coast.

## Deputy shoots, wounds

 teen during domestic violence callTAMPA, Fla. (AP) Authorities say a Florida deputy shot and wounded a teen during a domestic violence call. The Tampa Bay Times reports that the shooting occurred teen was hospitalized in critica condition.
Hillsborough Sheriff Chad Chronister says Deputy Daniel Estanislau responded to the Jasmine Terrace Apartments following two calls about someone bleeding after an attack. After the deputy arrived, he reported spotting a 17 -year-old male who attacker from the calls.

Teen dies after falling out of truck bed FREEPORT, Fla. (AP) Authorities say an Alabama teen has died after falling out of the bed of a pickup truck in Florida The Northwest Florida Daily Kaden Johnson of Pell City, Alabama, died Tuesday morning on the Clyde B. Wells Bridge near Freeport.

The Florida Highway Patrol reports the truck was crossing the bridge when Johnson fell out and was hit by a car. The car's driver pulled over, but the truck Johnson had fallen The driver filed a missing person's report with the Walton County Sheriff's Office when he reached his destination and noticed Johnson was missing.

## Florida may allow egal papers to be notarized online

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) -The Florida legislature is for people to have legal documents notarized online. The bill, HB 409, would make signing official documents, such as a will or power of attorney, quicker and more convenient in the state. Critics have expressed concerns that greater convenience could lead to more fraud especially among the eldery Daniel Perez, R-Miami, moved Tuesday through the House transportation and tourism
appropriations subcommittee
and will be considered next in the Judiciary Committee, the final step before a House vote A Senate version hasn't made as much progress.
Perez said he had traveled to Colombia recently, and he realized as he boarded the plane
that he forgot to assign power of attorney to his in-laws. Requiring his appearance in person before a Florida-commissioned notary made it impossible to fix his oversight, he said.

## Folice officer jailed on

child rape charge
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) Authorities say a Florida police officer faces rape charges after an image of a nude girl was found on his cellphone. Jacksonville Undersheriff Pat Ivey says 39-year-old Officer Matthew Harper Butler was charged Tuesday win baptery of a victim 12 years old He remains in jail and bond was set at $\$ 1$ million

## Florida Senate: Limit constitution changes to 1 subject

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) Florida voters could be asked to restrict the state's Constitution Revision Commission from placing items on the ballot that under a resolution unanimously passed by the Senate. Senators from both parties expressed concerns that voters are being forced to vote
for constitutional changes they don't support in order to approve changes they do support.
The commission meets every 20 years to suggest changes to the state constitution, which require approval from 60 per-
cent of Florida voters. This year it placed seven items on the ballot, five of which bundled different subjects together. An example is an amendment that bans oil drilling and state waters and also vaping in place where smoking is banned

## Florida could expand

 size, scope ofAlzheimer's committee
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - The Florida Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee
could be expanded in size and scope under a bill unanimously approved by the state House. The House applauded Wednesday after passing the bill sponsored by Republican Rep. Scott Plakon, who lost his wife to Alzheimer's disease last
The bill would expand the committee from 10 members to 15 , and it would have to include a sitting House and Senate member. The commit tee now makes recommendations to the Department of Elder Affairs. If the bill beco law, the committee would have to also submit an annual
report to the governor, Senate report to the governor, Senate
president and House speaker president and House speaker on Alzheimer's policy.

Florida House, Senate panels OK budget plans \$400M apart

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - Florida House and Senate budget writers on Wednesday approved spending plans for next fiscar year that are about $\$ 400$ milion apart and both posed by Republican Gov Ron DeSantis.
The legislative budget plans easily cleared appropriations committees in both chambers, readying them for a floor vote Ultimately, the House and Senate will convene a conference committee to work out a
final budget for the fiscal year final budget for the fiscal year is the only bill lawmakers must pass during the 60-day legislative pass during the 60 -day legislative session, which ends May 3. The House budget clocks in proposing about $\$ 90.3$ billion. Counting the governor, all three plans are significantly higher than the current Florida budget. Key differences include overall and the environment a $\$ 30$ mil and the environment, a $\$ 30$
lion split on school mental lion split on school mental Michael recovery, affordable housing and whether to keep the Visit Florida tourism promotion office alive. It's set to expire in October under current law. Ultimately, the legislative budgets moving out of commit the first markers in a debate that will consume much of the next month in Tallahassee.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Drug suspect caught fleeing Australia by Sea-Doo
SYDNEY (AP) - A British man wanted on drug charges has been thwarted in a daring bid to flee Australia for Papua New Guinea on a motorized personal watercraft.
Australian police said the on his Sea-Doo craft from on his Sea-Doo crat fusm
the northern tip of Australia's Queensland state, carrying enoughfuel to make the $86-\mathrm{mil}$ trip across Torres Strait, and possibly armed with a crossbow But after an Australian Border Force vessel was deployed to search for him, he was locat destination at Sabai Islan Australian territory near the southern coast of New Guinea

## Mozambique confirms

5 cases of cholera after cyclone MAPUTO, Mozambique (TNS) - Authorities in
flood-ravaged Mozambiqu confirmed five cases of cholera on Wednesday, after aid groups
warned of a possible outbreak of the waterborne disease in of the waterborne disease of cyclone Idai. National Director of Medic Assistance Ussene Issa confirmed the cases of cholera to dpa by phone, saying all five were reported in the Munhava area of Beira.
The World Health
Organization has already
shipped some 900 shipped some 900,000 doses
of an oral cholera vaccine to of an oral cholera vaccine to
Mozambique. The WHO is also providing expertise to also providing expertise to set
up three cholera treatment centers, including an 80-bed facility in Beira.
Given the sheer amount
of water that passed through Beira during cyclone Idai and it's not surprising that there are outbreaks of waterborne disease like cholera in the city, the charity Doctors Withou Wednesday.
The United Nations also warned of the risk of diarrhe and malaria
"Flood waters are beginning to recede west of Beira City. The outflow of flood waters, however, poses new challenges, as the area that was previously underwater is now a large
muddy swamp," the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a statement.
It has been almost two weeks since the cyclone hit southern Africa, with Mozambique bearing the brunt and parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi also devastated.
died in than 700 people have died in the three countries of thousands have been displaced. The death toll is expected to rise considerably. At least 3 million people have been affected in total, according to U.N. figures, by what has been called one of the worst cy-clone-related disasters ever to

## FTC crackdown stops billions of illegal robocalls

By RON HURTIBISE

Operations responsible for more than a billion illegal robocalls, including one based in South Forida, have agreed
to permanently stop the harassing activities, according to the Federal Trade Commission.
The four operations, each comprised of numerous affiliated companies, are defendants in civil lawsuits by the FTC aimed at seizing their assets and stopping them from making fraudulent calls. Each
faced charges they violated the FTC Act and the agency's Telemarketing Sales and the agency's Telemarketing Sales Under court orders announced Tuesday that have been finalized or are expected to be finalized in coming days, the four companies are barred from robocalling and most telemarketing activities, including use of automatic dialer programs, and will pay financial judgments One of the companies provided the software that the FTC is blaming
for making more than a billion illegal robocalls.
Robocalls remain a large and growing problem in the U.S., as sophisticated operations have learned to target mobile phones with spoofed caller IDs Last week, phone service providers AT\&T and Comcast announced succes completion of a test of a new Caller ID authentication system using digital call's display ID isn't being spoofed. calrs display ID isnt being spoofed. to make the services available to their customers later in the year. Boca Raton-based Pointbreak Media was shut down in May 2018 amid allegations the company falsely claimed to represent Google and threatened businesses with removal from Google search results unless they paid a one-time f
Defendants affiliated with Pointbreak that agreed to settle with the FTC include Michael Pocker and companies Modern Spotlight LLC, Modern Spotlight Group


## FAA defends its reliance on aircraft makers to certify jets

from lawmakers on Capitol Hill over the two deadly Boeing crashes, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday defended the FAA's practice of relying on aircraft makers to help certify their own planes for flight.
Acting FAA Administrator Daniel Elwell said the strategy has "consisten produced safe aircraft designs for decades." And he said the agency would need 10,000 more employees and an additional $\$ 1.8$ billion a year to do all the work now done by designated employees of the companies it regulates. Under the self-certifying program, these employees perform tests and in-
spections needed to win safety approv spections needed to win safety approv-
als, with the FAA overseeing their work. als, with the FAA overseeing their work.
The approach is credited with holding The approach is credited with holding the rollout of new models.
But in the wake of the air disasters

Ethiopi Boeings new 737 Max jetliner in Ethiopia and Indonesia, that practice overly cozy relationship between the FAA and the industry Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said at a Senate subcommittee hearing that delegating safety work to the
companies puts "the fox in charge of the companies
"The fact is that the FAA decided to do safety on the cheap, which is neither safe nor cheap," Blumenthal said. He vowed to introduce legislation to
change the system.
At the same hearing, the Transportation Department's inspector general, Calvin Scovel III, said the FAA
plans to significantly revamp its overplans to significantly revamp its over-
sight of aircraft development by July. But the department gave no indication it intends to abandon the collaborative approach.

## Man pleads guilty to kidnapping Jayme Closs, killing parents

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press
Associated Press
BARRON, Wis. - A
Wisconsin man pleaded wisconsin man pleade uilty Wednesday to ayme Closs and killing her parents, in a move that spares the girl held captive in a remote cabin for three months from the possible trauma of having to testify at his trial.
Jake Patterson, 21 , snifsed and his voice caught as he pleaded guilty to homicide and one count of kidnapping. As part of plea deal, prosecutors dropped a count of armed burglary. Patterson faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced May 24; Wisconsin does not have the death penalty. e left the courtroom Patterson turned back and said "Bye, Jayme." His victim wasn't there. Patterson had said he would plead guilty in a etter sent this month to Minneapolis TV station


Jake Patterson appears for a hearing at the Barron County ustice Center, Wednesday, in
saying he didn't want the
Closs family "to worry
bout a trial."
Patterson admitted kid napping Jayme after killg her parents, James and Denise Closs, on Oct. 15 Barron, about 90 miles northeast of Minneapolis. Jayme escaped in January, after 88 days in Patterson's cabin in near the small, solated town of Gordon, me 60 miles from her home.

The plea, coupled with an earlier decision by prosecutors not to bring charges in the county,
where Jayme was held, increases the chances that the details of her time in captivity will remain private. Patterson stoically an swered "yes" and "yeah" to repeated questions from Barron County Judge James Babler about whether he understood as he responded "guilty", to each count, he could be heard sniffling. He paused for several seconds after the judge asked him about the kidnapping charge before stuttering, "guilty."
Defense attorney Richard Jones told Babler that Patterson "wanted to we met him" and brushed off strategies presented to him, including trying to suppress his statements to investigators.
"He rejected all that and has decided this is what he wants to do," Jones said.

## Trump Fed pick Stephen Moore owes $\$ 75,000$ to IRS

By CHRISTOPHER CONDON and JOE LIGHT Bloomberg News
WASHINGTON - Stephen Moore, whom President Donald Trump said he'll nominate for a seat on the Federal
Reserve, owes more than $\$ 75,000$ in Reserve, owes more than $\$ 75,000$ in taxes and other penal
A federal tax lien filed in the circuit ourt for Montgomery County, Md. where Moore owns a house, says that the government won a judgment against Moore for $\$ 75,328.80$. The January 2018 filing said it was for unpaid taxes from the 2014 tax year and could accrue additional penalties and other costs. An IRS spokesman said he was
on the case. A White House spokesman declined to comment. Moore referred questions about the tax debt to his wife, Anne Carey.
Carey said the dispute originated with deduction on Moore's 2014 tax return in which he accidentally claimed the sum of his alimony and child-support payments to his former wife, when only
alimony is deductible. Because Moore had moved, he never received notifications from the IRS after the agency The IRS disallowed the entire deduction and added penalties and interest, Carey said. She said she and Moore have
now resolved to pay the lien as quickly now resolved to pay the lien as quickly
as possible but will continue to press as possible but will continue
their dispute with the IRS.
She said the couple had overpaid their taxes in more recent years by about \$50,000 and will seek that amount in a refund when they file their 2018 tax return.
"It was not an attempt at defrauding the U.S. government," Carey said.
Carey said the White House hasnt Carey said the White House hasn't raised alarm about the tax lien, which
was reported earlier by the Guardian. was reported earlier by the Guardian.
Trump announced last week he would nominate Moore, a senior fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, for an open seat on the Fed's board of governors. The White House hasn't yet ficialy submitted Moore's nominaconfirm him confirm him

## Federal judge blocks Medicaid work rules in two states

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal judge
blocked Medicaid work requirements in blocked Medicaid work requirements in
two states on Wednesday, dealing a blow two states on Wednesday, dealing a blow
to one of the Trump administration's to one of the Trump administration's marquee efforts to
elf-sufficiency.
U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg Washington issued two decisions or low-income people in Arkansas and entucky pose numerous obstacles to getting health care that haven't been adequately resolved by federal and state
He sent the federal Health and Human Services Department back to the drawing board.
Work requirements are already in ffect in Arkansas, but Kentucky's awsuits. Both states want "able-bodied" dults who get health insurance through the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion to work, study, volunteer or
activities.
But advocates for the poor say that
Medicaid is a health Medicaid is a health care program and that work requirements have no place in it. Boasberg did not resolve that core issue.
nstead, he wrote that HHS approval of the Arkansas requirement was "arbitrary and capricious because it did not address ...whether and how the project would implicate the 'core' objective of Medicaid: the provision of medical coverage to the needy."
He used similar language in his ruling on Kentucky.
Nationally, some 12 million people are covered by the Medicaid expansion, Officials in GOP-led states have argued that work requirements and other that work requirements and other
measures such as modest premiums are needed to ensure political acceptance for the expansion.

## US stocks stumble, erasing some gains

(AP) - Technology and health care companies drove a broad slide in U.S. market's solid gains from a day earlier. The sell-off put the Dow Jones Industrial Average on track to end the month with a loss and marked the second drop for the benchmark S\&P 500 index this week.
While U.S. stocks remain on track to finish the quarter with solid gains slowing global economy and worrislowing global economy and worri-
some signals coming from the bond market.
The yield on the benchmark 10 -year
Treasury note continued to decline


## Volunteers should err on the side of vaccination caution

DEAR DR. ROACH: 1 am a 74 -year-old female who would like to volunteer at one of the local hospitals. My bloodwork indicated that German meassles and chickenpox German measles and chickenpox, but not for mumps. My personal smart to get the MMR vaccination and that the benefits outweigh any possible side effects which uncommon.
What is your advice, given the fact I can opt out of getting this vaccine with a physician's 0 ? ? an hesitant about possible side effects, especially at my age, and because there is not a single vaccine only for mumps, I'd be getting injected with vaccines I do not need. I also have not heard of any outbreaks of mumps in this country, unlike those of whooping cough. - M.M. ANSWER: People born before 1957 generally are considered to be immune to measles, mumps


Dr. Roach
and rubella. However, perhaps 1 or 2 percent of people may still not be immune to mumps, whether by waning immunity from natural infection over time or never havin been exposed.
For a health care worker (that includes the very valuable volunt ers who help Many hospital reas), rule for someone in your unusual situation.
Unfortu

Unfortunately, there have been
recent outbreaks of mumps, many

Dream of joining Marine Corps is shot down by mom

## DEAR ABBY: I'm

originally from El Salvador. have been living in the U.S for five years, have been studying English for four years and I have my GED. I want to join the U.S. Marine Corps because it is my dream. I want to do it because I think that service to this country is the best thing I can do. I want to protect this country, and I want my family to be proud of me.
Here is the problem: My mom and my wife don't want me to do it because they say it is dan gerous. What should I do? -Dreaming in Houston DEAR DREAMING If joining the United States Marine Corps is your dream, then following your dream is what you should do. Now is the time to have a heart-to-heart talk with your wife because this decision will have an impact on her life as well as yours. DEAR ABBY: I raised my children to be respectful responsible adults who are career- and family-oriented. Both are college graduates, married and successful. My eldest daughter recently announced that she has been "going through something" and surprised us


## Dear Abby

with a tattoo on her shoulder sporting her children's names on a colorful, rather large background. I was shocked because she works at a large banking frm and was recently pro moted as a senior financial nvestor. I'm now afraid will impede her care advancement, and also concerned it will encourage her two young daughters to get tattoos.
Am I overreacting? - Disappointed in North Carolina
DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Yes, you are overreacting. In a situation like this, a mother should ask her daughter what "things" she has been going hrough, and what that tattoo means to her. The mother should also recos nize that her daughter is an adult now, and her choice to apply body art is just that - a choice.

## Know your doctor's details

Dear Heloise: I work at a busy surgery center in a medical complex. Mul tiple times a day, PATIENTS WANDER IN looking for their physician's office. They don't know the doctor's name, phone number or address phone number or address, and their ride has them at the door.
This leaves us in a difficult spot. I don't have time to find a wheelchair and take the patient to a building on the far end of the complex for an appointment.
Please make sure you have the doctor's office information and phone number when you come to an appointment. I have no
 problem helping people, but unfortunately, I can't help when I don't have the information necessary. Along these same lines lease don't drop people off and drive away unless you know for absolute positive that they are in the ight place. - Janey Mae, Omaha, Neb.
associated with colleges. In the U.S. in 2018, there were over 2,000 reported mumps cases. My opinion is that you should either get the MMR vaccine (the risks for someone in their 70 s are still smali), or inthersin for neutheak DEARDR
have not seen any comch: 1 have not seen any comments on cyanoarrylate for My wife cut her finger recently, and it took quite a long time for it to clot (she is a healthy and fit 70 , walking 1,500 miles a year). That situation prompted thoughts of cyanoacrylate when there recently was a sale on single-use tubes at a local store.
Are there any negatives to keeping some in our first aid kit for sealing a deeper cut after cleansing? - L.V.L.L.
ANSWER
ANSWER: Cyanoacrylate
is used in hospitals for wound
closures (Dermabond is the name of one such prescription medicafion), as they are waterproof, have antimicrobial properties and are easy to use - for experts. Cyanoacrylate isn't appropriate for home or field use, as the wound needs to be appropiate in size, depth and clean Closing an infected wound is a terrible idea and trying to a wound that is too deep is not likely to be effective Lori Boyle, likely to be effective. Lori Boyle, a
advanced nurse practitioner and wound care expert I spoke to, said, 'The only time that should be done is after the zombie apocalypse and there's no medical provide available."
A consumer product that I think is a better fit for a first aid kit is a liquid formulation bandage made with an antiseptic, benzethonium chloride, in a formulation with nitrocellulose and castor oil, which dries to protect the wound (NewSkin is one brand nam

that Scrambled word game By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: POOCH FROND TICKET WEAKEN



THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.


