



LAKERS' MAGIC ABRUPTLY STEPS DOWN

After president Magic Johnson announced his resignation at an impromptu press conference on Friday, where do the Lakers go from here? *See Sports*

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Lyft driver arrested with drugs in vehicle

Charlotte deputies pulled car over for tag light violation

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

A Sarasota Lyft driver was arrested early Tuesday morning after a traffic stop in Port Charlotte turned into multiple drug possession charges.



HOWARD

Amber Carrine Howard, 38, who identified her occupation as a Lyft driver in a Charlotte County Sheriff's Office booking report, was pulled over by CCSO deputies around 1 a.m. for a license tag light violation at the intersection of southbound Tamiami Trail and Conway Boulevard in Port Charlotte.

It was not stated in the report whether or not Howard was operating as a Lyft driver at the time of the arrest.

Lyft has a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy for its drivers, according to company spokesperson Lauren Alexander.

"The safety of the Lyft community is our top priority," Alexander said. "While this incident did not occur on the Lyft platform, we immediately deactivated the driver after learning of these allegations."

After providing the deputy with her driver's license and vehicle information, Howard was told she would be issued a warning for the traffic violation. When asked if deputies could search the 2007 Toyota Camry, Howard refused, according to the CCSO arrest report.

The deputy then asked Howard and two passengers to

DRUGS | 5



CHARLIE SAYS

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A big step forward for stroke survival

Charlotte gets first comprehensive stroke center at Fawcett next month

By ANDREA PRAEGITZER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

PORT CHARLOTTE — Unable to move from her bathroom floor, Debra Tyler didn't have much time.

Every minute mattered. And if her husband hadn't found her at their home in Venice suffering from a stroke involving a blood clot, she said she could have died.

What's more, if she were taken to the nearest hospital

with a primary stroke center — rather than a comprehensive stroke center at Sarasota Memorial Hospital where she underwent a procedure called a thrombectomy — Tyler said she wouldn't be alive today.

Soon, patients like Tyler suffering severe strokes in Charlotte County have a better chance of surviving, too.

Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte is opening the first and only comprehensive stroke center in Charlotte

STROKE WARNING SIGNS

Stroke is a medical emergency. When it comes to a stroke and your brain's recovery, every second counts. If you notice one or more of these signs, don't wait. Call 911 or your emergency medical services right away.

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

County in May, which is also National Stroke Awareness Month.

"Currently, if someone in

our community is having a severe stroke, they are

STROKE | 4

This year, a pair of bills are promising an investment in red tide mitigation to the tune of \$3 million per year, for six years

Environmentalists wary of red tide funding bills

By SAMANTHA GROSS
TIMES-HERALD TALLAHASSEE BUREAU



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT PEARSON

Reader Pat Pearson took this aerial photo of red tide in the Gulf along the beach in Venice in September, 2018. The Venice Fishing Pier is at the top.

TALLAHASSEE — At its height, last year's intense bout of red tide brought respiratory distress, deposits of dead marine life and a sharp hit to the state's tourism industry.

The massive fish kills and beach closings on the Gulf Coast also drew attention to former Gov. Rick Scott's environmental record, which included slashing budgets for the agencies that are supposed to enforce pollution regulations and monitor water quality.

Two days after he took office, Gov. Ron DeSantis changed course. He unveiled sweeping measures to focus on Florida's water, including a proposal to spend \$2.5 billion on water quality and an executive order creating a task force to address

FUNDING | 4

"Both the polluters and Mote win with this narrative. Mote wins because they get money. The polluters win because the focus is not on the source of the nutrient pollution, but rather on control and mitigation."



— Cris Costello, Sierra Club

Welcome to the 'Gunshine State'

Florida is close to issuing its 2-millionth concealed weapon permit

By CAT GLORIA
FRESH TAKE FLORIDA,
A NEWS SERVICE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Already leading the nation with the highest number of concealed weapon permits, Florida is nearing a new threshold: granting authority to 2 million civilians who can lawfully carry guns tucked in waistbands, under jackets or inside purses into restaurants, shopping malls and elsewhere.

Sometimes called the "Gunshine State," Florida had a total of 1,971,997 currently valid concealed

weapon permits as of March 31, according to the latest figures from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The number grows about 17,500 each month. Additionally 12,745 judges, correctional officers, military or law enforcement officials hold permits in Florida.

At the current rate, Florida — with its population of 21.3 million people — was expected to surpass the 2-million mark for civilians before summer, said Stephen Hurm, director of licensing at the state agency that



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Jan. 5, 2016 file photo, Mike Weinstein, director of training and security at the National Armory gun store and gun range, shows how to safely fire a Glock 9mm handgun during a concealed weapons permit class, in Pompano Beach, Fla.

WEAPON | 4

Warm Mineral Springs plan approved

North Port commissioners give OK after 9-hour meeting

By **TOM HARMENING**
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — City Commissioners approved a final concept plan for the Warm Mineral Springs area Tuesday evening.

Voting in a marathon nine-hour meeting, the panel approved the more than \$4.5 million plan in a 4-1 vote for the 61-acre site.

The plan approved Tuesday had a total of 21 major changes from the initial master plan proposed in early 2018.

In addition to the renovation of the main building and the diorama, the new plan includes utility improvements, expansion of sewer and water lines in the area, an observation tower, new restrooms, light retail, a boardwalk crossing and a history and an education center on the site.

"I think this plan is just what the area needs," commissioner Jill Luke said. "It will make the Springs a great attribute to the community."

However, Commissioner Vanessa Carusone personally nixed the ideas.

"I oppose the plan," she said.



SUN FILE PHOTO

The water of Warm Mineral Springs stays about 85 degrees or so year-round, which makes it a popular attraction even when it's cold.

"We are under-utilizing this site in many ways and are not thinking outside the box. So I voted no. Perhaps some future commission will have the insight to make this site what it can be."

The approval of the plan will lead to prioritizing the work in the project and seeking funding for

the plan.

Warm Mineral Springs is a natural spring surrounded by a city park. The water is 85 degrees throughout the year and is said to have one of the highest mineral counts in the United States for a springs. It has been the target of improvement concepts for years.

'The status quo is not an option'

Florida Ag Commissioner Fried visiting Charlotte County Saturday

By **LIZ HARDAWAY**
STAFF WRITER

Nikki Fried wants to solve problems. Fried, commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, wants to help farmers, giving them opportunities for alternative crops when their citrus becomes diseased.



FRIED

She wants to fight for rural communities, making sure they have proper healthcare, nutrition and infrastructure that larger communities enjoy.

And already, in her three months of being in office, she has cut down the time for a background check, from 90 days to 48 days.

Fried is speaking this Saturday at the Charlotte County Democratic Party's Blue Gala fundraiser and dinner to tell residents what she's been up to, and how she's handling the \$132 billion agriculture industry.

"My job is not to make (people) see me as a Democrat," Fried told the *Sun* Wednesday. "But someone who cares about their issues, and fight for them."

Fried has mainly received attention regarding her strong views on medicinal marijuana, and it all started when she was a public defender.

"I saw these clients of mine of minority background or of low income areas getting arrested for possession charges," she said. Now she hears first-hand from patients, including her mother who suffers from cancer, how the plant "was lifesaving."

"It's giving them a quality of life that they may not have had with other types of narcotics," Fried said.

One of her other priorities is cleaning up Florida's water, particularly Lake Okeechobee. Her office frequently pitched new technologies on how to clean the lake, clean out the algae and how to develop new fertilizers to help the body of water.

"There are lots of moving parts," she said. "It has to be a priority for our state."

But one thing to know

THE BLUE GALA

Who: Charlotte County Democratic Party with Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried and Florida Democratic Party Chair Terrie Rizzo

When: Saturday, April 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: Isles Yacht Club, 1780 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda.

Why: The Charlotte County Democratic Party is an all-volunteer organization. This dinner provided more than 65 percent of the organization's income last year.

Currently all tickets for the event have been sold.

For more information, call 941-764-8440 or e-mail Blue-Gala@CharlotteDems.com

NIKKI FRIED'S PRIORITIES

- Medical marijuana
- Concealed weapon permits
- Citrus greening
- Blue-green algae blooms
- Farm-to-school program
- Consumer protection
- Food deserts
- Water
- Industrial hemp
- Climate change and sea-level rise

- Nikki Fried's campaign website

about Fried is that she likes to look at things differently.

"I like to think outside of the box," she said. "The status quo is not an option."

Terrie Rizzo, the chair of the Florida Democratic Party, will also be speaking.

"Fried is a dynamic leader that is helping protect Floridians' environment, pocketbooks, and future," said Patrick Hurley, the chair for the Charlotte Democratic Party. "She doesn't fear the establishment in Tallahassee."

"I know we have to educate our neighbors to expect that Florida Republican candidates will increasingly flip-flop on long-held core beliefs as we approach the 2020 elections," Hurley said. "Floridians are wising up to the reality that climate change needs immediate attention and access to healthcare is more important than tax cuts for billionaires."

Currently all tickets have been sold for the event.

Email: Liz.Hardaway@yoursun.com

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Knitted cardigan: misses and petites, \$49; plus, \$54.

Medallion-motif lace jacket: misses and petites, \$64; plus, \$69.
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Flirty, gored chiffon skirt: misses and petites, \$49; plus, \$54.

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Poly-sateen ankle pant: misses and petites, \$49; plus, \$54.

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\$15,858 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$10,894 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$13,001 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$13,106 Plus tax and fees.*



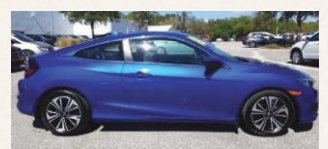
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\$16,021 Plus tax and fees.*



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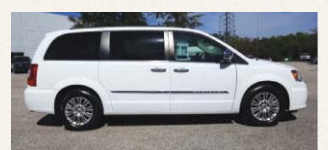
2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T Coupe, Stock# 51509A
\$18,252 Plus tax and fees.*



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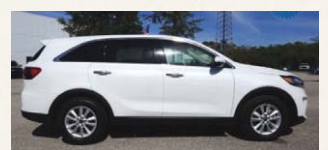
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Stock# 51320B
\$13,946 Plus tax and fees.*



2019 KIA SORENTO LX
Stock# 7789H
\$19,546 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA HR-V LX
Stock# 51638A
\$14,101 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA CR-V EX-LX
Stock# 51597A
\$20,987 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$14,450 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$23,594 Plus tax and fees.*



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Stock# 51567A
\$14,584 Plus tax and fees.*



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Stock# 7784H
\$23,879 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i
Stock# 15330A
\$15,099 Plus tax and fees.*



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\$25,220 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.8T R-Line, Stock# 51425C
\$15,125 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL-T
Stock# 50753A
\$27,944 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER TURBO
Stock# 51405B
\$15,791 Plus tax and fees.*



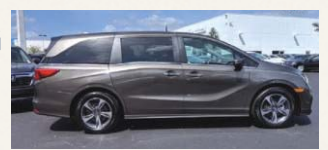
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STROKE

FROM PAGE 1

transferred outside of the community to a comprehensive stroke center," said Fawcett spokesperson Alexandria Davis. "Our designation means they will no longer have to be transferred outside of Charlotte County."

It's a "really big deal for our community," Davis said.

And stroke survivor Tyler agreed.

"I will support anything that will save anybody's life," Tyler said.

After hearing the news about Fawcett opening a comprehensive stroke center, Tyler called it "incredible" for residents and visitors in Charlotte County.

There are a growing number of comprehensive stroke centers across the state, which stood at 49 on April 1, according to information from the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.

Before Fawcett came online, the closest hospitals with comprehensive stroke centers were in Sarasota and Lee Counties.

Fawcett's Davis answered questions from the Sun about this center and why it makes Charlotte County "a safer place to live."

Q.) Why is this designation such a big deal for the county?

A.) Over three years ago, Fawcett Memorial Hospital

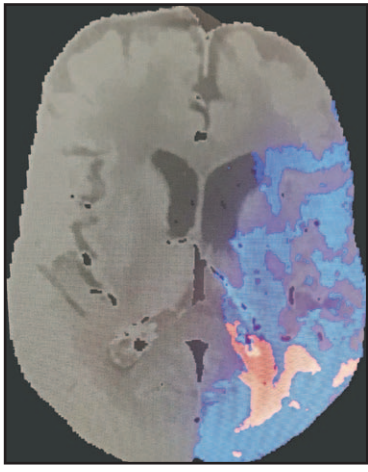


PHOTO PROVIDED BY FAWCETT
This is a CT Profusion scan of an ischemic stroke with a middle cerebral artery occlusion.

recognized a need in this community for a higher level of care in the treatment of stroke. Through investments in the latest technology, to hiring a multidisciplinary team of physicians and staff, we can now offer this higher level of care close to home, without the need to travel outside of Charlotte County. This service will make Charlotte County a safer place to live.

Q.) Will you offer the thrombectomy procedure? Could you share any other procedures you can do soon that you couldn't previously?

A.) Yes, we will be able to do thrombectomy procedures. We will also be able to do coiling procedures that are done to treat certain types

of ruptured and unruptured aneurysms.

Q.) What had to happen to attain it?

A.) This designation reflects the highest level of competence for the treatment of stroke and required a significant increase in resources, staff, and training.

Q.) Roughly how many stroke patients have you sent outside the county to SMH (Sarasota Memorial Hospital) for example in a given year in the past? Would all such patients now be able to be served at Fawcett?

A.) According to state data, in a one-year period, there were over 1,500 ischemic strokes and over 300 hemorrhagic strokes of which 43% required treatment outside of Charlotte County for advanced stroke care (data includes Fawcett's service area that extends beyond Charlotte County). Many of these patients will now be able to be treated at Fawcett Memorial Hospital with our designation as a comprehensive stroke center.

Q.) Do you have an agreement to take Bayfront patients or DeSoto Memorial patients in need of comprehensive stroke treatment so they won't have to go to Sarasota Memorial or further away also?

A.) We will work with all area facilities, to ensure our community members have immediate access to these services if needed. Our

dedicated emergency medical services providers are aware we will begin providing this service and will partner in the care of these patients.

Q.) How many doctors and nurses will work in the comprehensive stroke center?

A.) We currently have three neuro-interventional trained physicians that have joined our medical staff. Neurosurgeon, Douglas Hershkowitz, MD, is our program's medical director. All specialty nurses and interventional radiology technicians have been trained in advanced stroke care. A dedicated neurology team, to include a neurohospitalist, will provide 24-hour coverage.

Q.) How is the center designed? Is it a full wing of the hospital, or is it within the current layout?

A.) We invested over \$2 million in our new interventional radiology suite that is equipped with the latest technology used to identify blockages or malformations in blood vessels.

We use state-of-the art biplane imaging, a digital X-ray technology that uses two mounted rotating cameras, one on each side of you, to take simultaneous pictures. The cameras move front to back and side to side and produce an image quality that is capable of showing detailed vessel and

COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS IN FLORIDA

NUMBER OF HOSPITALS WITH COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS

COUNTY

Alachua	2
Broward	8
Charlotte	1
Clay	1
Collier	3
Duval	3
Escambia	1
Hillsborough	3
Lee	1
Leon	1
Marion	1
Miami-Dade	7
Orange	2
Osceola	1
Palm Beach	6
Pasco	1
Pinellas	3
Polk	1
Sarasota	1
St. Lucie	1
Volusia	1

— SOURCE: Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, April 1, 2019.

soft tissue anatomy.

The two sets of images are brought together on a computer screen to form a three-dimensional portrait to aid in the treatment and diagnosis of a stroke. Post care for these patients is an extension of the care we already provide and the patient will be placed in the appropriate level of care.

Email: Andrea.Praegitzer@yoursun.com

FUNDING

FROM PAGE 1

blue-green algae and pollution that caused the most intense red tide in over a decade.

This year a pair of bills are promising an investment in red tide mitigation to the tune of \$3 million per year for six years. As of Tuesday, both bills had passed unanimously through their first two committee stops, but environmentalists from the Sierra Club and the University of Miami are not so keen on the plan.

The investments award the money to Mote Marine Laboratory, a Sarasota research nonprofit, with the goal of creating a partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, instead of opening a process that would allow other research agencies, colleges or universities to bid for the funds.

Mote, critics say, focuses too much on mitigation and doesn't do enough to prevent red tide.

"[Mote] is in the best

possible spot in the country," said Sarasota Republican Joe Gruters, who sponsored the Senate version of the bill. "You have to have some point person, and I'm more than willing to give it to the group that has shown leadership from the get-go. These guys have already been leaders and it makes sense to continue on that research."

The bill also has the support of Senate President Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican, who has been working on the bill with Gruters.

"I believe we must continue to explore innovative, research-based solutions that will help Florida address ongoing environmental concerns," Galvano wrote in a statement Tuesday.

The Senate has proposed \$6.6 million annually for red tide research as part of its proposed \$90.3 billion spending plan for the next fiscal year.

Galvano, who used to sit on Mote's board of trustees, is named after William Mote, who

helped establish the lab. Mote was a friend of Galvano's parents and a student of his father, Phil Galvano, who was a famous golf instructor.

"Without him, [the bill] wouldn't move as fast," Gruters joked.

In 2018, Mote established the Red Tide Institute to study mitigation and control, thanks to a generous Longboat Key couple. Later in the year, the state invested more than \$2 million in the testing and development of red tide mitigation, including technology being developed by Mote.

The twin bills give some environmentalists pause. Mote, environmentalists say, needs to spend more time and resources on prevention. If they don't, the negative effects will be "foisted upon taxpayers," they say.

Cris Costello, of Sierra Club, said the group is "sidestepping" from the science that shows human waste and agricultural runoff feed the nutrient loads that instigate much of the pollution.


She pointed out Mote's relationship with companies like Mosaic, which produces a commonly used phosphorus-based fertilizer that creates solid waste and polluted water. Mosaic is listed as a corporate sponsor on Mote's website.

"Both the polluters and Mote win with this narrative," Costello said. "Mote wins because they get money. The polluters win because the focus is not on the source of the nutrient pollution, but rather on control and mitigation."

Larry Brand, an oceanographer at the University of Miami, compared nutrient pollution to trash. He said it should be treated in the same way.

"If I take my garbage and throw it into the fence into my neighbor's yard, they are going to call the cops or sue me," he said. "Why do we allow some operations to dump their waste? You're letting the problem develop and after you got the problem ... we need to prevent the problem in the first place."

Richard Pierce, the



"[Mote] is in the best possible spot in the country. You have to have some point person, and I'm more than willing to give it to the group that has shown leadership from the get-go. These guys have already been leaders and it makes sense to continue on that research."

— State Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, sponsor of the Senate version of the red tide research bill

associate vice president for research at Mote, said the collaboration continues a decades-long partnership between the lab and the state agency. He said without a bidding process for the funds, it "will be less expensive and less bureaucratic this way."

"We're going to be collaborating with universities and agencies to bring the best to this problem and figure out what can be done again," he said. "In some instances there may not be much that can be done about it."

Pierce said the funds will go toward monitoring technology, robotic sensing devices, more coastal surveys and lab

research. He said the funds will help collect more data and better reduce red tide's impact once it gets ashore.

Pierce said prevention is a "very important aspect" and that funding will be going to both. However, he added that red tide would occur whether people inhabited Florida or not, citing travel logs from Spanish explorers in the 1500s.

David Shepp, a lobbyist for Mote, said prevention can be addressed, but it will not be the only focus.

"To simply say we want to prevent red tide is like trying to prevent hurricanes," Shepp said. "It's naturally occurring."

WEAPON

FROM PAGE 1

issues permits.

Florida already leads the United States in total number of currently valid permits, according to data from the Crime Prevention Research Center, a Virginia-based nonprofit that is pro-gun rights and studies gun ownership, crime and public safety. Texas has the second-highest number, at 1.36 million as of December, according to figures from that state's Department of Public Safety.

Maribeth Porter Williams, 36, of Gainesville obtained her permit after shooting at a local range. She enrolled in a five-hour class covering safety and

Florida's laws at Harry Beckwith Guns & Range in Micanopy, just south of the city. She received her permit after spending time on the firing range, submitting her fingerprints and clearing a criminal background check.

"I can certainly protect myself or defend my home, but really I enjoy going to the gun range and shooting," Williams said.

Although the overall violent crime rate nationally has been on a downward trend since the 1990s, Florida has been the site of at least seven mass shootings in the past three years. The National Rifle Association's top lobbyist in Florida, Marion Hammer, said the figures for concealed weapons

permits here reflected perceptions about public safety.

"It's not safe out there and people are taking responsibility of their own safety and the safety of their families," Hammer said.

Unlike most other states, it is illegal in most circumstances to openly carry a gun in public in Florida. The state requires prospective permit-holders to be at least 21, undergo training, demonstrate they can safely fire a gun on a range, submit fingerprints to the state and have no felony criminal record. The permit, which resembles a driver's license, initially costs about \$100 and remains valid for seven years. It takes about two months to

receive a permit after applying.

Felons or applicants with convictions for domestic violence or a record of drug or alcohol abuse are ineligible. Since July, Florida denied 6,430 people who sought permits.

Florida's permit covers weapons, not just guns, including knives or stun guns. Permit-holders are still not allowed to carry guns in schools, post offices, court buildings, airport terminals, police stations or on university campuses.

Florida's figures mean about 12% of the adult population here has a permit. Eleven other states have higher rates of permit-holders, including Alabama and Utah.

The relatively high

number of residents who can legally carry concealed guns in Florida generally doesn't disturb anti-gun activists, since the backgrounds of permit-holders are scrutinized and they are required to participate in education and safety classes.

"I wish it was that process for every single person that got a firearm," said Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the 2016 shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando that killed 49 people and wounded 53 others. "Today, someone who shouldn't have a gun can go to their second cousin and say 'Hey, sell me that gun for \$1,000 cash,' and the law today does not deter that person from selling that firearm."

Wolf criticized what he described as the "wildly unregulated and inconsistent" process to buy guns in Florida.

Democratic lawmakers in Florida have proposed tightening gun regulation, but with a Republican majority in both chambers, that is unlikely. Republicans have sponsored a bill, SB1238, to allow religious institutions and private schools to authorize people to carry guns in their facilities.

"I'm encouraged that more people take responsibility for themselves and others because law enforcement can't be there," said Sen. Dennis Baxley, R-Lady Lake. "The violence is not in the firearm, the violence is in the heart of the person."



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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory

Doris Ann Richards



December 13, 1934 — April 11, 2016

"I will be with you always." You told me that when we fell in love. You were heaven's gift, a love so sweet. God called three years ago; and just like our holy Mother said, life's renewal will be in our heavenly journey and that seeing you with my heart, will have to do for now. My sadness will be washed away by my tears and your gifts will restore the warmth and comfort once given. Even though you're gone, you continually lift me up during my dark and sad times. Taking my hand, and whispering as you have done many times before, "I am your friend forever and forever has no end." You are my home; I lean on your strength for life. I'll always love being with you. Thank you! Even though it hurts to look back, I see you there, watching.

Your loving husband,
Arthur (Dick) Richards

In Loving Memory



Bruce Stenglein

May 26, 1947-April 11, 2013

I miss you
Love,
Bonnie

CHARLOTTE

Marian Elizabeth Caro

Marian Elizabeth Caro, 82, of Port Charlotte, Florida, passed away on Saturday, March 30, 2019 after a brief illness.

Marian was born on Oct. 28, 1936 in Perth Amboy, New Jersey to Mary and Joseph Lochli. She moved to Port Charlotte with her family in November, 1973, where she went to work in the food service industry. Marian worked for many years at the Riverhouse restaurant in Charlotte Harbor; she most recently held the position of dining room manager at the Oyster Bar restaurant in Fisherman's Village.

After many years of hard work, Marian finally retired just a few years ago. Since retiring, Marian spent her time doing the things she loved - cooking, making jewelry, reading romance novels, shopping, and surfing on her iPad. In addition to spending time with her family and her loyal Pomeranian, Beau, Marian loved to give to others by volunteering at the Cultural Center and the Port Charlotte Public Library.

Marian is survived by her son, Mark Caro and his wife, Donna

of Englewood, Florida; daughter, Diane Matherne of North Port, Florida; daughter, Laura Caro of Marietta, Georgia; granddaughter, Jena Gonsalves of Brandon, Florida; grandson, Josh Gonsalves of Port Charlotte, Florida; brother, Joe Lochli and his wife, Judy of Winchester, Virginia; and many nieces and nephews. Marian was preceded in death by her parents, Mary and Joseph Lochli; and her brothers, George and John Lochli.

A memorial service for Marian will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 11 am, at Kays-Ponger & Useton Funeral Home in Port Charlotte. The family is hosting a reception at the Cultural Center immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Marian's memory to the Friends of the Port Charlotte Library, PO Box 494882, Port Charlotte, FL 33949.

Everyone who knew Marian loved her, but none more than her family. We are heartbroken that she's gone, but so very proud of her and the life she lived. She was the light of our lives and will live on in our hearts and memories forever.

Lemon Bay Funeral Home and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Historic AC Freeman House gets ADA makeover in Punta Gorda

Entry ramp and other changes part of city's ADA Transition Plan

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

The historic AC Freeman House is getting an upgrade as part of Punta Gorda's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan.

Built in 1903, the city is currently installing an ADA ramp at the rear of the historic building.

Previously, the house was fixed with a wheelchair lift, but it was no longer operable. The new ramp is expected to be completed within the next two to three weeks, according to Ted Kielb of ERS Construction, the company building the ADA ramp.

The Transition Plan, which was set in motion back in 2016, details a number of disability accommodations for city-owned parks and facilities like the century-old historic house.

"Punta Gorda is committed to ensuring that all visitors and residents, including those with disabilities, are able to access and use all of our programs, services and activities," said Melissa Reichert, city communications manager.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks list in 1987. It was moved to its present site at 311 W. Retta Esplanade and restored in 2006.

"The date the facility was constructed or renovated is important to determine so that applicable standards can be applied," Reichert said. "The recommendations to the property comply with the ADA requirements."

Part of the new renovations called for removal of the wheelchair lift. The



SUN PHOTO BY DANIEL SUTPHIN

Ted Kielb (left) and Jim "Sparky" Hill of ERS Construction work on the ADA ramp on the rear side of the AC Freeman House in Punta Gorda.

city has also removed shrubs at the rear of the house to lengthen the access aisle.

The city plans to re-stripe and repaint the park spaces and access aisles, as well as to add visual signage at the front entrance for visitors in need of the ramp.

This isn't the only way Punta Gorda is becoming more accessible. Other efforts include:

- Accessible lecterns and a hand rail were added in the council chambers;
- Accessible parking spaces outside the council chambers entrance were resized, painted and signed;
- A bottom railing on the ramp was added to access the council chambers front entrance;
- An automatic door opener was installed on the exterior and interior entrance door to council chambers;
- And, additional signage was added in the parking area that clearly

outline the accessible routes to city hall.

City staff has also upgraded Punta Gorda's website (www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us) to accommodate disabled visitors.

The lack of ADA options for local government websites has sparked multiple lawsuits recently, including one against Charlotte County just this year.

"Our website offers a wide range of information and services, and we recognize that for users with disabilities, some material on our site may pose challenges," Reichert said.

For ADA compliance, the city added an "accessibility menu widget" to its website to improve user experience. The widget consists of various tools including bigger text, contrasting color schemes, legible formats and a voice-read page.

The city also utilizes a cloud-base software program to analyze the

website to assist with identifying potential issues that may affect its accessibility.

"We recognize that many visitors and residents are increasingly using our website to access information about what we offer (as a city)," Reichert said. "The city is actively continuing its efforts to address any challenges associated with its website."

City staff can define its own standards for accessibility when it comes to the website. They are basing their upgrades on private industry standards like Website Content Accessibility Guidelines, a series of guidelines for improving web accessibility.