MA B E B A
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
mibarend

## 7 LITTLE W©RDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parenth
represent the number of letters in each solution. Each leter
conbination can be used only once, but all etter combinations represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter
combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations CLUES SOLUTIONS
1 messing up (9)
2 "New in Town" star Rene (9) 3 living quarters, in slang (4) 4 tiny character Tom (5)
5 worked with Pat Sajak, say (8) 6 falling down heavily (8)
7 with obvious zeal (6)

| ID | TAM | ING | ST | GS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| UMB | PL | DI | AV | ZEL |
| ING | LWE | ED | PER | HO |
| GER | LY | CO | TH | OPP |

## Challenger


"If you were a monster, would you want to hide under the bed or in the closet with Marmaduke around?"

## Cryptoquip 20211 by King Features Symuicate

## 3-28

FN E LZEKH DN OMFKEPEZU
FB JKDPK RD LU ZUBFBREKR RD LZUEJFKC, FR MEB F

CDDH OZEOJ ZUODZH
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT IS THE TERM FOR SOMEONE WHO'S EXAMINING THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT GERALD? A FORD EXPLORER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R

## SPORTS

SLEUTH
SPORTS WE "PLAY" NOT
"DO"OR"GO"
BXV T Q OM-JH F C A Y W Y
N UR P N L J Y H F D B Z X B
VODHTR Q HEOMRRAG
K P T A C I H S F K D E S B U
Z I Y N R WVATRCK C O R
NNLD I TKUIC E O H F D
C G A B CMS Q OTZOHXW

VO L L E Y B A L L R S Q O N
MN K L T L L A B T O O F J I
Wednesday's unlisted clue: ECHO
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions
forward. backward, up, down and diagonally.
That
Badminton Football
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Baseball } & \text { Football } & \text { Rugby } & \text { Tag } \\ \text { Handball } & \text { Snocker } & \text { Tennis } \\ \text { Bakketball } & \text { Hockey } & \text { Soccer } & \text { Volleyball } \\ \text { Cricket } & \text { Ping-Pong } & \text { Squash } & \\ & & & \end{array}$


BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall


MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

baby blues by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau


## TODAY'S

 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Thursday, March 28, 2019

## GOREN BRIDGE

## WITH BOB JONES

EXTRA CHANCES
East-West vulnerable, South deals big honor in diamonds. The slam was

| NORTH | a good one, needing only for East to <br> hold at least one of the two missing |
| :--- | :--- |
| club honors. However, after West's |  | club honors. However, after West's

normal king of hearts lead, South found a line of play that didn't rely on East's club holding.
South discarded the jack of spades South discarded the jack of spades
from dummy while winning the from dummy while winning the
opening heart lead with his ace. He opening heart lead with his ace. He trumps, and led a trump to his queen. South discarded a low club from
dummy on the ace of spades and dummy on the ace of spades and
ruffed another spade. ruffed another spade. nine lost to
A club to the
West's queen, leaving West with West's queen, leaving West with
the unpleasant choice of leading a the unpleasant choice of leading a
club back into declarer's ace-10, or leading a heart from his queen. He
chose a low heart. South discarded a chose a low heart. South discarded a
club from dummy and won with his club from dummy and won with his
jack for his twelfth trick. Well done! Note that if West had another spade, the lead of that spade would be ruffed in dummy and South's long spade would be established as a winner.
(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this
newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.
E-mail: tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

## JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9 . Each number can appear only once in each row,

column and $3 \times 3$ block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the przz. column and $3 \times 3$ block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difticulty |  | 6 | 2 | 7 |  |  |  | 9 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Rating: BRONZE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 6 |  | 2 |

|  | 6 | 2 | 7 |  |  |  | 9 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 6 |  | 2 |
| 1 | 9 |  |  | 6 |  |  | 4 |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  | 7 |  |  | 9 |
|  |  | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 |  |  |
| 5 |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 6 |
|  | 5 |  |  | 7 |  |  | 1 | 8 |
| 9 |  | 6 | 8 |  |  |  |  | 5 |
|  | 1 |  |  |  | 5 | 9 | 6 |  |


| 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 |  | 5 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 |  | | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 |  | | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 |  | 5 | | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
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| 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
|  | 3 | 5 |  | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE Every answer is a rhyming 1. Crazy boy for a lass (1)

|  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

2. Sand trap iron outer surface (1)
3. Boat cap'n's dainty soup tastings

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

4. Toon explorer's charismatic glows (2)
5. Parisians tightly grip, as fists (1)

| 5. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

6. Do stucco work quicker (2)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |







PEANUTS By Charles Schulz

the wizard of id By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis
mOther goose and grimm by Mike Peters


DILBERT By Scott Adams

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { I HEAR } \\ & \text { YOURE } \\ & \text { DATING A } \end{aligned}$ | THAT IS ABSURD AND |  | THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT FIVE PEOPLE | $\stackrel{5}{6}$ | I MEAN, YOU'D HAVE TO BELIEVE ALL FIVE OF THEM ARE IDIOTS. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| UNICORN. | UNTRUE. ( |  | TOLD ME IT WAS TRUE? <br> - ) mos | 碒 | INCLUDING <br> YOU, IT'S <br> SIX. ${ }^{\text {mon }}$ |

Trump appoints Wall Street executive to arts board despite sexual misconduct scandal embroiling his business

By CHRIS SOMMERFELDT
New York Dally News
NEWYORK - Presiden Donald Trump tapped executive this week to serve as a trustee on a prestigious performing arts board - even though the financial honcho's company is embroiled in a sex
misconduct scandal. Marc Stern, a major Republican donor and the chairman of Los Angeles-based asset management business TCW, was appointed by Trump on Tuesday to serve a six-year term as a
trustee on the board of the trustee on the board of the
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the Performing Arts
in Washington, D.C. As a trustee, Stern will play

## BORDER

## FROM PAGE 1

provide transportation and perform hospital watches for migrants who require medical attention It is unknown when they duties.
McAleenan spoke in front of the metal fencing that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico, after
a delay that followed the a delay that followed the

## CRIME

## FROM PAGE 1

District Judge Michael Urbanski asked him if knowingly and voluntarily. Under the plea agreement, Fields admitted that he intentionally drove his car into the crowd because
 of their
race, color,
religion, or religion, or
national national
origin. origin.
Urbanski Urbanski
scheduled scheduled
sentencing or July 3 . Fields faces
life sentence. $\qquad$ Fields, 21, was convicted court of first-degree murder and other state charges for killing anti-racism activist Heather Heyer injuring dozens of others. A jury found that Fields intentionally plowed his

## TLINGIT

## FROM PAGE 1

undisclosed for decades because the U.S. military had kept the unbroken codes secret in case they "Their orders were not to talk about it," Ozzie Sheakley, an Army veteran and Tlingit leader, said about the five Alaska Natives. "They took those orders seriously,"
Even their closes relatives had no clue about relatives had no clue abou
the wartime endeavors of the wartime endeavors of and Robert "Jeff" David Sr. of Haines; Sitka brothers and Navy men Mark Jacobs Jr. and Harvey Jacobs; and Sitka resident George Lewis Jr., who served in the Army. Bean's wife died before Congress posthumously recognized the men. His
85 -year-old nephew, Ron 85-year-old nephew, Ron
Williams, never knew either, even though the two were close.
liams said there was

## BREXIT

## FROM PAGE 1

of the next stage of negotiations, which will determine Britain's futur relations with the EU.
In a packed meeting In a packed meeting of described by participants as "somber," May finally
part in administering the center's programming. Its unclear if the presiStern to the spot that his company has since January 2018 been ensnared in a court battle stemming from sexual misconduct allegations made by former employee. man declined to comment Sara Tirschwell, who used to work as an investor for Stern's asset powerhouse, alleges in a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court that her former boss, Jess Ravich, pressured her into having sex on multiple occasions. hen she began refusing hilleges Ravich stopped backing her asset fund,
apprehension of several migrants who had crossed a shallow spot on the Rio
Grande nearby and turned Grande nearby and turne
themselves in. themselves in.
Arrests along the Mexican border jumped to 66,450 in February, up
149 percent from a year 149 percent from a year the Border Patrol's El Pas sector, which stretches across New Mexico and much of West Texas, were about eight times higher than they were a year ago
making it nearly impossible for her to adequately do her job.
Tirschwell says she then filed a complaint with the company's head of human resources, who pledged o investigate the matter. But just nine days later, he company abruptly fired her, claiming she had violated company policy by tipping off an investor possible deal. Tirschwell contends in her suit that her firing was the result of her coming forward with sexual misconduct allegations and is demanding $\$ 30$ million n damages from TCW, claiming gender discrim
ination, contract breach nation, contract breach works at TCW.

March is shaping up to
be even busier. McAleenan said the agency was on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry during the month, up about 30 percent from February and about double About 55,000 will have arrived as families, including 40,000 children. The commissioner said the border was at "a breaking point," language that is consistent with the

## Iraq war hero's family

 presented Medal of HonorWASHINGTON (AP) -
The son of an Army staff sergeant awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor by President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he wants his father to be remembered as
the best parent and the best parent and best
soldier anyone could ever soldier
ask for.
And that's exactly how Travis Atkins will be remembered, Trump assured Atkins' son, Trevor Oliver.
Atkins, 31, of Bozeman, 2007 while trying to subdue a suspected Iraq insurgent in a town near Baghdad.
After realizing the man was trying to detonate a suicide vest, Atkins wrapped his body around
the man and threw him the man and threw him
to the ground, away from to the ground, away from
administration's portrayal of a state of crisis. President Donald Trump last month declared a national emergency to obtain military funds for construction of his prized border wall. While arrests are still well below highs of the early
2000s, the surge of famili and children has tested U.S. authorities. Customs and Border Protection is taking more than 60 migrants
to the hospital each day,


## ALMANAC

Today is Thursday, March 28 he 87th day of 2019. There are

Today in history
On March 28, 1979,
America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Iland plant near Middletown,

## On this date

In 1797, Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire received a patent for a washing machine.
In 1898, the U.S. Surreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S.
Jesse Owens.
In 1999, NaTO broadened its attacks on Yugoslavia to target Serb military forces in Kosovo in the fifth straight night of airstrikes; thousands of refugees flooded into Albania and Macedonia from Kosovo.
Supreme Court threw out the death penalty in a rape-and murder case because five of the trial jurors had consulted the Bible and quoted Scripture during deliberations. (The U.S.S Suprem Court refused to consider reinstating the death sentence
of Robert Harlan who ended being resentenced to life in prison for the murder of cocktail waitress Rhonda Maloney.)
Today's birthdays
Author Mario Vargas Llosa is 83. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 78. Movie director Mike Newell is 77. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 76. Philippines Presiden Rodrigo Duterte is 74. Actress Dianne Wiest is 7 7. Country singer
Reba McEntire is 64.0 Ilymic gold Reba MCEntire is 64.0 Olympic gold Actress Alexandra Billings is 57. Rapper Salt i s 53. Actress Tracey Needham is 52. Actor Max Perlich is 51. Movie director Brett Ratner is 50 . Country singer Rodney Atkins is 50 . Actor Vince Vaughn is 49. Rapper Mr. Cheeks is 48. Actor Katt Nathanson is 46. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 43. Actress Annie Wersching is 42. Actress Julia Stiles is 38 . Singer Lady Gaga is 33. Electronic musician Clayton

Bible verse
In this Aug. 12, 2017, photo, people fly into the air as a vehicle is driven into a group of protesters demonstrating against a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, va.
 hope that this plea pro-
vides some closure and
ther did not want prosecutors Heather."


In 2013, Congress
recognized the Cod recognized the Code
Talkers, who were Talkers, who were
posthumously awarded silver medals. Sheakley als received a Congressiona
Gold Medal on behalf of Gold Medal on behalf of
the entire Tlingit tribe the entire Tlingit tribe.
Alaska state Rep. and Tlingit Vietnam veteran Bill Thomas thought state recognition would soon recogni
follow.
"I just waited and waited and waited," Thomas said. "I finally said,'"Hey, it's time to pay tribute to these men."'
State lawmakers agreed after Thomas and the after Thomas and the pushed the idea. The role the men played in history was a stunning discovery for the family o George Lewis Jr. His son, Ray Lewis, was born after the war and never knew his father was in the military. "I'm very proud of it" Ray Lewis said of the new
recognition. "My father was recognition. "My father was
instrumental in saving a lot of lives out there."

## previously called a "humil-

to go, although she did not set a departure date. "I am prepared to leave this job earlier than I intended in order to do what is right for our country and our party," she said, according to a transcript Anti-EU lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg, who has

is 33 . lectro
Knight is 31 .
"In whom we have redemption through $H$ lis blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
Nothing less andossians 1:14 Nothing less and nothing
more can settle the sin question more can settle the sin question
in our lives. "The blood of Jesus hour lives. "The blood of Jesus from all sins." - The application is in acknowledging that He died or us and we cannot really live without Him.

## ODD NEWS

Boo light special? Market defends against ghost claim WILMINGTON, Mass. (AP) - A New England supermarket chain is spiriting away rumors
that one of its stores is that one of
haunted.
A spokeswoman for A spokeswoman for Market Basket says in a statement to The Boston know all of our stores ghost-free" after some one posted on social media this month about

## Sports



## Changing tradition

Assessing the impact of NASCAR's decision to uproot its schedule, which had kept races at track on the same date for decades.
See the story on page 8.

## - NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

## Seminoles face Zags without emotional leader

Cofer, Florida State's senior forward, is on leave following the death of his father

By JOE REEDY

ap Sports Writer
ANAHEIM, Calif. Phil Cofer is not with Florida State but he was very much on the minds of his teammates as they practiced Wednesday. The Seminoles are in the Sweet 16 for the second straight year but Georgia preparing for Georgia preparing for Saturday. Mike Cofer died on March 21 following a long illness.
Florida State (29-7) will
face top-seeded Gonzaga in the West regional semifinal Thursday, with
the winner facing either Michigan or Texas Tech on Saturday for a spot in the Final Four.
Fellow senior Terance Mann said he has talked to Cofer over the past couple days and said he is doing better.
"He just wished us luck, told us he will be watching, just talking about the plan was," Mann said. Cofer received a call in the locker room in

Hartford, Connecticut, after Florida State's first-round victory over of his father's death. Mik Cofer, who played 10 seasons in the NFL for the Detroit Lions, battled amyloidosis for over a decade. It is a rare diseas in which an abnormal protein builds up in organs with the potential to
cause many health issues cause many health issu
It is the same disease which caused Matt Millen to get a heart transplant last Christmas Eve.
Phil Cofer remained

with the team for their second-round victory over Murray State before
flying home the following day. day. Hamilton said Cofer originally intended to join the team in California, but those plans changed once he returned home and learned ab
arrangements.
"Once they sat down
a family and discussed it, a family and discussed it,
it became obvious that it became obvious that
the best thing for him to do was to sacrifice being out here with his
teammates and take care of the family business, and I agree with
Hamilton said. Cofer has been the team's emotional leade the past two seasons. He led the team in scoring last season, averaging 12.8 points as Florida State made the Elite Eight. Cofer has been plagued by injuries this 7.4 points and missed 11 games due to a foot injury.
Cofer also did not
play in either NCAA

Tournament game last week due to a right foot injury. a great teammate" said a great teammate," said
sophomore forward Mifondu Kabengele, who leads the Seminoles in scoring ( 13.4 points per game). "Whatever he has been going through this season has been tough.
We understand. We are going to play hard for him and get him through it this time." Hamilton, who is in COFER|6

## - HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: Charlotte 3, Dublin Coffman 1

## Koch goes the distance, stops Shamrocks' bats

After retiring first nine batters, Tarpons' ace gets first complete game, posts five strikeouts


Charlotte pitcher Cam Koch began the game against Dublin Coffman by retiring the first nine batters. He earned the 3-1 victory by throwing a complete game with five strikeouts.

## $\square$ MLB <br> Rays realize importance of strong start to season

Tampa Bay hosts Opening Day against the Astros with last year's 4-13 start behind them

## By EDUARDO ENCIN

Tampa Bay Times
ST. PETERSBURG - As the Rays open Houston Astros Thursday at Tropicana Field, they don't need to be remind ed about how important it is to have a strong start Their fantastic flurry to a 90 -win season is ber about 2018 , but the ber about 2018, but the
difference between a third-place finish and potentially a postseason berth was a horrid begin ning to the season that saw the Rays open 4-13. This year, they open up with their first two series at home. Their first seven
games will be against an Astros team that won 103 games last season and a Rockies club that had the fourth-most wins in the
National League with 91 "It's like a little taste of the playoffs right there to see what they got and how they went to the playoffs last year," shortstop Willy Adames said. "That makes us wor to the playoffs and thent to the playoffs and that's


The Rays' first nine games last season were against division heavyweights Boston and New York, and after winning Opening Day, they los eight straight against
those teams. By the end of that 17-game stretch, the Rays were already $10^{1 / 2}$ games back in the American League East.
They would then win They would then win eight straight to get back $1 / 2$ games of the division lead, but they wouldn't get any closer for the res of the year because of their poor start. "We got off to a rough start, a horrible start and we were able to come Kevin Cash said. "But Kevin Cash said. "But
ideally we'd like to flip the script a little bit. ... But this team has weathered that, or some of them have."

RAYS|3

## By ChUCK BALLARO

 PUNTA GORDA - It was going to take a lot of convincing from Charlotte High School pitcher Cam Koch to keep coach Lovell Cudjo from taking him out of th game.But But his teammates talked him out of it, and turned out to be the right move as he slammed the door on the Dublin Coffman team from Ohio in a 3-1 Charlotte win Wednesday. Koch allowed two hits, an unearned run and a
walk while striking out walk while striking out
five for his first career complete game. But after surrendering a leadoff walk in the seventh, Cudjo came out with the intent of pulling him with the tying run coming to the plate. "I asked him if he
wanted the game and h wanted the game and he
said yes. I told him he said yes. I told him he
had to finish it. The tean came in and told me they had it," Cudjo said. The move paid off as Bryce Hostetler hit into a 4-6-3 double play to end the Shamrocks' final chance.
"It was all about

## ■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Gators' Polite moves on from 'terrible' combine

Weight, hamstring cited in subpar effort by matt baker Tampa Bay Times

GAINESVILLE Former Florida edge rusher Jachai Polite mance at last month's NFL scouting combine the same way many draft pundits did. Terrible.
The all-SEC talent arrived in Indianapolis as a projected top-20 NFL draft pick and left as someone who might
slip into the third round Polite was slower than expected. Heavier, too. He tweaked his hamstring, bombed his news conference and struggled through his conversations with NFL personnel.
confidence. I was more worried about getting
ground balls and letting my teammates get the outs," Koch said. Koch retired the first nine batters. However, Dublin Coffman (1-1) had its own ace, Ryan Ebeling, who matched Koch pitch for pitch, striking
out nine of the first 11 out nine of the first 11
batters as the teams we batters as the teams went
scoreless through three with help from the strong wind blowing in.
The Shamrocks finally broke the tie in the fourth. Spencer Eiselt reached on an error and was bunted to second. Luke Bartemes singled to put runners on the Bartman drove in a run with a single to make it 1-0.
Charlotte (6-3) re-
sponded in the bottom sponded in the bottom of the fourth as Bryce Hayse doubled and came home on Aaron Martins triple to ties the game.
John Dominguez drove John Dominguez drove in game-winning run on a single to make it 2-1. Kevin Conway added an RBI single in the fifth to give the Tarpons an insurance run. "We have to make adjustments. We've pitched
well, but we've waited unwell, but we've waited un-
til the fifth or sixth inning til the fifth or sixth inning Cudjo said. "We were taking pitches we should be hitting and decided to just hit the fastball." Hayse had two hits and a run scored for Charlotte. Ebeling pitched five innings, striking out 10 while allowing six hits without allowing a walk for the Shamrocks, who Charlotte during their spring break.
"We were trying to save Ryan tonight to about 70 pitches. It was nice to see him get some strikeouts," said Dublin Coffman " coayed well, but they're a talented team and we're not used to throwing now against live hitters like this."
CHARLOTTE 3, DUBLIN COFFMAN 1 Dublin Coffman 000 1000-120
Charlotte $000210 \mathrm{x}-3$
Batteries: Ryan Ebeling Ben Hall (6) and James Bartman, Cam Kock and Aaron Martins. WP: Koch, LP: Ebeling. Top Hitters: Bryce Hayse (CH) 2-3 2B, run. Aaron Martins (CH) 1-3 3B, run, RBI. Records: DC 1-1, CHS 6-3.


Florida defensive lineman Jachai Polite gained weight before the NFL combine in order to match the bigger players in the NFL, but his speed suffered. He also had a hamstring injury.

So when represen- Practice Facility for tatives from all 32 inside the Gators' Indoor

Florida Lottery

## - PICK 2

Mar. 27N. Mar. 270....
Mar.260.
Mar 260. Mar. 260 .
Mar. 250.
Mar. $250 .$. (Mar.20)

## - PICK 3

 Mar. 260.....
Mar.25....
Mar. 250 250......

## - PICK 4

Mar. $27 \mathrm{NN} . . .$.
Mar. 70.1
Mar. $270 . . .$.
Mar. $20 . . .$.
Mar. $200 .$.


## 250.....

## ■ PICK 5

| Mar. $27 \mathrm{~N}, . . . . .$. |
| :--- |
| Mar. |
| Mar. 26 N |



## 250 -ㅋㅣㅢ..

## - FANTASY 5

Mar. $27 . . .$.
Mar. $26 . .$. $\qquad$
PAVOFF FOR MAR $10-26$
05-didit winners.
3-44-dioi winers
3344-digit winners
9,2153-digit winnes.....
CASH FOR LIFE
Mar. 25 .......
Cash Ball...


\$550,000

- LOTTO

Mar. 27
Mar. 23
Mar. 20
Mar. 20...................2-1-22-23-30-25-37-35-34
06 -digit winners.
155 -digit winners
1,005 4-digit winners................ 68.50 $\$ 2.5$ million

## ■ POWERBALL

Mar. 27. ......
Powerball.
 Powerball....................................
PAOOFF

 $\$ 750$ million

M MEGA MILLIONS

## Mar. 26...................-14--22-43-58

 Mar. 22.....................7-36-58-60-62 Mega Ball.......................... 10 05 of 5 +MB.................. 550 million05 of $5 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ~$
14 million
14 of $5+$ MB................ $\$ 10,000$

## ESTIMATED JACKPOT $\$ 75$ million

## HOW TO .

- Submit a story idea: Email S41-206-1175. M. ame, address and number - Report a high school result: Call 877-818-6204 or 941-206-1175. To report an error: Call he sports department at 41-206-1175 or email


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■ MEN'S GOLF

## Woods wins opening round of Match Play

Puts away Aaron Wise in return to format for first time since 2013 By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUSTIN, Texas - Tiger Woods made a successful return to the Dell Technologies Match Play with a victory.
Jordan Spieth found some success with a tie. The most unpredictable tournament in golf began Wednesday with only a
few surprises as only fo of the top 16 seeds in of the top 16 seeds in their opening match at Austin Country Club. Woods, a three-time winner of this World Golf Championships, had not played since losing in th opening round in 2013. He had a wild time with Aaron Wise unay on the 17th hole.
"The way we were playing today, we're very
thankful it's not stroke play," Woods said with laugh.
Wise gave away the opening two holes with
a double bogey and a a double bogey and a 2 up to 1 down around the turn, and then he regained control when

Wise missed too many short par putts. Woods
closed him out, 3 and 1 when Wise three-putted the par-3 17th. But it was tough on everyone. A sturdy wind through the trees and valleys, along with some pins set along the mounds on the putting surfaces, made mistakes costly.
Justin Thomas at No.
5 was the only player 5 was the only player
from the top 10 seeds to lose, falling behind to Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark, who never gave him much of a chance to get back in the match. It ended on the 16th, when Thomas hit
what he thought was a what he thought was a
perfect wedge only to see perfect wedge only to see
it carom off the flag stick and into the rough. There were quick shifts in momentum, and a few big rallies at the end. One of those belonged to Spieth, and it was badly needed. Spieth, the No. 4 seed in this event last year, is now at No. 28.
He has not finished better than a tie for 35th in his than a tie for 35th in his
six tournaments this year alarming as the Masters


Tiger Woods hits his drive from the eighth tee during round-robin play at the Dell Match Play Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, in Austin, Texas.
nears.
And he was 3 down after just six holes to Billy Horschel.
Spieth squared the match with five holes to play when it seemingly fell apart with a tee shot along the banks of the Colorado River that he chopped out into the bunker left by a bird. He lost that hole. And then he turned a chance to tie loss of hole when he three-putted from about

20 feet on the 15th. Horschel helped the
cause by missin cause by missing a 3 -foot
par putt on the 16th that par putt on the 16th that 2 up with two to play 2 up with two to play. Spieth took it from there.
He made a 6 -foot birdie to match Horschel and send it to the 18th, and he lofted a wedge to 2 fe for birdie to win the 18th. It was only worth a half-point from a match he never led, and it's just
one out of three matches in group play.
"To birdie the last two holes is really big for me right now as I'm looking to gain confidence und pressure and kind of I've been working on," Spieth said. "It feels like you're battling to try to win a golf tournament on a Saturday or Sunday toward the end of these matches. So it was really shots and pull off a tie there 2 down and three to go."

## ■ NHL

## Couturier's late goals lift Philadelphia

 (AP) - Sean Couturier scored in regulation and provided the only goal in a shootout as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 Wednesday night. Kadko Gudas, Trav Konecny and Ryan for Philadelphia, which remained mathematically alive for a playoff berth. The Flyers moved within eight points of idle Montreal for the final

## SPORTS ON TV

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
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CBS-NCAT Tournament: Gonza-
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playoff spot with five games remaining. Auston Matthews, Connor Brown, Nazem Kadri and William Nylander scored for Toronto. After the first four Flyers missed in the shootout, Couturier deked to his forehand and beat Frederik Anders Philadelphia's third win the last eight games when he stopped Nylander's attempt.

It looked as if the Flyers
had the game won in overtime when Travis Sanheim poked the puck over the goal line 2:34 into the extra period. But the officials disallowed the goal because they said
the whistle had blown to stop play, even though stop play, even though
Andersen never appeared to have control. Nylander evened it at 4 with 8:27 left in the third when his turnaround shot from the slot, following a turnover by Shayne

Gostisbehere, went high over Hart. Hartman had put
Philadelphia ahead 4-3 with 11 minutes left in regulation. He took a pass from Scott Laughton from behind the net and scored with a shot between Andersen's legs. Matthews tied it at 3 by
following his own miss following his own miss
and converting from a sharp angle 1:43 into the third.
The Flyers took a 3-2 lead with second-period
goals from Konecny,
Gudas and Couturier. Konecny's wrist shot on the break whizzed over Andersen's left shoulder 3:39 into the period, pulling Philadelphia within 2-1. Gudas evened the
score 3:36 later when his long wrist shot got past long wrist shot got past Couturier netted his 32nd of the season on a deflection of a shot by Sanheim with 4:14 left in the period.

## Cirelli adding scoring touch to compliment his defensive focus

## Tampa Bay rookie earning respect as two-way center

By diana nearhos

TAMPA - Derek
Lalonde, still in his skates after a recent practice, makes his way to the dressing room, laptop i hand.
The Lightning assistant coach searches for
Anthony Cirelli, but can't find him.
Lalonde returns later
and the two sit down at Cirelli's stall, the latter without even removing his pants, shin pads or skates, to review video clips selected by Lalon
They look at Cirelli's They ook at Cirelli's recent play, offensively
and defensively, and and der clips to prepare for other clips to prepare
upcoming opponents. "He's always hounding
for video," Lalonde said. for video," Lalonde said.
"There's days I don't have "There's days I don't have
video for him and he's video for him and hess
literally down on me." literally down on me."
Coaches and players alike have a lot to say abike have a lot to say universally compliment his work ethic. Tampa Bay's Jon Cooper he
has the potential to be another Patrice Bergeron, one of only two players to be a four-time winner of the Selke Trophy as the game's best two-wa orward. If Cirelli rises to that
level, it'll be because of his work ethic. Lalonde
didn't find Cirelli the first
time because he was still time because he was still Bet on Cirelli being one of the last players off the ice, often with Yanni Gourde and Mathieu Joseph. The trio enters the room with a burst of energy that feels like it
must come from a bigger must c.
group.
"He
"He never cheats you on effort," Cooper has repeated about Cirelli this season more times than you have fingers to count
That effort pays off defensively. Cirelli, 391
days into his NHL days into his NHL career, for himself as a defensive center.
"He's going to find his scoring touch, " Alex Killorn said after Cirelli assisted his short-handed goal Saturday. "To be that good defensively this young in the league is something that's really rare."
That scoring touch is starting to come. Cirell

## - HIGH SCHOOL BOVS BASKETBALL

## Host of local players selected to all-star games

Prep basketball season extended as eight players will play in SFABC games this weekend


## GATORS

## FROM PAGE 1

one had more

- than Polite
- than Polite.
"I had to prove that I could come out here and compete,"
Polite said, "because it wasn't that good of a combine for me, which we all know." Polite owned up to that not-so-good combine Wednesday and addressed its ugly details head on.
After being listed at 242 pounds during his junior season, the 6 -foot-2 Daytona the combine. weight up, knowing that the next level, they're bigger,
stronger, faster," Polite said. But Polite wasn't used to running at that size yet. The extra weight cost him some of his explosiveness and speed. the few drills he attacked at the combine the 40 -yard dash.
His time (4.84 seconds) was the second slowest at his position, ahead of Oregon's Jalen Jelks. Pro Football Reference lists 191 defensive ends/ outside linebackers/edge rushers under 260 pounds who ran the 40 over the last slower than Polite
Polite attributed some of that subpar result to the right $a$-week-and-a-half before the


## combine while training at

 ASPI in Tampa.The poor interviews, both at the podium in front of reporters and in pris
NFL teams?
Polite said he didn't prepare well enough and was a little intimidated by the setting. He took criticism too personally, answered questions too briefly and didn't act like himself.
"I just wasn't ready at all," Polite said. "I just wasn't ready mentally.
Not being ready for a multi-million-dollar job
interview is a major problem, interview is a major problem,
even for an elite pass rusher who tied UF's single-season record with six forced fumbles and ranked third in the

SEC with $17 \frac{1}{2}$ tackles for a loss. That's why Wednesday was so crucial for Polite. It was his biggest opportunity to correct his public perception day he that the have good day so that the attention would go back to his per-
formance on the field more than a 40 time at a combine," UF coach Dan Mullen said. It was hard to gauge just how good his day was, but he showed signs of growth. Polite weighed in at 254 pounds - about halfway between his combine mea-
surement and ideal weight surement and ideal weight. 40 but tweaked his hamstring again after his first and only attempt (which barely
cracked 5 seconds)
A trainer wrapped it up, and Polite was able to participate in almost all of his position drills
Most importantly, he was ready for the questions about his struggles at the combine. didn't make excuses. It might be too late to keep Polite in the first round, but it's better than never. "In my head I feel like I'm still there," Polite said. don't know. But I believe in myself, first and foremost Wyself, first and foremost. taking a chance from my ter rible interviews and combine they're going to get a great player."

RAYS

## FROM PAGE 1

Last year was unlike most because the Red Sox had one of the best starts in years, going
$17-2$. But they were also remarkably consistent throughout the season, losing more than two straight games just once until the Rays swept them in late August The Yankees opened the season 9-9, showin a strong start isn't necessary to long-term success, but then went $23-5$ over their next 28 games and were 20 games over .500 by June
"It's something, in this division especially, tough stretches becaus you can lose ground on those two (teams), the

Yankees and the Red Sox," centerfielder Kevin Kiermaier said.
"The best teams in the game are the most consistent ones where they're rattling off six or all the time but they're avoiding those rough stretches where they are 2-11."
The Rays' early slate conceivably gets easier after Houston and Colorado, as their road trip to San Francisco, Chicago and Toronto just six of their next 28 games are against team that had winning record last season.
"When we hop on
that plane (for the first that plane (for the first road trip), we want to be feeling good about ourselves when we head
out to San Fran out to San Fran. So, for us
to get off to a good start to get off to a good se" Kiermaier said.

tampa bay times photo

## THE NEW MONEY BALL

The game's best player is getting paid like it. Mike Trout's contract - over $\$ 400$ million in total value - is the highest in Major League history. The deal exceeds the 13-year, $\$ 330$ million contract Bryce Harper signed with the Phillies earlier this month and is the third to set a record this offseason. Manny Machado signed a 10-year, $\$ 300$ million deal with the Padres in February. Before last month, there was one for $\$ 300$ million - Giancarlo Stanton's 13-year, \$325 million extension signed in November 2014.


FRESH FIELD GENERALS six teams changed managers this offseason and hope they've chosen the right guy to lead their clubs.


## New era: No players left from 20th century

By BEN WALKER
ap Baseball Writer Four-man outfields. High-tech anti-spying rules. A starting pitcher facing just one batter in a playoff game. But beyond all the shifts, analytics and social media outreach, here's League Baseball has League Baseball has There's not a single active player left from the 20th century.

Adrian Beltre and Bartolo Colon were the last, the Elias Sports Bureau said. And with Thursday - from Bryce Thursday - from Bryce Citizens Bank Park to Mookie Betts and the champion Boston Red Sox visiting Seattle - this year MLB becomes the first of the four major sports without someone still around who played in
the 1900s. the 1900s.
true in the big leagues? Back before even the World Series existed. Already this season, the great Ichiro Suzuki has retired, done at 45
after two hitless games last week as the Seattle Mariners swept Oaklan at the Toyko Dome. play until I was 50 , but 1 couldn't do it," he said. Yankees lefty CC Sabathia says it's his last year, and so does Giants manager Bruce Bochy.
Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Fernando Tatis Ir. Jand Eloy Jimenez lead and Eloy Jimenez lead boppers who might stick around for a while. Will they be the next Mike Trout or Joe Mauer, or the future Manny Machado or Chase Utley? We'll see over the years. of waiting it's time for everyone to play ball. "Opening day, since I was a kid, I feel like it's a celebration of our sport, so it's something I always look forward to," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.
A look at the lineups going into Thursday:

## MARQUEE <br> MATCHUPS

Jacob deGrom, fresh off a big contract boost from the New York Mets, starts
against Washington ace Max Scherzer at Nationals Park. DeGrom earned his first Cy Young Award last winner Scherzer finished second. It's a similar duel at Tropicana Field - AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell of the Rays faces runner-up Justin Verlander and the Astros

## DANDY DEBUTS

Harper takes his first swings since signing a $\$ 330$ million deal with the Phillies (that was a record until Trout go
$\$ 426.5$ million from the Angels soon after) Harper has five career Harper has five career day, tied with Albert Pujols and Ian Kinsler for most among active players, and will take on Julio Teheran and the NL East champion Braves.
Harper is 18 for 50 (. 450 Harper is 18 for 50 (.450)
with a personal-high eight homers against th eight homers against the
Atlanta right-hander Atlanta right-hander. with San Diego, Paul Goldschmidt is with St. Louis, Robinson Cano got traded to the Mets, Nelson Cruz swings for Minnesota and the
excitable Yasiel Puig is in Cincinnati. Josh Donaldson joined the Braves and is expected to be in action this weekend - it'll be Atlanta vs. Philadelphia in the first Sunday Night Baseball matchup on ESPN, with those games starting an hour earlier this season.

## EXTEND THEIR <br> SUCCESS

Chris Sale, who struck out Machado to end the World Series and seal Boston's fourth crown in 15 seasons, starts the opener for the 108 -win Red Sox. Sale, Irout, and Rockies third base man Nolan Arenado were among the stars whose teams locked them with rich, long-term deals. But not every big name got a big contract - AllStar closer Craig Kimbrel and former Cy Young winner Dallas Keuche and went into opening day without jobs.