"(We) are not currently required to confirm to any particular standard in order to meet obligations under ADA, we are, continuing all efforts to make the website fully usable by those with disabilities," Reichert said.

Email: Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com

POLICE BEAT

The information for Police Beat is gathered from police, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol, jail and fire records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction and guilt or innocence is determined by the court system.

Port. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$2,000.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office reported the following

- arrests:
- Hosea Harrison III, 35, 2400 block of Mistletoe Lane, North Port. Charges: battery on an officer, firefighter or EMT, obstruction and resisting an officer without violence. Bond: \$3,000.
 - Robert Wayne Majors, 47,

5100 block Grobe St., North Port. Charges: domestic battery by touch or strike and battery by touch or strike. Bond: \$8,000.

The Venice Police Department reported the following arrests:

- Mark Louis Mosser, 32, 1000 block of Myrtle Ave., Venice. Charge: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. Bond: none.

— Compiled by Daniel Sutphin and Tom Harming

DRUGS

FROM PAGE 1

exit the vehicle.

Upon searching the vehicle, the deputy located multiple substances in the vehicle. An orange pill bottle containing a "blue powdery substance" was found in the center console that tested positive on-site for opiates.

The deputy also found two white capsule-shaped pills with the imprint of LU Y19. The deputy identified the pills through drugs.com as Quetiapine Fumarate, an anti-psychotic drug only available through prescription. Two more pills of the same kind were found in a purse inside the vehicle.

While searching the front passenger seat area, the deputy found a sunglasses case. Inside the case were a glass-smoking pipe containing a white substance, nine plastic baggies, 8.1 grams of a crystal-like

substance inside a plastic baggie and a small glass jar containing 3.5 grams of a green leafy substance. The substances tested positive for methamphetamine and for THC.

Upon further searching, the deputy found a capped hypodermic needle inside a red purse that contained a liquid substance that tested positive for methamphetamine. The deputy also found a metal spoon and two empty plastic bags. There was a white substance inside the baggies and a crystal-like substance on the spoon. Both substances tested positive for methamphetamine.

The deputy searched the trunk of the vehicle and located a red plastic box. Inside the box was a red sock that contained a clear plastic baggie of a green leafy substance and two glass-smoking pipes. That substance also tested positive for THC.

Howard and passenger Adam Kenneth Neider,

30, of Mansfield, Mass., were both arrested on possession charges. There were no charges reported by CCSO for the second passenger.

Howard was charged with possession of a harmful new legend drug without a prescription, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of marijuana and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. No bond was listed in the booking report.

Neider was charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession or use of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

Neider's bond was listed at \$9,000 in the booking report.

Both the liquid and crystal substances have been sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for further testing.

According to Lyft's website, if a passenger suspects that a driver is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, call the authorities by dialing 911 or your local non-emergency assistance line if necessary.

After doing so, contact Lyft's critical response team by tapping 'Call Me.' The team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email: dsutphin@sun-herald.com

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes and crematories, and from families if accompanied by a death certificate. Full obituaries, notices of services, remembrances and death notices are subject to charges. Email the item for publication to obits@sun-herald.com; it must be accompanied by a phone number. For more information, call 941-206-1028.

CORRECTION:

The Fellowship Church of Englewood Campus, 140 Rotonda Blvd. W., Rotonda West, will host its free 2019 Easter Eggstravaganza at 10 a.m. Saturday. A community brief in the Sun included an incorrect time.

Ask Larry:
Do I have to pre-pay a pre-arranged funeral?

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VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Moving along, with service to their community

OUR POSITION: Scott Lane, and Valerie Powell-Stafford made a difference.

Recent stories in the *Sun* noted significant transitions in the Englewood community, with the departure of two well-regarded public figures: Fire Chief Scott Lane and hospital CEO Valerie Powell-Stafford.

Powell-Stafford left Englewood Community Hospital for a position as CEO at HCA Northside Hospital in St. Petersburg. Both hospitals are part of the large, for-profit corporation HCA Healthcare. Englewood has 100 beds and Northside 288, so this was a promotion for Powell-Stafford, who lives in Sarasota. A replacement here has not been named.

The top job at our small community hospital is often a stepping stone for administrators in corporate health care, and this was the case. Powell-Stafford stood out, though. After she arrived in 2016, she worked to become part of the community. She was eager for her role as the public face of an important community entity.

Powell-Stafford participated in back-to-school expos, golf tournaments and community fundraisers. She was involved in Chamber of Commerce events, serving a stint on the chamber's board of directors. She went to luncheons. She got involved with service group events.

Earlier this year, she served as chairwoman of the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, which, as *Sun* staff writer Elaine Allen-Emrich noted, raised a record amount of money locally. She also served on the board of directors of the SKY Family YMCA.

During her tenure, the community hospital expanded surgical services with robotics and spine surgery. It ranked high within the corporation for quality and patient safety outcomes, as well as employee community engagement. It also continued to maintain its A-rated ranking in hospital safety.

As is common with this position, Powell-Stafford was a relative short-timer here. Yet, she managed to make an impact with her community service — an extension of her executive duties. We wish her well.

The second loss for the community comes with the announcement that Chief Lane would leave his position with the Englewood Fire Control District at the end of the month. Lane will take a job as deputy fire chief with the city of North Port.

Englewood's loss is North Port's gain.

Lane is a well-respected figure in firefighting circles, having established his bona fides at the Nokomis Fire Department before coming to Englewood. A Venice native, Lane hooked on as a "junior firefighter" with the Nokomis volunteer squad when he was 15 years old. He later served as paid chief for 17 years, then moved on to Englewood as a captain and training officer at the district's highly regarded training academy.

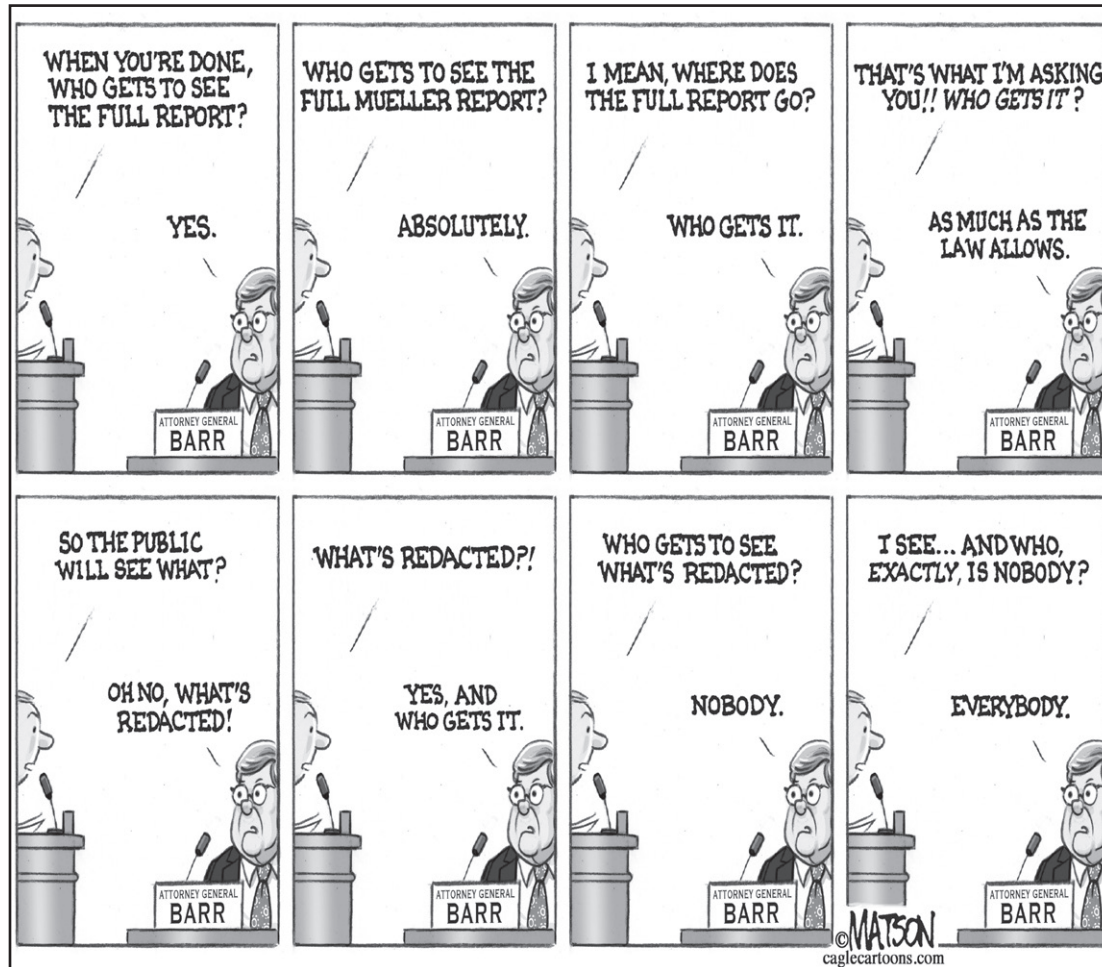
When Englewood Fire Chief Brian Gorski announced his retirement in 2013 — Gorski had previously been Sarasota County's fire chief — Lane was the natural choice as successor, although he was somewhat reluctant to take lead department responsibility.

"I'm an operational guy," Lane told *Sun* staffer Steve Reilly.

"When (Gorski) left, I felt ... it was a necessity I stepped up because he made positive changes.

"... I wanted to carry on what he started and now (the district) is on solid ground."

It is, for no small measure thanks to Lane's expertise and solid leadership.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rep. Grant needs a dictionary

Editor:

I was appalled at Rep. Grant's recent "setting the record straight" column. He plainly doesn't understand his "first duty," even though its in his title.

He is supposed to represent the interests of his constituents. If he doesn't answer emails or calls how is he representing us?

Of course we need a shelter, but do we want one out in Babcock Ranch? Questions arise, but we weren't consulted. Are there alternatives? Cost-effectiveness? Accessibility? (Bermont Road, really?)

To justify his actions, he claims limited time to get state funding. It's the same limits as every representative past and present. He hopes nobody "is unable to find refuge from storm surge because some elected official argued over a word or two."

This creating a sense of fear and urgency is an old sales tactic and a disgraceful gambit when used by a public official.

He says that he spoke with commissioners privately (obviously, not Joe Tiseo). How sunshine is that? The commissioners hold public meetings on actions that effect us. They understand representation.

I commend Commissioner Tiseo for bringing this to light. Grant needs a dictionary to look up the overuse and misuse of calling something "fake." This is a legitimate concern from one of our commissioners that had not come fully before the board and the public. Just because you don't like answering to your constituents doesn't make it "fake."

Sue Simmons
Port Charlotte

Shady deal in Charlotte County

Editor:

Let's say I wanted a large building in my recently developed residential neighborhood, 40 miles from Port Charlotte. I will supply the land and

the infrastructure.

I make a deal with a state representative to fund my proposed hurricane shelter building with taxpayers' money. I couldn't wait to schedule a public meeting on this, so I called my county commissioners individually and asked them if they would support "the concept" for a regional hurricane shelter.

Of course, I couldn't provide any details so I could get them all on board. I had to hurry to get my appropriations bill through this year's session to get \$8 million from the state and \$2 million from my county.

One commissioner objected to how I deceived him and the people. As an elected official, I told this commissioner that I don't answer to him and where is his plan for a hurricane shelter?

I expertly deferred my plan to the 11th legislative hour to force a vote. Who cares about public opinion anyway?

The players in this story are real. They include Syd Kitson, "the Babcock Ranch developer," Michael Grant, the elected official "Charlotte County state representative," and Charlotte County Commissioner Joe Tiseo.

This is a true story of how a likely group of "rubber stamp" commissioners were played in this Sunshine State shady deal. The taxpayers are fictitious and do not count, except at the next ballot box. Except for Joe Tiseo, no one in this story represents the people.

Janis Tobin
Port Charlotte

Mind-boggling support for this presidency

Editor:

Supporters of this presidency shouted lock her up to Hilary Clinton and you're exonerated to a president who asked Russia to hack Clinton's emails. As a result of this presidency failing to make Mexico pay for the wall we now have a large increase in border insecurity. Is it too little to ask this president's

supporters to open their checkbooks and each write a \$1,000 check to make up for not getting Mexico to pay for it?

This presidents supporters claim Medicare is socialism even when some of them rely upon it for care. If Medicare isn't socialism for a senior supporter then how can it be socialism if a non-senior gets it. The president's supporters now want to end the ObamaCare that many of them receive. Of course it's mind boggling,

If paying off pornstars to win an election is your idea of exonerating then anything else less than that might seem wholesome to you; but you'd be wrong.

Let's hope the moral majority can forgive you.

Douglas Kennedy
Punta Gorda

Follow drug shipments to destination

Editor:

Many times over the years I have read about shipments of huge amounts of illegal drugs worth millions of dollars being confiscated at our borders.

I would like to see these drugs delivered to their destination followed very closely by agents, so that the people on the receiving end of these shipments are prosecuted. For these are the people we need to stop if we are ever going to win the war on drugs.

Joel Cornett
Port Charlotte

First, best option: Do nothing

Editor:

I enjoy living in Punta Gorda. I think it's a wonderful little town (even when it's overrun with snowbirds). The town's government takes care of my needs at a reasonable price and I feel safe here.

Once in a while, however, our leaders start acting like their brethren in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. The issue of Buckley Cut is a perfect example. Looks like a vocal few are driving our town's leaders to do a program that will not benefit the general population

within the area that deem to be fiscally responsible.

Why not just stop and think and then maybe determine that they have made an error? I realize that this is difficult for most of us and particularly anyone who is in the public eye, but sometimes it may be the right thing to do.

A lot of people have lived in PGI for years with the situation "as is." Adding costs to a certain number of home/lot owners has caused hard feelings, as some do not see the need for this "improvement," especially once it was determined that the cost had ballooned since the original estimate was thrown out there.

Maybe it's time to just walk away and admit that this isn't the wisest thing to do. Don't forget the first option is to do nothing.

Tom Fixmer
Punta Gorda

Bus shelters protect children

Editor:

Quite a few years ago, my children walked to the bus shelter to wait for the school bus. The shelter not only sheltered them from inclement weather, but also the possibility of an automobile hitting them as they waited.

Now we have students standing out in all kinds of weather, on streets that are not safe for them due to erratic drivers, possibly texting, and I don't understand why.

Who decided that students didn't need a shelter while waiting for the school bus? How did they justify it? Where did the shelters go? A young student would be alive today if she was waiting in a shelter when a vehicle veered into her as she stood on the street with nothing between her and the vehicle.

I'm sure that parents of children presently attending schools would approve of shelters for their student children, especially when they have to be there while it is still dark, if it's pouring rain, and arriving dry at school rather than in wet clothing.

I hope by sending this note to the *Sun*, they will be able to find out why the shelters were removed and how we can bring them back. Our children are precious and we cannot just let them stand out in inclement weather, dodging speeding vehicles, etc.

Penelope A. Deutsch
Punta Gorda

Fearful of losing 'home town' feel

Editor:

As I cruise at 20 mph through Punta Gorda, I wonder where that "home town feeling" went.

Before "Charley" paid a visit, it was a great "home town." With all the talk of developing it "more," I dare ask, "How much is the consultant" from Miami costing the city to figure out how to squeeze more buildings (parking?) into our growing "hometown"?

I've asked this before. What is the sticker price on making the driving unbearable?

Carol "Pat" Crowe
Port Charlotte

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters will be edited to length as well as for grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. Due to the number of letters received, we are able to run only one letter per person per month.

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters. Please send or bring correspondence to the Sun, Letters to the Editor, 23170 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980. Readers may email Letters to the Editor at letters@sun-herald.com. Further questions or information, call 941-681-3003.

Rep. Baxley an odd messenger for school board term limits

Republican state Sen. Dennis Baxley of Ocala has introduced a joint Senate resolution that could lead to term limits for school board members throughout the state. The issue is working through committees and could result in a constitutional amendment for voters to consider in 2020.

I mention this because Baxley has been a fixture in Tallahassee for about 20 years. He spent most of that time in the Florida House, where he was elected seven times before successfully running for the Senate in 2016.

Baxley's plan would limit board members to no more than eight



FloridaPolitics.com
Joe HENDERSON

consecutive years. The Tampa Bay Times reported he said in a committee hearing last month that school board term limits are needed because new members would bring fresh ideas.

"This is an issue I've actually evolved on," Baxley said. "I've always taken a position that the people decide."

A similar bill is working through the House.

Now, if I were a cynical sort, I might look at

that "fresh ideas" thing as a smokescreen. Republican lawmakers enjoy messing with public schools and could feast on inexperienced board members.

And, of course, it's all in the details. How would the proposed amendment be worded? Would it be a straight up eight consecutive years, or would there be workarounds?

In Hillsborough, for instance, county commissioners are subject to term limits. That didn't keep Republican Ken Hagan from winning a fifth term in office last November. It's legal, too. Commissioners are limited to two terms in

a particular district but can restart the clock by running in a different district.

Hagan has been adept at doing that.

The Hillsborough School Board has seven members, two of whom are elected countywide. Could a board member who doesn't want to leave jump from a specified district into a countywide seat?

Details aside, I imagine there will be wide support for this if it is on the ballot. Polls show people generally favor term limits, which always has seemed strange to me. I mean, you'd have to believe at least some people who keep voting for Dennis Baxley support

term limits.

Term limits take out the guesswork, though.

There are valid reasons to support the concept too, of course. Even the best-intentioned public servant can get stale after too many years in office. They get too cozy with big-money supporters. They can lose touch with the people who hired them.

You say voters can fire them, which is true. But entrenched incumbents have an enormous advantage in name recognition. That makes raising money easier, which usually makes it easier to get re-elected.

The school board in a district like Hillsborough is no place for an

amateur. The district is the eighth-largest in the country, with an annual budget of about \$3 billion and about 200,000 students.

That's not saying the board couldn't use new people with fresh perspectives, but experience matters too. It's not something to casually toss away. That's why we have elections.

If people like a candidate, they should be able to keep that person.

I mean, just ask Dennis Baxley. He's been around long enough to understand that.

Joe Henderson has had a 45-year career writing for Florida newspapers. The column moved on FloridaPolitics.com.

'Choices and Chances' tackles challenges facing teens

'Choices and Chances,' a CC-TV film that highlights challenges facing today's young people, debuted March 30-31 at Regal Cinema at the Port Charlotte Town Center. The film tackles texting while driving, bullying, substance abuse, PTSD, survivor guilt and teen suicide. Both showings were followed by panel discussions featuring experts in youth counseling, education, law enforcement and emergency medical services. Audience members and panelists spoke glowingly about how "Choices and Chances" covered the key issues they deal with daily.

The film was produced in collaboration with Charlotte County Fire & EMS, Fawcett



Charlotte County Administrator
Ray SANDROCK

Memorial Hospital, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, Charlotte County Public Schools, Drug-Free Charlotte County, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, The Other West Coast Motion Media Production and local businesses. It will be distributed to community groups to spark conversations about the difficult topics it covers.

Working with local theater organizations and high school theater programs. CC-TV held an open casting call more than two years ago. All actors were local

amateurs. Choices and Chances was filmed in more than 16 locations with more than 170 volunteer cast/extras and four volunteer crew members under the direction of CC-TV Program Manager Elizabeth Tracy.

After each show, CC-TV conducted a Q&A session with panelists from Charlotte County Public Schools, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Charlotte County Fire & EMS, Florida Department of Health, Southwest Florida Counseling Center and Charlotte Behavioral Health Care. Panelists referenced characters and episodes in the film to emphasize how youngsters, parents, educators and others can address issues raised, how to spot behavioral problems and resources available for

anyone dealing with the problems the film covers.

Elizabeth created a tool kit that includes the film, course curriculum, Q&A sheets, resources from community organizations, and a list of subject matter professionals available to attend showings here and in other communities. More than two dozen organizations have already requested the kit.

Congratulations to Elizabeth, Television Production Specialist Tom Lloyd, Public Safety Public Relations Manager Todd Dunn and their volunteer colleagues who worked so hard to create a powerful tool to help our community address these issues. The recent tragedy in North Port highlights the need for people to recognize and address these challenges

our teens face.

The film is scheduled to show April 17 at the Mid-County Regional Library. For information about how to get a "Choices and Chances" tool kit for organizations to which you belong, contact Elizabeth Tracy at 941-623-1090 or Elizabeth.Tracy@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Tourism writers

Two members of the media representing travel magazines recently visited Charlotte County. Their trips to Florida were arranged by VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing agency. The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau assisted locally including arranging accommodations,

activities and dining.

A writer from a Canadian magazine stayed in Punta Gorda and experienced things to do in Punta Gorda and Englewood. An editor from a major in-flight magazine stayed on Don Pedro Island. Articles from the trips are expected to be published this summer.

Earned editorial coverage promoting Charlotte County as a vacation destination provides a trusted third-party endorsement for potential visitors. Hosting members of the media streamlines their in-destination research making it easier for them to tell our story.

Ray Sandrock is the Charlotte County administrator. Readers may reach him at Raymond.Sandrock@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Cain, Moore nominations two more tests for Republicans

In 1964, although there was scant chance that Americans would choose to have a third president in 14 months, Lyndon Johnson took no chances. The economy was sizzling and in November Johnson would carry 44 states.

Nevertheless, he wanted low interest rates, so he summoned to his Texas ranch Federal Reserve Chairman William McChesney Martin Jr., the longest-serving chairman (1951-1970), for whom one of the Fed's two Washington buildings is now named. Johnson (this from "Capitalism in America: A History" by Alan Greenspan and Adrian Wooldridge) "gave (Martin) the once-over, shoving him around the room, yelling in his face, 'Boys are dying in Vietnam and Bill Martin doesn't care.'"

In 1969, Richard Nixon, already plotting re-election, summoned to the White House Arthur Burns, who Nixon had nominated to become Fed chairman. According to John Ehrlichman's memoir "Witness to Power," Nixon said:

"Arthur, I want you to



Washington Post
George WILL

come over and see me privately anytime. ... I know there's the myth of the autonomous Fed.' ... Nixon barked a quick laugh. ... 'And when you go up for confirmation some senator may ask you about your friendship with the president. Appearances are going to be important, so you can call Ehrlichman to get messages to me.'

Past instances of presidential pressure on the Fed are pertinent to Donald Trump's hectoring of Jerome Powell, the Fed chairman he regrets having chosen. Trump's public coarseness makes Johnson's and Nixon's private behavior seem comparatively couth. Fortunately, Powell seemingly regards the president's clamor for low interest rates as white noise, unworthy of notice.

The Fed's structure largely insulates it from political pressure, but

structure can only do so much. Today's controversy concerns Trump's nominees to fill the two vacant seats on the Fed's seven-member board of governors, Herman Cain and Stephen Moore. Whether or not their untidy sex lives are disqualifying, a sufficient disqualification is that both are notably partisan Trump acolytes and neither has satisfactory credentials or experience.

The GOP's descent into vaudeville began with the 2008 vice presidential nomination of Sarah Palin, it accelerated in 2011 when Cain was taken seriously as a presidential candidate, and it reached warp speed with the party's capture by the man who takes Cain seriously as a maker of monetary policy. Cain's certitude about his economic nostrums is inversely proportional to the study he has invested in the subject, which probably has involved less effort than he recently invested in organizing a PAC to promote Trump's reelection. Cain's and his nominator's boundless confidence in their

economic beliefs demonstrates the Dunning-Kruger Effect. It is named for two Cornell psychologists who in 1999 described the bias by which the lower a person's intellectual ability, the more the person tends to overestimate it.

Some thoughtful people regret, as Cain does, the end of the gold standard, but they understand, as he does not, that fiat money is here to stay. Similarly, Moore might be right that the Fed would function better if it bound monetary policy to a prudent rule. There are, however, reasons to doubt that Moore knows what the rule should be (he certainly wrongly ascribes a particular rule to former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker), and there are reasons to expect that the rule he would advocate at any moment would reflect his assessment not of macroeconomic facts but of partisan advantage.

The fact that presidents nominate judges with whose jurisprudence they agree does not of itself "politicize" courts, because most cases that

courts consider are not directly related to partisan issues, and because the political fortunes of presidents and their parties are rarely immediately impacted by the court's decisions the way the Fed's economic decisions can impact them. Hence the danger of Trump's crude attempt to lower the Fed's intellectual quotient while increasing the perception that the Fed is a political plaything. In a crisis like that of September 2008 the Fed influences not just the U.S. money supply but something that can suddenly be even more important — the world's confidence supply. The Fed's prestige is perishable, and endangered by these two nominees.

Populism, democracy's

degenerate byproduct, incubates hostility to people possessing specialized knowledge (aka "elites"), but senators can withhold consent from particularly egregious abuses of institutions that are particularly dependent on the perception of competence.

The Cain and Moore nominations will be two more tests — of political courage, and of their institutional responsibility — for Senate Republicans to fail. The possible good news is that these two confirmation votes might bring us closer to the day when supine senators grow weary of being embarrassed and embarrassing.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

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Sarasota County commissioners agree to end puppy mill litigation

Local ordinance began in 2017 but some businesses balked at it

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

VENICE — When July 1 rolls around, the three-year-old challenge to the county's so-called puppy mill ordinance will come to an end with a victory for the county.

During their meeting Tuesday, commissioners unanimously approved a joint stipulation brought to them by County Attorney Rick Elbrecht that ends the litigation.

"The stipulation will get us the relief we were seeking," Elbrecht told commissioners as he introduced the item for their consideration.

With an indication from the plaintiffs, BKG Pets and Lamar Parker Jr. which run a Petland franchise on Fruitville Road in Sarasota,

that they would cease business when their lease ends on July 1, they and the county attorneys agreed to the stipulation.

The stipulation provides any remaining undecided legal claims raised by the plaintiffs will be moot, and that the county will not seek to enforce the ordinance against the business over the next three months.

Passed in early 2016, the ordinance banned the retail sale of puppies and kittens in the county beginning Jan. 27, 2017. That gave retail establishments selling these animals a year to come into compliance.

But three months before the ordinance took effect, the business and Parker sued the county challenging the legality of the ordinance, raising

myriad constitutional and contractual claims.

Through motions and hearings, the county successfully defended the ordinance from several of the challenges raised by the business, although several claims still remained to be decided.

"I know this took a lot of work and a lot of various legal issues were brought up," Commission Chairman Charles Hines said. "Congratulations."

Added Commissioner Mike Moran, "You all did a great job on behalf of the taxpayers."

Elbrecht was quick to give credit to Assistant County Attorney David Pearce, who represented the county in the lawsuit, for bringing it to a successful conclusion.

Email: jondaltonwr@gmail.com

Boca Grande man hit by pickup, dies in hospital

90-year-old Eliot Clarke was walking his dog, witnesses say

By STEVE REILLY
STAFF WRITER

BOCA GRANDE — A 90-year-old man may have been heading to the Boca Grande dog park when he was struck by a pickup and later died from injuries he received early Tuesday.

Eliot Clarke of Boca Grande was walking west on Seventh Street, north of Boca Grande's commercial village, at 6:55 a.m., approaching the intersection of Gasparilla Road before dawn, according to the Boca Grande Fire Department and Florida Highway Patrol.

He stepped into the southbound lane of Gasparilla Road and was struck by a 2011 Chevy Colorado driven by Debbie Prinz, 48, of North Port, which was traveling

south on Gasparilla Road, FHP reported.

Clarke fell onto the roadway. He was taken to Englewood Community Hospital with critical injuries, a press release stated. The crash remains under investigation.

Reportedly, Clarke was crossing with his dog, but firefighters did not know who secured the pet nor where it was taken, Boca Grande Fire Chief C.W. Blosser said. The dog park is on Seventh Street, west of the intersection.

Boca Grande firefighters received the 911 call at 6:58 a.m. and arrived on scene at 7:05 a.m. Blosser described Clarke as suffering from "pretty extensive injuries." By 3:40 p.m., Clarke was pronounced dead.

"He was definitely crossing the street,"

Blosser said, noting that a bicycle-pedestrian path runs north to south beside the intersection, along what had been the historic railroad line into Boca Grande. This time of the year, Boca Grande sees many bicyclists, joggers and walkers, he said.

"(Gasparilla Road) is a pretty busy roadway in the mornings since it's the only road into the village," Blosser said. "It's just one of those tragic incidents." While not recalling all the details, Blosser did recall several years ago a Canadian tourist was struck by a vehicle and died at the same intersection. The Canadian stepped into the roadway trying to take a photograph of the scenery, he said.

Email: Steve.Reilly@yoursun.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Derby Day in Englewood

A taste of the Kentucky Derby is coming to Englewood. It will be held on the grounds of Branded Hearts Stables on Morningside Drive from 4-9 p.m. May 4. Derby Day will be like no other derby viewing party in Southwest Florida. The festivities will include a "Taste of Derby" provided by 12 local restaurants, an open bar with featured bourbon libations, chance race wagering, "Horseplay" games, a parade of horses from Branded Hearts Stables, a "Hattitude" competition for the ladies and of course, the live viewing of the official 145th Run for the Roses. Proceeds benefit the Englewood Beach WaterFest and Branded Hearts Stables non-profit organization. Tickets are \$125 and may be purchased at EnglewoodBeachWaterfest.Com.

Rotonda Woman's Club

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club will meet today at the Rotonda

West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle at Broadmoor Park. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by meeting at 10 a.m. This month, the Arts Community Service Program committee will be honored to present a Japanese Tea Ceremony along with a Japanese Kimono display. The club encourages membership to those interested in making new friends and working toward the betterment of our community and for those less fortunate. Visit www.gfwcrotondawest.org or contact membership chairman Clare at 941-214-8553 for information. Membership is not exclusive to Rotonda West residents; guests are always welcome.

Cook with Chef Warren

Charlotte County Community Services will present Cooking with Chef Warren, a free program from 2-3 p.m. today at the Englewood Charlotte Public Library, 3450 N. Access Road. Chef Warren Catterson is the author of "Table for Two" and other books that teach cooking

healthy and inexpensive meals. This week's program will be "The Thrill of the Gill," and it's the last of the season. For more information, call the library at 941-681-3739.

Free CPR, AED class

Englewood Community Hospital will have a free CPR and AED class from 1-2 p.m. today at Suncoast Auditorium behind the hospital, 779 Medical Drive. Learn hands-only CPR method and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator in emergency situations. Bring a friend. Register at 941-473-3919 or EnglewoodCommHospital.com.

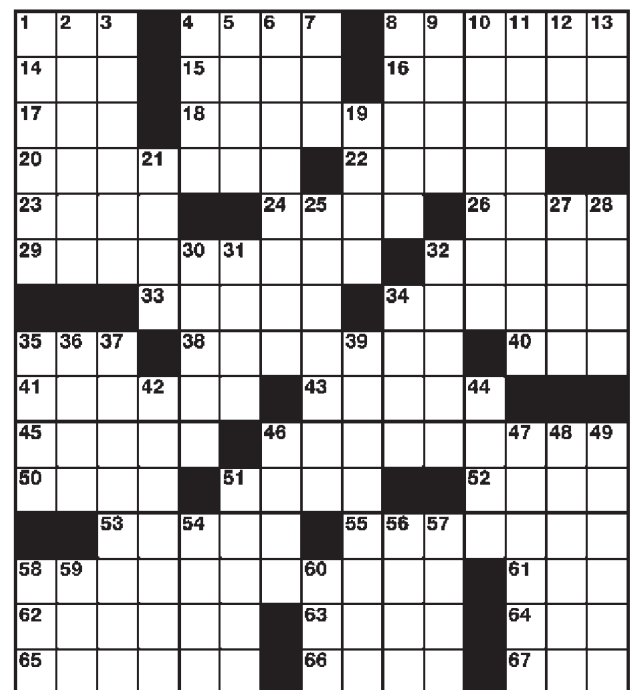
Bridge club meets

The Englewood Bridge Club meets from 12:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Thursday at the Hills Restaurant at the Rotonda Golf & Country Club, 100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West. The group was started about 25 years ago and plays contract bridge. New players are always welcome. The cost per person is \$3. For more information, call 941-698-7945.

Newsday Crossword

TEMP CHANGES by Gonsalves and Lim
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Succeed in competition
4 Tiny troublemakers
8 Most humans
14 Letters on many toothpastes
15 Physically fit
16 Barely moves
17 Decorator's purchase
18 Cooler
20 Wok veggie
22 "That's ___ shame"
23 Kendrick of films
24 *Je ne ___ quoi*
26 Dairy product
29 Warmer
32 Of blood
33 Organize, as attacks
34 Hanks' *Gump* superior
35 Media monitor
38 Land one's plane
40 Up-creek connector
41 Luau exchanges
43 Escape from
45 Tossed, a side
46 Cooler
50 With no depth, for short
51 Telltale sign
52 Logical flaw
53 Wheel spokes, for instance
55 Not saying much
58 Warmer
61 Einstein's "I"
62 Metaphor for losses
- DOWN**
1 Copernicus Monument city
2 Something said with a shrug
3 Japanese Winter Olympics city
4 Seller of circular stacks
5 Spice from nutmeg
6 Agreeable
7 Maritime law focus
8 Clipped wds.
9 "Fine with me"
10 Inventive fellows
11 12, for Little Leaguers
12 Pince-___ glasses
13 GPS reading
19 Gullible one
21 Hollywood Boulevard high spot
25 Gatsby-era style
27 Fasten with a rope
28 Swiss painter
30 "Such a pity!"
31 Signals to start
32 Krishna worshiper
34 Marine mop
35 Firmly attached
36 Part of some hammerheads
37 Four-sided state
39 Covers, in topography
42 Blew up
44 Aural reflection
46 "Cool, daddy-o!"
47 Minolta merger partner (2003)
48 Draw out
49 Gadget whiz
51 Sounds from a pen
54 Partake at a gala
56 Regarding
57 Fellow or fissure
58 Early PC screen
59 Female fowl
60 Photo ID issuer



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



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

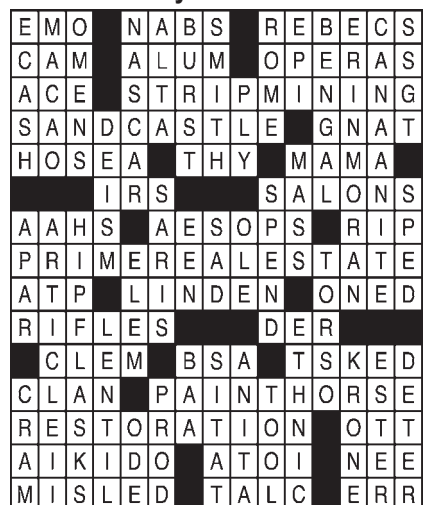
ACROSS
1 Sizzling Tex-Mex meat
7 Polling results: Abbr.
11 Adams of "Vice"
14 Boy whose wings melted in the sun
15 Four-star review
16 Forest female
17 Gently used
18 Salinger title teen
19 "Let's get out of here!"
20 Drawer in the court
23 Isn't feeling 100%
26 Grafton's "___ for Alibi"
27 Ship stabilizer
28 "You overreact when you're hungry" candy bar
33 Brand of suit Bania gave Jerry in a memorable "Seinfeld" episode
34 Lamb's alias
35 Indiana state flowers
37 Cast a spell on
42 Banking biggie
44 Acrobatic dive
45 It may contain curls and crunches
49 Nice dad?
50 MADD ad, e.g.
51 Holly genus
52 Clinic technician
57 Singer DiFranco
58 Opera set in Egypt
59 Ex-Met pitcher known as "Dr. K"
63 ___ profit
64 Pitch indicator
65 One way to travel
66 Carpentry tool
67 ___ loser
68 Kids' card game ... and a directive pertaining to the four longest puzzle answers

DOWN
4 Biometric identification technique
5 Narwhal feature
6 Queens tennis stadium
7 Sharply defined
8 Transaction without financing
9 "South Park" rating
10 Magic 8 Ball, some hope
11 Brody of "The Pianist"
12 Revealed the function of, with "over"
13 Streisand title role
21 La Brea ___ Pits
22 Ref's ruling
23 Quickly, quickly
24 Memo lead-in
25 Wheels for a celeb
29 New York cager
30 Farm follower?
31 Jargon
32 Former Portuguese colony in China
36 More senseless
38 Had a great first date
39 Deep blue dye

By Julian Kwan

4/11/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 4/11/19

- 40 Aloha State bird
41 "Jurassic World" predator, for short
43 "The coast is clear"
45 Withdrew gradually
46 Kayak alternative
47 Actor Stephen who is a UNICEF Ireland Ambassador
48 Traitor
49 Course before contingencies
53 Anatomical pouches
54 Storage cylinder
55 Excited
56 Words said with a funny wag
60 "___ know you?"
61 Canon SLR
62 Unspecified degree

Baby Shower hosted by North Port

The North Port Community Baby Shower and Pre-School Expo took place on Saturday, April 6 at the George Mullen Activity Center. The event was presented by the city of North Port's Social Services Division and sponsored by the Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County. The expo was intended for pregnant women and families with children up to age 4, and provided information exhibits, door prizes, refreshments and different activities.

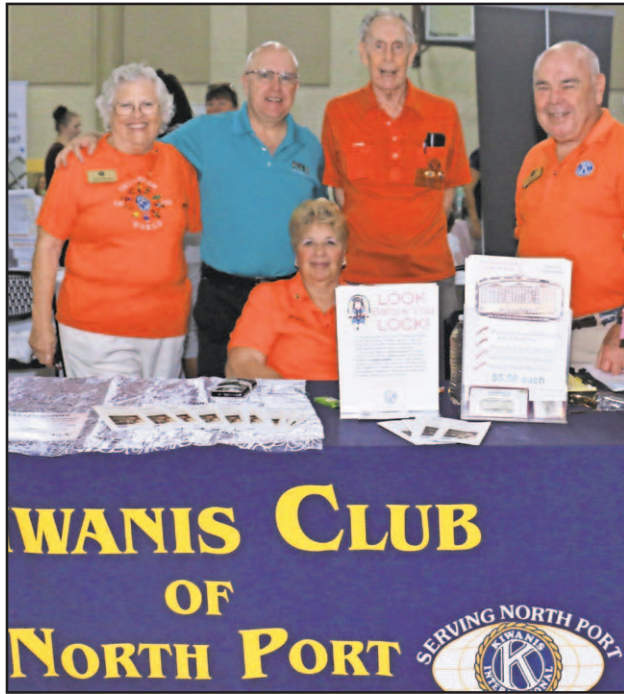


SUN PHOTOS BY MONICA AMAYA

Jonathan Bhatia and Hayli Queen, who are expecting their baby in September, won one of the many prizes raffled during the event.



Juliza Medero and her children stopped at the Sarasota County Libraries booth on Saturday in North Port to get information about all the activities that they provided for kids.



The Kiwanis Club of North Port was on site promoting one of their programs "Look Before You Lock" to help avoid leaving kids in cars. They donated the main prize of the event, a travel system stroller.



Jennifer Carland and Jillian DeLoach were at the North Port Baby Shower on Saturday representing Baby Inside Me 3-D Ultrasound.



Ra'Kayah White, 2, was among those attending a city-sponsored baby shower that took place on Saturday in North Port.

Have a sports event planned?

Send us the info at sports@sun-herald.com and we'll list it in our community calendar.



Team Punta Gorda holds 'Quarter Frenzy' fundraiser today

Raffle-style auction offers big prizes in return for quarters

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

TEAM Punta Gorda is hosting its first-ever "Quarter Frenzy" fundraiser tonight at the 24TwentyOne Event Center in Port Charlotte. The raffle-style auction event begins at 6 p.m. and offers a night of fun and bargains, according to a TEAM press release.

"This is the first one of its kind that we've had," Lewis Morrissey of TEAM told the Sun. "We're going to give it a go and keep our fingers crossed that it produces some good revenue. We could use it."

The "Quarter Frenzy" event will offer "bargains" for participants, using only quarters to bid on prizes that are typically valued from \$20 to \$75. All prizes were provided by local businesses.

"I am excited about trying something new," wrote Sandra Dressler of TEAM and organizer of the event, in an email to the Sun.

"I attended my first Quarter Frenzy for the Business and Professional Woman of Charlotte County and had a great time," Dressler said. "It was such a fun way to raise money for a good cause. I am looking forward to seeing the reactions of tomorrow's participants. I am feeling confident that they will feel the same way."

How it works:

- Guests will purchase a numbered paddle (\$3 each or 3 for \$7).
- Guests should bring quarters for bidding.
- Each item up for bid will be displayed. A brief description, retail value, and how many quarters you will need to bid will be announced.
- Guests that want to play will give their bid (quarters) and hold up their numbered paddle or paddles.
- When all the bids are collected, the auctioneer will draw a numbered chip from the container. If the number on your paddle matches the number on the chip drawn, you've won that item. If the matching numbered paddle is not held up, the auctioneer will draw again, until we have a winner.
- Once we have a winner, all chips will be placed back in the container and go to the next item to be auctioned off.

The 24TwentyOne Event Center is at 2421 Tamiami Trail. The auction begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Attendees must be 18 or older.

The money raised will go to support TEAM's 20 active committees, according to Dressler. "Many of (our committees) have no funding source, so we need to supplement those committees through fundraisers," Dressler said.

Advanced registration is not required. Participants are encouraged to bring friends and a roll or two of quarters.

Email: Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com

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RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

Which type of runner are you?

Southwest Florida has a pretty strong running community. And, I have to say, runners tend to be some of the happiest and most supportive folks you'll find (I could be a little biased).



However, the more time you spend among runners, the more you come to realize that running is not the same for everyone. Everyone who laces up has a reason for donning their shoes and walking out the door.

The Ultrarunners: These people are crazy. A 50-mile run for fun? That's just a normal weekend for them. In Charlotte County, many ultrarunners seem to reside west of the Myakka River. I don't know if there's any significance to that; just an observation.

The Devoted Marathoners: This is where I fall. Running 26.2 miles is the perfect challenge ... OK, if you're me. Word of caution: Marathoners can work the topic of marathons into literally any conversation. We're like vegetarians — you always know who they are because they will always tell you.

The Middle-Distance Runner: Runs from 15k (9.3 miles) to half-marathon (13.1 miles) are great distances. In fact, the half-marathon distance is now the most popular race distance, outcompeting the 5k (3.1 miles). This of course is great for running supply companies — at this distance comes the need for energy gels, chafing balms, and a whole host of running-specific gear.

The Run, Walk, Runners: Pioneered by running Coach Jeff Galloway, there's a whole movement of run, walk, running ... and walk, run, walking. The idea is that you run for a set time, and then walk for a set time. This group spans all distances.

The Tough Mudders: This group includes all obstacle-type races. Over walls, under barbed wire, through ice, etc. Personally I struggle to understand why anyone would want to be voluntarily electrocuted, but hey, to each their own.

5K Warriors: This is the bread-and-butter of local running. There is literally a 5K (3.1 miles) every weekend and an endless supply of runners to run them. Charity runs, color runs, night runs, whatever. For many, this is where running starts.

Run, Bike, Swimmers: I've done a few short distance triathlons, but I find it too challenging to fit three sports into my life at the same time. However, Southwest Florida has a bunch of triathletes who seem to make it work. At this sport's extreme is the Ironman with a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and then a 26.2 mile run — all in one day. Crazy!

The Trail Trekkers: Find a preserve, any preserve, and go. Trail runners tend to enjoy nature. And being out in nature is a great way to recharge and refresh. On trails there are no hard sidewalks, no cars and no exhaust. Of course, there are roots and stumps,

BETTY | 9B

KNOW YOUR WILDFLOWERS

The purple thistle: Friend or foe?

Thistles are the bane of picnickers, campers and hikers. Who hasn't stepped on or brushed against the sharp, unforgiving spines of a thistle? For many people, interactions with thistles have generally been painful and irritable.



Tom ZINNEMAN
COLUMNIST

However, there is another side to this story. Thistles provide important habitat and food sources for native fauna. The nectar and pollen from the flower heads are valuable food sources for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The seeds are an important food source for seed-eating birds. Many insects feed on the leaves, stems, and flowers of the thistles. In



SUN PHOTO BY THOMAS ZINNEMAN

The flowers of the purple thistle attract a diversity of insects. This bloom has two skippers and a green bee feeding on nectar and pollen.

addition, thistles are edible.

In Florida, there are seven species of true thistles (genus *Cirsium*), which belong to the Aster family (Asteraceae). However, in Southwest Florida, only two species are found:

the Nuttall's thistle (*Cirsium nuttallii*) and the more common purple thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*). Purple thistles are commonly found in pinelands, prairies, roadsides and disturbed sites.

TOM | 9B

DAY TRIPPER



PHOTO BY JENNIFER A. HUBER

Yes, you too can be a scrub jay angel.

Get your wings

DeLand mural trail leads to amazing places

Social media influences us do some odd things. Some of those things benefit good causes, like the Ice Bucket Challenge raised money for The ALS Association.



Jennifer A. HUBER
COLUMNIST

Others have made us smile, like Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" lip sync challenge. And, it has inspired some dumb things, like the Tide Pod Challenge (kids ingesting laundry detergent).

Social media also inspires us to visit amazing destinations, try offbeat experiences, and taste artful food. A Facebook post led me on a little adventure in West Volusia County during a road

trip to Daytona Beach.

In 2014, artist Erica Group drew a pair of angel wings in chalk in downtown DeLand. They served as a backdrop for the staff at Dressed Boutique when they modeled clothing then posted the images on social media. Like wildfire, #DeLandWings went viral and three months later, Group painted a pair of wings on green industrial doors. People (and a few dogs) from all over the world have visited and posed for photos in front of the heavenly wings.

Because the wings took flight, the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority approached Group about expanding the trail and developing it as a tourism attraction. The result is the #WingsofTheWest Mural Trail

which consists of six murals, each with a different pair of wings.

Skydive DeLand has a painting with biplane wings. At the Barberville Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, find peacock feathers. Pose in front of fairy wings at the Cassadaga Fairy Trail in the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp. The wings at Lyonia Preserve in Deltona pay tribute to Florida scrub jays. And, the newest and last set are a pair of swallow-tailed kite wings at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge near DeLeon Springs.

Driving to Daytona Beach, my plan was to start at the most northern point of the trail then make my way south. According to Google Maps, the drive-time for the 32-some mile trail was about an hour. My trip did not go as planned. Rather than visiting all the locations, there was time for only one stop. I chose Lyonia Preserve.

As usual, I was traveling solo,

so I brought my tripod to snap photos using my camera's timer. Having snapped at least one Instagram-worthy shot, I walked one of the three trails (trail length are 0.4 miles, 1.2 miles, and 2.4 miles.)

Lyonia Preserve is 360 acres of restored Florida scrub habitat, home to scrub-dependent wildlife like the threatened Florida scrub jay and gopher tortoise. It is named after a scrub plant called rusty lyonia, also called tree lyonia and stagger-bush.

Lyonia Environmental Center, which is next to the Deltona Regional Library, serves as the starting point for hiking trails. The center houses exhibits about Florida scrub habitat and the scrub jay.

Sand is part of the Florida scrub habitat, and there is plenty of it to trudge through the preserve. Trails wind through

JENNIFER | 8B



SUN PHOTO BY BILL DUNSON

The red spots on this turtle's head give it away as a non-native red-eared slider.

BILL DUNSON'S WILD WORLD

Wildlife in an urban setting

Parks are developed for many purposes, ranging from entirely human recreation to nature preservation



Bill DUNSON
COLUMNIST

with considerable variation between these two extremes. Sometimes the preservation of green space can have significant benefits both for the human need for communing with nature and

the need for wildlife to have suitable habitats — even in the middle of a city.

Arlington Park is in such a downtown location in Sarasota, and it has an interesting

mixture of good and bad examples of what happens to natural ecology in such a city park.

The park has many trees and a picturesque pond constructed in a pre-existing wetland habitat. There is an aerator in the pond to maintain sufficient dissolved oxygen for aquatic organisms to survive. This is likely necessary due to poor water quality of runoff from the surrounding city and the unnaturally deep water in the pond, which causes stagnation and hypoxia (low oxygen levels).

On a recent two-hour visit, I observed two butterflies: A white peacock (larvae feed on

BILL | 8B

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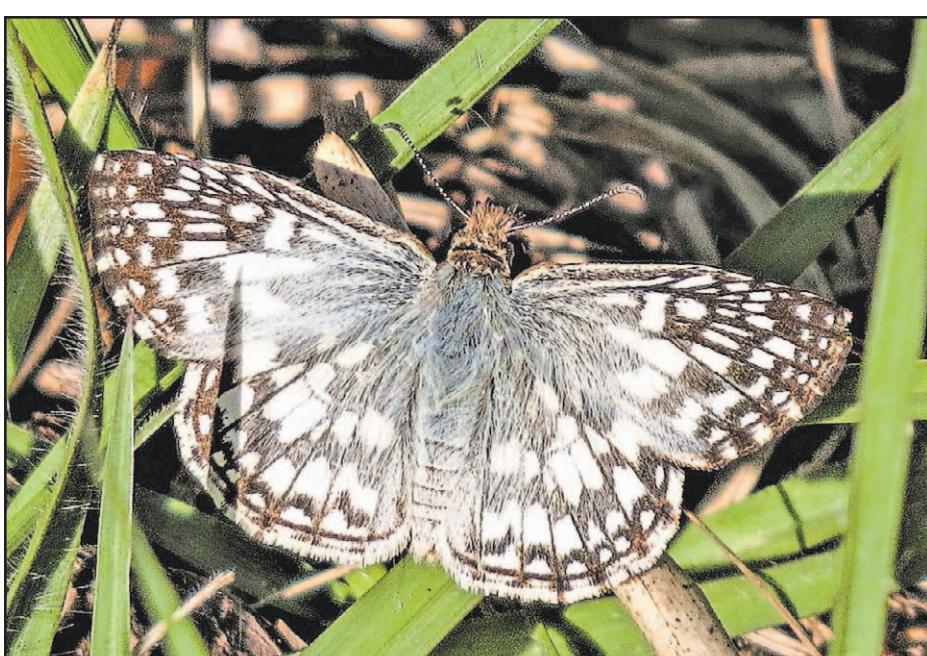
FROM PAGE 1B

bacopa and verbenas) and a tropical checkered skipper (caterpillars feed on mallows). I also saw several damselfly that were likely Rambur's forktails and a large dragonfly, possibly a regal darner. There was a flock of white ibis foraging around the pond and perched on a dead tree. These are all native species that are bioindicators of good habitat quality of the park.

On the other hand, I observed three species that are bioindicators of poor habitat quality. There was a strange duck that appears to be a hybrid of a mallard duck (which does not breed here naturally) and a mottled duck (the native breeding species). There were numerous muscovy ducks. Muscovies are a domestic bird derived from a Mexican species, and are now established as a feral population. There was also a number of non-native red-eared slider turtles, most likely former pets released by their owners.

So the bottom line is that Arlington Park could be considered to be a "50:50" habitat that is a visually attractive place for people to enjoy nature in a city setting, but it is degraded to a considerable extent. Even so, I still find it inspiring that so much real nature can exist in an urban location.

Bill Dunson is Professor Emeritus of Pennsylvania State University, thanks to a career spent entirely



SUN PHOTOS BY BILL DUNSON

This male tropical checkered skipper butterfly is notably lighter than the female.



A male Rambur's forktail damselfly.



An apparent mallard/mottled duck hybrid.



Muscovy ducks are a common sight in many suburban areas.

at that institution, teaching and doing research. Always curious

about nature, Bill has dedicated his life to learning and sharing

his knowledge with others. Contact him at WDunson@comcast.net.

JENNIFER

FROM PAGE 1B

a maze of more than 160 species of plants and more than 120 species of animals inhabit the preserve. Florida scrub jays are endemic to the state, and I kept my eyes and ears open for them.

Heading back to the trailhead, I was disappointed I did not see a scrub jay. As I was nearing a picnic pavilion, a blue and gray bird flew in front of me and perched next to me. It was a Florida scrub jay! He posed for some Instagram-worthy photos before flying away.

On my way back from Daytona Beach, I stopped in DeLand to pose with the pair of wings that inspired the #WingsofTheWest Mural



PHOTO BY JENNIFER A. HUBER

A Florida scrub jay poses for a quick photo.

Trail. Rather than building a new attraction, the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority created a bigger one with six existing ones.

The fun mural trail is doing what it's supposed to be doing: It introduced me to places I probably would not have discovered on my own, which supports those organizations. And because I shared my experience on social media, my visit has already inspired others to visit DeLand and West Volusia County. Will you be the next one to find your wings?

Fairy Wings at the Cassadaga Fairy Trail Scrub-jay Wings at Lyonia Preserve in Deltona

Swallow-tailed Kite Wings at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge near DeLeon Springs West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority 116 W. New York Ave., DeLand 800-749-4350 or 386-734-0162 VisitWestVolusia.com

Plan Your Visit

Lyonia Preserve and Environmental Center 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona 386-789-7207 http://bit.ly/2laV5e8 #WingsofTheWest Mural Trail Erica.Group/deland-wings Facebook.com/delandwings #DeLandWings in Downtown DeLand Biplane Wings at Skydive DeLand Peacock Wings at Barberville Pioneer Settlement

Where to Eat

BakeChop 110 Artisan Alley, DeLand 386-873-6524 BakeChop.com Saturday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday Jennifer A. Huber is just your average 40-something-year-old gal living 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.

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TOM

FROM PAGE 1B

or flowering stage, takes place from April through August. This is when the plant reaches maturity, producing flowers and then seeds.

A mature purple thistle can reach a height of 2 to 5 feet. The lance-shaped grayish-green basal and stem leaves can be up to 10 inches long and 2 inches wide, with the longest leaves near the bottom of the stalk. The leaves are deeply lobed and the leaf margins are toothed. Each tooth is armed with a sharp spine. It's no wonder this species is named horridulum.

One or more flower heads form at the top of the stalk. The unopened flower buds resemble tiny artichokes. However, when open, the bloom looks like a purple shaving brush contained within a fortress of small spiny leaves.

Actually, the flower head is composed of a receptacle with many small flowers (florets) surrounded by a whorl of spiny bracts (leaf-like structures). The color of the blooms can vary from rosy purple to lavender to pink. Yellow

and white blooms are also known not very common. These blooms can be up to 3 inches wide.

Once the plant flowers, it can produce up to 4,000 seeds. The tiny seeds, each equipped with a small spine, are attached to silky white threads designed to catch the wind. The once-purple blooms now look like balls of white fluff.

The purple thistle provides a very attractive food source for bees, butterflies, and other insects. It also functions as a larval host plant for the little metalmark and painted lady butterflies.

Believe it or not, purple thistles are edible. The stalks, leaves trimmed of their spines and roots are edible. They can be eaten raw, steamed or boiled. A tea can be made from their leaves. More information on gathering and preparing this plant for eating can be found at <http://bit.ly/2uXFVjS>.

Purple thistles are now in bloom. Enjoy their beauty, but be careful around them.

Tom Zinneman is a local nature photographer. Contact him at TEZinneman@gmail.com. See more of his photos at ZinnysWorld.com.



SUN PHOTO BY THOMAS ZINNEMAN

Thistle plants are easily recognized by their height once they reach the flowering stage

BETTY

FROM PAGE 1B

which in part explains my quarterly falling.