OUCH!
Cleveland shortstop

Francisco Lindor
sprained an ankle sprained an ankle
while recovering from a while recovering from a
strained calf and will miss opening day. Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw and Yankees starter Luis Severino are out, too. Astros star Carlos Correa, unlikely World Series MVP Steve Pearce and Keds sparkplug sc Angels two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani, the AL Rookie of the Year, won't pitch this season while returning from Tommy John surgery but will hit. Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius is expected back in midseason.
PARK IT HERE
The Arizona Diamondbacks have converted their field from grass to artificial turf, joining Toronto and playing on synthetic surfaces.
The gaudy and gargan tuan Home Run Sculpture at Marlins Park is gone. Well, just not inside the park anymore. It's outside in a plaza. Overall, MLB attendance has dropped for


Philadelphia Phillies right fielder Bryce Harper has five home runs on opening day, tied for the most with lan Kinsler and Albert Pujols.
three straight seasons and last year the average fell below 30,000 for the first time since 2003. Were a little down off where we were last year, but were optimistic that things are going to pick up," Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

SCOREBOARD


## Goodell, with Payton's help, gets replay right

Pass interference review addition fixes hole exposed during Rams-Saints playoff game
By BARRY WILNER

fro Football Writ

PHOENIX - Roger Goodell got it right. that way. Right now, th should.
Many times, perhaps most of the time, the NF commissioner is doing the bidding of the owne That's led to plenty of criticism of Goodell whe it's the guys who run the 32 franchises wore than he does
When it comes to league probes, the NFL so often has fallen short - Ray Rice, Kareem Hunt, Saints bounties - that Goodell takes the arrows rather than the investigators who should be blamed And yes, there are when it comes to hand out discipline, in which Goodell is the correct target.
So when the guy uses his power for the good of the game, for the players the coaches and the fans hen praise is due. of the most embarrassing moments of his regime - or that of any other
commissioner - Goodell
pretty much made sure a pretty much made sure a to the rules was passed. Don't underestimate the significance of the addition of pass flagged or not, to the video review officiating system. Such calls and non-calls now can be challenged by coaches and reviewed by official It was passed for one season, by the astounding
margin of $31-1$. It almost margin of $31-1$. It almost
certainly is here to stay certainly is here to stay,
and Goodell is a major reason.
"I told the owners we need to get to a place, and I felt strongly we should have OPI and DPI and that we should be able to throw flags (that were not thrown on the field "Everyone in there finally got to understan through a long process and a lot of discussion, everyone wanted to get it right. Some had to remove themselves from long-shared views." A short-shared view among fans, especially those in the Big Easy, has been that an egregious championship game
cost the New Orleans Saints a trip to the Super Bowl. Their case was strengthened by this decision. Yet, in a way, this is a more important victory all pro football fans. The sport has become so fast, so complex and so wide open that the officials struggle to keep up. Even worse, technology is so advanced that the errors made in real time become exacerbated when examined in the close-up, super-stow viewers.
The NFL needed a leap forward like this. Indeed, it's more like a long Drew Brees to Michael Thomas touchdown pass than an Alvin Kamara run for a first down. Both plays
move the ball, but the move the ball, bu instant game changer. Credit Goodell for laying down the law to get the video review rules enhanced. Also credit Saints coach Sean Payton, who helped lead the charge to progress not only because he was the victimized guy with the head set on the call, but for catalyzing the


New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton was able to push for changes to video replay for pass interference calls in his role on the NFL competition committee.
movement.
There were just a lot of great healthy discussions about our game," said Payton, along with Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin the only coaches on the powerful competition menmittee that recom-
"When you are on this committee there is a littl bit of a responsibility just to the game and football fans in general "Anytime, I think, if we have gone through a process like this and tried to look at doin
what is right, and after much discussion came to a conclusion where ownership, league office, coaches, general managers felt real good about, certainly fans won, knowing that, man, those guys are working hard
the right

## - COLLEGE SPORTS

## AAC signs ESPN deal

By RALPH D. RUSSO
ap College Football Writer
American Athletic Conference Commissioner Mike Aresco says the league's new media rights deal with ESPN gives the AAC a platform network.
The American and ESPN announced Wednesday a 12 -year agreement that runs through the Fina school yea
Financial terms were not dis-
closed, but previous media reports
put the total value of the deal at put the total value of the deal at about $\$ 7$ million per year. AAC and ESPN's previous six-year deal, which expires in 2020, allowed the league to distribute about $\$ 2$ million per year to the school. The new deal puts more than 1,000 events per season exclusively on ESPN-plus, the network's new digital subscription service,
including about 30 football games and 135 men's basketball games. Currently, ESPN-plus costs $\$ 4.99$ per month.
"ESPN-plus is very important to ESPN and very important to us," Aresco said. "As far as we're concerned, ESPN-plus is the future It's an innovative digital platform
that you want to be on. In fact, we
still have more coverage on the priority networks of ESPN than we had before. But the fact is there ar going to be more sports offered on
ESPN-plus than ever before. It's as ESPN-plus than ever before. It's as network on that platform." The deal calls for at least 40 football games per season airing on ESPN's linear TV networks, 14 more than in the previous contract. At least 20 of those games will be on ABC, ESPN and ESPN2, which is also an increase. In addition, the new deal gives ESPN the rights to with Notre Dame.
ESPN cable networks will air at least 65 regular-season men's basketball games and at least 13 regular-season women's basketball games per season from the American.
Under the previous agreement, other networks sub-licensed some AAC events from ESPN. CBS Sports football games each season and most UConn women's basketball games were carried by SNY, a regional sports network partially owned by the New York Mets. The powerhouse program already has many of its games shown on ESPN networks.

## ■ MLB

Mets, deGrom agree on five-year, $\$ 137.5 \mathrm{M}$ deal

## By HOWARD FENDRICH <br> AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. - All it took were some beef-andcheese taquitos and 10 -for\$2 mini-tacos from 7-Eleven to seal NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom's $\$ 137.5$ million deal with the New York Mets.
"I only had a couple bites, deGrom said with hotel outside Washington where he discussed his new five-year contract on the eve of the Mets' season opener against Max Scherzer and the Washington Nationals. After weeks of back-and-forth dating to before spring training, it wasn't and the Mets were able to and the Mets were able to
work out terms, including a guaranteed $\$ 52.5$ million deferred into the 2030s. There is a team option for 2024 that, if exercised, would raise the total to $\$ 170$ million over six years,
including $\$ 67.5$ million deferred. It was an unusual negotiation from the
get-go, given that Met general manager Brodie Van Wagenen used to be deGrom's agent.
"I know a lot of people were worried about Brodie - which side he would be on and how that would all work out," said Jeff Wilpon the club's chief operating officer

Jacob and I did smile a couple times with what But we got it done." The agreement was finalized during a session that lasted about nine hours at the airport in Sarasota Florida, where the team played its final Grapefru League exhibition on Monday.
When the deal was York, deGrom flew to New York for a physical exam. His teammates went to Syracuse for a workout. "Long day," deGrom said
"At one point, we hadn't eaten for about six or seven hours," Van Wagenen said, "so I had to make a 7-Eleven run."
who turm, a right-hander who turns 31 in June, had a 1.70 ERA in 2018 and allowed three runs or fewer in his final 29 starts. His record was $10-9$ on a Mets team that went 77-85. He is $55-41$ with a 2.67 ERA in fiver
majors.
"It's a relief. It definitely is," deGrom said about reaching a deal. "When it's ralked about, every time you throw, you do think about it. But it's a relief, and I'm looking forward to, getting the season started." That'll happen today with a marquee matchup
at Nationals Park between him and Scherzer, the him and Scherzer, the NL Cy Young voting and a NL Cy Young voting and a It also marks the start of life for the Nationals without Bryce Harper

## COFER <br> FROM PAGE 1

his 31st year as a college coach and 17th at Florida State, has faced plenty of situations over the years, but he said this is the first where a parent of one of his players has died during the in season.
Hamilton psychologist Joseph sports psychologist Joseph Carr with helping the players and staff
once they learned of Mike once they lea
"Kids talked about and shared their experiences, and I think it did a lot to bring us somewhat back into the right focus," Hamilton said. "You never really know when you'r dealing with those types of things how it manifests itself in different responses. Grief appears, raises its ugly head I hope we have addressed it properly."
Mann, who had "Mike Cofer, 3-21-19" scribbled on his left shoe for the Murray State game, said he plans to
do the same thing Thursday Mann, Cofer and center Christ Koumadje have led the Seminoles to three straight
NCAA Tournaments and a NCAA Tournaments and school-record 98 wins.
"All the trials and tribu lations that we have been through have brought us closer," Mann said. "I think the Elite Eight run last year solidified our class and how close we are."
Hamilton hopes his team can overcome the adversity and advance to the Final 1972. The Seminoles have already dealt with injuries and a 1-4 start in Atlantic Coast Conference play to win 16 of their last 18 .
"It's been very challenging, but our guys are focused, and

## - NBA

## East race: Five teams separated by two losses

Three playoff spots sought by Brooklyn, Charlotte, Detroit, Miami and Orlando

By TIM REYNOLDS
MIAMI - The last game of the Miami regular-season game of Dwyane Wade's career, is April 10 in Brooklyn. If he had his way Wade would play for a few largely ceremonial minutes, get ton of shots up and then
grab a seat on the bench grab a seat on the bench
to watch the clock run down to the playoffs. down to the playoffs.
Odds are, it won't happen that way. This race for the bottom of the Eastern Conference bracket is likely going down to the wire. For the Heat, that means the end of Wade's ereer could come quick er than they wanted. claimed playoff spots in the East, with five teams still in the thick of the race, the whole batch separated by two losses.
No. 6 Brooklyn (38-37), No. 6 Brooklyn (38-37), No. 7 Detroit (37-37), No 8 Orlando (37-38), No. 9 10 Charlotte ( $35-39$ ) have 10 Charlotte (35-39) have who's in and who's out. And Wade can envisio that Heat at Nets game deciding playoff fates -
as well as his own fate. "I think we all know it's going to come down to the end," Wade said. It's not the way I wanted game not to be that way game not to be that way my shots. Now we'll have
to play a good basketball game. It is what it is." Everybody's playing for
something bigger right something bigger right
now. The Magic are trying to reach the postseason for
the first time since 2012 the first time since 2012.
Brooklyn, for the first time since 2015. Charlotte and Detroit haven't been to the playoffs since 2016.
Miami went last year, and Miami went last year, and want to get Wade there
for a 14th time in his 16 year career. At minimum year career. At minimum going to end whether the Heat qualify or not. "There's no reason why we can't win," said Magic coach Steve Clifford, whose team has won six straight - its longest such streak in more than eight years - and beat Miami on Tuesday to the No. 8 spot. "We have more than enough talent and we're playing well. So, to me, that's it."
There is, of course, a financial incentive for making the postseason
well. well.
The NBA hasn't an nounced the 2019 play since that amount neve seems to decrease from one year to the next it's reasonable to expect that it'll be $\$ 20$ million again this season. That means all playoff teams, at minimum, would receive $\$ 298,485$ apiece to split
among players and staff among players and staff East, the minimum figure
for that club to share would be $\$ 433,748$. For some NBA guys, a share of that is merely
pocket change. To lowpocket change. To low-er-paid players and staff,
it definitely matters. Plus, with every team guaranteed two home games that will likely sell out, that's some more serious revenue opportunities
through tickets through tickets, conces sions a
clubs.
clubs.
"There is no room for error right now," Detroit coach Dwane Casey said when asked about the playoff push. Based on opponent winning percentages, Brooklyn has the toughest remaining schedule in the NBA - six games against teams that have alrea clinched East playoff spots and then the finale could catch a huge break if any of their remaining opponents, including Milwaukee twice, rest stars to get ready for the postseason.
A slate that looks A slate that looks
daunting on paper really daunting on paper really
might not be so tough might not be so tough.
"The only way to learn about it is to go through it," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "And we're going through it right now."
Brook Brooklyn came from 27 points down last week to beat Sacramento. Charlotte's hopes stayed
alive on Jeremy Lamb's alive on Jeremy Lamb's
gamewinning 50 -footer to win at Toronto. Teams


Dwyane Wade and the Heat are a half game behind the Magic for the final playoff spot
are clearly fighting for everything.
"It's competition," Heat "oach Erik Spoelstra sa The lone downside to fighting for the playoffs? By making it in, you likely won't have a shot to draft Zion Williamson Ja Morant, R.J. Barrett or any of this year's presumed can't-miss picks. The only exception to this
rule is Boston, which is playoff-bound and still
could draft as high as No. 2 overall this year if Sacramento gets lucky -
or unlucky - and bucks the lottery odds to move way up the list. But then again, the odds are already stacked really high against the bottom-of-the-East-race clubs in the race for a draft-night splash. Had the draft order been set on Wednesday,
Miami would have a 1 percent chance for the

No. 1 pick and Charlotte would have a 1.5 percent
chance. Odds are, if the chance. Odds are, if the
season was over now Miami would be picking 13th. By making the playoffs, the Heat would probably pick 15th or 16th. Not exactly a huge difference, and the Heat desperately want to get
Wade to the postseason "No one is going to give "No one is going to give it to us," Heat guard Dion
Waiters said. "We've got to go out there and take it."

■ TENNIS: Miami Open

## Federer reaches quarterfinals, Halep to semis

By TIM REYNOLDS
ap Sports Writer MIAMI GARDENS - Roger Federer is finally through to the quarterfinals of the Miam
Open.

The f

had little trouble defeating 13th-seeded Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-2 in 61 minutes on Wednesday, earning the three-time Miami champion a spot in the quarters against
sixth-seeded Kevin Anderson The Federer-Medvedev
match was originally scheduled for Tuesday and wound up being delayed a day by rain That means if Federer is to win the tournament, he'll need to span.
span.
Federer broke Medvedev in
the ninth game of the opening
set, survived being down $0-40$ to close out that set on his serve and then broke the
Russian again in the first gam Russian again in the first game
of the second set. of the second set. Also Wednesday, women's
defeated 18th-seeded Qiang Wang 6-4, 7-5 in the quarterfinals. Halep won the final six games against Qiang and would return to No. 1 in the world if she wins her semifinal
match.

## - nCAA WOMEN'S bASKEtBALL TOURNAMENT

## No. 2 Huskies adjusting to demotion to No. 2 status

UConn's Auriemma reflects on unpredictability of March, tougher road to reach Sweet 16

## BY KELLI STACY

The Hartford Courant
HARTFORD, Conn. Coming off a dominant win in the first round of the NCAA Tournament by feelings of disrespect after being named a No 2 seed this year, UConn coach Geno Auriemma reflected on his love of March and the unpredict ability that comes with it "I always enjoy this time of the year, Auriemma said. "It doesn't matter if we're
undefeated and have undefeated and have a
team that no one thinks team that no one thinks
they can beat. I've been there a bunch of times, obviously. Or having a team where people are a little bit counting us out. I've been there too. I enjoy both. Differently, but I enjoy both. I enjoy knowing that if we just show up and play any-
where near the level we played all year long, no one can beat us. Even if they play their best game. We've been in that situation a lot.
"The difference in this year is we know even if we play our best game just don't have enough just don't have enough pieces," he said, "which
is OK because then the goal becomes let's see
how close we can get to
playing a great game and then take our chances. Because then the other team still has to play great, and there's no guarantee of that. So it's going to be a little bit of fun for however long
this one lasts. ... I'm this one lasts.... enjoy guys reap the benefits of a lot of hard work this year. Am I getting ready to go back to that party at the Final Four where I stay out until 4 o clock in the morning before the championship game? No I'm not having a party game against Buffalo Those days are over." Auriemma was right to hold off on the party last weekend, because the unpredictability factor he loves so much was present inside Gampel Pavilion for the Huskies second-round game against 10th-seeded escaped a late comeback attempt, beating the Bulls, $84-72$, to advance to their 26th straight Sweet 16. The win reminded the Huskies just how hard the NCAA Tournament will be for them this year. top of women's colleg the top of women's college
basketball for a quar-ter-century, winning 11
national titles, making 19 Final Four appearconsecutive tournamen appearances. The Huskies have made the Final Four the past 11 seasons; the last time they didn't make it came in 2007 when they lost to Eight.
UConn's success, especially in the NCAA Tournament, has created expectations faced by no other program. The Huskies are expected to not only make the Final Four every year, but als win the national title
They're expected to They re expected to go
through the tournament with ease, crushing everyone in their path until they claim a 12 th trophy. This year just isn't like that, though, and Sunday's game against Buffalo was evidence of that.
"Obviously a lot of new fans don't remember that winning these games is and it's supposed to be a struggle," Auriemma said. "I told our players that. It's a struggle for a lot of different reasons. All the sudden shots that we make regularly, we don't make. Why? Because it's the NCAA Tournament 80 -something percen
from the free-throw line and all the sudden they don't go in. It's the NCA Tournament. You play against another kid and that kid goes 4 for 100, but not in the NCAA Tournament. Things tha aren't fouls are fouls.
Things that are fouls aren't fouls. You just need to prepare. Prepare for to prepare. Prepare for everything, but expect
anything. Prepare for anything, obviously, bu you've got to expect the unexpected in the NCAA Tournament."
It might not feel like it,


## nASCAR

## Schedule changes deliver winners and losers

Iconic races, which were tied to the same date for decades, get freshening

## By JENNA FRYER

ap Auto Racing Writter
CHARLOTIE, N.C. An entire generation of life tuned to a schedule so predictable events could be planned years in advance and race dates marked milestones. beach - a week out of school in February, the Fourth of July for vacatio - while Memorial Day Labor Day meant South Carolina sweet tea at Darlington Raceway. Seeriously, nearly every same for as long as an entire generation remembers. But 2020 will be different, the first radically changed schedule in practically forever, as NASCAR did the best it could in answering an urgent need to freshen its product blessed with a blank sheet of paper for this Jim France-driven project because binding contracts with its existing track operators limited NASCAR's power NASCAR legally could only force a track to move two weeks forwa existing date; anythin more drastic needed track approval.
That handcuffed NASCAR's effort in demanding the fixes fan have demanded, but the
series still made a huge right turn for 2020 product of Jim France, wanting to make some bold moves, wanting to make moves quickly, trying to answer some of the questions or some of the asks of the fans. We feel like we said Steve O'Donnell NASCAR executive vice president and chief racing development officer.

## BIGGEST WINNER

Martinsville Speedway in Virginia gets the got Saturday night before Mother's Day under its state-of-the-art LED Lighting system AND the final race before the championship round. Drivers can and will use fenders to win at
Martinsville, and the schedule changes gave schedule changes gave NASCAR schedule two can't-miss events.

## BOLDEST

 MOVERPocono Raceway agreed to try a doubleheader and run a pair of 400 -mile The move helped The move helped season by one week, ending on Nov. 8 on Veteran's Day weekendthe date NBC Sports requested for the finale. The Pennsylvania track took on an opportunity
to build something from
scratch as the first venue scratch as the first venu Pocono, if inclined, can turn its event into a pretty neat outdoor festival by bringing in musical acts and making the infield the place for the New York City market on one June weekend. How the
two events in two days will be pulled off is still in planning stages, and Pocono has already signed on for a heavy and new undertaking But, why not make it give IndyCar a share of the stage? Have IndyCar come in a few days ahead
of time, as an appetizer to this new doubleheade and run on Thursday night, thus encouragin fans to show up early and stay awhile.

## BIGGEST SURPRISE

Do not accuse NASCAR of being too tied to tradition to make a strong move because remember the last July 4th weekend he didn't spend in Daytona You went to the beach when you weren't at the speedway and that's just how it always has International Speedway has hosted a race on July 4th or the Fourth of July weekend since it opened in 1959.
The speedway gave up
hat date equity to take
the last race of the regular finale. It is always hot season, the one that in Indianapolis in finalizes the playoff field, the summer, but the in late August. O'Donnell speedway for more than said the industry, drivers included, supported ending the season at Daytona even though the track has insane racing and wrecks dors. The holiday race instead went to Indianapolis Motor Speedway, host of the Memorial Day event of the year 42 days earlier with the Indianapolis

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The

The loudest gripe so far has been concern about temperatures at Indianapolis next July raced NASCAR during the first weekend in August and then raced 11 seasons in late July. It was only last season, just one time, the race was run in Septembe as the regular-season


AP Рното
Daytona International Speedway, which has raced on July 4 every season since it opened in 1959, gave up that date this year so that it can host a race in late August that finalizes the playoff field.
and it became ISC's sacrificial lamb as it was rescheduled to a random Sunday in March.
Homestead never Homestead never
caught on with the South Beach set and the appeal of hosting the championship there wa essentially the racing. NASCAR should have made it the second race the Daytona 500 winner in Florida for a whirlwind trip through NASCAR's birthplace to open the 2020 season

## BOTTOM LINE

NASCAR did the best with what it more positive changes than negative ones in this first big overhau in forever. NASCAR itself gets a victory for legitimate change

## Miami Speedway, host

 of the finale since 2002 Homestead was built from the 1992 ruins of Hurricane Andrew, got a Cup date in 1999 wour years later.The track layout is unique, the racing the most competitive of the year, and the NASCAR champion has been the race winne every year since the elimination format bega Homestead is very good 100 years has proven to be an iconic symbol in honoring the nation during patriotic events. BIGGEST LOSER

## Money \& Market\$


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Money Market Funds




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Top 20 Mutual Funds
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By 4-Week Percent Return









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Whole lotta pics:
The fishing is hot, and you've got the photos to prove it

- Starting on PAGE 3 -


## Speak up:

When you see folks doing it wrong, you have to educate

- PAGE 5 -

What the birrd says:
Our avian friends are surprisingly talkative, if you listen right

- PAGE 15 -

Officially spring:
Whitebait are here - the last nail in winter's coffin

March 28, 2019
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NOTE: Opinions of our writers do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or Sun Coast Media Group. We do our best to be accurate in matters of fact in this publication, but matters of opinion are leff to each individual author.