The Ovalists: Turn left and spit. No, wait, these are the track runners. Typically short distance and fast, track running is popular with high school and college students. There's also the senior games, and a lot of runners, 5k to marathon, who like to do speed work on the track. Personally, I find it about

as exciting as a treadmill.

Run For Fun: There's a whole group of these folks. They don't care about racing. They're not concerned with running fast. No need to worry about long runs, tempo runs or the speed workouts. They just head out the door and run for a half-hour or whatever feels right.

The reasons we run are nicely summed up by ultramarathon runner Dean Karnazes: "I run because if I didn't, I'd be sluggish and glum and

spend too much time on the couch. I run to breathe the fresh air. I run to explore. I run to escape the ordinary. I run ... to savor the trip along the way. Life becomes a little more vibrant, a little more intense. I like that."

Why do you run?
Betty Staugler is the Charlotte County extension agent for the Florida Sea Grant Program and an active runner. Contact her at staugler@ufl.edu or 941-764-4346.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Old Timers luncheon

The Old Timers luncheon will be held on April 27 at Hurricane Charley's, 300 W Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Come and visit with old friends. Tickets for the luncheon are \$20 and will be sold until April 20. No tickets will be sold at the door. To purchase your tickets, call 941-639-3241 or 941-625-5027. All are welcome.

Chops & Rods Show

The Lords of Mayhem will hold their second annual car and bike show from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 at Bandito's Bar, across from the Publix shopping center in Gulf cove (rain date will be the following Saturday, April 20). Bikes must be registered by 1 p.m. the day of the show, and cars pre-registered three days in advance with Bandito's Bar, 5665 S. McCall Road, Port Charlotte. Registration fees are \$20 for cars and \$10 for motorcycles. Trophy classes include Car: Rod, Custom and Classic, and Bike: Custom, Classic and Ride In. Join for fun and music, hot dogs and amazing chops and rods. For more information, call Bandito's Bar at 941-691-4221. Proceeds will be donated to The Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Donations are welcome.

Everything deserves a second chance

Join the Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County for an evening

of handbags and fashion jewelry sale and silent auction. The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 25 at D'Vine Wine & Gift Emporium, 701 JC Center Court #2, Port Charlotte. All proceeds benefit the homeless animals. For more information contact Lisa at lwagner@awlshelter.org or call 941-625-6720 Ext. 112.

C.A.R.E. luncheon planned

The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.) will hold its inaugural Paula Hess Humanitarian Scholarship Luncheon. The scholarship was created to honor one of C.A.R.E.'s original founders, Paula Edmond Hess. It will be held at noon on May 21, at Isles Yacht Club, 1780 W Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. Reservations are \$40 per person and can be made by calling 941-639-5499. RSVP by May 14. For more information, email: judithharris2@comcast.net.

Peace River Audubon Society meeting scheduled

Peace River Audubon Society will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 18 at First Alliance Church 20444 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte. The meeting will feature a presentation titled "Love is in the Air" by Reinier Munguia, a full-time naturalist and nature photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines and scientific publications. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call 863-244-2652 or visit

www.peacriveraudubon.society.org.

Choices and Chances to be shown

The Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte will be screening, Choices and Chances, at 6 p.m. on April 17. The movie was shot entirely in Charlotte County featuring local actors. After a high school student dies in a car crash, a popular classmate Tiffany spirals into depression. She becomes the target of bullies until she learns the choices we make are chances we take with the lives of those we love. After the screening, we will host a discussion with the director. This film is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations needed. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call 941-613-3192 or Bill.MacDonald@charlottecountyfl.gov.

Military Heritage Museum hosts opening gala

The new Military Heritage Museum will be opening up its doors for a one-day very special Opening Gala from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. The public is invited to a special evening preview of the new Military Heritage Museum membership experience at the new location 900 West Marion Ave. in Punta Gorda. The event cost is \$50 per person and is limited to the first 225 who register. To register, call 941-575-9002 or register online at the museum's website: www.freedomisntfree.org.

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Why Haven't Senior Homeowners Been Told These Facts?

Keep reading if you own a home in the U.S. and were born before 1957.

It's a well-known fact that for many senior citizens in the U.S. their home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 50% of their total net worth.

Yet, according to new statistics from the mortgage industry, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than **6.9 trillion dollars** of unused home equity.¹ With people now living longer than ever before and home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage or "HECM" loan to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

However, today, there are still millions of eligible homeowners who could benefit from this FHA-insured loan but may simply not be aware of this "retirement secret."

Some homeowners think HECM loans sound "too good to be true." After all, you get the cash you need out of your home but you have no more monthly mortgage payments.

NO MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?² EXTRA CASH?

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a government-insured HECM loan;² however the homeowners are still responsible for paying for the maintenance of their home, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Another fact many are not aware of is that HECM reverse mortgages first took hold when President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage Bill into law 31 years ago in order to help senior citizens remain in their homes.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy retirement.

Although today's HECM loans have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key advantage of a HECM is that the proceeds will first be



FACT: In 1988, President Reagan signed an FHA bill that put HECM loans into law.

used to pay off any existing liens on the property, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who might be better off with HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

That's a shame because HECM loans are helping many senior homeowners live a better life.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 90% of their clients are satisfied with their loans.

While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners.

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for any purpose. Many people use the money to save on interest charges by paying off credit cards or other high-interest loans. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people simply need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others are now using it as a "safety net" for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make an informed decision. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a free 2019 HECM loan Information Kit and free Educational DVD by calling American Advisors Group toll-free at 1-855-291-7113.

At no cost or obligation, the professionals at AAG can help you find out if you qualify and also answer common questions such as:

1. What's the government's role?
2. How much money might I get?
3. Who owns the home after I take out a HECM loan?

You may be pleasantly surprised by what you discover when you call AAG for more information today.

1) <https://www.mpamag.com/market-update/senior-home-equity-has-grown-to-6-9-trillion-112295.Aspx>

A reverse mortgage increases the principal mortgage loan amount and decreases home equity (it is a negative amortization loan). AAG works with other lenders and financial institutions that offer reverse mortgages. To process your request for a reverse mortgage, AAG may forward your contact information to such lenders for your consideration of reverse mortgage programs that they offer. **Reverse mortgage loan terms include occupying the home as your primary residence, maintaining the home, paying property taxes and homeowners insurance. Although these costs may be substantial, AAG does not establish an escrow account for these payments. However, a set-aside account can be set up for taxes and insurance, and in some cases may be required. Not all interest on a reverse mortgage is tax-deductible and to the extent that it is, such deduction is not available until the loan is partially or fully repaid. AAG charges an origination fee, mortgage insurance premium (where required by HUD), closing costs and servicing fees, rolled into the balance of the loan. AAG charges interest on the balance, which grows over time. When the last borrower or eligible non-borrowing spouse dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, or fails to comply with the loan terms, the loan becomes due and payable (and the property may become subject to foreclosure). When this happens, some or all of the equity in the property no longer belongs to the borrowers, who may need to sell the home or otherwise repay the loan balance. V2019.02.20_OR**

NMLS# 9392 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). American Advisors Group (AAG) is headquartered at 3800 W. Chapman Ave., 3rd & 7th Floors, Orange CA, 92868. AAG is an equal housing lender.

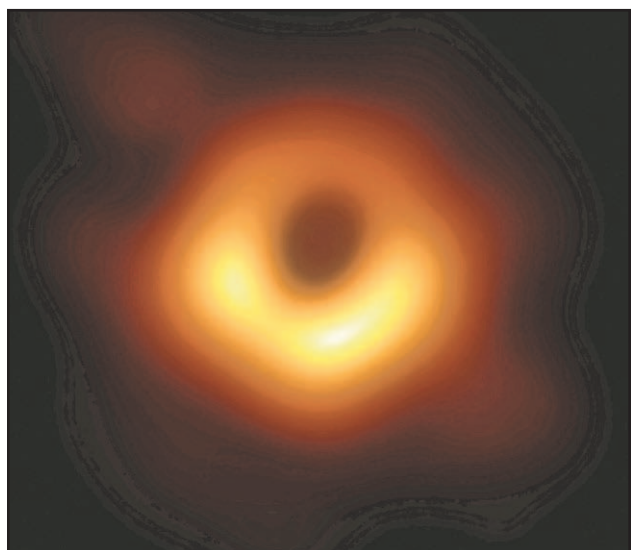


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Astronomers reveal first image of a black hole

Humanity has gotten its first glimpse of a black hole, and it looks like a flaming doughnut



AP PHOTO

Scientists revealed the first image ever made of a black hole after assembling data gathered by a network of radio telescopes around the world.

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON — Humanity got its first glimpse Wednesday of the cosmic place of no return: a black hole. And it's as hot, as violent and as beautiful as science fiction imagined.

In a breakthrough that thrilled the world of astrophysics and stirred talk of a Nobel Prize, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery doughnut-shaped object in a galaxy 53 million light-years from Earth.

"Science fiction has become science fact," University of Waterloo theoretical physicist Avery Broderick, one of the leaders of the research team of about 200 scientists from 20 countries, declared as the colorized orange-and-black picture was unveiled.

The image, assembled from data gathered by eight radio telescopes around the world, shows light and gas swirling around the lip of a supermassive black hole, a monster of the universe whose existence was theorized by Einstein more than a century ago but confirmed only indirectly over the decades.

Supermassive black holes are situated at the center of most galaxies, including ours, and are so dense that nothing, not even light, can escape their gravitational pull. Light gets bent and twisted around by gravity in a bizarre funhouse effect as it gets sucked into the abyss along with superheated gas and dust.

The new image confirmed yet another piece of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Einstein even predicted the object's neatly symmetrical shape.

"We have seen what we thought was unseeable. We have seen and taken a picture of a black hole," announced Sheperd Doeleman of Harvard, leader of the project.

Jessica Dempsey, another co-discoverer and deputy director of the East Asian Observatory in Hawaii, said the fiery circle reminded her of the flaming Eye of Sauron from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Three years ago, scientists using an extraordinarily sensitive observing system heard the sound of two much smaller black holes merging to create a gravitational wave, as Einstein predicted. The new image, published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* and announced around

HOLE | 8

Bomb cyclone storm hammering central US

Flooding renewed, travel disrupted

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blizzard warnings were posted from Colorado to Minnesota on Wednesday and wildfires were a concern in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma as the second so-called "bomb cyclone" storm in less than a month hit the central U.S., raising the prospect of renewed flooding in the already drenched Midwest.

Heavy snow disrupted ground and air travel Wednesday. Roads became impassable and visibility was down to a few feet in northeastern South Dakota due to heavy snowfall. About half of the daily flights at Denver International Airport were canceled.

Up to 2 1/2 feet of snow was expected to fall in parts of eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, the National Weather Service said. Winds in excess of 50 mph also were expected, creating life-threatening conditions.



AP PHOTO

A dog is seen peeking over a chain link fence during a blizzard warning on Wednesday, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

"We're calling it historic because of the widespread heavy snow. We will set some records," said Mike Connelly, a weather service meteorologist in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Transportation officials

closed Interstate 29 from east central South Dakota to the North Dakota border and said other stretches of major interstates were likely to close as conditions deteriorated.

Numerous traffic crashes

were reported in northeastern South Dakota, and the storm knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses in Sioux Falls.

STORM | 8



AP PHOTO

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to his supporters after polls for Israel's general elections closed in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu poised for 5th term as rival concedes

President Trump called Netanyahu to congratulate him

By **ILAN BEN ZION**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main rival conceded defeat Wednesday, promising to wage a robust battle from the opposition after the ruling Likud party and its nationalist allies won a solid majority in parliamentary elections.

Netanyahu appeared poised for a historic fifth term as prime minister with nearly all the ballots counted from Tuesday's vote. Official final results were expected Thursday.

With 97.4% of the vote counted, Netanyahu's Likud and the rival Blue and White were deadlocked with a projected 35 seats apiece in the 120-seat parliament. But Likud and its traditional political allies were in command

of a 65-55 majority in the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

A couple of small parties were still teetering on the electoral threshold and fighting for survival, so the final makeup of the next parliament could still change slightly.

Blue and White, led by former military chief of staff Benny Gantz and Yair Lapid, a former Netanyahu Cabinet minister, got about 26% of the vote — a shade less than Netanyahu's Likud.

Lapid, the party's No. 2 leader, said Blue and White would "show the people of Israel what a real alternative looks like."

"We did not win in this round. I respect the voters, and I respect their decision, but I look around and see the ultimate tool

ISRAELI | 8

Trump says only 1 person is in charge of immigration: Him

By **COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says there's only one person in charge of his immigration policy: Him.

Asked by reporters Wednesday whether he had considered tapping his influential aide, Stephen Miller, to lead the Department of Homeland Security given Miller's focus on the issue, Trump was ready with praise

— but not a promotion.

"Stephen is an excellent guy. He's wonderful person. ... He's a brilliant man," Trump said as he departed for Texas. But "frankly, there's only one person that's running it," Trump said. "You know who that is? It's me."

Trump on Sunday announced that Kevin McAleenan, the commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection, would be taking over as acting Homeland Security secretary in the wake of Kirstjen Nielsen's

sudden departure.

Asked whether he was considering nominating McAleenan as his permanent secretary, Trump said, "Could happen."

"We have others, but right now he's the man," said Trump.

Trump continued his focus on immigration during his Texas visit, where he turned a pre-fundraiser roundtable with supporters in

TRUMP | 8

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1 dead, 17 hurt in North Carolina gas explosion

Search and rescue crews sift through rubble

By JONATHAN DREW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C. — A leaking gas line exploded Wednesday in a Durham shopping district, killing one person and injuring more than a dozen others as firefighters were evacuating people from buildings near the rupture, authorities said.

The blast reverberated across the North Carolina city — turning one building to rubble, shattering windows blocks away and filling the air with acrid smoke.

Jim Rogalski, 58, was working in his office across the street from the destroyed building when the explosion blew out the windows. At least four people working in cubicles by the windows suffered

deep cuts, bloody head wounds and other injuries, he said.

“There was lots of screaming. ...” Rogalski said. “It was pretty frantic there for a little bit until help showed up.”

Rogalski was seated one row away from the windows and wasn't hurt.

“It was terrifying,” he said. “The whole building shook. Things started falling — ceiling tiles, and structure and glass and debris. Lots and lots of dust. It was tough to see beyond 20 feet or so.”

The explosion came about 15 minutes after the office's human resources manager sent an email warning that the city's fire department was investigating the smell of gas and that workers shouldn't leave the building

through the front door, he said as a friend gave him a ride home to Chapel Hill. Rogalski said he was forced to abandon his car in a nearby parking deck because authorities worried the blast may have weakened the structure.

Durham Fire Chief Robert Zoldos said the blast at 10:07 a.m. involved five buildings on the block and catastrophically damaged one. The leak had been reported during construction a half-hour earlier, prompting the evacuations.

On Wednesday afternoon, jagged roof beams jutted out of the collapsed building, along with bent sheet metal, bricks and wood. A massive stream of water from a ladder truck sprayed onto the remnants, draining down the



AP PHOTO

Firefighters battle a fire at the scene of an explosion in Durham, N.C., Wednesday.

street as firefighters walked past. Half of the caved-in roof cascaded into the rubble pile like a breaking wave.

Now that the fires have been contained, crews will begin search and rescue operations, Zoldos said at a news conference. No one is

unaccounted for, the chief said, but they'll use dogs and listening devices to make sure no one is inside the rubble.

A total of 17 people were seen at hospitals — six in critical condition and one transported to a burn center — Durham EMS

Assistant Chief Lee Van Vleet said. Zoldos said one firefighter was seriously injured.

A contractor boring under a sidewalk had hit a 2-inch gas line, causing the leak Durham Police Department spokesman Wil Glenn said.

Final Four investigation nets 58 suspects trying to solicit children for sex, trafficking

By RANDY FURST
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS — An investigation conducted over four days during the Final Four resulted in the arrests of 58 people for attempting to solicit children for sex or for trafficking, according to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Of those arrested, eight of the people arrested were from out of state, said BCA Superintendent Drew Evans.

Suspects chatted on several social media platforms with undercover agents and investigators who posed as minors or as sex buyers, and then were arrested when they arrived at an arranged meeting place for an encounter.

Among the arrested were 47 people booked on probable cause of felony solicitation of a minor or solicitation

of prostitution under the age of 16. Another 11 people were booked on probable cause of sex trafficking and promotion of prostitution. Some 28 victims were rescued from trafficking situations, including one minor.

“It really illustrates that when law enforcement works collaboratively we can work to drive down this type of crime, and that Minnesota does not tolerate trafficking in the state,” Evans said in an interview.

The operation was conducted by personnel from 33 criminal justice agencies and was part of a human trafficking task force led by the BCA that includes investigators from the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Buffalo police departments, the Anoka and Hennepin County Sheriff's offices, Homeland Security Investigations and the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Charles Van Doren, figure in game show scandals, dies at 93

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Charles Van Doren, the dashing young academic whose meteoric rise and fall as a corrupt game show contestant in the 1950s inspired the movie “Quiz Show” and served as a cautionary tale about the staged competitions of the early television, has died. He was 93.

He died of natural causes Tuesday at a care center for the elderly in Canaan, Connecticut, said his son, John Van Doren. Funeral services will be private.

The handsome scion of a prominent literary family, Van Doren was the central figure in the TV game show scandals of the late 1950s and eventually pleaded guilty

to perjury for lying to a grand jury that investigated them. He spent the following decades largely out of the public eye.

“It's been hard to get away, partly because the man who cheated on ‘Twenty-One’ is still part of me,” he wrote in a 2008 New Yorker essay, his first public comment in years.

Before his downfall, he was a ratings sensation. He made 14 electrifying appearances on “Twenty-One” in late 1956 and early 1957, vanquishing 13 competitors and winning a then-record \$129,000. NBC hired him as a commentator.

In a February 1957 cover story on Van Doren, Time magazine marveled at the “fascinating, suspense-taut spectacle



AP FILE PHOTO

Charles Van Doren admitted his television quiz show performances in the 1950s had been rigged.

of his highly trained mind at work.”

“Just by being himself,” Time wrote, “he has enabled a giveaway show, the crassest of lowbrow entertainments, to whip up a dotting mass audience for a new kind of TV idol — of all things, an egghead.”

States pushing near-bans on abortion, targeting Roe v. Wade

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Emboldened by the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court, anti-abortion lawmakers and activists in numerous states are pushing near-total bans on the procedure in a deliberate frontal attack on Roe v. Wade.

Mississippi and Kentucky have passed laws that would ban most abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which means as early as six weeks, when many women don't even know they're pregnant. Georgia could join them if Republican Gov. Brian Kemp signs a measure that has been sent to him.

And a bill in Ohio won final approval Wednesday in the Republican-controlled legislature; it now heads to GOP Gov. Mike DeWine, who said he will sign it. The final votes followed a spirited committee hearing where abortion rights activists evoked an era of back alleys and coat-hanger abortions.

Similar bills have been filed in at least seven other states with anti-abortion GOP majorities in their legislatures.

Alabama may go further, with legislation introduced last week to criminalize abortion at any stage unless the mother's health is in jeopardy.

The chief sponsor of the Alabama bill, Rep. Terri Collins, acknowledged that the measure — like the heartbeat bills

— is intended as a direct challenge to Roe, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

“To me this is an issue the court simply got wrong years ago,” said Collins, who hopes President Donald Trump's appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court lead to a reconsideration of Roe.

Staci Fox, Atlanta-based CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast, said these bans are “blatantly unconstitutional and lawmakers know it — they just don't care.” The goal, she said, is to “challenge access to safe, legal abortion nationally.”

Activists and legal experts on both sides of the debate agree that getting a Supreme Court decision on such a defining case is unlikely any time soon.

The bans may face difficulties just reaching the high court, given that Roe established a clear right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy. Kentucky's heartbeat law has been blocked for now by a federal judge; abortion-rights lawyers are seeking a similar injunction in Mississippi before the law there takes effect July 1.

“The lower courts are going to find these laws unconstitutional because the Supreme Court requires that outcome,” said Hillary Schneller, an attorney with the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Barr says ‘I think spying did occur’ on Trump campaign

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr declared Wednesday he thinks “spying did occur” on Donald Trump's presidential campaign, suggesting the origins of the Russia investigation may have been mishandled and aligning himself with the president at a time when Barr's independence is under scrutiny.

Barr, appearing before a Senate panel, did not say what “spying” had taken place but seemed likely to be alluding to a surveillance warrant the FBI obtained on a Trump associate. He later said

he wasn't sure there had been improper surveillance but wanted to make sure proper procedures were followed. Still, his remarks give a boost to Trump and his supporters who insist his 2016 campaign was unfairly targeted by the FBI.

Barr was testifying for a second day at a congressional budget hearing that was dominated by questions about special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation. His comments risked inflaming Democratic concerns that Barr's views are overly in sync with Trump's and that he's determined to protect the president as he readies the release of a version of Mueller's report.



AP PHOTO

Attorney General William Barr appears before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee to make his Justice Department budget request, Wednesday, in Washington.

Barr said he expects to release a redacted copy of the report next week. Democrats have expressed concern that his version will conceal wrongdoing by the

president and are frustrated by the four-page summary letter he released last month that they say paints Mueller's findings in an overly favorable way for the president.

Mistrial declared for man who snapped \$4.5M statue's thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A jury was unable to reach a verdict in the trial of a Delaware man who admitted he broke a thumb off a \$4.5 million statue at a Philadelphia museum.

Michael Rohana was attending a Christmas-themed ugly sweater party at the Franklin Institute in December 2017 when he entered a closed exhibit of ancient Chinese terra cotta warrior statues. Authorities said Rohana, 25, took photos while posing next to a statue known as “The Cavalryman,” then removed the valuable relic's left thumb and made off with it. The incident was captured by surveillance cameras.

The vandalism outraged Chinese officials.

Though Rohana didn't deny he snapped off the digit and took it home, a jury deadlocked Tuesday on charges of theft and concealment of an object of cultural heritage. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Rohana's lawyers argued he wasn't charged under the right law.

“These charges were made for art thieves — think like ‘Ocean's Eleven’ or ‘Mission: Impossible,’” federal public defender Catherine C. Henry said in closing arguments. Rohana “wasn't in ninja clothing sneaking around the museum. He was a drunk kid in a bright green ugly Christmas sweater.”

Tech companies lead US stocks broadly higher

(AP) — Stocks closed higher on Wall Street Wednesday as solid gains by technology companies helped the market recoup some of its losses from a day earlier.

Small-company stocks also stood out, beating the rest of the market. Banks, retailers and homebuilders also notched gains. Utilities were the biggest laggard.

Investors appeared to welcome new insights from the Federal Reserve's last meeting of policymakers. The central bank released the minutes from the two-day March meeting, which showed that a majority of Fed officials believed the central bank

could keep interest rates unchanged the rest of this year.

The rally was a reversal for the market following a slide on Tuesday that ended an eight-day winning streak as investors turned their attention to the next wave of corporate earnings.

The S&P 500 index rose 10.01 points, or 0.3%, to 2,888.21.

The 30-stock Dow Jones Industrial Average recovered from an early slide to gain 6.58 points, or less than 0.1%, to 26,157.16.

The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, added 54.97 points, or 0.7%, to 7,964.24.

STOCKS LISTING CHANGE - REQUESTS WELCOME! Mutual funds listings will run on Saturdays.

The Sun Newspaper is tweaking the way stocks are listed in the daily paper. We will continue to run a wide range of stocks, but we're trying to eliminate stocks

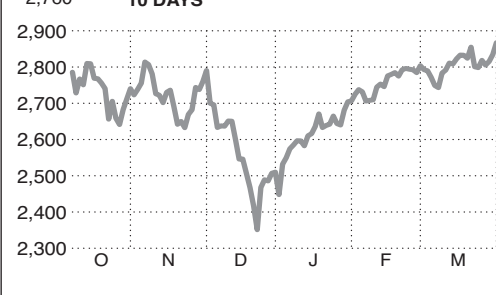
our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com, or call 941-206-1138. You can leave the stock name and symbol on voice mail. If you reach voice mail, please leave your contact information so your call can be returned.

Market indicators: DOW 26,157.16 +6.58, NASDAQ 7,964.24 +54.97, S&P 500 2,888.21 +10.01, 10-YR T-NOTE 2.47% -0.03, 30-YR T-BOND 2.90% -0.01, CRUDE OIL \$64.61 +6.63, GOLD \$1,309.10 +5.60, EURO \$1.1271 +0.004

Money&Markets

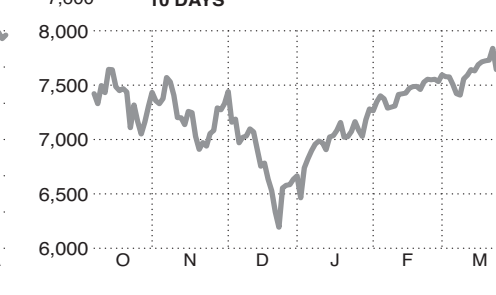
Combined Stocks From the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like ADT, AES, AFL, AGNC, AKS, etc.



StocksRecap

Table showing stock performance metrics: NYSE, NASD, Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, Advanced, Declined, New Highs, New Lows.



StocksRecap

Table showing stock performance metrics: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like RXN, RIOT, RAD, ROK, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like STBA, SLM, SLG, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like VFC, VICI, VLO, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like PBF, PGC, PGT, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like PHAS, PHS, PHG, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like JPM, JEC, JAG, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like GWH, GVP, GAB, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like JPH, JPC, JAG, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like GWH, GVP, GAB, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like JPH, JPC, JAG, etc.

Interest rates table with columns: TREASURIES, LAST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO.

BONDS table with columns: LAST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO.

Foreign Exchange table with columns: MAJORS, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, 1YR AGO.

EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST table with columns: MAJORS, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, 1YR AGO.

ASIA/PACIFIC table with columns: MAJORS, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, 1YR AGO.

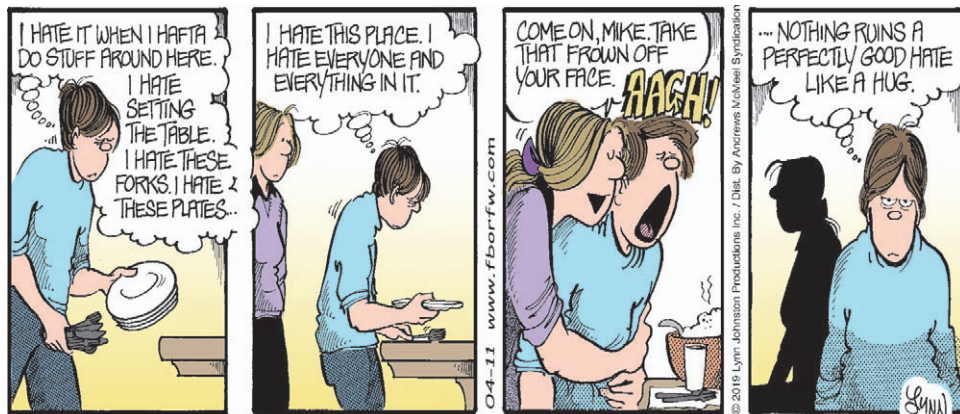
Commodities table with columns: FUELS, CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD.

METALS table with columns: CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD.

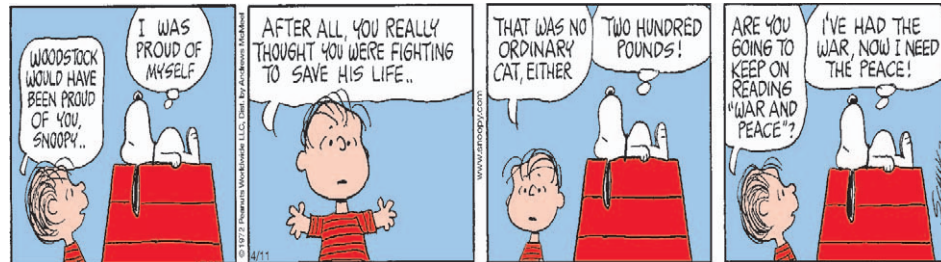
AGRICULTURE table with columns: CATTLE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD.