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Photo provided
Just a bit slippery: Mark Granning can't quite manage to hold onto this "flying" Spanish mackerel.

> Over the past two years, I have been hearing a lot about the sorry state of the seagrass in Charlotte Harbor. Apparently, I'm not the only one, because now Sea Grant is taking action to quantify the problem.
> I know some of you are saying that's not a solution. No, it's not - but you can't come up with a solution until the problem has been identified, and that's exactly what this project aims to do. So, without further ado, a press release from Sea Grant:

> Soon snorkelers will begin canvassing the floor of Charlotte Harbor. They'll be on a

Surveying seagrass


## OK, complainers: Here's your chance to help our Harbor

## SEAGRASS|23A



## FATHR TOTHETITOR

If you have a question or comment for WaterLine, email it to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com.

## CAPT. JOSH:

Last May, I walked right into a huge red tide at the Boca Grande Beach, and that was about it for the year. Subsequent to this initial experience $I$, along with everyone else, learned a lot about red tide. One thing I learned was that way back in November 2017, it was known that the red tide was lurking offshore and it came in with a vengeance in May 2018. So, what about now? Is it out there? Is it coming? I wonder why we have heard nothing about its progress (or hopefully, lack of progress) all winter long. Also, on a related topic: Is the Army Corps of Engineers still loading up the Caloosahatchee river? I would presume so.
-Al Dicks
AL:
It's important to know when someone knows better, so I have deferred your questions to Charlotte County Sea Grant agent Betty Staugler. Her answer follows:

The severe red tide we experience started in late October 2017. Actually, the red tide cell counts were high enough inside Gasparilla Sound and Lemon Bay to close shellfish harvesting areas in November 2017, and these areas remain closed due to high toxicity levels in the shellfish meat (clams and oysters). Officially, the red tide event ended in early 2019 , but it takes shellfish a
while to rid itself of the toxins. Over the last several weeks, the red tide-forming organism Karenia brevis has not been detected or has been at background levels in samples collected throughout the state. Sampling for K. brevis occurs year round and results are publicly available at http://bit.ly/2F8wdQa. It's important to note the $K$. brevis is always present somewhere, so background conditions do not mean a bloom in imminent. Red tide can and has bloomed every month of the year, but peak bloom months are in the late fall and winter. Regarding the releases from Lake Okeechobee, the Army Corps began pulse releases into the Caloosahatchee River in late February. This is to reduce the lake level and hopefully avoid some of the harmful releases during the rainy season, when bluegreen algae is most prevalent. The Army Corps also hopes that lowering the lake level may allow some aquatic plants to regenerate, which in turn would be good for water quality. Here is a blog from last August that you may find informative on the topic: http://bit.ly/2FwYBPt

- Capt. Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher


## CAPT. JOSH:

I was pleased to see your columnon loons in the WaterLine this week! I work at the Loon Preservation Committee Center in Moultonborough, N.H., during the summer and volunteer at Peace River Wildlife Center when I am in Florida. Loons are still on the threatened list in New Hampshire, and The

Loon Preservation Committee has worked hard to educate and protect them so that we can continue to hear their wonderful cries on the lakes. It is very sad when we get oons as patients at the Peace River Wildlife Center because they normally do not survive. They are very difficult birds to treat and do not do well in captivity. People are very often quite surprised when I tell them that we have common loons in Florida! I did my final project for the Florida Master Naturalist Program on loons. I thought you might be interested in checking out the Loon Preservation Committee's website (Loon.org), which has a lot of information about loons. I hope you can continue to enjoy watching them for years to come. Thanks again for the great column!

- Bette Ruyffelaert

Letters are welcome on any outdoor-related subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length as well as grammar and spelling. We reserve the right to refuse any letter not signed with the writer's full name. Slanderous or libelous material will not be published. The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse. The opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. Waterline and Sun Coast Media Group take no responsibility for the content of these letters.

## 

## around charlotte harbor • capt. ralph allen

When you see something, say something $\qquad$ Page 5

## YOUNG NATURALISTS • BETTY STAUGLER

Did you know the water is full of worms? Page 7

## KAYAK FISHING - KIMBALL \& LES BEERY

Light tackle for shallow-water success $\qquad$Page 9

## FLORIDA BASSIN• • GREG BARTZ

What to do when your plan gets blowed up.. Page 17

## PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER • ROBIN JENKINS, DVM

Why we're picky about donations..
.Page 18

## STAY FIY - CAPT. REK GUDGEL

I guess spring is really, truly here . .Page 19

## A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD

A few problems to solve............................................................................ 20

## BIRDING IN PARADISE ABBIE BANKS



What does the bird say? With a little imagination, it could be most anything. But this trick can be invaluable in the field.

## if TMRT

READER PICS | Pages 3,11-13,21-23
MAP OF LOCAL WATERS | Page 6
TIDE CHARTS | Page 8
BULLETIN BOARD | Page 10
RECIPES | Pages $11,21 \quad$ FISHING REGULATIONS | Page 24



If youlave to fish, you need to tune into the area's most entertaining fishing show!

## 7 TOOQM.CuETI Safiruaymorny CUCISIDCDOU 

 Too earis for yous Gatch the replay whenever: Co to


## Not our place? Maybe — but if we don't educate them, who will?

I watched a happy moment one evening last week. Two guys in a bass boat were tossing artificials for snook and one of them landed a really nice fish. I was too far away to be able to precisely estimate the size of that beautiful fish, but I'm pretty sure that it was overslot - maybe way overslot.
After a spirited fight they had it boatside and were able to lift it aboard. That's when the lucky anglers got really happy. It's also when I started to get sad.
But first, a disclaimer:I have killed quite a few snook in my time. When I was going to college on Florida's East Coast, my favorite snook rod was marked to show 18 inches (the minimum size for harvestable snook at that time). There were plenty of evenings at Sebastian Inlet when I took a limit of four snook back to my apartment so I didn't have to spend as much of my limited cash on groceries in the coming days. That mark on my rod allowed me to quickly measure a snook at night without having to hunt around for a measuring device and it was a very efficient system.
Later in life when I began working as a Charlotte Harbor fishing guide, I killed and filleted many snook that were caught by my clients. So I am no stranger to snook blood. However, I have released far more snook than I have harvested. And I figure that I owe it to a snook that's going to be released to try my best to handle it carefully to give it as good a chance as possible at survival. I know that they don't all make it, so in spite of my best efforts I am guilty of killing some released fish too
Which brings me back to the happy/sad moment the other evening. One of the guys lifted the heavy fish aboard and the first thing he did was to lay it on the deck. A carpeted, slime-removing deck (remember, this was a bass boat).
Someone unhooked the fish as it lay on the deck, then one of the guys dug around in the boat until he came up with a measuring device so they could get a good length on their catch. Not that there would be much reason to obtain an exact measurement since the season is closed, but a measurement is good for storytelling. As the scene unfolded, there was a decided lack of urgency about the proceedings. Nobody seemed in a big hurry to return the gasping girl to the water.
Then it was photo time. The victorious angler went to hoist the fish for a photo, but just about the time he had it horizontal and chest-high the fish started flopping, got loose and dropped to the deck with a
thump that I could hear from 50 yards away. At least the carpet may have helped some there.
After it stopped flopping, the fish was picked up again and posed for a lengthy photo session, then the angler lowered the fish to vertical, held by its lower jaw, while the two guys stood together shielding the camera screen from the sun so they could peruse the photos to make sure they had some good shots. After a minute or two of scrolling through photos, the guys were apparently satisfied that they'd captured the moment for posterity and it was time for the release.
To be fair, they did spend some time with the fish over the side attempting to revive it. I was too far away and on the wrong side of the boat to tell how strongly that fish may have swum away. But I'm not optimistic about its prospects for survival - it was out of the water for more than five minutes, and it wasn't handled very well.
My conscience has been bothering me ever since I witnessed this episode because I didn't do anything about it. Perhaps I should have said something to the guys, but I was far enough away from my vantage point on land that I would have had to yell. It's hard to present your suggestions in a genteel manner while shouting at someone.
And I didn't want to come across as a cranky and envious old geezer who wanted to spoil their big day. We see this on social media every day, just about any time anyone posts anything the least bit boastful some hater will bash it. I didn't want to be "that guy."
But I now regret not trying to make it a teachable moment. So lam trying to somewhat soothe my guilty conscience by penning this column as a guide on various ways that we can hurt fish unintentionally. Please try to get them back in the water as quickly as possible if you remove them from the water. Don't hold them with rags or lay them on carpet, since both will tend to remove protective slime from the fish. Don't hang large snook vertically while holding them by the lower jaw. And try really hard not to drop them onto the deck.
An old-timer told me that if I really want to be fair to the fish, as soon as I lift a catch out of the water I should inhale deeply, then hold my breath until the fish is returned to the water. The old guy's theory was that an angler who does this is experiencing approx imately the same respiratory challenge as the fish, and that you shouldn't keep a fish out of the water longer than you can hold
your own breath. I don't know if this is a good guideline or not, but at least it puts things in perspective.
Hopefully I will sleep with a clear conscience tonight.
Capt. Ralph Allen runs the King Fisher

Fleet of sightseeing and fishing charter boats located at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda. He is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer, and is a past president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Contact him at 941-639-2628 or Captain@KingFisherFleet.



## 

# Sure, they're slimy and gross but worms are really cool 

"Worm" is our common word for invertebrate animals that have soft, elongated bodies. When most people think of worms, they usually think of nightcrawlers or red wigglers. Both may be called earthworms since they both are found in the earth, but they live very different lives.
Nightcrawlers are soil-dwellers. They like to burrow several feet below the surface. Red wigglers, on the other hand, are surface-dwellers and prefer to live within the top 6 inches of the soil. Red wigglers are often found among the fallen leaves, as well as in manure piles.
Not only do we find worms on land, but the ocean is full of them. Some of these marine worms resemble earthworms, but others look more like ribbons, flowers, peanuts, or even Christmas trees. Some marine worms are so small, you need a microscope to see them. Others are super long. Marine worms comprise several phyla, a grouping of worm members who share a general body plan.
Segmented worms include the oligochaetes (say "oh-LIG-oh-keets"), or worms with few bristles, such as the earthworm. In marine environments, polychaetes (this one's easy - just think of a girl named Polly Keets) are much more common than oligochaetes.
Polychaete worms have many bristles. In fact, the name polychaete means "many bristles," and one of the common names for polychaete is bristle worm. There are about 8,000 polychaete worm species worldwide - including my favorite, the Christmas tree worm, which as its name implies resembles a Christmas tree. While some polychaetes live in burrows or tubes, others move about freely.
Flatworms have many marine species, with very simple, flat bodies. They usually crawl on the bottom or along underwater surfaces, but they can swim. When they do,
they do so with a dainty fluttering motion Around coral reefs, they can be brightly colored, often with beautiful patterning. In bays and estuaries, they tend to be beige or brown.
Ribbon worms are unsegmented like flatworms, but their internal structure is far more complicated. They are usually much longer too. Like flatworms, ribbon worms can be brightly colored. The longest, the bootlace ribbon worm, is found on British seashores and can grow to be 100 feet long.
Peanut worms are also unsegmented. They tend to occur in shallow waters and burrow in soft sediments. Peanut worms get their name because when disturbed they contract into a lumpy peanut-shel shape. I find these sometimes when I pull my research gear in after it's been deployed for some time. They must not be happy with me, because they're always peanut-shaped.
Worms are an important part of the food chain in marine habitats. Some are filter feeders. They wave their sticky tentacles in the water to capture tiny microscopic food particles. Others are deposit feeders. They feed on sand and mud and get their nutrition from microorganisms contained in these sediments. Still others feed on seaweed, prey on other animals, or scavenge on dead animals.
Marine worms are also food for other marine animals, including many of our sport and commercial fish. They perform an important role in the marine environment. By breaking down and cycling nutrients between the sediments and surface waters, they help to keep our marine environments healthy.
Betty Staugler is the Charlotte County extension agent for the Florida Sea Grant Program. Contact her at staugler@ufl.edu or 941-764-4346.


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## The heavy stuff won't catch many fish on the flats, so lighten up

Everything matters when kayak fishing, but your choice of terminal rigs can make or break your day. You might have the best kayak and the best rod, reel and line - but if you don't pay attention to the part the fish see, you may never catch one. A lot of kayak fishing happens in clear, shallow water. That ensures you're casting to spooky fish. Light line, light leader and smaller lures make long, accurate, stealthy casts possible. Gamefish have good eyesight. If you show them something that looks real, they might attack. Show them that same lure with a wire leader, and they'll probably ignore it. There are exceptions to anything we might recommend, but here's what has worked for us over the years. We willingly trade more numerous strikes on light line for fewer strikes with heavier tackle that ensures Moby Dick gets in the boat. A properly adjusted drag will win most battles. Besides, the few fish that get away make epic fishing tories.
We use jigs most of the time. These single-hook lures offer unlimited versatility at a low cost, and are significantly safer in a kayak than lures with multiple treble hooks. On shallow grass flats or in cold water, we like sixteenth-ounce jigs because they sink slowly. On deeper flats, we go to eighth-ounce jigs, and even quarter-ounce models on the beach. Using different weight jigheads lets a kayak angler present a lure at various depths in shallow or deep water.
There are several styles of jigheads available. Our favorites are the D.O.A. jigheads with the eye on the front of the jig. This style tends to shed grass better than jigs with the eye on top and the nose that sticks out front.
Jighead color is another issue that anglers have strong opinions on. "It ain't no use if it ain't chartreuse" has started more than a few discussions. Whatever color you like, eyes are essential. The best jig heads have glass eyes; others use painted eyes. Both serve to focus a predator's attention on the lure as they key in on their prey. Les is a traditionalist and insists on red jigheads on the bays and grassflats. Kimball is very fond of chartreuse. We both agree white is the best color on the beach.
Soft plastic jig tails come in a huge assortment of sizes, colors and designs. To further complicate matters many are available in scented versions. Someone once said, to find the best jig on the rack, look for the one they are out of. The ones they are out of are mostly smaller jig tails in natural fishy colors. Try to duplicate the size and color of baitfish currently available in the wild.
These tails come in many different
designs, but our favorite is the shad tail (which some call a paddle tail). This little paddle tail flutters as the jig is retrieved. Curly tail designs present too tempting a target for pinfish and other tail-biters, so they won't last very long.
Scented jig tails like Gulp! are popular with kayak anglers pursuing redfish; their sense of smell helps reds find meals in thick grass beds. The most popular color is New Penny in the 3-inch size. Many of these scented lures don't have curly tails or paddles to impart action, so it's up to the angler to make it come alive.
The aspect of scented lures that many anglers don't understand is how slowly they should be worked. It takes time for the scent to disperse and do its job, so slow the retrieve to a series of short hops.
There are times when floating grass makes it nearly impossible to fish a standard jighead setup. Most soft plastics can be rigged weedless using a $2 / 0$ wide gap hook and a bullet weight - similar to the worm rig bass anglers use. It won't track straight up and down through floating grass, but an injured baitfish doesn't swim normally either. This rig is also deadly if you want to slowly sneak a small lure along the bottom on a shallow grass flat. It looks like an injured fish barely kicking along the bottom.
There are lots of lures out there, from the classic gold weedless spoon to feather jigs of every color and size. But plastic jig tails are more realistic and durable - plus, they have a meaty feel when a fish bites down on them, encouraging them to hold on longer.
Whatever jig you choose, use a fluorocarbon leader. Circumstances may call for a heavier leader, but we always start with 20 -pound material. Starting with a couple of feet lets you change lures for a few times without tying on a new leader. We tie our leaders to doubled 10-pound braided line with a double uni-knot. Avoid swivels and clips; they turn off some fish and also will get attacked by mackerel or other toothy fish, resulting in a quick cut-off. Learn to tie a loop knot to give the jig more freedom to wiggle.
It is still up to the angler to make any lure come alive. Two retrieves we commonly use with jigs: The lift-and-drop moves the jig rapidly up from the bottom then lets it slowly drop back. The quick movement gets a predator's attention, and the slow drop signals an easy meal. Or, try a slow steady retrieve at a speed that lets the lure swim slowly just above the grass. To a predator, this looks like a meal that isn't paying attention. Maybe texting?

So get out there and toss jigs where neither wade fishermen nor boat anglers can go. In a kayak, you can access places where fish are less educated than the other popular spots. A small jig will catch some really big fish.
Kimball and Les Beery, authors of the
waterproof "Angler's Guide to Shore Fishing" and "Angler's Guide to Kayak Fishing Southwest Florida," contribute these columns to promote the excellent fishing available in Southwest Florida. Their books are available at most tackle shops in the area or at AnglerPocketGuides.com as a download or waterproof hard copy.


# OUTIOORNEWE BUTMETITROMRD 



## WILD ABOUT WATER QUALITY

onor World Water Month, please join the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. March 30 at the CHNEP offices in Punta Gorda City Hall (326 W. Marion Ave. Punta Gorda) for a citizen science workshop. We will be learning about water quality and collecting samples. Participants will receive a test kit to take home to sample their nearest waterway. This is a part f the annual EarthEcho Water Challenge. Samples are eeded from local waterways for this global clean water project. Go to http://bit.ly/2XDvFdw to sign up.

## CLEAN UP WITH AUDUBON

The Peace River Audubon Society will be participating in the annual Great American Cleanup/Keep Charlotte Beautiful scheduled for March 30. Members of PRAS will again this year be cleaning up Kiwanis Park (501 Donora Street, Port Charlotte). Meet at 8 a.m. in the main parking lot to pick up supplies. The first 20 members to sign up will receive a Great American Cleanup T-shirt. Kiwanis Park is well known for some f the best birding in Charlotte County. Why not come out and elp pick up litter to make our community clean, green and beautiful and at the same time, enjoy the large number of irds that occupy this gem of a park. Following the cleanup, there will be refreshments available at the Douglas T. Jacobson Veteran's Home ( 21281 Grayton Terrace, Port Charlotte). Call Nancy Turner 941-627-9107 to sign up.

## AMBERJACK PRESERVE NATURE WALK

Naturalist Bill Dunson will lead a free nature walk from 8 to 10 a.m. April 2 at Amberjack Preserve/Lemon Lake ( 6250 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Placida). A hike to the two boardwalks on tidal Lemon Lake provides a fascinating study of the mpacts of water salinity and water depth on animals and plants. No registration required; for more info, call 276-2336364 or email wdunson@comcast.net. Sponsored by Peace River Audubon Society.

## RADIO WATERLINE SEMINAR

The next event in the Radio WaterLine seminar series will be held April 3 at Jerry's Tiki Bar \& Waterside Grill (15001 Gasparilla Road, Placida). Seminars are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month and are hosted by the boys from Radio WaterLine. Topics vary depending on how the fishing is going, but you're guaranteed to learn something useful and if you have any questions you want answered, bring 'em with you. Come out at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy dinner and drinks with Capt. Josh Olive and Capt. Mike Myers (you buy your own); the talk gets started at 6:30 p.m. For more info, call Capt. Mike at 941-416-8047 or Capt. Josh at 941-276-9657.

## TALES OF AN EVERGLADES BIOLOGIST

he Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South District invites you to join them from 1:30 to 4 p.m. April 3 for "Tales of an Everglades Region Biologist": A selection of anecdotes and images from Dennis Giardina's participation in efforts to recover endangered species and control invasive exotic species. The tak weld Room 165 of the Joseph P. D'Alexandro Bldg (2295 Victoria Ave., Fort Myers). Since 2007, Dennis Giardina has been a iologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the co-chair of the Everglades Cooperativ nvasive Species Management Area (ECISMA). Registration starts at 1 p.m.

## WILD WEDNESDAY MOVIES

oin CHEC Alligator Creek (10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda) at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. for Wild Wednesdays. Guests enjoy a nature-themed film followed by lively discussion led by a Florida master naturalist. The final film of the season is on April 3: "Nature - The Gorilla King." These events are free and open to the public. For more info, contact Becky at 941-5755435 or becky@checflorida.org.

## WALK IN THE PAR

The Friends of Pinebrook Park (1251 Pinebrook Road, Venice), central Venice neighborhood association whose mission is to take care of and promote the park, in partnership with the city of Venice, will hold a walk at 9 a.m. April 4 to celebrate the rezoning of the park and unveil new signage. The walk is about 1.5 miles along groomed trails. The Friends of Pinebrook Park and other representatives with expertise in the field of fitness, nature, plants and trees will be on hand to talk and lead groups through the trails. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing parking on site and water available. For more info, contact

## URBAN BURROWING OWLS

Join Liz White, a PhD student at the University of Florida, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. April 4 at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda) to hear about er research on the urban burrowing owls of Cape Coral and Marco Island. Burrowing owls are unique from most owls in that they nest in the ground. They are opportunistic, taking over empty burrows dug by tortoises, armadillos, and othe animals. Discover more about these tiny raptors and the vibrant population right here in Southwest Florida. Tickets are $\$ 10$ each for the general public and $\$ 6$ each for CHEC members. For reservations, call 941-575-5435.

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP AT CEDAR POINT
It's time again for Charlotte County's Great American Cleanup. Interested individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in this annual event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon April 6. We will meet at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road Englewood) and dean uplocal parks which may include Cedar Point Environmental Park,

FISHING CLUB MEETINGS: The Gulf Cove Fishing Club meets on the second Monday of the month from October through May at the Hope Lutheran Church in Gulf Cove ( 14200 Hopewell Ave., Port Charlotte) at 7 p.m. At each meeting, a speaker will talk on a timely topic. The public is invited to attend, but only Gulf Cove residents can be members. For more info, call 941-698-8607

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETINGS: The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets from 7 09 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month (Oct-May) at Lemon Bay Park (570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood). Call 941-769-3633. The Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium ( 3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers). Call 239-275 3435. Meetings are free and the public is welcome.

NHAT'S THAT BIRD?: Volunteer bird interpreters shar their expertise on ID and behavior of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl and other avian visitors at Myakka River Stat Park (13208 S.R. 72, Sarasota). Volunteers set up scopes and help people identify birds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day of the week.

Oyster Creek Environmental Park and/or Buck Creek Preserve This is our country's largest community improvement event and engages 4 million volunteers in 20,000 communities nationwide. Come help clean up your community. Trash bags, refreshments and T-shirts (to first 20 who register) will be provided. Just bring a commitment to help. And remember do your part every day by picking up trash that you see, no just during special cleanups. For more info or to register for the cleanup, call 941-475-0769.

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETS

The Mangrove chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will meet at 6:15 p.m. April 9 at Lemon Bay Park ( 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood). Kate Borduas, a environmental activist, Florida Master Naturalist and certified interpretive guide, will present "The Wonderful, Wacky World of Lichens." All meetings are free and open to the public. For more info, visit Mangrove.FNPSChapters.org or call 941-769-3633.

## EYES ON SEAGRASS CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Are you concerned about the health of Charlotte Harbor? Citizens are needed to document the health and status of seagrass and seaweed in upper Charlotte Harbor. A training session will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 11 at Charlotte County Eastport Environmental Campus (25550 Harborview Road, Port Charlotte). This volunteer training will cover survey methods and project goals. To register, contact Betty Staugler at staugler@ufl.edu or register, contact Betty Staugler at staugler@ufl.edu or

## HOOK KIDS ON FISHING

In partnership with Fishermen's Village, Anglers for Conservation is coordinating AFC"s Hook Kids on Fishing program from 10 a.m. to noon April 13 at Fishermen's Village ( 1200 West Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda). Kids ages 6 to 16 are welcome along with their parents. The first 100 kids registered will receive a free rod and reel. Registration is mandatory; sign up at AnglersForConservation.org/events. These conservationminded programs teach casting, fishing safety, knot tying, the tackle box, boating, catch and release tactics, fishing habitat and conservation, and are taught by professional guides and knowledgeable anglers. Volunteers are needed and donations are greatly appreciated. If you're interested in volunteering for or sponsoring this event, contact Mike Conneen at Mike@AnglersForConservation.org.

## BEACH CLEANUP

Join the SunCoast Friends of the Florida Master Naturalist Program from 8 to 11 a.m. April 13 for a volunteer environmental service project during Beach Cleanup 2019 Join us for cleanup at Manasota Beach ( 8500 Manasota Key Road, Englewood) in the dune line, parking lots, and trail areas. Bags, gloves and cold water provided. A limited number of event T-shirts will be available (while supplies last). Meet in the parking lot at the tent for sign-up and instructions. Bring a hat, closed toe shoes, sunscreen and a grabber (if you have one). Bring a reusable water bottle to limit our use of natural resources. Register early through UFSarasotaExt.eventbrite.com to reserve your spot and receive notice of any changes. For more info, call 941-8619822 or email kclements@scgov.net.

## WADING AT PONCE DE LEON PARK

Discover the biodiversity of seagrass beds through hands-on exploration of Charlotte Harbor, wading up to waist-deep water while searching for fascinating creatures. Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc. is conducting free seagrass wading adventures at Ponce de Leon Park ( 3400 Ponce de Leon Pkwy, Punta Gorda) from 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 16. After an introduction on aquatic environments, participants will wade into the shallow water of Charlotte Harbor in search of plants and animals that reside there. Dress appropriately and wear shoes that can go in the water. A hat, sunscreen, and bottled water are encouraged. Participation is limited, and pre-registration is necessary for this free program. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more info or to register, call

HANG OUT WITH SCRUB JAYS: Spend the morning with he scrub jays at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiam the scrub jays at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiam
Trail, Osprey) from 8:30 to $10: 30$ a m. every Sunday. This unique Central Florida experience includes a nature walk to see the park's diverse ecosystems, native flora and fauna. Call 941-483-5956 for info.

CHARLOTTE HARBOR DRAGONS: Dragon boat club meets every Wednesday and Saturday at 8 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. Learn the ancient art of dragon boat racing. We practice out of the Port Charlotte Beach Complex (4500 Harbor Blvd. Port Charlotte). For availability, contact Eddie Amara at 941-740-1286 or eamara1@comcast.net, or to learn more about the club visit CharlotteHarborDragons.com. Paddles up!

CHARLOTTE HARBOR MULTIHULL ASSOCIATION: Members of this club for multihull owners, sailors or those who are interested in the exchange of ideas about equipping and sailing boats, share information about anchorages and cruising destinations, hold informal races and have raft-ups 0 dues. The club meets at a local restaurant the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. For more info, call 941-876-6667.

COASTAL VENTURES CRUISE CLUB: This club, designed

## BIRDING TALK IN NORTH PORT

North Port Friends of Wildlife will sponsor a talk by Bob Clark from 6 to $7: 30$ p.m. April 23 at the Shannon Staub Library (4675 Career Lane, North Port). Bob, a member of the Venice Area Audubon Society chapter, will bring us up o date on that chapter - who they are, what they do and will include news of their bird rookery. In addition, he will speak about eBird, Cornell's Lab of Ornithology's bird sighting reporting/tracking website/app (eBird. org), including the benefits of using it and how to use it Currently, North Port has very little statistical reporting input into eBird and we want to change that. No cost; the input into ebird and we want

## VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR FISHING CLINIC

CHNEP seeks ambassadors to share their love of fishing at our sustainable fishing clinic, planned for April 27. Morning and afternoon shifts available. The clinic will be held at The Big Calusa, a week-long celebration of the Caloosahatchee River at North Shore Park, 13001 N. Cleveland Ave., (North Fort Myers). Volunteers will teach skills like casting, knot tying, hook safety, fish ID and more. Participating kids will receive a free rod and reel. You can register to help out at http://bit.ly/2OuSvzV.

## TREE FAIR 2019

People for Trees, a non-profit native tree advocacy group that has been sponsoring tree festivals since 1999, will host Tree Fair 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 at the North Port Community Education Center (4940 Pan American Blud, North Port) Hundreds of 3 -gallon native trees (approx. 6 to 8 feet tall) will be for sale for only \$15 each; Florida sweetgum, American elm, bald cypress, slash pine, southern red cedar, red maple, dahoon holly, pignut hickory. Alice White, chair of People for Trees since its inception in 1997, will lead a number of informational "walk and talks" about the trees that will be for sale so attendees can choose just the right trees for their yards. Attendees can see th correct way to plant a tree at a demonstration plot. Arborists from Simply Trees will be doing tree-climbing demonstrations throughout the morning, from 10 to noon, and be available to answer questions about tree pruning, maintaining a heal thy tree, etc. There will be a"Fairy Gathering" at 11 a.m. led by "Reve, Faer. There" Elaine Silver who will also provide the musical Rev. Faerie" Elaine silver who will also provide the musical entertainment. For more info, contact Alice at $941-468-248$
treelady12001@yahoo.com or visit PeopleFortrees.com.

## ENGLEWOOD EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

The Englewood Earth Day Festival celebrates sustainability with family-friendly activities, raffles and demonstrations The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to $4: 30$ p.m. April 28 at Buchan's Community Park ( 1390 Old Englewood Road, Englewood). CHNEP needs your help to spread the word about clean water and plastic pollution! Sign up as an ambassador to assist at our educational booth for the event - let's make every day Earth Day! Morning and afternoon shifts available. To volunteer, go to http://bit.ly/2Yskghd.

## CAPT. JOSH SPEAKS AT CG AUX MEETING

The next meeting of Flotilla 98 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be held at 7 p.m. May 1 at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda). The flotilla will welcome Capt. Josh Olive, speaking about WaterLine and answering questions about Charlotte Harbor. Guests and prospective members are always welcome. For more info, call Michael F. Griffith at 941-223-9064

## FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is conducting free vessel safety checks in Englewood. They'll make sure the safety
for personal boat cruising, meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Waterfrontoo Restaurant (2205 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis). Join them for dinner at 6 p.m. and/or the 7:30 p.m. meeting where they'Il discuss upcoming cruises and activities. Enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded water rats. If interested, attend a meeting or call 941-493-0070 for more info.

VOLUNTEER AT SHAMROCK PARK: Shamrock Park Nature Center ( 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice) holds its monthly volunteer work mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. on the third Friday of each month. For more info, call Jennifer Rogers at 941-861-5000 or email her at jrogers@scgov.net.

PEACE RIVER PADDLING: Join a guided kayaking trip on the Peace River. Free if you bring your own kayak, or rent equipment for $\$ 25$ per person. Paddle with an experienced guide and explore remote areas of the Peace River. These trips are intended to be easy paddling for everyone to have fun, meet people with similar interests, and enjoy the outdoors. Trips are planned from 9 to 11 a.m. each Tuesda if weather permits. Meet at Nav-A-Gator 30 minutes prior to departure. Sign up by calling Steve Burroughs 813-8574634. Trips are provided byKayakEcoTours.com.

SIARMCIBOUUNAB
All outings are free and the public is invited. Donations to the Sierra Club always gratefully accepted. On paddle trips, participants must provide own watercrat and PFD, and be able to swim. Call the listed number to make a reservation. For a full list of outings, visit GCHGroup.org.
PADDLE DOWN UPPER SHELL CREEK with Rick Fried, $9: 30$ a.m. to 3 p.m. April 1: Here's a chance to Fried, $9: 30$ a.m. to 3 p.m. April 1 : Here's a chance to
see the other way and likely a few more alligators to photograph. We'll go downstream this time to the dam and back. 941-637-8805.
PADDLE THE PEACE RIVER ROOKERIES with Rick Fried, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 10 or May 24: Paddle down to the rookeries to see active nest-building and hatching, and then up side channels or the river to the Nav-A-Gator for lunch. Return via a different Peace River route. 941-637-8805.


The general public is invited to join members of the Peace River Audubon Society for a series of field trips and walkabouts. Field trips are half-day to full-day adventures. Bring a bag lunch, drinking water and sunscreen. Carpooling is available; inquire. Walkabouts are shorter trips, about two hours. Call the number listed for more info. APRIL 2 WALKABOUT: "Birds, Buds, and Blooms." Meet at 8 a.m. at Amberjack Preserve ( 6250 Gasparilla Pines
APRIL 13 FIELD TRIP: Fort De Soto, St. Petersburg. Meet at 7 a.m. at Deep Creek Walmart parking lot across from Culver's (385 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte) Coordinator: Mike Krzyzkowski, 863-244-2652.
APRIL 20: PRAS Earth Day Event at Deep Creek Preserve 10797 Peace River Street, Arcadia) at 8 a.m 1-286-0340.

MAY 7 WALKABOUT: "Folklore Fun." Meet at 8 a.m. at Hathaway Park (35301 Washington Loop Road, Punta Gorda). Coordinator: Ron Mills, 941-575-6968.
equipment mandated by federal and state regulations is onboard. If an inspected vessel is found to be safe, a"Seal of Safety" decal is awarded to the boat owner and affixed in a prominent location. For more info or to schedule an in a prominent location. For more info or to schedule an ShawC01@att.net. Visit Flotilla 87 at CoastGuardEnglewood com for more info.

## CHEC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy learning about and teaching others about nature? Looking for a fun and educational way to meet like minded people? Consider becoming a volunteer with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Cedar Point Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Office volunteers work shifts from 8:30 a.m. to noon or noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Volunteers can work one shift per week or just Friday. Volunteers can work one shift per week or just
a shift a month. Volunteers are need as trail guides to lead guided nature walks through several local Charlotte lead guided nature walks through several local charlotte
County properties. These are usually from 9 to 11 a.m. on County properties. These are usually from 9 to 11 a.m. on
various days of the week. If interested, a training session various days of the week. If interested, a training session
will be scheduled. You will learn some plants, animals and will be scheduled. You will learn some plants, animals and
interpretive techniques to help you lead these "walks in the interpretive techniques to help you lead these "walks in the CHECflorida.org.


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2 tbsp olive oil
1 cup chopped red bell pepper 1 cup chopped green bell pepper 2 cups fresh or frozen corn
1 cup diced onion
1 tsp salt, divided
1 tsp fresh-ground black pepper, divided
1 tsp dried thyme, divided
46 -ounce grouper (or other white fish) fillets
$1 / 2$ cup crushed french-fried onion rings
Heat oven to $450^{\circ}$. Combine 1 tablespoon of the olive oil with red and green bell peppers, corn, onion and $1 / 2$ teaspoon each of the salt, pepper, and thyme in a large ovenproof pan. Roast mixture in the oven until the corn and peppers start to brown, about 12 minutes, stirring twice. Coat fillets with remaining 1 tablespoon of oil and remaining $1 / 2$ teaspoon of salt, pepper and thyme. Top with crushed onion rings. Remove roasting pan from oven; spread corn-and-pepper mixture to sides of the pan. Place fillets in middle of pan; return to oven and cook 10 minutes until fillets are opaque in the center. Serve fillets on a bed of roasted vegetables. Yields 4 servings.


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Many years ago (I am not going to say how many), I met a great group of birding friends. We mostly traveled on group birding trips to places like Cape May, Delaware, the eastern shore of Maryland, Texas and Virginia. We also attended several Midwest Birding Symposiums and we would meet in Florida for trips before I moved here.
I learned a lot from this group. They were awesome birders, and back then some were learning just as I was. We are still in communication, and we all are still birding.
One of the fun things they did was use mnemonics to identify the birdsong or bird call. Mnemonics are phrases that help us identify something. Several of my friends were amazing birders and could tell the bird with a few notes of song. But most are not that lucky. I am not one of the lucky ones who can recognize a lot of bird calls; just some. So I like mnemonics, which are fun to use and easy to remember.
One of the very first and easiest phrases to learn is the call of the barred owl: "Who cooks for you?" Most birders know this phrase. One I use a lot here in Florida is "Get your beer, Chuck." If someone is not familiar with mnemonics, they may think I am an alcoholic screaming out for booze. But it's the call of the white-eyed vireo. It is also quite distinct.
The Carolina chickadee says its name: "Chickadee-dee-dee." I'm sure you've heard it. Right now, the tufted titmice are at my feeders. I hear them first, as they call "Peter, peter, peter." We usually hear the great crested flycatcher first and then see t. The call is "Wee-eep, wee-eep." It is quite distinct.
Of course, all birders recognize the eastern phoebe as it raspily says its name: "Fee-bee, fee-bee." Sometimes we don't even see the phoebe - but its call is so distinct, birders just write it down as a heard bird.
Just on our last field trip we listened to the Carolina wren as it melodically called "Teakettle, teakettle, teakettle." We hear the common yellow-throat here quite often, calling "Witchety, witchety, witchety.'
Thank you to the chuck-wills-widow for
saying its name and also thank you whip poor-will. The chuck-wills-widow is here year around, and the whip-poor-will is here only during the winter.
Often we hear the loud screams of the red-shouldered hawk: "Kee-ahh, kee-ahh." They may even get louder when the blue jays are chasing it screaming "Queedle, queedle, queedle!"

One of my personal favorite bird calling activities is answering back to the fish crows'"Uh-huh, uh-huh," which forces me to answer, "Unh-uh, unh-uh."
The great horned owl calls out at night and asks "Are you awake?" Then it answers the question for you. The call will be heard as "Are you awake? Me too."
Not all birds are known for mnemonics. Our Florida state bird is the famous (seen on every street sign pole) northern mockingbird. Since this bird copies other birds' songs, we can recognize the call by its pattern: Three notes then four notes, three notes then four notes.
Of course you'll need a good imagination or maybe the continual use of these mnemonics to recognize them. I am usually the first one to call out, "Get your beer, Chuck" when I hear the white-eyed vireo. It is so clear to me that I can't tell you any other call for this Florida-area bird.
I hope you're not scratching your head right now wondering what l'm talking about. I guarantee from now on while you're birding you'll be listening for these phrases. Have fun with mnemonics. If you are having a difficult time, make up your own words for that bird call and you will not forget it.