Stock Footnotes: g - Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. - Does not meet continued-listing standards. If - Late filing with SEC. n - Stock was a new issue in the last year. rs - Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50% within the past year. rt - Right to buy security at a specified price. s - Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. wi - Trades will be settled when the stock is issued. wd - When distributed. wt - Warrant, allowing a purchase of a stock. un - Unit, including more than one security. yr - Company in bankruptcy or receivership, or being reorganized under the bankruptcy law. Appears in front of the name. Stocks in bold are worth at least \$5 and changed 5 percent or more in price. Source: Morningstar and The Associated Press.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



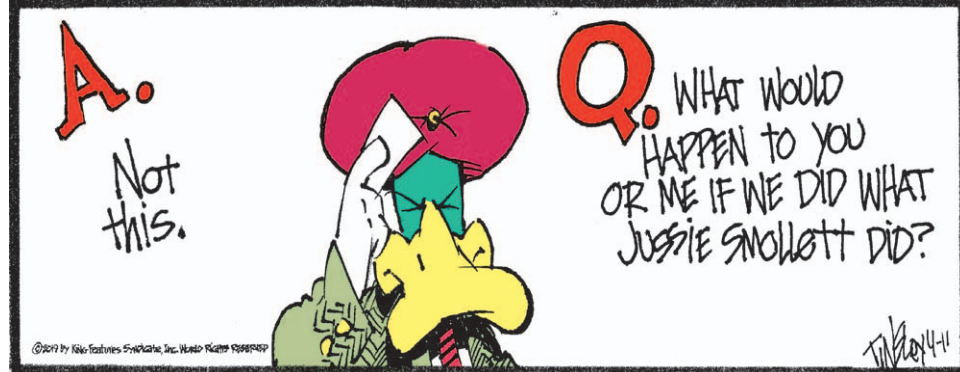
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



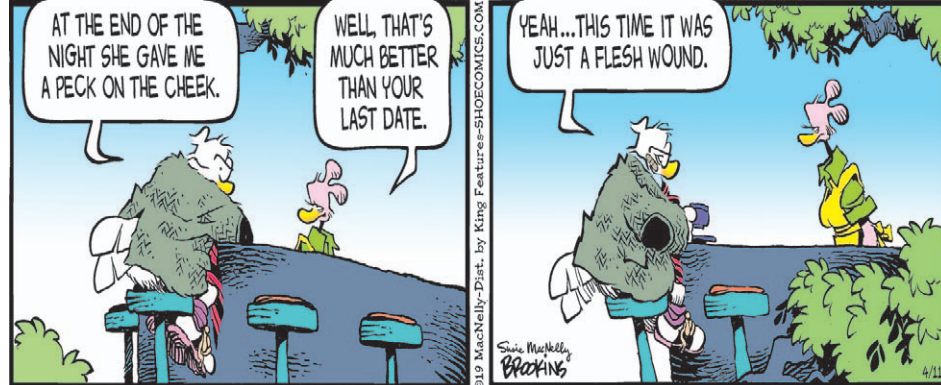
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



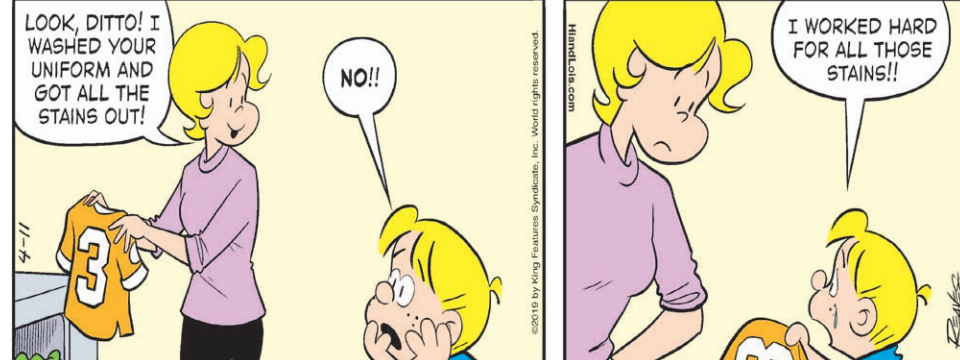
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



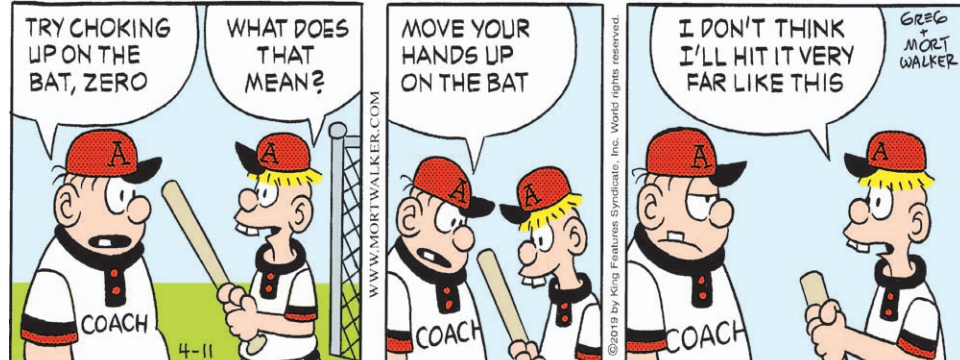
HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



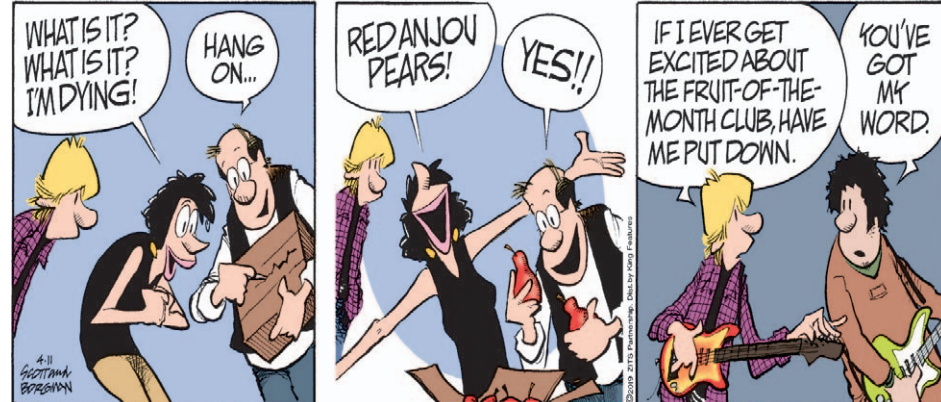
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



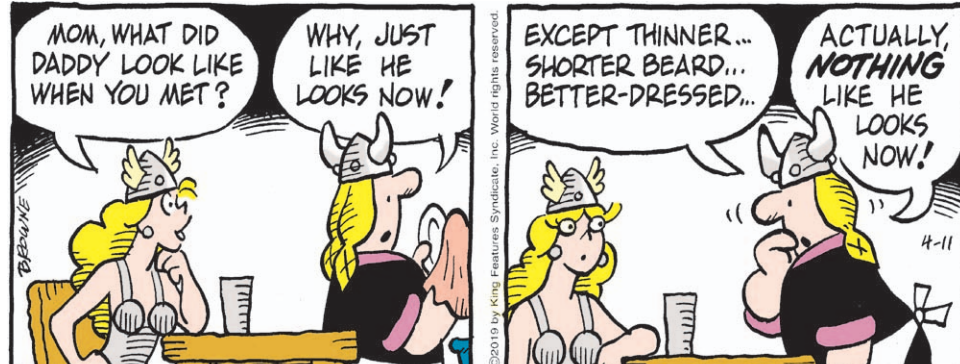
BETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



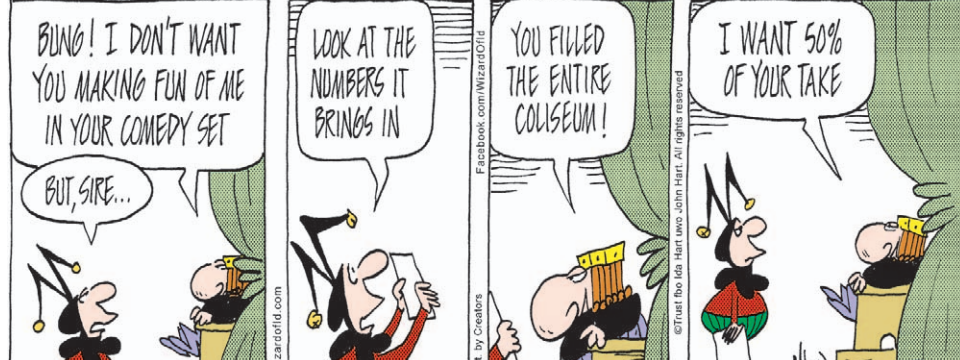
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



GARFIELD By Jim Davis



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



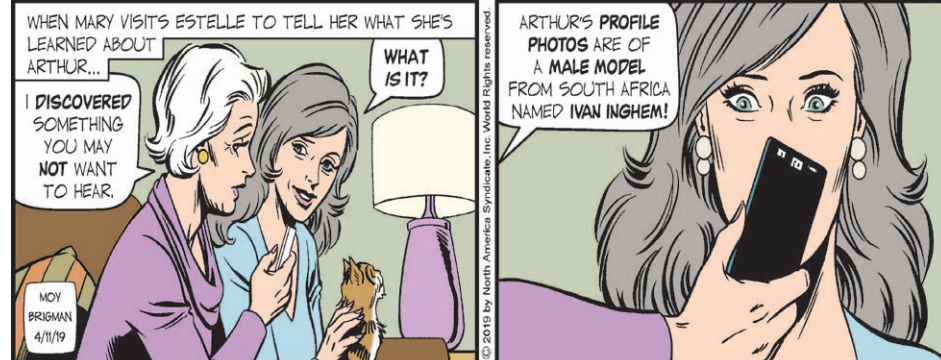
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



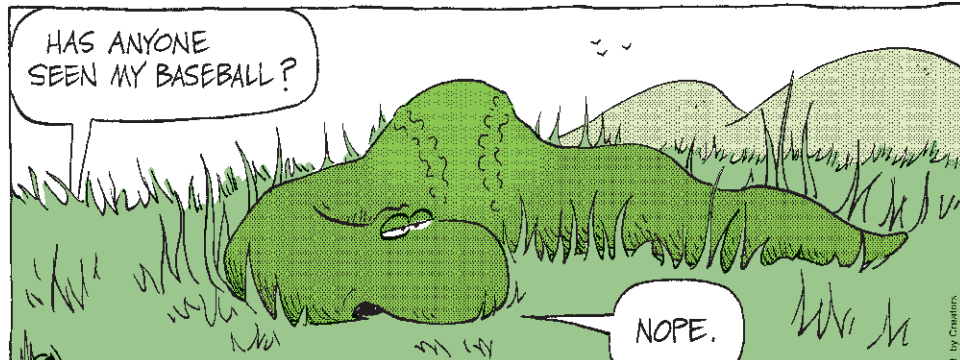
PICKLES By Brian Crane



DILBERT By Scott Adams



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart





Spring time in Augusta

An in-depth look at everything The Masters has to offer. Read the story on page 6.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

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■ NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS: Blue Jackets 4, Lightning 3 (Game 1)

Columbus rally puts Tampa Bay in the hole

Jones' third period power play goal the difference in first round playoff match

By MARK DITTLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA — Seth Jones scored the go-ahead goal on the power play to cap Columbus' three-goal third period, and the Blue Jackets rallied to beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 in Game 1 of the teams' first-round Eastern Conference playoff series Wednesday night.

Jones made it 4-3 from the slot with 5:55 to play as the Blues Jackets erased a 3-0 deficit after the Lightning scored three times in the opening period.

With Columbus trailing 3-1 in the third, David Savard deked around Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman and scored 7:56 into the

period to make it a one-goal game.

Josh Anderson picked up a short-handed goal that tied the game at 3 at 11:54.

Nick Foligno had the other goal for Columbus, and Sergei Bobrovsky ended up with 26 saves after struggling in the first period.

The Lightning, who matched the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings for the most wins in a regular season with 62, got first-period goals from Alex Killorn, Anthony Cirelli and Yannick Gourde. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 22 shots.

Hedman returned after missing the final four regular-season game with an upper-body injury.

The Norris Trophy

winner took a helmet to the face during a collision with Washington's Carl Hagelin on March 30.

Killorn stole the puck from Jones at the blue line during a power play for Columbus and put a backhander past Bobrovsky to open the scoring 4:12 into the game. Tampa Bay was tied for third in short-handed goals during the regular season with 12.

After Cirelli had a rebound goal at 11:01, Gourde's waist-high deflection of Mikhail Sergachev's shot made it 3-0 with 2:10 left in the first.

Foligno cut the deficit to 3-1 at 9:15 of the



AP PHOTO

Columbus Blue Jackets defenseman Seth Jones (left) and Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Ondrej Palat (18) collide while chasing the puck during the second period of Game 1, Wednesday.

LIGHTNING | 7

■ HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Conway maintains focus on success

Charlotte baseball standout, committed to FGCU, leading Tarpons with his energy

By BEN BAUGH
STAFF WRITER

Maybe it was fate. Kevin Conway found himself as a 10-year-old, chasing fly balls around on the big field, while his older brother was part of a 14-and-under traveling baseball team. The Charlotte High School senior had always been involved with athletics, playing basketball, soccer and football, but his predilection and promise pointed toward baseball.

The kids on the travel ball team served as an inspiration, they were the best baseball players he had ever seen. Conway followed in his brother's footsteps, and initially was a catcher.

"My dad pushed me to get better," said Conway, whose talent and abilities allow him to play any position. But for the Tarpons, he's manning the hot corner, and finds himself facing opposing batters on the mound. It's that versatility, desire and drive that has allowed him to excel in a game where three-out-of-10 is a benchmark for success.

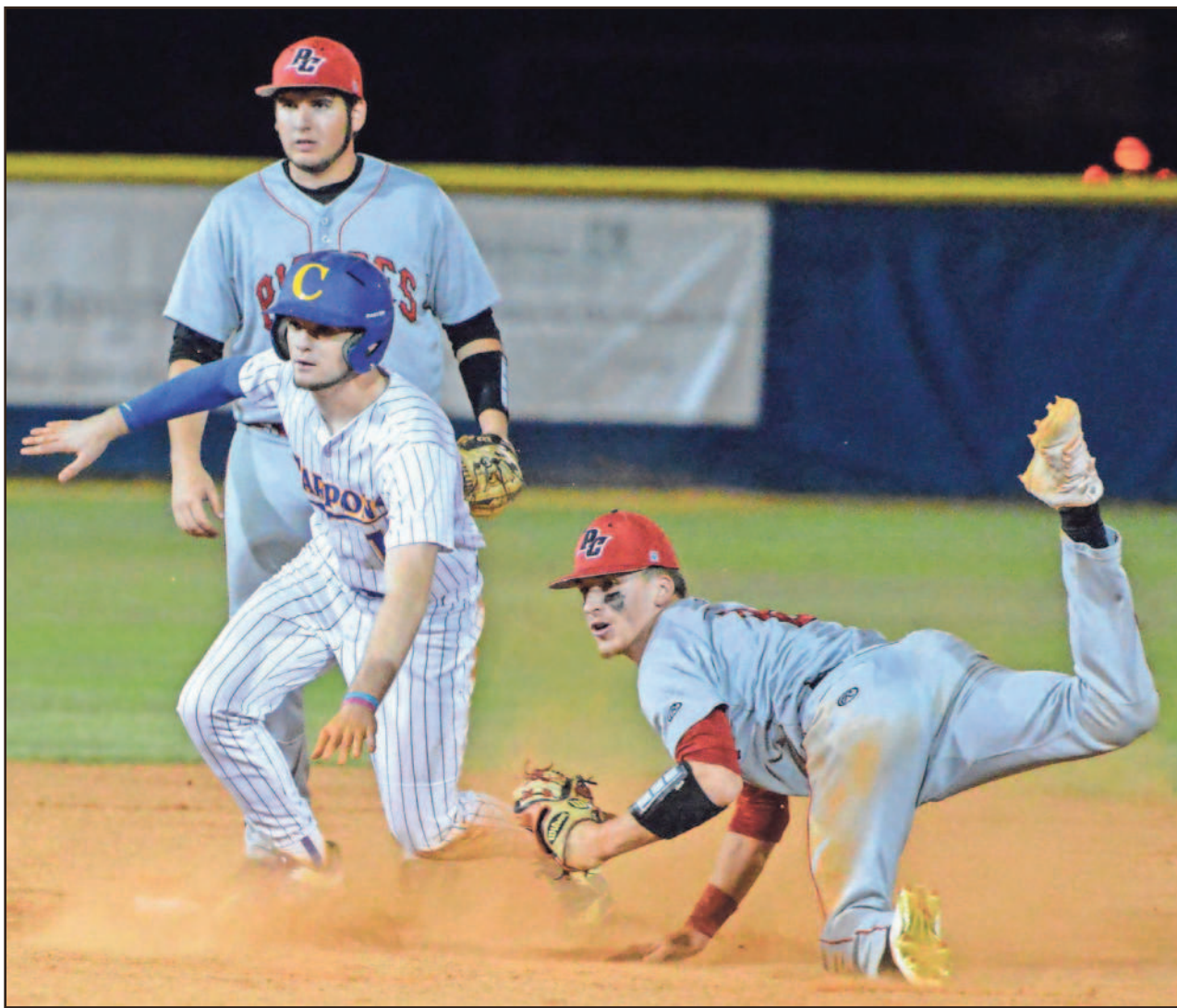
However, Conway didn't start his career as a Tarpon. He was part of the Port Charlotte High roster his freshman year, before making the decision and completing the transition to join his friends who were playing at Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda.

"He's a little different," said Lavell Cudjo, Charlotte Tarpons baseball coach, and a former professional baseball player. "He's a product of the feeder program of this community. He came with a lot of ability and tools."

Staying on Track

Cudjo recognized the potential and promise in Conway, knowing he possessed talent and ability. Conway along with teammates Kyle Machado and Aaron Martins have committed to Florida Gulf Coast University and another teammate, Cade Reich, is headed to the University of North Florida. The baseball coach likens those players to a Jaguar, a vehicle that's great to drive, but

CONWAY | 3



SUN PHOTO BY JENNIFER BRUNO

Charlotte's Kevin Conway (left) will have options at Florida Gulf Coast University due to his ability to play different positions.

■ NBA

New chapter for Lakers

Magic Johnson's resignation shocks franchise

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — The Los Angeles Lakers already had plenty of problems to fix during the summer after their sixth straight losing season.

Replacing the person in charge of fixing those problems is suddenly at the top of the list.

Magic Johnson's shocking resignation as the 16-time NBA champions' president of basketball operations Tuesday night compounded the turmoil that always seems to

envelop the Lakers, who remain among the most talked-about sports franchises in the world even though they haven't made the playoffs since 2013.

Owner Jeanie Buss unveiled no immediate plan Wednesday for the basketball leadership of the Lakers — perhaps understandably, since she had no idea she needed a plan 18 hours earlier.

Buss, general manager Rob Pelinka and coach Luke Walton all skipped the Lakers' custody exit interviews on the morning after their season

ended.

Buss must have realized by now that Magic's abrupt departure creates an opportunity.

With her sentimental favorite gone and no clear successor in sight, Buss has a chance to sever the staid, tradition-bound mentality lingering around the Lakers from her father's ownership tenure.

Last summer, the Lakers added LeBron James. This summer, they could add a new way of

LAKERS | 2

■ NFL

Murray, Bosa among 23 prospects to attend draft

By The Associated Press
Kyler Murray and Nick Bosa are among the 23 prospects who plan to attend the NFL draft this month in Nashville, Tennessee.

Murray, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback from Oklahoma, could be selected No. 1 overall by the Arizona Cardinals. Bosa, a defensive end from Ohio State, also is expected to be a top-three pick.

Other players scheduled to attend include

Kentucky edge rusher Josh Allen, Michigan linebacker Devin Bush, LSU linebacker Devin White, LSU cornerback Greedy Williams and Alabama defensive lineman Quinnen Williams.

The draft begins with the first round on April 25. The second and third rounds are April 26, and the event concludes with rounds 4-7 on April 27.

Man charged with shining laser at Patriots QB Tom Brady

A citation has been

issued against a Missouri man accused of flashing a laser at New England quarterback Tom Brady during the Patriots' AFC championship game victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

Prosecutors said Tuesday that 64-year-old Dwyan Morgan, of Lee's Summit, faces a single count of disturbing the peace, a municipal violation.

Television stations

DRAFT | 7

SCOREBOARD

PRO BASEBALL

MLB
All times Eastern

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Tampa Bay	10	3	.769	—
New York	5	6	.455	4
Baltimore	5	7	.417	4½
Toronto	4	8	.333	5½
Boston	3	9	.250	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Detroit	8	4	.667	—
Minnesota	6	3	.667	½
Cleveland	7	4	.636	½
Chicago	3	8	.273	4½
Kansas City	2	8	.200	5

WEST DIVISION

Seattle	11	2	.846	—
Houston	7	5	.583	3½
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	4½
Oakland	8	8	.500	4½
Texas	5	6	.455	5

Tuesday's Games
Cleveland 8, Detroit 2
Toronto 7, Boston 5
Tampa Bay 10, Chicago White Sox 5
Oakland 13, Baltimore 2
Minnesota 14, N.Y. Mets 8
Houston 6, N.Y. Yankees 3
Seattle 6, Kansas City 3
Arizona 5, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 11, Milwaukee 8

Wednesday's Games
Detroit 4, Cleveland 1
Tampa Bay 9, Chicago White Sox 1
Oakland 10, Baltimore 3
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets, late
N.Y. Yankees at Houston, late
Seattle at Kansas City, late
Texas at Arizona, late
Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, late

Today's Games
Oakland (Brooks 1-1) at Baltimore (Bundy 0-0), 12:35 p.m.
Cleveland (Bieber 0-0) at Detroit (Turnbull 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Seattle (Leake 2-0) at Kansas City (Lopez 0-1), 1:15 p.m.
Toronto (Sanchez 1-1) at Boston (Eovaldi 0-0), 7:10 p.m.

Friday's Games
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Baltimore at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Philadelphia	7	3	.700	—
Atlanta	7	4	.636	½
New York	6	4	.600	1
Washington	5	5	.500	2
Miami	3	9	.250	5

CENTRAL DIVISION

Milwaukee	8	4	.667	—
Pittsburgh	5	4	.556	1½
St. Louis	6	5	.545	1½
Chicago	3	7	.300	4
Cincinnati	3	8	.273	4½

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles	8	4	.667	—
San Diego	8	5	.615	½
Arizona	6	5	.545	1½
San Francisco	4	9	.308	4½
Colorado	3	9	.250	5

Tuesday's Games
Cincinnati 14, Miami 0
Washington 10, Philadelphia 6, 10 innings
Minnesota 14, N.Y. Mets 8
St. Louis 4, L.A. Dodgers 0
Atlanta 7, Colorado 1
San Francisco 7, San Diego 2
Arizona 5, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 11, Milwaukee 8

Wednesday's Games
San Diego 3, San Francisco 1
Cincinnati 2, Miami 1
Atlanta at Colorado, p.p.d.
Washington at Philadelphia, late
Minnesota at N.Y. Mets, late
L.A. Dodgers at St. Louis, late
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, late
Texas at Arizona, late
Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, late

Today's Games
Miami (Lopez 1-1) at Cincinnati (Gray 0-2), 12:35 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-0) at St. Louis (Wacha 0-0), 1:15 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Matz 0-0) at Atlanta (Wright 0-1), 7:20 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Musgrove 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 0-1), 8:05 p.m.
San Diego (Paddack 0-0) at Arizona (Godley 1-1), 9:40 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 0-2) at San Francisco (Samardzija 0-0), 9:45 p.m.

Friday's Games
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
San Diego at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

z-Milwaukee	60	21	.741	—
y-Toronto	58	24	.707	2½
x-Philadelphia	50	31	.617	10
x-Boston	49	33	.598	11½
x-Indiana	47	34	.580	13
x-Orlando	41	40	.506	19
x-Brooklyn	41	40	.506	19
Detroit	40	41	.494	20
Charlotte	39	42	.481	21
Miami	39	42	.481	21
Washington	32	50	.390	28½
Atlanta	22	52	.358	31
Chicago	29	59	.272	38
Cleveland	19	63	.232	41½
New York	17	64	.210	43

WESTERN CONFERENCE

z-Golden State	57	24	.704	—
y-Denver	53	28	.654	4
y-Houston	53	29	.646	4½
x-Portland	52	29	.642	5
x-Utah	50	31	.617	7
x-Oklahoma City	48	33	.593	9
x-San Antonio	47	34	.580	10
x-L.A. Clippers	47	34	.580	10
Sacramento	37	45	.451	20½
L.A. Lakers	37	45	.451	20½
Minnesota	36	45	.444	21
Dallas	33	48	.407	24
New Orleans	33	49	.402	24½
Memphis	32	49	.395	25
Phoenix	19	63	.232	38½

z-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division; x-won conference

Tuesday's Games
Boston 116, Washington 110
Charlotte 124, Cleveland 97
Detroit 100, Memphis 93
Miami 122, Philadelphia 99
Golden State 112, New Orleans 103
New York 96, Chicago 86
Toronto 120, Minnesota 100
Dallas 120, Phoenix 109
Utah 118, Denver 108
Oklahoma City 112, Houston 111
Portland 104, L.A. Lakers 101

Wednesday's Games
Chicago at Philadelphia, late
Dallas at San Antonio, late
Detroit at New York, late
Golden State at Memphis, late
Indiana at Atlanta, late
Miami at Brooklyn, late
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, late
Orlando at Charlotte, late
Minnesota at Denver, late
Sacramento at Portland, late
Utah at L.A. Clippers, late
Note: First round of playoffs begin on

Saturday.

2019 WNBA DRAFT

Wednesday, at New York
FIRST ROUND
1. Las Vegas, Jackie Young, G, Notre Dame
2. New York, Asia Durr, G, Louisville
3. Indiana, Tearia McCowan, C, Mississippi State
4. Chicago, Katie Lou Samuelson, G/F, Connecticut
5. Dallas, Arike Ogunbowale, G, Notre Dame
6. Minnesota, Napheesa Collier, F, Connecticut
7. Los Angeles, Kalani Brown, C, Baylor
8. Phoenix, Alanna Smith, F, Stanford
9. Connecticut, Kristine Anigwe, C/F, California
10. Washington, Kiara Leslie, G, N.C. State
11. Atlanta, Brianna Turner, F, Notre Dame
12. Seattle, Ezi Magbegor, F, Australia

SECOND ROUND
13. Phoenix (from Indiana via Las Vegas), Sophie Cunningham, G, Missouri
14. New York, Han Xu, C, China
15. Chicago, Chloe Jackson, G, Baylor
16. Minnesota (from Las Vegas), Jessica Shephard, F, Notre Dame
17. Dallas, Megan Gustafson, F, Iowa
18. Minnesota, Natia Hiedeman, G, Marquette
19. Los Angeles, Marina Mabrey, G, Notre Dame
20. Minnesota (from Phoenix), Cierra Dillard, G, Buffalo
21. Connecticut (from Connecticut via Atlanta), Bridget Carleton, G, Iowa State
22. Dallas (from Washington), Kennedy Burke, G, UCLA
23. Atlanta, Maite Cazoria, G, Oregon
24. Seattle, Anriel Howard, F, Mississippi State

THIRD ROUND
25. Indiana, Paris Kea, G, North Carolina
26. New York, Megan Huff, F, Utah
27. Chicago, Maria Conde, F, Spain
28. Indiana (from Las Vegas), Caliya Robinson, F, Georgia
29. Dallas, Morgan Bertsch, F, US Davis
30. Minnesota, Kenisha Bell, G, Minnesota
31. Los Angeles, Angela Salvadores, G, Spain
32. Phoenix, Ariya Carter, G, Louisville
33. Connecticut, Regan Margary, F, Virginia Tech
34. Washington, Sam Fuehring, F, Louisville
35. Atlanta, Li Yueru, C, China
36. Seattle, Maci Morris, G, Kentucky

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
Today

National League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Chicago	-142	Pittsburgh	+132
at Cincinnati	-163	Miami	+153
Los Angeles	-137	at St. Louis	+120
at Atlanta	-121	New York	+117
at Arizona	Off	San Diego	Off
Colorado	-115	at San Fran.	+105

American League

Oakland	-157	at Baltimore	+147
Cleveland	-130	at Detroit	+120
Seattle	-134	at Kansas City	+124
at Boston	-178	Toronto	+166

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
Today

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Boston	-141	Toronto	+131
at Washington	-140	Carolina	+130
at Calgary	-180	Colorado	+165

Updated odds available at Pregame.com

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned LHP Tim Hill and RHP Kevin McCarthy to Omaha (PCL). Recalled RHP Heath Fillmyer from Omaha. Selected the contract of LHP Richard Lovelady from Omaha. Returned RHP Chris Ellis to St. Louis.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled RHP Jaime Barria from Salt Lake (PCL). Optioned RHP Luke Bard to Salt Lake.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Optioned RHP Chase De Jong to Rochester (IL). Recalled LHP Andrew Vasquez from Rochester.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Jonathan Loaisiga to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Recalled RHP Joe Harvey from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Placed LHP Jon Lester on 10-day IL. Recalled LHP Timj Collins from Iowa (PCL).
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled C Rocky Gale from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed C Russell Martin on the 10-day IL.
NEW YORK METS — Optioned RHP Tim Peterson to Syracuse (IL). Recalled RHP Corey Oswalt from Syracuse.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with INF Matt Carpenter on a two-year contract for 2020-21.
American Association
GARY SOUTHWESTERN RAILCATS — Released RHP Brad Schaezner.
MILWAUKEE MILKMEN — Traded LHP Jared Koenig to Lake Erie (Frontier) for a player to be named.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS — Signed RHPs Tyler Fallwell and Eric Karch.
TEXAS AIRHOGS — Signed RHP Travis Ballaw.
WINNIPEG GOLDBEVES — Signed INF Dominic Ficociello and RHP Parker French.

Atlantic League
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed LHP Jon Niese.
Frontier League
LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Received LHP Jared Koenig from the Milwaukee Milkmen of the American Association. Signed 1B Jake Vieth.
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS — Signed OF Brett Siddal.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Announced the resignation of president of basketball operations Magic Johnson.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Re-signed G Alex Redmond to a one-year contract.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed DB Jordan Martin and LB Greer Martin.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed K Stephen Gostkowski. Signed TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed DB Orion Stewart.

HOCKEY
American Hockey League
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS — Recalled Ff Ryan Hitchcock and Yanick Turcotte, D Mike Cornell and David Quenneville and G Mitch Gilliam from Worcester (ECHL).
HERSHEY BEARS — Signed F Chris McCarthy to a professional tryout.
MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Signed D Adam Smith to a two-year contract.

SOCCER
USL Championship
USL — Suspended North Carolina M Austin da Luz, Bethlehem D Matt Real, Fresno M Seth Moses and Austin F Kleber one game.

COLLEGES
ALABAMA — Retained assistant men's basketball coach Antoine Pettway. Named Bryan Hodgson and Charlie Henry assistant men's basketball coaches, Mike Snowden men's basketball strength and conditioning coach and Adam Baum director of men's basketball operations.
BELMONT — Named Casey Alexander men's basketball coach.
DUKE — Freshman G RJ Barrett declared for the NBA draft.
KENTUCKY — Freshman G Keldon Johnson declared for the NBA draft.

SAINT JOSEPH'S — John Griffin III men's assistant basketball coach.
TEMPLE — Named Brady Welsh director of men's basketball sports performance.

PRO HOCKEY

NHL
STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
All times Eastern
FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
COLUMBUS 1, TAMPA BAY 0
Wednesday: Columbus, 4-3
Friday: at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Sunday: at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16: at Columbus, 7 p.m.
x-Friday, April 19: at Tampa Bay, TBA
x-Sunday, April 21: at Columbus, TBA
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Tampa Bay, TBA

BLUE JACKETS 4, LIGHTNING 3
COLUMBUS 0 1 3 — 4
TAMPA BAY 3 0 0 — 3
First Period—1. Tampa Bay, Killorn 1, 4:12 (sh). 2. Tampa Bay, Cirelli 1 (Miller, Cernak, 11:01, 3. Tampa Bay, Gourde 1 (Rutta, Sergachev), 17:50. Penalties—Girardi, TB, (illegal check to head), 2:55; Girardi, TB, served by Miller, (roughing), 2:55; Dubinsky, CBJ, (roughing), 9:23; Savard, CBJ, (interference), 19:27.
Second Period—4. Columbus, Foligno 1 (Anderson), 9:15. Penalties—None.
Third Period—5. Columbus, Savard 1, 7:56. 6. Columbus, Anderson 1 (Jenner), 11:54 (sh). 7. Columbus, Jones 1 (Panarin, Werenski), 14:05 (pp). Penalties—Dubinsky, CBJ, major (high sticking), 9:23; Killorn, TB, (high sticking), 12:16.
Shots on Goal—Columbus 6-11-9—26. Tampa Bay 13-11-5—29.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 1 of 2; Tampa Bay 0 of 3.
Goals—Columbus, Bobrovsky 1-0 (29 shots-26 saves). Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 0-1 (26-22).
A—19,092 (19,092). T—2,207.
Referees—Marc Joannette, John McIsaac. Linesmen—Trent Knorr, Pierre Racicot.

BOSTON VS. TORONTO
Today: at Boston, 7 p.m.
Saturday: at Boston, 8 p.m.
Monday: at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17: at Toronto, 7 p.m.
x-Friday, April 19: at Boston, TBA
x-Sunday, April 21: at Toronto, TBA
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Boston, TBA

WASHINGTON VS. CAROLINA
Today: at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday: at Washington, 3 p.m.
Monday: at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 18: at Carolina, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 20: at Washington, TBA
x-Monday, April 22: at Carolina, TBA
x-Wednesday, April 24: at Washington, TBA

N.Y. ISLANDERS VS. PITTSBURGH
Wednesday: at N.Y. Islanders, late
Friday: at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday: at Pittsburgh, noon
Tuesday, April 16: at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, April 18: at N.Y. Islanders, TBA
x-Saturday, April 20: at Pittsburgh, TBA
x-Tuesday, April 22: at N.Y. Islanders, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
NASHVILLE VS. DALLAS
Wednesday: at Nashville, late
Saturday: at Nashville, 6 p.m.
Monday: at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17: at Dallas, 8 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 20: at Nashville, TBA
x-Monday, April 22: at Dallas, TBA
x-Wednesday, April 24: at Nashville, TBA

WINNIPEG VS. ST. LOUIS
Wednesday: at Winnipeg, late
Friday: at Winnipeg, 9:30 p.m.
Sunday: at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16: at St. Louis, 9:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, April 18: at Winnipeg, TBA
x-Saturday, April 20: at St. Louis, TBA
x-Monday, April 22: at Winnipeg, TBA

CALGARY VS. COLORADO
Today: at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Saturday: at Calgary, 10:30 p.m.
Monday: at Colorado, 10 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17: at Colorado, 10 p.m.
x-Friday, April 19: at Calgary, TBA
x-Sunday, April 21: at Colorado, TBA
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Calgary, TBA

SAN JOSE VS. VEGAS
Wednesday: at San Jose, late
Friday: at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday: at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16: at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.
x-Thursday, April 18: at San Jose, TBA
x-Sunday, April 21: at Vegas, TBA
x-Tuesday, April 23: at San Jose, TBA

NHL DRAFT ORDER
Friday, June 21, at Rogers Arena, Vancouver
FIRST ROUND
1. New Jersey Devils
2. New York Rangers
3. Chicago Blackhawks
4. Colorado Avalanche (from Ottawa)
5. Los Angeles Kings
6. Detroit Red Wings
7. Buffalo Sabres
8. Edmonton Oilers
9. Anaheim Ducks
10. Vancouver Canucks
11. Philadelphia Flyers
12. Minnesota Wild
13. Florida Panthers
14. Arizona Coyotes
15. Montreal Canadiens
Note: Picks 16-31 will be determined after the results of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

AHL
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION

GP	W	L	OLSOL	Pts	GF	GA		
Charlotte	74	49	17	7	1	106	249	185
Bridgeport	74	42	23	6	3	93	226	219
Hershey	73	40	25	4	4	88	198	210
Providence	73	37	25	8	3	85	219	199
Lehigh Valley	74	37	30	4	3	81	233	239
WB/Scranton	73	35	28	7	3	80	224	213
Springfield	73	31	28	9	5	76	234	233
Hartford	73	29	34	7	3	68	203	254

NORTH DIVISION

GP	W	L	OLSOL	Pts	GF	GA		
Syracuse	73	45	21	4	3	97	252	179
Rochester	73	45	22	4	2	96	244	208
Toronto	74	39	23	8	4	90	245	235
Cleveland	73	36	28	7	2	81	223	227
Beverly	74	36	30	3	5	80	223	222
Utica	73	32	33	6	2	72	211	249
Laval	74	29	33	6	6	70	190	223
Binghamton	73	27	40	6	0	60	192	266

WESTERN CONFERENCE
CENTRAL DIVISION

GP	W	L	OLSOL	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	73	43	21	5	4	95	243	189
Grand Rapids	74	38	25	7	4	87	216	213
Milwaukee	74	34	24	12	4	84	209	205
Iowa	74	35	26	5	5	83	237	229
Manitoba	73	37	29	5	8	81	185	212
Texas	73	36	29	4	4	80	220	220
Rockford	74	35	29	4	6	80	182	208
San Antonio	73	29	37	6	1	65	185	236

PACIFIC DIVISION

GP	W	L	OLSOL	Pts	GF	GA		
Bakersfield	65	39	21	3	2	83	229	174
San Jose	65	37	21	3	4	81	218	190
San Diego	65	35	23	4	3	77	229	210
Colorado	66	35	26	4	1	75	187	200
Tucson	65	33	24	5	3	74	196	191
Stockton	65	30	29	4	2	66	227	240
Ontario	65	24	31	6	4	58	201	262

2 points for win, 1 point for OT/shootout loss

Tuesday's Games
Lehigh Valley 3, Hershey 2, OT
Rockford 4, Milwaukee 3, OT
Wednesday's Games
Bridgeport 2, Laval 1
Iowa 7, Grand Rapids 3
Toronto 3, Belleville 2
San Antonio at Texas, late

Tucson at Bakersfield, late
Ontario at Stockton, late
San Jose at San Diego, late
Today's Game
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Friday's Games
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Laval at Syracuse, 7 p.m.
Manitoba at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Springfield, 7:05 p.m.
Lehigh Valley at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at Hartford, 7:15 p.m.
Chicago at Iowa, 8 p.m.
Texas at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
San Diego at Tucson, 9:05 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Stockton at Ontario, 10 p.m.

THE 83RD MASTERS | APRIL 11-14

ONE COURSE LEFT TO MASTER

BY DOUG FERGUSON | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Masters should have been the first major Rory McIlroy won. Now it's the only one he's missing.

Augusta National was thought to be the domain of Tiger Woods when he won four green jackets before turning 30. Now he is 43, so far removed from his last Masters victory that the club has changed leadership twice since he last won.

They are the central figures at the 83rd Masters, which starts on April 11, even as they share the stage with a cast of characters so deep that 23 of the last 25 majors have been won by players ranked No. 25 in the world or better.

Woods has such a hold on the game that his Sunday red shirt packs as much interest as a green jacket, especially now. To see him two years ago hobble to the Masters Club dinner for past champions was to wonder if he would ever play again, and it was only a few weeks later that he had a fourth surgery on his back to fuse his lower spine.

He not only returned, he capped his remarkable comeback by winning in Georgia for his 80th PGA Tour victory. But it was at East Lake, not Augusta. Is his comeback complete without a 15th major? His entire spring has been geared toward this moment, a chance to win the Masters for the first time in 14 years.

"I'm right there where I need to be," he said. "I've gotten a little bit more consistent with my play, and I think that everything is headed on track toward April."

McIlroy still wore those curly locks when he took a four-shot lead into the final round at Augusta in 2011, only to throw it all away with a tee shot behind cabins, a four-putt from 12 feet, a wild drive along the azaleas and an 80 on his scorecard. He responded by winning four of the next 15 majors. He returns to Augusta needing only a green jacket to join the most elite group in golf with the career Grand Slam. He played in the final group last year. He is getting closer.

Is he excited? Not as much as it might seem.

McIlroy has spent the last year reading books on life, not golf. He is working more on his attitude than his putting, determined not to let his sport define his success. It is starting pay off, not only with his victory in The Players Championship against golf's best field, but the fact he has yet to finish out of the top 10 in the seven PGA Tour events he has played this year. Las Vegas has made him the favorite at Augusta.

"I would have said a couple of years ago, 'I need to win a Masters,' where now it's 'I want to win it.' And I'd love to win it," he said. "But if I don't, I'm OK. Maybe some people

will say that I'm not motivated enough. Believe me, I am motivated to make the most of what I have and to put my name among some of the greats of our game."

Three months into the year, six months into the PGA Tour season, golf doesn't feel as though it really starts until Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player hit the honorary tee shot, until "Fore, please" is heard on the first tee as players are introduced, and until that first big cheer makes fans wonder where it came from and what it was for.

TIGER TALES

Woods was still figuring out what his body would allow him to do last year at the Masters, where he didn't break par until the final round and was never in the tournament. He has started slowly this year, each tournament a little better than the previous one. Worth noting is he was in the hunt until the final hour in his last two majors, leading briefly on Sunday in the British Open and chasing Brooks Koepka all the way to the end at the PGA Championship.

BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

McIlroy at No. 3 is among five players who have a chance to reach No. 1 with a Masters victory. All five — Justin Rose, Dustin Johnson, McIlroy, Koepka and Justin Thomas — have won majors and been No. 1 before. It has never been this crowded at the top since the ranking began in 1986.

SLUMPING SPIETH

Outside of Woods and McIlroy, no other player at the Masters is more fascinating than Spieth. In his five appearances, he has tied the tournament scoring record in a wire-to-wire victory, been runner-up twice and has been in the mix every Sunday. But he is in the worst slump of his young career, winless since the 2017 British Open, no performance in the top 20 this year. He says his game is close. The Masters, where he has been atop the leaderboard in eight of the 20 rounds he has played, might be the ultimate measure of how close — or far — he really is.

RORY McILROY

Age: 29
Country: Northern Ireland
World ranking: 3
Worldwide victories: 23
Majors: PGA Championship (2012, 2014), US Open (2011), British Open (2014)
Masters appearances: 10
Best Masters: 4th in 2015
Masters memory: Losing a four-shot lead in the final round in 2011 by closing with an 80. The Masters now is the only major he hasn't won.
Backspin: McIlroy won The Players Championship to become a Masters favorite. He comes to Augusta National by preaching a balanced life that doesn't require success on the course to feel good off the course. He says he wants to win the Masters but no longer feels he needs to.

2019 MASTERS PLAYER CAPSULES

A look at top contenders for the Masters

Age: 34
Country: United States
World ranking: 2
Worldwide victories: 21
Majors: US Open (2016)
Masters appearances: 8
Best Masters: Tie for 4th in 2016
Masters memory: Falling down the stairs at his rental home and having to withdraw moments before his tee time in 2017 when he was No. 1 in the world and the overwhelming favorite to win.



DUSTIN JOHNSON

Backspin: The most talented player in golf also is the best player with only one major. He is close to his best form two years ago when he won three straight times before having to withdraw from the Masters after losing to the stairs. His win in Mexico was dominant, and the 20th of his career.



Age: 28
Country: United States
World ranking: 4
Worldwide victories: 8
Majors: PGA Championship (2018), US Open (2017, 2018)
Masters appearances: 3
Best Masters: Tie for 11th in 2017
Masters memory: Missing the Masters last year while recovering from a left wrist injury. He would go on to win two of the next three majors.

Backspin: Koepka has become a major player in every sense of the word. He has won three of the last six majors he played, two of them last year, and is itching to get back to Augusta National after sitting out last year with a wrist injury.

Age: 43
Country: United States
World ranking: 12
Worldwide victories: 91
Majors: Masters (1997, 2001, 2002, 2005), PGA Championship (1999, 2000, 2006, 2007), US Open (2000, 2002, 2008), British Open (2000, 2005, 2006)
Best Masters: Won in 1997, 2001, 2002, 2005
Masters memory: His 12-shot victory to set the tournament record of 270 in his Masters debut as a professional in 1997.



TIGER WOODS

Backspin: Woods took care of one comeback by winning the Tour Championship last year for his first victory in five years. Next up is a major, and the Masters always has been regarded as his best one. This will be the 14th Masters since his last green jacket in 2005.



Age: 25
Country: United States
World ranking: 32
Worldwide victories: 14
Majors: Masters (2015), US Open (2015), British Open (2017)
Masters appearances: 5
Best Masters: Won in 2015
Masters memory: Winning by four shots in 2015 and becoming

the first player to reach 19-under par at any point in the tournament.
Backspin: Outside of Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, he might be the most fascinating story at this Masters. He has had a chance going into Sunday at every Masters he has played, and already has led after eight of the 20 rounds he has played. But he hasn't won since the 2017 British Open, and a slump has sent him to No. 32 in the world.

Age: 38
Country: England
World ranking: 1
Worldwide victories: 24
Majors: US Open (2013)
Masters appearances: 13
Best Masters: Lost in a play-off in 2017
Masters memory: The emotions of losing in a playoff to Sergio Garcia in 2017 and being happy for a longtime friend.



JUSTIN ROSE

Backspin: Among players regarded as contenders, Rose tops the list among those without a green jacket because of his history of playing well at Augusta National. His driving and irons are his strength. His putting often decides how well he goes. His caddie, Mark Fulcher, should be back on the bag at Augusta after a heart operation.



Age: 25
Country: United States
World ranking: 5
Worldwide victories: 10
Majors: PGA Championship (2017)
Masters appearances: 3
Best Masters: Tie for 17th in 2018
Masters memory: Playing the final round in 2018 with friend

Jordan Spieth who shot 64 and nearly won as Thomas closed with a 73.
Backspin: He has taken his place in the last two years as among the most complete players in the game — power, ball striking, short game and putting. Even though he faded last year in the final round, the experience should serve

FACTS & FIGURES

TOURNAMENT

The 83rd Masters
Dates: April 11-14
Site: Augusta National Golf Club
Length: 7,475 yards
Par: 36-36—72
Purse: To be determined (\$11 million in 2018)
Field: 86 players (80 professionals, 6 amateurs)
Cut: Top 50 and ties, anyone within 10 shots of lead.
The course: The par-4 fifth hole has a new tee that lengthens the hole by 30 yards to 495 yards.
Defending champion: Patrick Reed.

LAST YEAR

Patrick Reed won his first major by



closing with a 1-under 71 to hold off Jordan Spieth's furious charge. Reed had a three-shot lead over Rory McIlroy and never trailed at any point in the final round. Spieth, starting nine shots behind, briefly tied for the lead until hitting a tree off the 18th tee and making bogey for a 64. Reed had a two-shot lead playing the final hole, where Rickie Fowler made birdie to finish one shot behind.

STORYLINES

Grand Slam: Rory McIlroy tries for the fifth time to complete the career Grand Slam. He only lacks the Masters to be the sixth player to win all four majors.
Tiger Tales: Tiger Woods now has

played the Masters 10 times since winning his fourth green jacket in 2005.

THE ODDS

Westgate Superbook in Las Vegas has McIlroy as an 8-1 favorite, followed by Dustin Johnson at 10-1. Tiger Woods is 12-1.

WORTH NOTING

The last seven Masters champions were among the top 25 in the world ranking when they won. Eight of the top 10 players in the world already have won on the PGA Tour this season.

TELEVISION

(All times EST)
Thursday-Friday, 3-7:30 p.m. (ESPN); Saturday, 3-7 p.m. (CBS Sports); Sunday, 2-7 p.m. (CBS Sports).

"I am motivated to make the most of what I have and to put my name among some of the greats of our game."

—Rory McIlroy, on his bid to win the Masters for the career Grand Slam

INTERACTIVE

www.masters.com. Live video channels from Amen Corner, the 15th hole, 16th hole and a featured group. Estimated times — Amen Corner (Nos. 11, 12 and 13) from 10:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and from 11:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; Nos. 15 and 16 from 11:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; and featured group from noon to completion of play on Thursday and Friday, and from 12:30 p.m. to completion of play on Saturday and Sunday. The Masters iPad application will display the video channels and a live digital simulcast of CBS Sports' weekend coverage.

■ NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke's Barrett will enter NBA draft

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Following one of the most productive offensive seasons in school history, Duke's RJ Barrett is heading to the NBA.

The 6-foot-7 freshman forward from Canada, a consensus all-American after averaging 22.6 points per game, declared for the NBA draft on Wednesday morning.

Barrett tied with fellow Duke freshman Zion Williamson for the top scoring average in the ACC this season. They led Duke (32-6) to the ACC tournament championship and the No. 1 ranking in the final Associated Press poll. The Blue Devils' NCAA Tournament run ended with a 68-67 loss to Michigan State in the East Region final.

"We had a great year," Barrett said in a video posted on his Twitter feed. "We were ACC champs. It was amazing to play for Coach K, play for the brotherhood. It was a dream of mine to play at Duke ever since I was a young kid. It's also a dream of mine to play in the NBA and have great success there. After discussing with my family and coaches, I've decided that I will be declaring for

the 2019 NBA Draft."

Barrett started every Duke game this season, scoring 13 points or better in each of them. His 860 points not only set a new ACC freshman scoring record, they give him the second-best scoring output in a single season by any Duke player. Only JJ Reddick, with 964 points in 2006, scored more in a single season with the Blue Devils.

While Williamson is projected to be the No. 1 overall pick in this June's NBA draft, Barrett is expected to be selected a top-three selection.

"From start to finish, RJ was there every second," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said in a statement. "He played the most minutes, broke scoring records and was consistently excellent. He became one of our best defensive rebounders, and was close to triple-doubles quite a bit because of his scoring, rebounding and assists. Having reclassified to come to Duke early, he's just so advanced for this stage of his career. He comes from an incredible family, he's a winner in every sense, and it was so special to have RJ in our



AP PHOTO

Duke freshman forward RJ Barrett is leaving college to enter the NBA draft. The 6'7 All-American averaged 22.6 points per game.

program."

In addition to his scoring, Barrett averaged 7.6 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. Both were second on the team. He made 45.4 percent of his shots, including 30.8 percent of his 3-pointers, while hitting 66.5 percent

of his free throws.

Barrett recorded Duke's first triple-double since 2006 with 21 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in a 94-78 home win over N.C. State on Feb. 16.

"I really just want to thank the Crazies, thank the whole Duke

community for everything you've given me," Barrett said. "I'll always be a part of the brotherhood. I hold that very near and dear to my heart. I'm looking forward to coming back and supporting the Blue Devils in any way I can."

Williamson and fellow freshman Cam Reddish are also preparing to enter the NBA draft. Like Barrett, both are projected to be among the top 10 selections. Neither has made an official announcement regarding their plans.

■ MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Loyalty brings Makar, UMass Frozen Four berth

By JOHN WAWROW
AP HOCKEY WRITER

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Once Cale Makar committed to playing hockey at Massachusetts, nothing was going to change the defenseman's mind.

Makar stuck by his decision despite a coaching change, which led to him rejecting offers to play at higher-profile schools. He then turned down a chance to represent Canada at the Winter Olympics last year because Makar didn't want to miss out on his freshman season. And not even the lure of making the jump to the NHL — Colorado drafted him with the No. 4 pick in 2016 — could sway him last summer.

Each time, Makar cited loyalty and commitment as the reasons he wouldn't budge.

"It's a very big concept for me," Makar said Wednesday when asked what loyalty means. "Since my childhood, it's been instilled in me from my parents. Regardless of whether it's hockey or outside hockey, loyalty's a big thing for me and something that I live by." Though he had no real

expectation of a payoff beyond spending two years at UMass developing his game, the 20-year-old is still being rewarded.

The Hockey East player of the year is one of three finalists to win the Hobey Baker award, issued to college hockey's top player. Just as important, Makar has played a key role in helping UMass (30-9) make the school's first Frozen Four appearance.

The Minutemen will face Denver (24-11-5) in a semifinal Thursday.

"Obviously, I didn't know what was going to transpire over the two years, but I really thought it was a possibility of being here," Makar said. "Coming into this year, we knew we had a special group. I think it's a credit to everybody."

Defending champion Minnesota Duluth (27-11-2) faces Providence (24-11-6) in the other semifinal, with the championship set for Saturday.

The Bulldogs are making their third straight Frozen Four appearance and have a chance to become the first school to defend its title since Denver in 2004 and '05. For Providence, it's the



AP PHOTO

UMass Amherst defenseman Cale Makar (right) cited loyalty in sticking to his commitment to play at Massachusetts despite a coaching change. Two years later, Makar is a Hobey Baker finalist and has the Minutemen (30-9) preparing to make their first Frozen Four appearance. UMass will face Denver in the semifinals on Thursday.

Friars fifth time in the semifinals and first since winning their lone title in 2015.

Much of the focus remains on Makar, who has a shot at joining the Avalanche for their first-round playoff series against Calgary next week, and an UMass program that's played in the shadows of its

higher-profile Hockey East rivals.

The Minutemen are making only their second NCAA Tournament appearance, and their 30 wins eclipse the previous single-season school record of 21 in 2006-07.

With 48 points (16 goals, 32 assists) in 39 games, Makar is the first defenseman to lead the

conference in 20 years. At 6-foot and 190 pounds, he has a solid frame and a smooth-skating style, giving Makar the ability to excel at both ends of the ice.

From Calgary, Makar was considered somewhat of a late bloomer playing in the Alberta Junior Hockey League when he committed

to play at UMass. And he still remembers the numerous offers he began receiving from other schools when the Minutemen fired coach John Micheletto following the 2015-16 season before hiring Greg Carvel.

"At the end of the day, I knew they were going to get somebody good here," Makar said.

NFL FROM PAGE 1

posted footage after the game showing a green light flashing on Brady late in the Patriots' 37-31 overtime victory on Jan. 20. Prosecutors say Brady was unaware of the laser.

Laser pointers are banned at most sporting events because of the potential for distraction and safety reasons. The light can damage the retina after even a short period of time.

NFL and players' union reps meet about labor agreement

Representatives of the NFL and the players' union met Tuesday for initial talks regarding a

new labor agreement.

The current 10-year collective bargaining agreement runs out after the 2020 season. It was reached following a four-month lockout of the players in 2011.

"Today, the members of the NFL's management council and the NFLPA's executive committee met to discuss negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement," both sides said in a statement. "The league and the union have committed to meet regularly in the coming months, which will involve staff, NFL leadership, members of the NFLPA executive committee and player representatives."

League revenues have increased substantially

under this CBA, but negotiations are expected to be lengthy.

Lions sign QB Tom Savage, add depth behind Stafford

The Detroit Lions have signed quarterback Tom Savage, giving the team another backup option behind Matthew Stafford.