There are hundreds of phrases for bird calls, and they may differ from region to region. Whether you are a backyard birder or go on major birding trips, these mnemonics will come in handy. Good birding! "Cheer, cheer, charmer" (or so says the eastern bluebird).
Abbie Banks is a member of the Venice Area Birding Association, a group of folks who want to enjoy the environment and nature without the cumbersome politics of an organized group. For more info on VABA or to be notified of upcoming birding trips, visit AbbiesWorld.org/references. html or email her at Amberina@aol.com.


Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001 (4): The intentional feeding or the placement of food that attracts pelicans and modifies the natural behavior of the pelican so as to be detrimental to the survival or health of a local population is prohibited.



A large female great white shark pregnant with a record 14 pups was accidentally caught by fishermen off the coast of Taiwan and sold at a fish market March 20. The enormous mamma was purchased for less than $\$ 2,000$ by a Taiwanese taxidermy company, Taiwan English News reported. The images from local news agencies of the great white shark (Carcharodon carcharias) and the pups that were cut out of her are hard to believe. At more than 15 feet long, the shark is bigger than a small car and is probably not what most fishers want in their nets. The shark's 14 pups look as though they were nearly fully developed and ready to take on the open ocean but were stopped short when their mother was killed. The 14 pups this mamma shark was carrying likely mark a record number for the species, said David Ebert, a shark scientist and the director of the Pacific Shark Research Center at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in Moss Landing, California. "It is very rare to catch pregnant white sharks, so at least they were able to document this with photographs," Ebert said. Burgess and his colleagues are working to connect with the shark's purchaser and obtain tissue samples from the mamma shark and each of her pups. "This is exciting for us as scientists because again, finding a pregnant female doesn't happen often," Burgess said. "They aren't getting caught as often which is great, but you also don't get animals to look at. The story is a good one in the sense of knowledge, but a bad one in the sense that it's a pregnant female shark."

## WHEN CROCS ATTACK

Northern Territory, Australia Dac Craig and his friend Daniel were doing some fishing in Australia's Northern Territory when Daniel hooked onto what Craig called "a donkey" of a barramundi. Craig began filming the battle to land the big fish, but it turned out that Daniel had some competition, in the shape of a crocodile Craig estimated was 9 to 10 feet long. Craig's dramatic video shows him yelling at Daniel to run as the fish is pulled from the water, quickly pursued by the giant crocodile. Unfortunately for Daniel, the crocodile wins the race, swallowing the fish right off his hook. "The whole thing's gone down his gob," lamented Craig, who told ABC Australia. "We were shocked, we were sad. I was disap-
pointed for Daniel - it was a good fish." See the video for yourself at http:// bit.ly/2FBanXO.

## FRANKENFISH RETURNS

Sylvia Wulf sure was busy at the Seafood Expo North America las week, hustling to meet with various fish distributors and other business contacts. The AquaBounty Technologies CEO's controversial product isn't like the other fish in the sea. Her Maynard company produces a special kind of salmon, and she had a promising story to tell attendees at the Boston event. AquaBounty makes genetically modified fish, the first bioengineered animal approved for human consumption in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration gave the green light this month by lifting a ban that had blocked AquaBounty from bringing its genetically modified eggs into the country from Canada. Wulf expects to start moving eggs from AquaBounty's Prince Edward Island hatchery to the company's Indiana salmon farm within two weeks. She hopes to begin selling the fish in the United States by the end of next year, most likely through a food-service company to start. Eventually, she envisions a half-dozen fish farms across the country, and an ambitious overseas expansion.


## LOG-ROLLED

NEHALEM, Ore. - A woman is recovering in the intensive care unit after being crushed by a log that was lifted by a sneaker wave at Manzanita Beach off Pelican Lane Saturday afternoon, according to Nehalem Fire and Rescue Heathyr Croasmun broke 13 ribs in multiple places and suffered bruising on her lungs, according to her husband Joe Croasmun. The family took a photo a minute or two before the wave hit. It knocked Joe, his brother, and two kids over as well. The incident has emergency responders heeding a familiar warning: "Never turn your back on the ocean." This spring break scare is not a rarity along Oregon's coast, according to Nehalem Fire and Rescue Chief Perry Sherbaugh. He tells KGW that his department sees a log incident like this every few years and it can be deadly. "You're talking about a several ton log rolling across you. It would be like rolling dough out on a table. Your body can't sustain that amount of weight," Sherbaugh said.

## UNDERWATER SPIES

As Russia, China, and the United States race to build undetectable submarines or underwater drones, scientists are recruiting some unlikely help to keep

up. A DARPA-funded program called Persistent Aquatic Living Sensors adorably abbreviated to "PALS" - is developing a way to use the endless bubbling, snapping, and clicking of pistol shrimp as a sort of ubiquitous sonar, according to Discover Magazine, which talked to Alison Laferriere, the project leader who works at defense contractor Raytheon BBN Technologies "The idea is that the sounds that the shrimp create would travel to the object, reflect off of it and we would be able to detect it at our sensors," she told Discover. Pistol shrimp can shut their claws so fast that it gives off a 190-decibel noise. Because the shrimp are so common, their snapping fills coastal areas with a sort of underwater white noise that could be used to spot enemy submarines or drones - or at least that's DARPA's idea. "What we're interested in, specifically, is monitoring the soundscape and determining if there's a change in the soundscape in some way when an underwater vehicle passes through," Laferriere said Monitoring that underwater soundscape would only require that the military install listening devices - because the shrimp and other animals are making the noise, there's no need to install a prohibitively-expensive network of sonar-generating devices as well. of course, Laferriere's team doesn't yet know what a military drone would look like to a sonar detector - she's still working in a lab setting with tanks of snapping shrimp. But if all goes well, PALS will travel to the Virgin Islands to start recording and analyzing oceanic noise later this year.

## JUST ONE CHOICE

There was this fisherman that always had a good day fishing. His friend, the game warden, couldn't figure out how he did it, so one day the game warden decided to go fishing with his friend. The fisherman took his friend the warden out to his favorite spot. Once there, the fisherman took a stick of dynamite out of his backpack, lit it and threw it into the water. The dynamite exploded and a dozen fish floated to the top. The game warden said, "That's illegal, you can't do that!" The fisherman lit another stick of dynamite and threw it into the water. The dynamite exploded, and a dozen more fish floated to the top. The game warden said, "Stop that now, and take this boat back to shore ... I'm going to have to give you a citation and confiscate all your gear." The fisherman looked over, lit another stick of dynamite, threw it into the game warden's lap, and said, "You gonna sit there and keep flapping your trap, or are you gonna fish?

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## Sometimes you have to throw everything out and start over

So your fishing day isn't going so good. You are overrun by guides taking their customers out, a bunch of people suddenly discover there are bass in the area you've been fishing, and the airboaters are making so much noise you can't think straight. When chaos descends on you, you need to be able to change things up in order to catch fish.

The situation I described may sound a tad comical to you, but this is exactly what happened to me in a tournament a couple of weeks back. I was so frustrated I almost put my new Nitro back on the trailer. Instead, I persevered and wound up winning the tournament. But the only reason that happened was we changed our tactics completely. Let me share with you what we did that day on Lake Kissimmee to catch some bass.
First of all, when Missy and I go out fishing, tournament or not, I rig up a lot of different combinations of baits. I want a range of soft plastics, covering various colors, sizes and shapes. I also want a spinnerbait, a chatterbait, a crankbait, and various topwater rigs tied on rods and ready to grab. Then we go fish. I know it seems like overkill, but trust me, I use them all in search of what may bite best.
In practice, we found that the far shoreline of Lake Cypress had nice bass and we could catch them on a Rebel Pop-R. Who doesn't like catching bass this way? So that was one spot we were good with. I had fished around Brahma Island and Jack's Slough the weekend before with no luck. We have countless spots on Kissimmee, but the way the bass bite was on with that Pop-R, I was confident we could catch a limit early ... as long as we could get out to the bass and not have a ton of boat traffic.
We no more than got started when two guides with their clients roared up on the same spot I was fishing. Now, these are big areas with plenty of room to fish. The problem I had was that while I was sitting still letting them get their clients set up and deciding which way to go, one of them came within a few feet of running into my new boat. After getting the captain's attention, he apologized. Then he went right through the area I had intended to fish, followed by his buddy in the other guide boat. After watching them catch four bass,

I decided to move on and let them have the area. It was clear that my bait would be no match for the big shiners they were dragging around. I went to another part of Cypress, nothing there. Hit the mouth of Lake Hatchineha, nothing there. Tried two spots in the river, nothing there. Checked the mouth of the river leading to Kissimmee, nothing there. Went to a spot on the north end of the lake, nothing there. By then, it was $10: 15$ and I had zero bass in the well. So what should I do? My pattern of topwater bass had been run over. I hadn't found any life anywhere else I stopped. I made the decision to head back down the lake to Jack's Slough and fish the same area that I got nothing in when we practiced.
You may be asking why, and that's a good question. There was something about that spot in practice that made me not completely give up on it. While we hadn't caught anything, we did raise fish in there on our Gambler Big EZ swimbaits. Given the conditions we had, I thought it might be worth a second chance.
My first cast saw my braided line wrap around the eye of my rod, cutting the line and sending my bait flying. I was really getting upset by now. But after seeing one big boil inside the sparse grass lines, I retied and started fishing again.
That's when things got going. We caught a limit of bass inside of 90 minutes. That Big EZ really started to work. We made long casts inside the grass and around the scattered pads and started catching bass one after the other.
We went from one end of the chain just south of the lock to the extreme other end of the chain, and we changed our tactics completely. That is a big chance when you have zero bass in your well.
We went from topwaters to swimbaits. We went from fishing over hydrilla to casting at grass and pads. After getting a read on the day, the conditions, and everything else that was going on, we knew we had to change something. The change was drastic, but it was needed and it paid off. Because we were willing to adapt, we wound up with the biggest bass and heaviest weight of the day
When you get caught in that situation, you need to be able to make a new plan. A
lot of this comes from time on the water. You have to have that confidence to know you can make a move to someplace you've had success in the past. Maybe it won't be the exact same spot, but to water that is similar. Don't ever get hung up on one area and beat yourself to death. If I'm not catching anything, I'm going to go try something else - preferably something new, something different, and in water I'm not used to fishing. That's how you gain experience.

You're already out there, so why not explore? Sometimes those changes won't amount to much. But sometimes, they'll reward you handsomely. Don't get stuck - don't be afraid to make a change.
Greg Bartz is a tournament bass fisherman based in Lakeland. Greg fishes lakes throughout Florida's Heartland and enjoys RV travel around the Southeast with his wife and tournament partner, Missy. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@ SummitHoldings.com.

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Your donations keep us going, but it's got to be the right stuff

Peace River Wildlife Center is extremely grateful to our supporters who donate items from our wish lists. Some of the things we request are pretty self-explanatory. We feed bird seed to birds. It's not rocket science. But why do we ask for puppy pee pads or hose nozzles? Are we waterboarding young dogs here?
Many of the supplies we ask for are for housekeeping and cleaning purposes: Wipes, soap, paper towels, etc. Many of the provisions in that category can be satisfied by any brand or generics. Sometimes we ask for a product by name just because it is common vernacular. When we say we need Kleenex, we mean any kind of plain facial tissue (unscented, no lotion).
But occasionally we do ask for a brand name and there's a reason for it. When we must bathe an animal for some reason, we use original Dawn dishwashing detergent specifically. We get birds that have gotten into discarded cooking oil or automotive grease. We admit birds, snakes and small mammals that have gotten stuck in glue traps, and the only way to free them safely is to gently coat them in an oily substance and slowly peel them off the glue board.
Those creatures then have to be bathed in the grease-cutting Dawn to remove the oily substances from their feathers, fur or scales. No other soap we have tried has proven as safe and effective as Dawn. (This is not a paid endorsement.)
Another brand-name item we love is the Scotch Brite scrub sponge. Generic sponges may cost half the price, but they have to be replaced so quickly that they end up costing
much more. The cheapos just don't hold up to the herculean task of scrubbing dried-on raccoon poo or mouse guts off cage walls and food dishes. Things you didn't know you didn't know (and wish you still didn't). Sometimes we will ask for a specific product because we know it has the properties we require. Heating pads are tricky because most of them have an automatic shut-off. Product labels can bury that fact in hard-to-find places, or not mention it at all. Through trial and error (lots of error!), we have found a few that will remain on constantly. Constant steady heat on low is what our patients require. It does us no good for a baby squirrel to get chilled every couple of hours, or to have a volunteer posted at the heating pad area to turn the pads back on as soon as they pop off.
Food can be confusing for donors also. While we realize many of our patients will go on to live lives in the wild where they may consider garbage a fine feast, we endeavor to feed fresh, wholesome foodstuffs here. If you have half a bag of fresh kale that you know will go bad before you finish it, we will gladly take it for our rabbits and tortoises. But that cantaloupe rind or rotten tomato is not something we can feed to any of our animals. My philosophy is that if I wouldn't eat it, I won't feed it.
Some "cast-offs" are great, like the leafy tops of many vegetables (carrots, beets, etc.) if they are fresh. We have gotten a plethora of fresh greens, fruits and veggies from our friends at Warden Farms and many people in the community who shop there or grow their own crops. These are not only grown
without pesticides, but last much longer than store-bought produce because they are truly farm-fresh and haven't already spent weeks in warehouses and on trucks.
I don't mean to sound ungrateful, but we never feed bread or hot dogs to anything. Never. Ever. If you have stale or moldy bread or crackers, please just throw them away, along with your potato skins, peach pits and banana peels. PRWC has many well-meaning supporters who unwittingly bring us their garbage, thinking we can use it to feed our animals. We cannot.
If you are ever in doubt about donating something to us, just give us a call. We can use the most unusual things that you might not have considered. SSD or Silvadene cream that is prescribed for wound care management in people, often in excess, is a great topical medication for some of our patients - but it's expensive for us to purchase.

Or we may just say, thanks, but no thanks. Even some of the things we need most at times (such as sheets or towels) we may have too many of at other times. With our extremely limited amount of storage space, we must be constantly cognizant of what we have and what we need on a daily basis
If you are interested in helping PRWC by purchasing supplies for us, check out our web site at http://bit.ly/2HZ8tku for our Wish List. You can also link up to our Amazon wish list through the web site and order from there, support PRWC through the Smile charity program, and send supplies directly to us.

To answer the questions from earlier in this diatribe: We use the hose nozzles to
keep the outdoor habitats clean. We often hear people exclaim, astonished, "It doesn't even stink here!" Our volunteers clean each and every habitat and cage at least daily.
Some get cleaned numerous times a day.
The pee pads are placed on the cage floors of bunnies and certain other species that tend to be rather prolific poopers and/or might get their nails or talons stuck in the loops of towels. We also use them for birds that have been affected by botulism or red tide and are partially paralyzed. We make a "donut" out of a towel to support their heads and hold them in some semblance of a natural position. Then we spread a pee pad over the makeshift "nest" to change as necessary to keep the bird clean and comfortable - well, as comfortable as they can be under the circumstances.
We appreciate our community's support that allows us to provide care for the injured and orphaned wildlife of Charlotte County and beyond. Every item donated to us stretches our budget even further. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we can provide close to a quarter-million dollars in care to our patients and residents with a budget of only \$100,000 a year.
Peace River Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the care, preservation and protection of Charlotte County's native wildlife since 1978. They are open seven days a week year-round, including holidays. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PRWC receives no government funding and relies entirely on private donations. For more info, visit PRWildlife. org, email PeaceRiverWildlife@yahoo.com or call 941-637-3830



The true herald of winter's end has arrived

It seems like I say the same thing in every column this time of year, but another cold front just passed through the area yesterday. This one brought rain, wind and a big drop in both water and air temps. Every year (starting in February) we try to "will" spring (and springtime fishing) to arrive here early to save us from the horrible winters we are subject to. Every year, we get some great weather and great fishing early, and everyone says "Spring is here!"
Then Mother Nature puts us in our place again and again. As I write this, it's 2:58 p.m. on March 20th. In exactly three hours, it will officially be spring. But I don't think l'll rush right out and fish. Luckily, I had blocked out the first part of my week to take care of some other business. I didn't have to cancel any trips, change schedules or pole anyone around in a 15 - to $20-\mathrm{mph}$ wind. So, it worked out just right for a change. I don't need to listen to a meteorologist or look at a calendar to know its spring. Nor do I have to stand outside and feel the temperature changes, or see how much pollen has accumulated on the tiki bar out back. What is one thing that happens every spring in our waters? Come on, you know this.
Whitebait shows up, right? (Whitebait is a term used that includes different types of small baitfish in our area.) Sure, the days start getting a little longer and the water temps go up. But it's not really spring until the bait makes an appearance here in our neighborhood. How do I find out about the whitebait showing up around here? I don't have to read about it, don't have to hear about it through the grapevine. I don't even have to take the boat out and go look for it.
No, all I have to do is go to a ramp and take a slow drive-through at
the end of a day. I'll see somebody throwing their leftover bait to all the begging birds (mostly pelicans), right under the posted signs that tell them not to feed the birds. Or even better still, they just dump their leftovers on the ramp and road as they pull the boat out of the water while draining their bait tanks. It's great! We get to step on the still-alive and flippin' bait as we walk to the car, and then run over them when we back the trailer down.
Ahhh, the wonderful signs of spring. Just last week I had a client ask me about all the baitfish on the ramp as we had to tippy-toe through them to get to my boat. I told him that it doesn't rain cats and dogs here in Southwest Florida - it rains whitebait. Honestly, I said it's just very astute conservation tactics and common sense hard at work. I hope he speaks sarcasm.
What does all this whitebait business mean to the fly guys and gals? It means that it is time to take the 10 through 12 weights off the rack. Spray them down with a little Reel Magic and clean them up until they are nice and shiny. Check the drag on the big reels and stretch the fly line. Replace all your leaders and check to make sure that all the welded loops on the fly lines are not cracked or worn. Also check your bigger flies. Take them out of the box and make sure the hooks haven't rusted during the long dormant storage time.
Why do all that? Tarpon, that's why. Some tarpon have been around the passes and backwaters since February, and a couple of weeks ago the pass had a lot of tarpon in it. The tarpon were doing what tarpon do, rolling around, splashing and doing tarpon stuff. I haven't been down south to look yet, but I'm sure there are probably tarpon at Knapp's Point.