The Lions also have quarterbacks Matt Cassel and Connor Cook.

Ryan was on rosters in Cincinnati and San Francisco last season after starting nine games and playing in four games as a backup from 2014-17 in Houston. He has completed 181 of 315 passes for 2,000 yards with five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Detroit hired Sean Ryan as its quarterbacks coach earlier this offseason.

LIGHTNING FROM PAGE 1

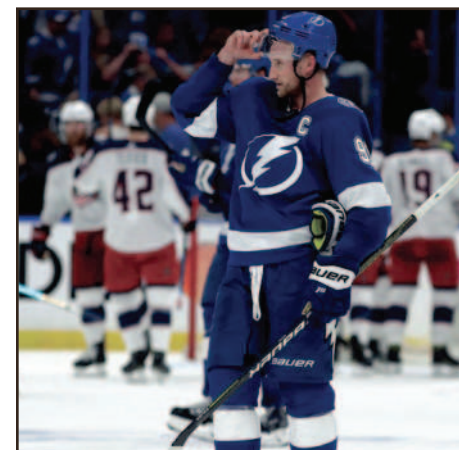
second on a breakaway goal after Tampa Bay's Ryan McDonagh made an errant pass in the offensive zone.

Vasilevskiy made a strong save on Matt Duchene during a 2-on-1 two minutes after Foligno's goal.

Alexandre Texier, Columbus' 19-year-old rookie who played in the Blue Jackets' final two regular-season games, skated in alone on Vasilevskiy but missed the net on a shot with 4 minutes to go in the first.

Bobrovsky stopped four shots over the final 40 seconds of the second, including a nifty glove save on Steven Stamkos.

Nikita Kucherov, who had an NHL-best 128 points in the regular season, was held without a point but had an in-close chance turned aside by Bobrovsky and hit the crossbar during the opening minute of the second during a power play.



AP PHOTO

Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos skates off as the Columbus Blue Jackets celebrate their 4-3 win after Game 1.

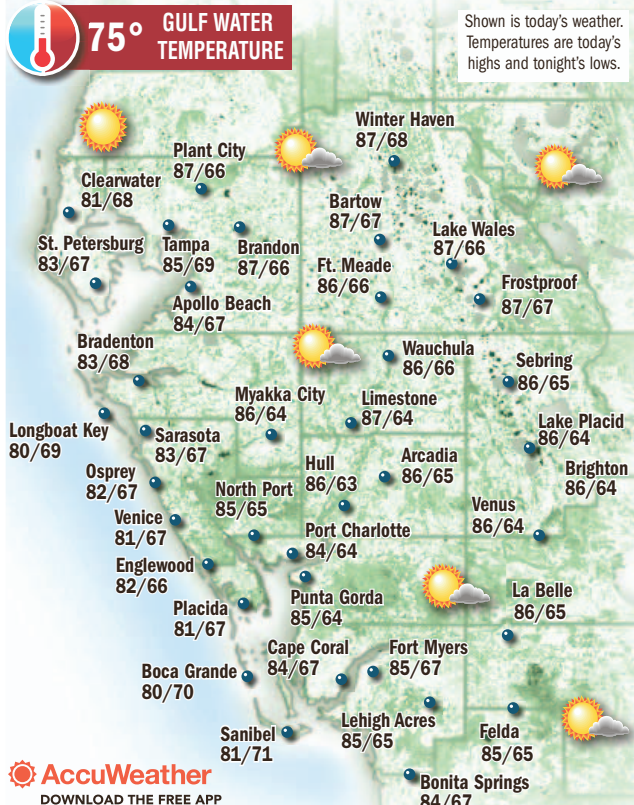
NOTES: Tampa Bay outscored Columbus 17-3 in sweeping all three games between the teams in the regular season.

Lightning D Anton Stralman sat out with a lower-body injury, but might return during the series.

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TODAY / TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny and nice HIGH 84° 0% chance of rain	Mostly sunny and warm 89° / 66° 5% chance of rain	Partly sunny and warm 89° / 70° 10% chance of rain	Pleasant with times of clouds and sun 87° / 72° 20% chance of rain	Periods of sun with a shower or t-storm 84° / 59° 55% chance of rain	Pleasant with times of clouds and sun 87° / 63° 5% chance of rain



FLORIDA CITIES

City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Apalachicola	76	66	s	78 66 pc
Bradenton	83	68	s	85 68 s
Clearwater	81	68	s	82 70 s
Coral Springs	87	70	s	87 74 s
Daytona Beach	82	68	pc	84 68 pc
Fort Lauderdale	85	73	s	85 74 s
Fort Myers	85	67	s	89 71 s
Gainesville	88	68	s	89 67 pc
Jacksonville	82	67	sh	86 66 pc
Key Largo	82	74	pc	84 76 s
Key West	84	75	pc	86 75 s
Lakeland	87	67	s	89 67 s
Melbourne	84	72	s	85 72 s
Miami	86	71	s	86 73 s
Naples	83	69	s	87 72 s
Ocala	86	67	s	87 66 s
Okeechobee	84	65	s	87 67 s
Orlando	87	69	s	89 70 s
Panama City	78	65	s	78 65 pc
Pensacola	78	67	pc	78 67 pc
Pompano Beach	85	72	s	86 76 s
St. Augustine	80	70	pc	82 69 sh
St. Petersburg	83	67	s	85 68 s
Sarasota	83	67	s	85 69 s
Tallahassee	85	64	s	84 61 s
Tampa	85	69	s	86 71 s
Vero Beach	84	70	s	86 70 s
West Palm Beach	84	72	s	85 75 s

TIDES

Location	Today		Fri.	
	High	Low	High	Low
Punta Gorda	7:07p	2:59a	---	---
Englewood	5:44p	1:15a	---	---
Boca Grande	4:05p	12:15a	---	---
El Jobean	7:39p	3:28a	---	---
Venice	3:59p	---	---	---

MARINE

Location	Wind	Speed	Seas	Bay/Inland
Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs	SSE	3-6	1-2	Light
Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola	ESE	7-14	1-3	Light

SUN AND MOON

Day	The Sun			The Moon		
	Today	Rise	Set	Today	Rise	Set
Today	7:09 a.m.	7:50 p.m.		11:54 a.m.	1:02 a.m.	
Friday	7:08 a.m.	7:51 p.m.		12:52 p.m.	2:00 a.m.	

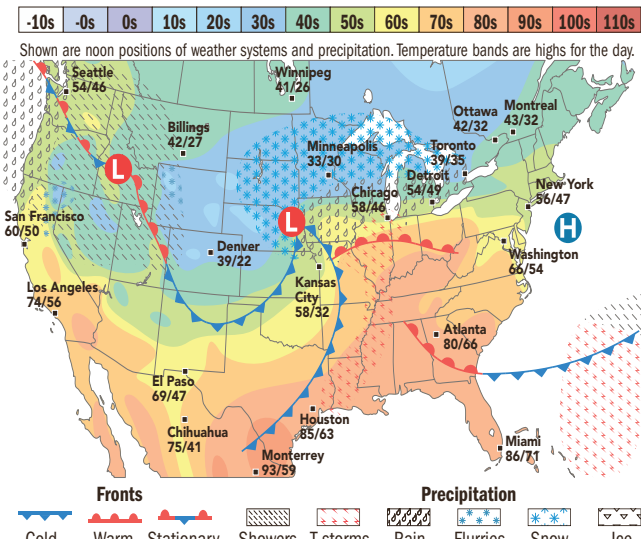
SOLUNAR TABLE

Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Today	11:41a	5:26a	---	5:55p
Fri.	12:09a	6:26a	12:41p	6:55p
Sat.	1:09a	7:24a	1:39p	7:53p

WEATHER HISTORY
 A swarm of 37 tornadoes swept across the Midwest on April 11, 1965, from Iowa to Ohio. Nearly 300 people were killed.

WEATHER TRIVIA™
 Q: What is the troposphere?
 A: The lowest layer of the atmosphere where our weather occurs.

THE NATION



U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)
 High 97° at Laredo, TX
 Low 12° at Truckee, CA

City	Today		Fri.		City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Albuquerque	57	36	pc	54 38 pc	Jackson, MS	84	63	pc	80 64 t
Anchorage	45	37	r	47 33 r	Kansas City	58	32	c	53 32 c
Atlanta	80	66	pc	79 64 pc	Knoxville	80	64	pc	76 59 r
Baltimore	63	49	pc	72 56 t	Las Vegas	70	56	pc	72 54 pc
Billings	42	27	c	46 28 pc	Los Angeles	74	56	s	74 54 pc
Birmingham	83	64	pc	77 63 t	Louisville	83	62	pc	73 50 pc
Boise	53	38	sh	56 37 c	Memphis	82	54	c	75 54 pc
Boston	53	40	pc	57 49 pc	Milwaukee	47	42	r	50 36 c
Buffalo	47	42	sn	65 45 r	Minneapolis	33	30	sn	36 28 sn
Burlington, VT	47	30	pc	57 49 r	Montgomery	85	64	pc	83 63 t
Charleston, WV	84	59	pc	75 53 r	Nashville	83	63	pc	74 56 pc
Charlotte	78	61	pc	75 63 pc	New Orleans	83	69	pc	82 71 pc
Chicago	58	46	t	52 36 c	New York City	56	47	pc	59 55 c
Cincinnati	80	61	pc	70 46 r	Norfolk, VA	67	58	pc	74 63 pc
Cleveland	65	61	pc	71 49 r	Oklahoma City	61	37	pc	63 44 s
Columbia, SC	83	64	pc	82 66 pc	Omaha	55	31	r	46 30 c
Columbus, OH	78	64	pc	70 47 r	Philadelphia	59	47	pc	70 59 sh
Concord, NH	52	27	pc	55 45 pc	Phoenix	78	60	s	74 54 pc
Dallas	73	47	s	73 55 s	Pittsburgh	70	57	c	69 52 r
Denver	39	22	sf	43 28 pc	Portland, ME	51	29	pc	49 40 pc
Des Moines	61	33	r	45 29 c	Portland, OR	54	46	r	60 45 pc
Detroit	54	49	c	69 41 r	Providence	54	35	pc	54 46 pc
Duluth	30	27	sn	36 26 sn	Raleigh	76	57	pc	74 63 t
Fairbanks	56	33	pc	54 30 pc	Salt Lake City	49	37	sh	49 35 sh
Fargo	31	25	sn	33 23 sn	St. Louis	79	45	t	63 41 pc
Hartford	57	35	pc	57 50 pc	San Antonio	87	52	s	87 63 s
Helena	48	31	c	48 29 c	San Diego	72	60	s	70 57 pc
Honolulu	84	72	sh	84 70 sh	San Francisco	60	50	pc	66 50 pc
Houston	85	63	pc	84 69 s	Seattle	54	46	r	58 47 pc
Indianapolis	78	53	c	65 41 pc	Washington, DC	66	54	pc	73 62 t

WORLD CITIES

City	Today		Fri.		City	Today		Fri.	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Amsterdam	50	36	c	48 33 c	Mexico City	80	54	s	82 51 s
Baghdad	84	58	t	81 57 s	Montreal	43	32	pc	50 47 r
Beijing	67	40	pc	72 46 c	Ottawa	42	32	pc	52 42 r
Berlin	45	29	c	44 30 c	Paris	56	35	s	52 35 pc
Buenos Aires	70	48	pc	71 54 s	Regina	43	22	pc	48 22 pc
Cairo	80	58	s	82 63 s	Rio de Janeiro	85	70	s	84 74 pc
Calgary	48	27	sh	48 29 pc	Rome	61	45	t	62 45 t
Cancon	84	75	s	86 77 s	St. John's	38	26	sf	40 25 pc
Dublin	53	37	pc	51 39 c	San Juan	87	75	pc	88 75 pc
Edmonton	48	28	sh	51 28 c	Sydney	71	60	pc	73 58 pc
Halifax	46	32	pc	50 36 s	Tokyo	59	45	pc	52 47 r
Kiev	58	47	r	55 41 r	Toronto	39	35	sn	60 42 r
London	52	35	c	49 35 c	Vancouver	52	40	r	56 44 pc
Madrid	62	35	pc	66 34 s	Winnipeg	41	26	c	39 25 sn

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PORT CHARLOTTE

Punta Gorda through 2 p.m. Wednesday

Temperatures	81°/72°
High/Low	81°/69°
Normal High/Low	84°/60°
Record High	92° (1994)
Record Low	48° (1974)

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Month	2019	2018	Avg.	Record/Year
Jan.	3.77	1.98	1.80	9.93/2016
Feb.	2.89	0.66	2.43	11.05/1983
Mar.	1.01	0.53	3.28	9.26/1970
Apr.	0.41	1.15	2.03	5.80/1994
May	15.98	2.50	15.98	2018
Jun.	6.23	8.92	23.99	1974
Jul.	9.80	8.22	14.22	1995
Aug.	12.37	8.01	15.60	1995
Sep.	7.58	6.84	14.03	1979
Oct.	2.60	2.93	10.88	1995
Nov.	1.91	1.91	5.53	2002
Dec.	2.47	1.78	6.83	2002
Year	8.08	63.26	50.65	(since 1931)

VENICE

Venice through 2 p.m. Wednesday

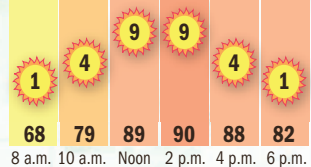
Temperatures	81°/72°
High/Low	81°/69°
Normal High/Low	84°/60°
Record High	92° (1994)
Record Low	48° (1974)

SEBRING

Sebring through 2 p.m. Wednesday

Temperatures	79°/67°
High/Low	79°/67°
Normal High/Low	84°/60°
Record High	92° (1994)
Record Low	48° (1974)

CONDITIONS TODAY



POLLIN INDEX
 Pollen Index readings as of Wednesday

AIR QUALITY INDEX
 Air Quality Index readings as of Wednesday

SUNCOAST HIGH SCHOOLS

SUN PREPS

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Sara Tirb
 SOFTBALL, PORT CHARLOTTE

A few players from Port Charlotte could've been selected, but Tirb's consistency in two blowout wins set her apart and earned her Athlete of the Week honors.

In a 15-2 win over Island Coast, Tirb recorded three RBIs and followed that up with another three-RBI effort in a 16-0 win later in the week. She also scored three runs herself and drew three walks.

"Sara has stepped up tremendously in center and has started commanding the outfield by taking a more aggressive approach," Port Charlotte coach Ryann Baker-Brose said. "On offense, Sara has become more disciplined in the box with pitch selection and has adapted well to her role in the two spot. It's exciting to see what she's capable of doing on the field."

Kevin Conway
 BASEBALL, CHARLOTTE

Working on both sides of the game, Charlotte's Conway put in a versatile week to earn Athlete of the Week.

Conway started off the week with a seven inning shutout on the mound with eight strikeouts in a 4-0 win over Canterbury. Later in the week, Conway put in work at the plate with two RBIs in a 6-4 win over Inspiration Academy.

"He's competitive, and you want to be the best on the field," said Charlotte coach Lavelle Cudjo. "Coaches aren't coming around to see the second, third and fourth best players on the field. He's competed every day. He's always up for the challenge. Sometimes, you can't schedule all the ranked baseball teams in high school, but when we play the best, he's one of the best on the field."

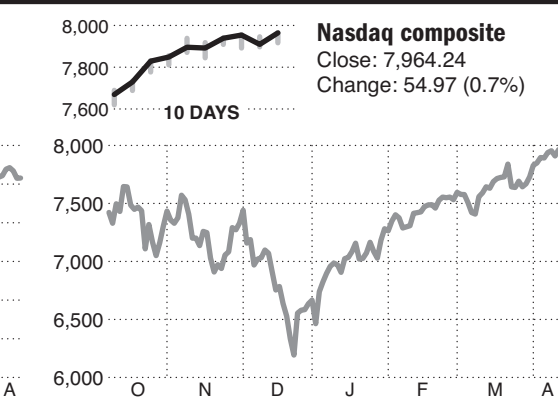
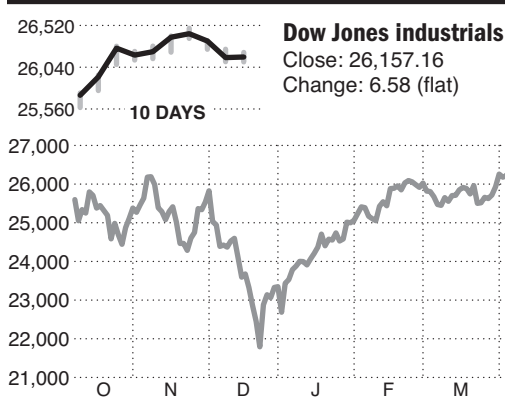
MONEY & MARKET

A product of the Sun



Thursday, April 11, 2019

For questions or comments, contact Chris Porter at 941-206-1134 or email porter@sun-herald.com



How to read the stock tables

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name	Ticker Symbol	Div	Yield	PE	52-week High Low	Vol 1000s	Last	YTD %Chg
XYZcorp	XYZ	1.20	3.6	17	34.09 27.27	2780	33.72	+20.7

- 1 — Name of the stock.
 - 2 — Ticker Symbol company trades under.
 - 3 — Dividend: A distribution of the company's earnings to shareholders, usually consisting of stock dividends, interest on bonds, or short-term capital gains on the sale of securities usually paid quarterly in the form of cash or stock.
 - 4 — Div. Yield: The dividend divided by the stock price. It helps gauge how well the stock is paying, compared to other investments such as CDs, bonds or savings accounts.
 - 5 — Price to earnings ratio: The price of a stock divided by its earnings per share. PEs are used to gauge the relative worth of a company's stock. When compared to other companies in the same industry, the companies with the lowest PEs are generally earning higher profits.
 - 6 — Range of closing prices in last year.
 - 7 — Sales in thousands (10 = 10,000 shares), and closing price.
 - 8 — Last trading price of the day.
 - 9 — Percent change for the year.
- ▲▼ Arrows, indicate new highs or lows.
Underline: indicates top 100 stocks by volume rank.
Bold stocks, designates which stocks have gone up or down 5%.

StocksRecap

	DOW	NASDAQ
Vol. (in mil.)	2,993	1,944
Pvs. Volume	2,939	2,010
Advanced	2036	2038
Declined	722	877
New Highs	106	78
New Lows	11	36

	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW	26209.49	26101.24	26157.16	+6.58	+0.03%	▲	▲	▲	+12.13%
DOW Trans.	10715.48	10601.82	10695.10	+49.68	+0.47%	▲	▲	▲	+16.63%
DOW Util.	782.66	772.11	773.51	-2.71	-0.35%	▲	▲	▲	+8.50%
NYSE Comp.	12898.27	12852.88	12887.36	+37.65	+0.29%	▲	▲	▲	+13.30%
NASDAQ	7965.33	7916.90	7964.24	+54.97	+0.69%	▲	▲	▲	+20.03%
S&P 500	2889.71	2879.13	2888.21	+10.01	+0.35%	▲	▲	▲	+15.21%
S&P 400	1946.88	1930.88	1945.44	+10.40	+0.95%	▲	▲	▲	+16.98%
Wilshire 2000	29872.38	29711.67	29860.77	+149.79	+0.50%	▲	▲	▲	+15.97%
Russell 2000	1581.65	1560.02	1581.55	+21.87	+1.40%	▲	▲	▲	+17.28%

NYSE

Name	Ticker Symbol	Div	Yield	PE	52-week High Low	Vol 1000s	Last	YTD %Chg	
- A -									
AAC Hldgs	AAC	...	...	...	12.64 1.33	110	2.16	+54.3
AAR	AIR	...	...	...	51.52 31.51	179	33.65	-9.9
ABB Ltd	ABB	7.76e	3.9	...	24.72 18.05	1275	19.44	+2.3	
ABM	ABM	7.2	1.9	...	37.47 25.62	428	37.01	+11.0	
ADT Inc n	ADT	...	...	...	9.84 5.88	3404	6.87	+15.9
AES Corp	AES	55f	3.0	14	18.52 15.25	3543	18.06	+4.4	
AFLAC s	AFL	1.08f	2.2	15	50.66 41.45	2479	49.21	+8.0	
AG MtgeIT	MITT	2.00	11.8	...	19.69 15.52	136	16.95	+6.4	
AG Mtg pfA	MITTpa	2.06	8.1	...	26.00 22.58	1	25.50	+5.7	
AG Mtg pfB	MITTpb	2.00	7.8	...	26.00 22.56	2	25.70	+6.2	
AGCO	AGCO	60	9	22	71.61 49.50	573	70.19	+26.1	
AH Belo	AHC	32	8.2	13	5.80 3.35	14	3.91	+16.0	
AK Steel	AKS	5 4.20	2.05	6410	2.77	+23.1
AMC Ent	AMC	68	4.2	...	21.45 11.66	928	16.15	+31.5	
AMCCON	DIT	7.2	8	17	105.00 77.00	...	89.57	+10.2	
AMN Hth	AMN	19 68.20	45.04	429	49.40	-12.8
ARC Docu	ARC	18 3.59	1.62	162	2.29	+11.7
ASA Gld	ASA	0.2e	2	...	11.07 8.18	78	10.30	+8.9	
AT&T Inc	T	2.04	6.4	6	36.39 26.80	20273	31.88	+11.7	
AT&T 66 n	TBB	...	...	...	25.59 21.86	142	25.27	+13.5
A10 Ntwks	ATEN	...	...	...	7.46 5.51	245	6.85	-9.9
AU Optron	AUO	1.8e	...	...	4.49 3.35	997	3.79	-3.8
AVX Cp	AVX	4.6	2.5	13	21.48 14.21	201	18.64	+22.2	
AXA EqH n	EQH	1.3p	...	...	23.21 14.72	2145	21.85	+31.4
AZZ Inc	AZZ	6.8	1.6	17	56.05 37.43	119	43.39	+7.5	
Aarons	AAN	1.4f	3	12	56.04 38.77	286	53.54	+27.3	
AbbotLab	ABT	1.28	1.6	48	80.74 56.81	5579	78.97	-9.2	
AbbVie	ABBV	4.28	5.2	13	107.25 77.77	3597	82.95	+9.0	
AberFrtc	ANF	80	3.1	14	29.69 15.28	2211	25.50	+27.2	
AbdAsPac	FAX	4.2	10.1	...	4.74 3.82	5079	4.14	+7.0	
AbdAustEq	IAF	7.0e	12.8	...	6.33 4.63	35	5.45	+14.7	
AbnChile	CH	5.8e	7.7	...	9.40 6.13	53	7.58	-19.4	
AbdGblInc	FCO	8.4	10.3	...	8.85 6.65	28	8.16	+14.6	
AbdEIMSmC	ABE	2.1e	1.4	...	15.11 14.35	14.69	14.69	...	
AbdGChina	GCH	0.3e	2	...	13.73 11.79	12.37	12.37	...	
Abndnd	IF	5.2e	1.1	...	7.67 6.88	7.13	7.13	...	
AbndIntrel	ISL	3.5e	1.0	...	20.43 18.51	18.58	18.58	...	
AbdJapanEq	JEQ	48.9	9	...	9.30 1.99	3	7.01	+8.0	
AbndLatA	LAQ	1.21e	1.8	...	28.32 25.66	26.38	26.38	...	
AbdSingFd	SGF	1.09e	8.0	...	13.89 12.98	13.59	13.59	...	
AcadIBD50	FFTY	...	...	...	...	32.13	32.13	...
AccuraRtt	AKR	1.12	4.0	48	29.82 22.27	737	27.92	+12.5	
Accenture	ACN	2.92	1.6	27	179.08 132.63	1573	177.00	+20.5	
AccordBrd	ACCO	2.4	2.8	9	14.63 6.07	291	8.72	+28.2	
AccmeU	ACU	4.8f	2.7	19	23.56 13.50	38	17.99	+26.6	
AccornInt rs	ATV	...	...	...	38.86 13.50	3	31.26	+42.7
ActiniPac	ATNM	...	...	...	87 33	516	56	+45.2
Act Rep n	GOP	...	...	...	23.61 21.75	22.40	22.40	...
Act Dem n	DEMS	...	...	...	21.26 20.89	21.08	21.08	...
Act TxR n	TAXR	...	...	...	23.79 18.16	18.87	18.87	...
Actualt	ATU	0.4	2	...	31.00 19.07	211	25.74	+22.6	
Acuity	AYI	5.2	4	16	173.01 103.48	245	139.86	+21.7	
Acushnet n	GOLF	5.6f	2.4	...	27.87 20.24	88	23.43	+11.2	
AdaDvsEq	ADX	1.32e	1.4	...	14.82 11.84	206	14.76	+16.9	
AdamsNR	PEO	1.32e	1.2	...	21.00 13.60	144	17.08	+27.2	
AdmRsc	AE	8.8	2.4	...	50.33 35.81	3	37.00	-4.4	
Adecaogro	AGRO	...	...	...	9.06 6.34	162	7.08	+1.7
Adient n	ADNT	1.10	6.1	...	67.10 12.15	3005	18.15	+20.5	
AdtalemGl	ATGE	3.6	7	34	58.80 43.50	218	48.36	+2.2	
AdvAuto	AAP	2.4	1	31	186.15 102.15	1079	178.80	+13.6	
AdvDisp n	ADSW	...	...	...	28.35 21.80	194	27.70	+5.7
AdvDrainS	WMS	3.2	1.2	23	33.50 23.04	194	27.42	+13.1	
Advdrans n	ASIX	...	...	...	41.45 22.57	117	30.39	+24.9
AdvClayCv	AVK	1.13	7.5	...	15.89 12.07	132	14.97	+19.4	
AdvSf n	AADR	3.2e	7	...	60.80 38.15	8	46.44	+15.9	
AdvPerHtY	HYLD	3.54e	9.5	...	37.20 36.53	9	37.10	...	
AdvSNewT n	FNG	...	...	...	23.00 14.47	9	15.73	+1.0
AdvSf n	KOV	...	...	...	...	32.18	32.18	...
AdvS Kor n	KOR	...	...	...	...	26.94	26.94	...
AdvS n	SCAP	...	...	...	42.75 30.86	0	37.15	+17.2
AdvS PacFlt	FLRT	1.56e	...	...	50.64 48.49	48.89	48.89	+4.5
AdvS SAGE	HOLD	4.1e	4	...	103.68 97.35	99.51	99.51	+4	
AdvSNTMS	MINC	1.34e	2.8	...	48.23 46.31	9	48.06	+1.6	
AdvSStarG	VEGA	...	...	...	32.34 27.67	2	31.96	+11.5
AdvGLEInc	GIVE	...	...	...	...	31.96	31.96	...
AdvDLLine	DBLV	4.7e	7	...	71.40 56.38	1	66.22	+13.1	
AdvMedHl	MATH	...	...	...	...	33.00	33.00	...
AdvMedGBd	FWDB	7.3e	2.9	...	25.98 21.99	6	25.35	+4.8	
AdvMadInt	FWDI	3.7e	1.4	...	32.33 22.89	26.33	26.33	+11.1	
AdvMadDm	FWDD	1.8e	4	...	56.11 43.92	50.70	50.70	+12.1	
AdvActBear	HGDG	...	...	...	8.99 6.61	115	6.63	-21.4
Aecom	ACM	12 36.97	24.83	621	31.15	+17.5
Aegon	AEG	2.8e	5.7	...	7.48 4.42	982	4.95	+6.5	
Aegon cap	AEH	1.59	6.1	...	26.52 24.66	110	25.89	+2.9	
Aegon 6.5	AED	1.63	6.3	...	26.83 24.70	88	25.78	+2.8	
Aegon flt	AEB	7.7	3.5	...	25.49 17.85	39	21.78	+15.6	
Aegon42	AEK	2.00	7.9	...	25.74 25.55	25.28	25.28	...	
Aerocarp	AER	...	...	...	58.30 36.16	684	47.40	+19.7
Aerocrotyl	ACY	2 17.15	8.36	1	11.58	+21.0
AerohiveN	HIVE	...	...	...	5.18 3.19	303	4.22	+29.4
AerojetR	AJRD	66 40.99	25.06	1345	32.89	-6.6
AffiliMgns	AMG	1.28f	1.2	8	179.64 87.47	870	110.51	+13.4	
AgeX Th n	AGE	...	...	...	5.95 1.13	107	4.76	+29.2
Agilent	A	6.6	8	83	82.27 60.42	978	81.68	+11.1	
Agnico g	AEM	5.0	5.2	47	47.83 32.18	908	43.07	+6.6	
AgreeRtt	ADC	2.22	3.2	35	70.26 47.22	244	68.89	+16.5	
Air Inds	AIRI	60	53.1	...	1.95 7.0	38	1.13	+58.0	
AirLease	AL	5.2f	1.4	5	47.34 28.13	788	36.29	+20.1	
AirLeas pfA	ALP	1.54	5.9	...	25.95 25.10	45	25.92	+2.9	
AirProd	APD	4.64f	2.4	27	194.30 148.44	591	193.04	+20.6	
AirPtd wI	APD/WI	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Airscgla	AYR	1.20	6.0	7	23.14 15.75	325	19.91	+15.5	
Airscg pf Q	ALPpQ	1.25	4.8	...	26.24 22.60	32	26.00	+9.2	
AlamoGp	ALG	4.8	5	26	119.16 72.50	87	98.		