Now, don't put the 6 and 8 weights away yet. The redfish and snook have been pretty good and will get better as temps warms and tides get better. The tarpon won't be consistent for a while yet, but, you are going to start seeing them. It won't hurt to have a big rod rigged and on the boat, so get ready just in case.
The arrival of the bait also means that we can start to slowly wean ourselves off the smaller shrimp and crab patterns that we have been throwing this winter. I did say slowly. Like the 6 and 8 weights, don't put them away for the season - but you can start throwing more baitfish style patterns along with the shrimp and crabs.
Anchovy, pilchard and finger mullet patterns will become more of the go-to for a while, until the pass crabs start their spawning drifts on the tides of summer. Don't forget that snook, redfish, trout and all of our fishy friends in the Charlotte Harbor area like those little bite-size crabs as much as the tarpon.
I had to leave the house to run a couple of errands and just got back to the column. OK, now it's officially spring! Also, it's blowing 18 mph and is cooling down quick. Between the full moon, temps down in the 50s tonight and winds of 15 to 20 mph forecast for tomorrow, I'm really glad I don't have a trip for a couple of days. But, after that - hey it's springtime. Get out and throw a fly!

Stay fly.
Capt. Rex Gudgel is a fly fishing guide in the Boca Grande area and an International Federation of Fly Fishers Master Certified casting instructor. If you'd like to get casting lessons, book a trip or just need more fly fishing info, contact him at 706-254-3504 or visit BocaGrandeSlamFlyFishing.com or CastWithRex.com.



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## AD

March is marching on and I'm looking forward to April. Hopefully it will bring less wind. The stiff breezes of March are true to form and blowing us off the Gulf frequently. I can fish the nearshore Gulf with east winds, but the west winds stir up beach waters. They are too rough to take folks out on safely. This week was tough as we were forced inside by high winds.
We caught a few fish last week but it was nothing like the calmer week before. On some trips, I was thankful to find ladyfish to bend poles. The abundant schools of Spanish moved on, but baitfish are still here. I expect many more mackerel and kings to pull our strings when it's calm enough we can reach them. We are expecting east winds in coming days, which I predict will allow great fishing again.
It's great to get a break from red tide and all the negative press about it. Stay on all possible prevention and possible cures, because it will not go away forever. We can each do our part by putting less nutrients in our waters to feed blooms. Prayers might help too.
We still have a big problem with algae in our local estuaries. We have a lot of dying red algae showing up everywhere as our varied wind directions blow it around. As waters warm up, this algae dies off and
floats around.
The stuff isn't good: It stinks if it blows up in your neighborhood shores. It also covers much of our bay bottom, suffocating our important seagrasses. Green grasses need sunlight. The algae covers the grasses, killing them. As you motor around shallow areas with dead algae, you will notice it being stirred up by the prop wash. It's also a problem getting hung on our baits and lures. Beach renourishment is necessary to prevent barrier island properties from falling into the Gulf. It's not a solution - just a bandage to slow down the inevitable. Sands will always continue to shift with winds and waves. Beachfront living is not sustainable, but it's fun between storms. Ask the folks in the Panhandle up around Mexico Beach how it works out when you get a hurricane. Mother Nature will eventually win.
If we go back before Venice did extensive beach renourishment decades ago, our natural hard bottom near Middle Beach offered very productive fishing. Capt. Scotty Moore, myself and a few others enjoyed excellent fishing on this bottom for snook, reds, trout and more.
Ask Capt. Mike Anderson of Reel Animals to dig up their show filmed on this very spot. They were taken to a super-secret spot by one of the newer guides in need of exposure.

My clients were catching big reds and snook as fast as we could until they moved in and ran us off. Their diver swam in to shoot impressive underwater footage of the schools of snook we were enjoying. I'm sure Mike could find the footage to prove just how awesome this hard bottom was - before beach renourishment and red tides killed it.
We need to educate some of our Charlotte County commissioners about hard bottom mitigation. They are concerned about the costs but lack any understanding as to why the natural hard bottom is low quality now. With hard bottom in shallow water, beach renourishment tends to cover it up with sand. Understand that our longshore drifting of sand is from north to south, and it migrates with wave action.
I suspect the problem with fish holding locally longer is exactly the same as our beach hard bottom. But instead of sand covering it, red tide killed all the marine life - barnacles, sponges, corals, etc. - that held minnows and larger fish there. Either way, with no reason to stay, the fish don't.
Growth and "progress" are not going away, but sustainability must be considered. I welcome any opportunity to help educate our commissioners about the importance of natural hard bottom. A manmade substitute is never going to be better.

I'm glad they are concerned about costs. How about increasing impact fees from 40 percent to 100 percent? How about all the taxpayers'"investment" wasted on Murdock Village? These commissioners did not create this mess, but they are giving it away to get it back on property tax rolls. Let's see the total amount we spent on Murdock Village projects. When we add up the initial costs, itigation, loss of taxes and interest, it comes to real money! Hundreds of millions of dollars, surely.
Fishing has long been and still is crucial to our local economy. Yes, construction is big too - but if we don't maintain our quality of life, no one will want to live here!
This area was settled by fishermen because no one else could deal with the heat and bugs. Now that we have $A / C$ and insect control, it's been conquered by outsiders who are more concerned with money than our environment. Please consider what we are leaving for our grandchildren. I've enjoyed my four decades here, but it just might be time to move on
Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.


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Bill Elliot from
Clyde, Ohio, caught this red grouper while fishing with Serenity Charters.


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## CRIB FETMOGLIS

1 pound lump crab meat, drained 12-oz box fettuccine noodles 1 stick butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups whipping cream
1/2 cup sherry
10 oz shredded Parmesan cheese
1/4 tsp pepper
1/3 cup parsley
Cook fettuccine according to box directions and drain. While fettuccine is cooking, heat butter and garlic in skillet on medium heat until garlic is lightly browned (do not burn), Add cream, sherry, crabmeat and pepper. Heat 3 minutes until sauce begins to bubble, stirring occasionally. Add Parmesan and stir for 1 minute until cheese is melted. Remove from heat and pour over drained fettuccine. Stir well to coat all noodles. Sprinkle with parsley. Serves 6.

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by




## SEAGRASS <br> FROM PAGE 2A

scavenger hunt of sorts - a hunt for data The data they collect will help scientists get a better picture of the health of the Harbor, and will ultimately help communities make more informed decisions about how the resource is managed, says Florida Sea Grant agent Betty Staugler, who is leading the University of Florida citizen science project.
Training for the Eyes on Seagrass program is set for 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 11 at the Charlotte County Environmental Campus (25550 Harborview Road, Port Charlotte).
Citizen scientists will collect data during the first survey, April 12 and 25 , and a second survey, July 16 and 29, in upper Charlotte Harbor along the east and west shores.
They will focus on seagrass and seaweed because these two plants provide clues about the status of the Harbor, says Staugler.
"Seagrasses reduce shoreline erosion oxygenate the water, capture carbon, trap sediments and improve water clarity," she says. "Seagrasses also form extensive structural habitat that supports a diverse array of species, including economically valuable fishes and invertebrates. About 85 percent of the species targeted in commercia and recreational fisheries in the Charlotte Harbor estuary depend on seagrasses for at least part of their life cycle."
So, when seagrasses are thriving, that's
good news for the entire ecosystem. Seaweed, on the other hand, does better under conditions that are not as favorable to seagrasses, Staugler says.
"When there are more nutrients in the Harbor, seaweeds have a competitive advantage over seagrasses," Staugler explained. "Unattached seaweeds also shade rooted seagrasses, reducing their ability to photosynthesize and ultimately shortening their growing season. From an ecosystem perspective, the shift from seagrass to seaweed could have cascading impacts on animals dependent upon seagrass for food and shelter."
Volunteers will receive monitor gear and will work in teams of three anytime between April 12 and 25 , and July 16 and 29 to survey seagrass and seaweed in upper Charlotte Harbor along the east and west shores. Volunteers must form their own teams (at least three individuals) and provide their own boat transportation, water shoes, mask, snorkel and fins. Twenty survey teams are needed.
For more info about the program or to preregister your team, contact Betty Staugler at staugler@ufl.edu or call 941-764-4346.

Alrighty then - now you know what needs to be done and how you can help. Those of you who have been complaining, it's time to step up and do something that will actually be productive. Betty is waiting. Contact Capt. Josh Olive at 941-276-9657 or Publisher@WaterLineWeekly.com.


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State and federal regulations for Southwest Florida waters as of March 26, 2019. All bag limits are per harvester per day. Other limits may apply. For full rules, visit MyFWC.com/fishing and GulfCouncil.org/fishing_regulations.

## LICENSES

Resident saltwater or freshwater: Annual $\$ 17,5$-year $\$ 79$. If you fish from shore in salt water only, a license is required but it is free. A combo license for both freshwater and saltwater fishing is $\$ 32.50$ annually.
Resident senior: If you are a Fla. resident 65 or older, your driver's license or ID card replaces your fishing license. Gulf Reef Fish Survey (see below) and tarpon tags still required. Nonresident saltwater or freshwater: 3 days $\$ 17,7$ days $\$ 30$, annual $\$ 47$. Free shore fishing license not available for nonresidents.
Gulf Reef Fish Survey (required to harvest
red snapper, vermilion snapper, gag, red grouper, black grouper, amberjack, almaco jack or triggerfish) (see note 14): No charge
Annual permits (required only when a
license is required): Snook \$10, lobster \$5

## SALTWATER FISH

ALMACO JACK
Limit 100 pounds in state waters, limit 20 in federal waters; notes: 9,11,14

## AMBERJACK, GREATE

34" min.; limit 1; open Aug. 1 - 0ct. 31; notes: 1,3,4,5,7,9,14

## AMBERJACK, LESSER

BANDED RUDDERFISH
Slot 14" to 22"; aggregate limit 5;
notes: 1,4,5,7,9,14

## BARRACUDA

Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties only: Slot 15" to 36"; limit 2 (max. 6 per vessel; may posses one per vessel over 36"; notes: 1,5

## BLACK DRUM

Slot 14" to 24" (may possess 1 over 24"); limit 5; notes: 5,7,8
BLACK SEA BASS
10" min.; limit 100 pounds; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,15 BLUEFISH
12" min.; limit 10; notes: 1,5

## BLUE RUNNER

Limit 100
COBIA
$33^{\prime \prime}$ min.; limit in state waters 1 (max. 2 per vessel); limit 2 in federal waters; notes: 1,5
FLOUNDER, ALL SPECIES
12" min.; limit 10; notes: 2,5,7,8,15

## GROUPER, BLACK

24" min.; limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10,12,14 GROUPER, GAG
24" min.; limit 2; season open June 1-Dec. 31; notes: $2,3,4,5,7,9,10,14$

## GROUPER, GOLIATH (JEWFISH)

Harvest prohibited; legal to target for catch and release in state but not federal waters

## GROUPER, RED

20" min.; bag limit 2; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10,12,14

## GROUPER, SCAMP

16" min.; limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12 GROUPER, SNOWY \& YELLOWEDGE Limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10

## GROUPER, WARSAW \& SPECKLED HIND

 Limit 1 per vessel; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10 GROUPER, YELLOWFIN \& YELLOWMOUTH 20" min.; limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10,12GROUPER, CONEY, GRAYSBY, ROCK HIND, RED HIND (STRAWBERRY) \& TIGER Limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10,12,15

## HOGFISH

14" min.; limit 5; notes: 1,4,5,7,9
MACKEREL, KING (KINGFISH)
24" min.; limit 3; notes: 1,5

## MACKEREL, SPANISH

12" min.; limit 15; transfer to other vessels at sea prohibited; notes: 1,5
MAHI (DOLPHIN)
Limit 10 (max. 60 per vessel) in state waters only); notes: 5,15

MULLET, STRIPED \& SILVER
Limit, Feb. 1-Aug. 31, aggregate 50 (max. 100 per vessel); Sept. 1-Jan. 31, aggregate 50 (max. 50 per vessel); bag limit also applies to bait mullet; possession of striped mullet prohibited in Punta Gorda 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Nov. 1Feb. 29 (see http://bit.ly/urExej); notes: 15

## PERMIT

Slot $11^{\prime \prime}$ to $22^{\prime \prime}$; limit 2 (over 22" — limit 1; max. 2 per vessel); hook and line gear only in state waters; spearing legal in federal waters; see http://bit.ly/2R7CcKz for rules in Special Permit Zone south of Cape Sable; notes: 1,5,6,7 POMPANO, FLORIDA
11" min.; limit 6; notes: 1,5,6,7
POMPANO, AFRICAN
24" min.; limit 2 (max. 2 per vessel), notes: 1,5,6,7
PORGY, RED (CHAMPAGNE) Limit 100 pounds; notes: 4,5,7,9,15
REDFISH (RED DRUM)
Closed thru May 10 in most areas, see map at http://bit.ly/20rdIQN; Slot 18" to 27 "; limit 1 (max. 8 per vessel); off-the-water transport limit 6 per person; illegal to harvest or possess in federal water; notes: 2,5,6,7,8

## SAILFISH

63" min. from tip of lower jaw to center of fork; limit 1; notes: 5,6,16

## SEA TROUT, SPOTTED

Slot $15^{\prime \prime}$ to $20^{\prime \prime}$; limit 4; no harvest of fish over $20^{\prime \prime}$ thru May 10 in most areas, see map at http://bit.ly/20rdIQN; notes: 2,5,6,7

## SHARKS

State waters, no size limit on sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, finetooth \& smooth dogfish; $54^{\prime \prime}$ min. on bull, nurse, spinner, common thresher, blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle \& shortfin mako; species not listed are prohibited. Federal waters, $54 "$ min. most species except sharpnose and bonnethead; min. for shortfin mako 71" male and 83 "female ; for federally prohibited species see http://bit.ly/2Qf3hdk; limit in state waters 1 (max. 2 per vessel; limit in federal waters 1 per vessel; inline circle hooks required when fishing for sharks in federal waters; notes: 1,5,6,7,8,16

## SHEEPSHEAD

$12^{\prime \prime}$ min.; limit 8 (max. 50 per vessel in March \& April); notes: 2,5,7

## SNAPPER, CUBERA

Slot $12^{\prime \prime}$ to $30^{\prime \prime}$; limit 10 if under $30^{\prime \prime}$ (over $30^{\prime \prime}$ - limit 2, max. 2 per vessel); fish over $30^{\prime \prime}$ not included in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13
SNAPPER, MANGROVE (GRAY)
$10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{min}$. in state waters; $12^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{min}$. in
federal waters; limit 5 in state waters, 10 in federal waters; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13

## SNAPPER, LANE

$8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{min}$.; limit 20 in federal waters or 100 pounds in state waters; not included in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,11

## SNAPPER, MUTTON

18" min.; limit 5; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13

## SNAPPER, RED (AMERICAN)

16" min.; limit 2; recreational season open June 11-July 12, charter season open June 1 Aug. 2; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,13,14

## SNAPPER, SCHOOLMASTER

10" min.; limit 10; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13
SNAPPER, VERMILION (BEELINER)
10" min.; limit 10; not included in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,11,14
SNAPPER, BLACKFIN, DOG, QUEEN MAHOGANY, SILK \& YELLOWTAIL $12^{\prime \prime}$ min.; limit 10; notes: $2,4,5,7,9,13$

## SNOOK, ALL SPECIES

Closed thru May 10 in most areas; see map at http://bit.ly/20rdIQN; Slot 28" to $33^{\prime \prime}$; limit 1; season closed Dec., Jan., Feb., May, June, July, and Aug.; \$10 snook permit required to harvest when license is required; state regulations apply in federal waters; notes: 2,5,6,7,8

## TARPON

Limit 1 per harvester per year; $\$ 51.50$ tag required to harvest or possess (legal only for (GFA record); for seasonal Boca Grande Pass rules, see http://bit.ly/2xY6mXA; notes: 6,7,8

## TRIGGERFISH, GRAY

15" min.; limit 1; closing May 11 in feder-
al waters; state waters open March 1-May 31 and Aug. 1-Dec. 31; notes: 1,4,5,7,11,14 TRIPLETAIL
18" min.; limit 2; may be harvested by hook and line only; notes: 2,5,6,7,8

## WAHOO

Limit 2; notes: 1,5,15
LIONFISH
Kill on sight; no limits

## UNREGULATED SPECIES

In state waters, limit 100 pounds or two fish, whichever is more: Blackfin tuna, catfish, cero mackerel, croaker, grunts, ladyfish, little tunny, jack crevalle, pinfish, porgies, rays, sand trout, silver trout, spadefish, whiting, etc. See http://bit.ly/2HHkTOQ.

## NO-HARVEST SPECIES

In addition to species previously listed, harvest of bonefish, Nassau grouper, spotted eagle rays, manta rays and sawfish is prohibited Visit http://bit.ly/10nYDIz for full rules, including more no-harvest species.

## NOTES

1. Measured fork length (the straight line distance from most forward part of the head with mouth closed to the center of the tail).
2. Measured total length (the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side).
3. Bag limit zero for captain and crew of for hire vessels on a paid trip.
4. Reef fish gear rules apply. Anglers must use inline circle hooks when using natural baits, and must possess a dehooking device Venting tool not required. Also, cannot be taken by powerhead in the reef fish stressed area (see http://bit.ly/2xDjLVR).
5. Must remain in whole condition (head and tail intact) until landed ashore. Removal of gills and internal organs OK. Cannot be used as cut bait.
6. Harvest by spear, gig or bow prohibited.
7. Use of multiple hooks (more than one point on a common shank, like a treble hook) in conjunction with natural bait prohibited.
8. Harvest by snatching prohibited
9. Reef fish; illegal to use as bait in federal waters. In state waters, legal-size reef fish may be used as bait but must remain in whole condition and count against bag limit. 10. Included in aggregate 4 grouper bag limit. 11. Included in 20-fish reef fish aggregate bag limit in federal waters (includes vermilion snapper, lane snapper, almaco jack, gray triggerfish and all tilefish species).
10. Closed Feb. 1-March 31 in federal waters outside 20-fathom break ONLY. 13: Included in aggregate snapper bag limit of 10 fish.
14: Participation in Gulf Reef Fish Survey required to harvest. See http://bit.ly/15D6Hip 15. No bag limit in federal waters.
11. HMS permit required to target or harvest in federal waters; see http://bit.ly/2R5mFe8

## FRESHWATER FISH*

LARGEMOUTH BASS: No min. size; limit 5. Only one fish can be longer than $16^{\prime \prime}$ (tournaments may apply for a permit allowing participants to weigh more than one over $16^{\prime \prime}$ ) SUNFISH (all species excluding crappie): Aggregate limit 50
CRAPPIE: Aggregate white/black limit 25 AMERICAN EEL: Min. 9 " ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ limit 25 BUTTERFLY PEACOCK BASS: Max. 17", limit 2 (may possess 1 over 17") GRASS CARP: Must be released immediately. OTHER EXOTIC FISHES: Keep and eat or otherwise destroy; may not be used as live bait. UNREGULATED: No limits on bowfin, pickerel, catfish and gar (exc. alligator gar) PROHIBITED: Alligator gar, sturgeon. * Visit http://bit.ly/10nYJQr for full rules, including special management areas.


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