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, 1000s Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like BrCEnu n, BiPSPBWr, BiPGrb, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, 1000s Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like C&J Eng n, CtrkMH23, CtlMillr n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, 1000s Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like CitiCHF DI n, CitiGBP n, CitiEUR DI n, etc.

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like AdfIntrToh, AdfMoment, AdfLowVol, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like GabHlWv, GabHW rt, GabHlt pA, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like GUGSPVal, GUGSPGth, GUGEqWREst, etc.

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including IOG, OdaS, GRES, AOVIA, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including IndBach, InfSys, InfrREIT, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including iSHTRFBd, iSCHUK, iSHESG, etc.

J

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including JALeHld, JLL, JBG Smth, etc.

K

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including K12, KAR Auct, KB FncIgp, etc.

L

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including L Brands, L3 Tch, LAIX, etc.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like Penney, Puma, PNC, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like ProSUIGold, ProShtVx, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like ReinsGp42, ReinsG56, etc.

- S -

- R -

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like SphdR1K1M, SphdR1K1FY, SphdR1K1KF, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like Standex SXI, StanBnkDk SWK, StanB&D SWJ, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like TortMLP TTP, TortPIPE TTP, TortPw&E TPZ, etc.

- U -

- T -

- V -

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Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes NYSE section and X-Y-Z section.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes -W- section.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes -A- section and Nasdaq section.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Main table containing stock market data for Nasdaq, including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, and YTD. The table is organized into three vertical sections.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like DragVic rs, DroyShips s, DuluthH n, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like FT EmMSC, FTDVMSK, FT EurZAlp, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like GovPptT46, GrCanyEd, Gravity s, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like :F5 Networks, FAT Br n, FFBW n, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like :GWilliFood, G1Thera n, GCI LA n, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes tickers like :i3Vert n, IAC Inter, IBEX H n, etc.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like IndBkMA, IndBkMI, IndSvAm, etc.

- J -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like J&J Snack, J2Global, J2Global, etc.

- K -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like KBLM, KBLM, KBLM, etc.

- L -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like LCNB Corp, LFCap, LFCap, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like LHC Corp, LKO, LMF, LMF, etc.

- M -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like MAM Soft, MAMS, MAM, etc.

- N -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like NBT Bcp, NBTB, NCS Mtst, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like Misonix, Micham, Mitchm, etc.

- N -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like NBT Bcp, NBTB, NCS Mtst, etc.

- M -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like MAM Soft, MAMS, MAM, etc.

- O -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like OZMico, OFS Cap, OFS, etc.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like OpenSpan, OpenText, OperaLtd, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like Qorvo, Qualcomm, Qualstar, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes stocks like SignalBk, SilganHld, SilCloud, etc.

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Money Market Funds

Table with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

Tax Exempt

Table with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists tax-exempt money market funds and their performance metrics.

Toronto stocks

Table with columns: Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Lists various Toronto stocks and their price movements.

Treasury bonds

Table with columns: Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld. Lists various Treasury bonds and their yields.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables

Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Continued on next page

Top 20 Mutual Funds

By Year-to-Date Percent Return

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

By Total Net Assets

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Total Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

By 4-Week Percent Return

Table with 7 columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

Continued from previous page

Continuation of the 'By Year-to-Date Percent Return' table, listing mutual funds from name 'SustInltHtca m' to 'AdpteEqInv'.

Mutual Funds

Main table of mutual funds with 15 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds including Ancora, Angel Oak, Aquila, Arbitrage, Ariel, Aristote, Artisan, Ashmore, Auxier, Ave Maria, BBH, BMO, Baird, Baron, Becker, Berkshire, Bernstein, Berwyn, Bishop Street, BlackRock, CIBC, Calamos, and others.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table listing mutual funds with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names and their performance metrics.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, and multiple columns of fund names and their respective performance metrics (Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk).

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table listing mutual funds with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Includes sections for North Country, Northeast Investors, Northern, Nuveen, and Oppenheimer.

Continued on next page

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Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like Q15m-CpEqInstl, Q15m-CpEqPre b, etc.

Mutual Funds

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like VIBd, Val, WidGr, etc.

Mutual Funds

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like R1EstldxInv, Rsl1000GrldxInv, etc.

Mutual Funds

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like Wells Fargo, AdJRtGvnt, AdJAllic f, etc.

Southwest Florida fishing, boating, wildlife, paddling, hunting and all things outdoors

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Your keys to spring fishing success on Charlotte Harbor

— PAGE 5 —

More pompano:

Tips and tricks for targeting these fun and tasty fish

— PAGE 11 —

Solving it:

The solutions to our water quality problems are within reach

— PAGE 15 —

Living with gators:

Florida's biggest reptiles aren't so scary to share space with

— PAGE 19 —

April 11, 2019

WaterLine

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WEEKLY MAGAZINE



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ON THE COVER

WaterLine photo by Capt. Josh Olive

A calm and peaceful morning on the bass lake, shortly before the schoolie bass started busting shad on the surface and destroyed the tranquility.



Footwear for boaters

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

I don't know how boat shoes got their name, but they don't deserve it. They're terrible. They don't breathe, they get wet and stay wet, and if you wear them more than occasionally they become a nasty, stinky mess. Bleh.

But if not boat shoes, what are you going to wear on your feet while boating? Good news — you have choices.

A few of my charter captain friends favor white PVC boots of the type worn on commercial shrimp boats (aka Pine Island Reeboks). There are advantages: Your feet don't get wet from water on deck, they're more or less impervious to sharp objects (unless such objects have significant force behind them), easy to clean, and they identify you as being a member of "the club." On the other hand, they're clunky, don't breathe, and aren't the most comfortable choice.

How about regular sneakers? They're plenty comfortable, and you don't need to buy anything special or change shoes to go on the

boat. Be careful to get a pair with non-marking soles, or you'll have to do a lot of back-breaking scrubbing to get the shoeprints off your deck (or worse, the boat owner's deck). Water on deck ends up in your sneaks, and fish blood stains them forever.

In recent years, manufacturers have been offering specialist footwear for a variety of activities. For the boater and angler, there are now shoes that look a lot like street sneakers but are made to drain water, dry quickly and shrug off most stains. They also have non-marking sole material, and many include extra cushioning to absorb the effects of pounding seas. Don't expect them to be cheap (about \$70 to \$200) or attractive, unless you like garish colors and gaudy patterns.

Since none of the above work for me, I wear sandals (on the boat, off the boat, running errands, in the woods, etc.). For me, they're ideal because it's almost like not wearing shoes, but the bottoms of my feet are protected from

most sharp objects and hot surfaces. However, I don't recommend them to everybody. To wear sandals in this type of environment, you have to be OK with risk. All it takes is one dropped knife or mislaid hook. Plus you get a weird tan pattern on your feet.

Not all sandals will stand up to the rigors of boat life. I've been through a lot of brands — some good, some iffy and some awful. The OluKai Ohanas I wear now are the best I've seen. I won't hesitate to hop over and push the boat, even with a few oysters around. Don't try that in dollar store flip-flops.

At the far end of the spectrum from my white-booted buddies are those who go bare-foot. Tried it. Can't do it. I liked the sure-footedness, but there are just too many things you could step on. If you're on this list, bully for you. I hope you're as smart as you are tough, or you're going to end up in the ER someday.

Contact Capt. Josh Olive at 941-276-9657 or Publisher@WaterLineWeekly.com.

Do you have an event for the Outdoor News Bulletin Board? Send your event information to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. Deadline is two weeks before you want it to print!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

CAPT. JOSH:
I too was plagued with lubber grasshoppers and was told the only way to eradicate them was to use two bricks to smash them. Through trial and error, I've found if you catch the early hatchlings in late afternoon as they rise on top of the grass, just spray the colony with a cheap insect spray. It has taken three years of vigilance, but I only found one hatch this season and quickly dispatched them. Get out there with your insect spray.

— Skip Miller

SKIP:
It does work, and I've done it too. But I'm not a big fan of poisoning things outdoors, where residual toxins will probably kill things other than the intended targets. My usual method of killing lubbers was more personal and 100 percent environment-friendly: I just popped their heads off. I recognize that this method is not for

everyone, but I chose it because the targets were guaranteed. These days, I don't bother. Once I found out how much the opossums enjoy them, I decided I'd rather leave them as marsupial munchies instead.

— Capt. Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

CAPT. JOSH:
The 2019 Wounded American Veterans Event (WAVE) was sponsored by the Punta Gorda Boat Club this year. The intent of the annual WAVE is to express our appreciation to a group of wounded veterans for their service and sacrifice by providing them with a day on Charlotte Harbor and the Peace River fishing, sailing, or just a relaxing sightseeing cruise. The year's event hosted about 21 veterans and their guests. On behalf of the 2019 WAVE committee, we would like to thank all of the boat captains, and these local merchants for making this year's event possible: Brooklyn

Joe's; Walmart; C&R Graphics; Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance; the Military Heritage Museum; American Legion Auxiliary Post 103; Nancy Cwynar; Gregg Marrapodi, Hibiscus Trolley; Sue Leahy, Downtown Bait & Tackle; Capt. Cayle Wills, Bad Fish Charters; Capt. Allan Hall, Wilderness Boat Tours; and Rob and Karan Gray 2019, WAVE coordinators.

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.

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BIRDING IN PARADISE
ABBIE BANKS
Birds and construction

There's lots of work going on at Wildflower Preserve in Englewood, but that's not keeping the birds from moving in and making themselves right at home.



REGULAR FEATURES

- READER PICS** | Pages 3, 12-13, 20-23
- BULLETIN BOARD** | Page 16
- FISHING REGULATIONS** | Page 4
- MAP OF LOCAL WATERS** | Page 18
- RECIPES** | Pages 5, 14
- FISH PROFILES** | Page 20
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- BOATING CLASSES** | Page 20
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- FISH FINDER** | Page 24

Reader Photos



Thomas Jurisko with a snook he caught and released on a bread ball.



Jim Stockman of Englewood and Grand Island, N.Y., landed this delicious red grouper 40 milies out of Stump Pass.



Jennifer Tambasco with a snook she caught and released at Ernie's dock.

SEE MORE READER PHOTOS ON PAGES 12-13 & 20-23

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WaterLine FISHING RULES

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, GREATER

34" min.; limit 1; **open Aug. 1 - Oct. 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 possess 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" 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

GROUPEL, BLACK

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

GROUPEL, GAG

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

GROUPEL, GOLIATH (JEWFISH)

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

GROUPEL, RED

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

GROUPEL, SCAMP

16" min.; limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10,12

GROUPEL, SNOWY & YELLOWEDGE

Limit 4; notes: 2,3,4,5,9,10

GROUPEL, WARSAW & SPECKLED HIND

Limit 1 per vessel; notes: 2,3,4,5,7,9,10

GROUPEL, YELLOWFIN & YELLOWMOUTH

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

GROUPEL, 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. 1-Feb. 29 (see <http://bit.ly/urExej>); notes: 15

PERMIT

Slot 11" to 22"; 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/2R7CkZz> 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" to 20"; limit 4; **no harvest of fish over 20" 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" 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" min.; **limit 8 (max. 50 per vessel in March & April);** notes: 2,5,7

SNAPPER, CUBERA

Slot 12" to 30"; limit 10 if under 30" (over 30" — limit 2, max. 2 per vessel); fish over 30" not included in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13

SNAPPER, MANGROVE (GRAY)

10" min. in state waters; 12" min. in federal waters; limit 5 in state waters, 10 in federal waters; notes: 2,4,5,7,9,13

SNAPPER, LANE

8" 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" 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"; 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 IGFA 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/10nYDlz> 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).
12. 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.
16. 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" (tournaments may apply for a permit allowing participants to weigh more than one over 16")
- SUNFISH** (all species excluding crappie): Aggregate limit 50
- CRAPPIE:** Aggregate white/black limit 25
- AMERICAN EEL:** Min. 9", 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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ANGLING 201 • CAPT. CAYLE WILLS



Just two rules

WaterLine file photo

When you put a bait in the water this time of year, there's no telling what might eat it. Just ask Rose Anne McCaffrey, who caught this 43-inch cobia.

Keep these basics in mind while you're fishing the Harbor this spring

We are definitely in the spring swing of things on Charlotte Harbor. The water has just come alive in the past few weeks.

The snook and redfish bite is incredible. Our sharks have returned and the blacknoses are bigger than last year. The tarpon up the river are starting to head down to the Harbor and the migratory tarpon are starting to fill the Harbor in search of food. There seems to be a good number of tripletail in the area and they appear to be hungry. I think the only fish that seem to be so-so right now are the trout.

The whitebait has already infested the usual areas of the Harbor. Everyone gets excited when the whitebait shows up, and that's to be expected. Whitebait opens doors that have been creaky and stuck for the past few months.

The first few weeks are painful until you get back into "net shape" — at least they are at my age. I laughed at myself the other day. I threw the castnet about five times that morning and then laid down on the front of the boat. Eight years ago I could throw that net all day long. Now all I wanted to do was go back to bed. Another charter captain was beside me and hollered over and asked if I was OK. "Nope," I said. He asked if I needed help. "Nope," I said again.

There are two basic rules I have for this time of year. First, pack for bear. With our winter species still here and the summer species showing up, you never know what you'll come across and you should be ready for it. You'll hear me preach this every spring and fall, and that's because I believe it's important.

I want to bring everything from light tackle to shark and tarpon gear. You may want to fish for snook and redfish that day but what if you pass a cobia along the way? What if the wind and tides aren't in your favor and you need to spend a few hours on the flats pitching artificial lures for trout while you wait for the water to come in? Don't be afraid to change up your plan while you're out there.

My second rule: Always bring shrimp. It doesn't matter whether I'm going to throw that castnet for whitebait — I'm still going to bring a few dozen shrimp. Sheepshead are still a valid target this time of year, and the chances of them eating a greenback are pretty darn slim. The trout can go either way on bait — as can cobia, redfish, tripletail, snapper and tarpon — so having both will be a benefit. You'll never go wrong having a few shrimp with you.

We've also been catching a lot of extras in our castnets that you might want to throw in the livewell too. The other day we caught all sizes of blue crabs and a few squid in our nets. The smaller blue crabs go in the livewell for tarpon, redfish, sheepshead, black drum, cobia and bonnethead sharks. I don't keep the large ones as I don't like eating blue crab, but if you do, have at it.

Keeping a squid or two isn't a bad idea either. Snapper will eat it, and you can also cut it up and use it to tip your sabiki rigs. Just make sure you rinse any ink off your boat immediately as it will stain badly if allowed to dry.

Stick to these two rules and you should be

able to have a good time out on the water for the next couple months. This is all good advice during the fall transition also, so cut this column out and paperclip it to October in your calendar so you don't forget..

Capt. Cayle Wills owns and operates Bad Fish Charters on Charlotte Harbor. Contact him at 941-916-4538 or Capt.Cayle@ReelBadFish.com. You can also visit him online at ReelBadFish.com or Facebook.com/BadFishCharters.

FLOUNDER WITH AVOCADO SAUCE

- 4 flounder fillets
- 1 small ripe avocado, coarsely chopped
- 6 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp lemon juice, divided
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp salsa
- 2 oz cream
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup fine dry breadcrumbs

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



— Recipe adapted from All-Fish-Seafood-Recipes.com

Combine the avocado, butter, 1 tbsp. lemon juice, salsa and garlic in a blender. Cover and process until smooth. Combine Dijon mustard and cream. Dip the flounder fillets in mustard mixture and dredge in breadcrumbs. Place on a buttered baking dish and bake at 450°F for 7 minutes. Turn the flounder fillets over and bake for 7 minutes more. Warm avocado sauce for 30 seconds in microwave. Top the baked fillets with the avocado sauce and serve. Serves 4.

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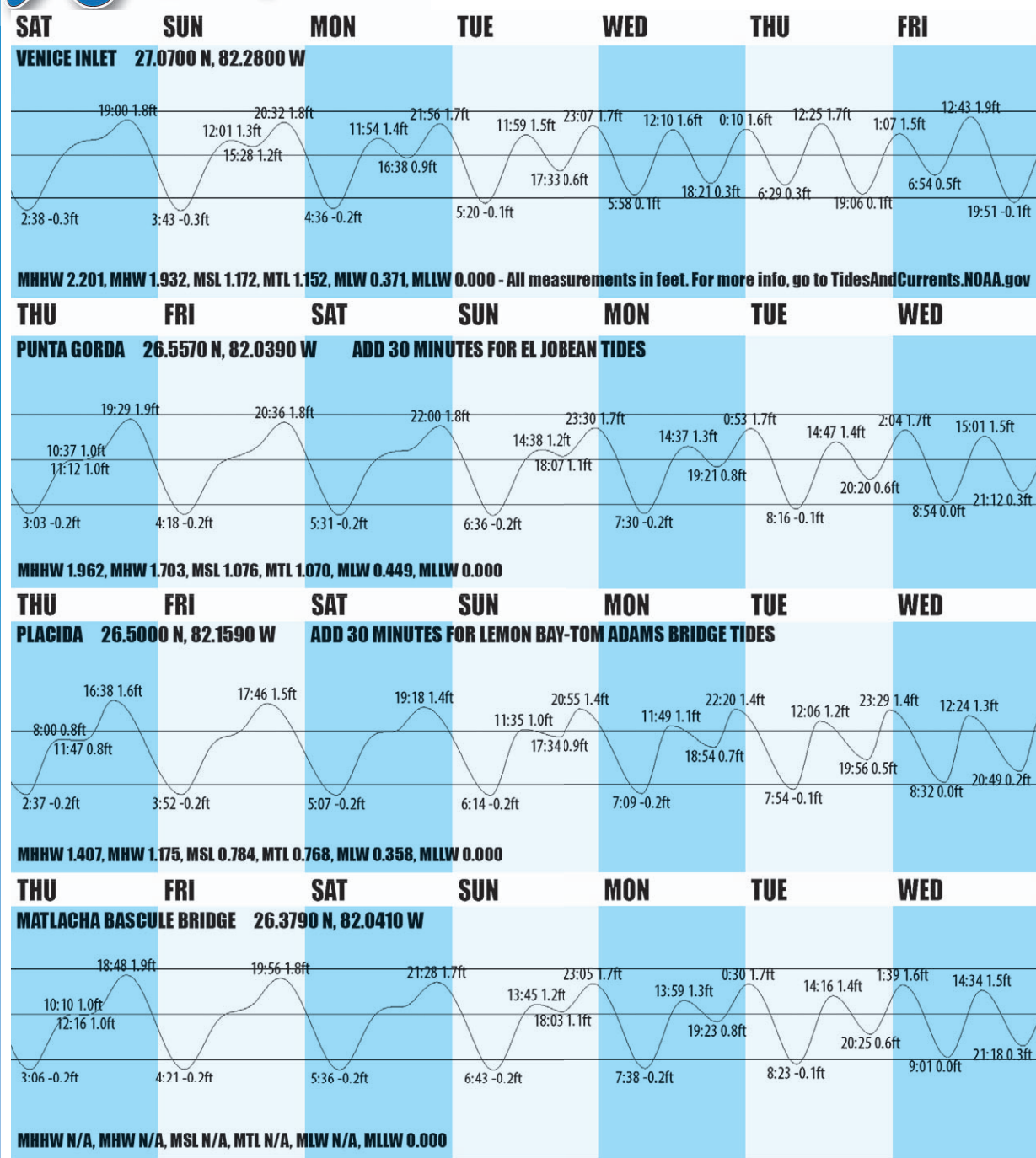
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Protect our waters: Sea turtles



WaterLine TIDE CHARTS



VENICE INLET		PUNTA GORDA		PLACIDA		MATLACHA	
Saturday	Low Tide 2:38 -0.3 High Tide 19:00 1.8	Thursday	Low Tide 3:03 -0.2 High Tide 10:37 1.0 Low Tide 11:12 1.0 High Tide 19:29 1.9	Thursday	Low Tide 2:37 -0.2 High Tide 8:00 0.8 Low Tide 11:47 0.8 High Tide 16:38 1.6	Thursday	Low Tide 3:06 -0.2 High Tide 10:10 1.0 Low Tide 12:16 1.0 High Tide 18:48 1.9
Sunday	Low Tide 3:43 -0.3 High Tide 12:01 1.3 Low Tide 15:28 1.2 High Tide 20:32 1.8	Friday	Low Tide 4:18 -0.2 High Tide 20:36 1.8	Friday	Low Tide 3:52 -0.2 High Tide 17:46 1.5	Friday	Low Tide 4:21 -0.2 High Tide 19:56 1.8
Monday	Low Tide 4:36 -0.2 High Tide 11:54 1.4 Low Tide 16:38 0.9 High Tide 21:56 1.7	Saturday	Low Tide 5:31 -0.2 High Tide 22:00 1.8	Saturday	Low Tide 5:07 -0.2 High Tide 19:18 1.4	Saturday	Low Tide 5:36 -0.2 High Tide 21:28 1.7
Tuesday	Low Tide 5:20 -0.1 High Tide 11:59 1.5 Low Tide 17:33 0.6 High Tide 23:07 1.7	Sunday	Low Tide 6:36 -0.2 High Tide 14:38 1.2 Low Tide 18:07 1.1 High Tide 23:30 1.7	Sunday	Low Tide 6:14 -0.2 High Tide 11:35 1.0 Low Tide 17:34 0.9 High Tide 20:55 1.4	Sunday	Low Tide 6:43 -0.2 High Tide 13:45 1.2 Low Tide 18:03 1.1 High Tide 23:05 1.7
Wednesday	Low Tide 5:58 0.1 High Tide 12:10 1.6 Low Tide 18:21 0.3	Monday	Low Tide 7:30 -0.2 High Tide 14:37 1.3 Low Tide 19:21 0.8	Monday	Low Tide 7:09 -0.2 High Tide 11:49 1.1 Low Tide 18:54 0.7 High Tide 22:20 1.4	Monday	Low Tide 7:38 -0.2 High Tide 13:59 1.3 Low Tide 19:23 0.8
Thursday	High Tide 0:10 1.6 Low Tide 6:29 0.3 High Tide 12:25 1.7 Low Tide 19:06 0.1	Tuesday	High Tide 0:53 1.7 Low Tide 8:16 -0.1 High Tide 14:47 1.4 Low Tide 20:20 0.6	Tuesday	Low Tide 7:54 -0.1 High Tide 12:06 1.2 Low Tide 19:56 0.5 High Tide 23:29 1.4	Tuesday	High Tide 0:30 1.7 Low Tide 8:23 -0.1 High Tide 14:16 1.4 Low Tide 20:25 0.6
Friday	High Tide 1:07 1.5 Low Tide 6:54 0.5 High Tide 12:43 1.9 Low Tide 19:51 -0.1	Wednesday	High Tide 2:04 1.7 Low Tide 8:54 0.0 High Tide 15:01 1.5 Low Tide 21:12 0.3	Wednesday	Low Tide 8:32 0.0 High Tide 12:24 1.3 Low Tide 20:49 0.2	Wednesday	High Tide 1:39 1.6 Low Tide 9:01 0.0 High Tide 14:34 1.5 Low Tide 21:18 0.3

WHY IT MATTERS
Sea turtles are an important part of the ocean's food web. Hatchlings provide fat and protein to a wide variety of predators during their breeding seasons. Plus, we like sea turtles.

HOW WE HARM IT
Baby turtles can be killed if they can't make it to the water quickly or get confused by lights. Adult turtles are sometimes hit by boats or take baits meant for reef or open-water fish.

MAKING BETTER CHOICES
Avoiding harm to turtles is pretty easy if you follow these simple tips:

- During turtle nesting season (April through October), avoid disturbing females laying eggs on the beach. Don't shine lights on or near the beach, as this can disorient both adults and hatchlings. Avoid digging holes or trenches in the sand, as these can trap babies rushing toward the surf. Don't leave chairs or other debris on the beaches, either — they can tangle turtles.
- If you hook a turtle, use a long dehooking tool to remove the hook if possible. If not, cut the line as close to the turtle as you can. Sea turtles have very powerful jaws — be careful.
- Keep a close watch when boating in areas turtles are known to frequent. They have to surface to breathe and can be hit. Boca Grande Pass often has many turtles passing through.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD STEWARD AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR WATERS HEALTHIER — WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART!



Snook and sunken boats

Mote Marine Laboratory photo
 Scientific sampling is used to determine the health of many fish stocks, including the common snook.



AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN

Southwest Florida's anglers are very, very lucky that the FWC operates the Charlotte Harbor Fisheries Independent Fish Monitoring field station, from which researchers have been sampling fish populations in Charlotte Harbor for many years. This gives fishery managers valuable information on long-term fluctuations in the populations of many of the species of fish which live in Charlotte Harbor.

If you've spent much time on the water in our area, you've probably seen these guys (and gals) at work. They operate the boats that have "Marine Research" written on the side. You might see them dragging nets behind the boat, or wading in the shallows pulling nets by hand.

A recent conversation with Dave Blewett, director of the facility, offered a bit of insight about the effects of last year's red tide episode on our snook population. Blewett reports that in some areas, especially in backwaters near the ICW, that there are essentially no baby snook being seen from last summer's spawn. But in other areas that are further inland, there are tiny snook being found from that spawn.

Overall, he rates the success of last year's snook spawn in Southwest Florida as weak. But he notes that years of weak spawning success happen regularly for a variety of reasons, and that because individual snook spend many years spawning in the estuary, it's unlikely that fishermen will notice a downturn in the fishery as a result of one weak season. For snook, it takes a few consecutive years of poor spawning success to have a noticeable effect on the fishery.

Blewett also noted that the impact of last year's red tide on the snook population was far less pronounced than the cold weather snook kills approximately a decade ago, when it was thought that as many as half of the adult snook in Florida perished.

No one knows the numbers of snook that died last year, but he estimates that perhaps 10 percent of the population of adult snook on the Gulf coast may have perished. This is an interesting observation for sure. Of course, the distribution of the mortality was uneven, which means that the fish in some areas were relatively unaffected while there were areas where the impact was more severe. And now for something completely

different: Have you ever witnessed a bad car wreck or some other horrible accident? It produces an unsettling combination of fear for the safety of those involved and an adrenaline rush as you figure out what to do to help. Rush in immediately to render aid? Call 911 first? Are there safety concerns for you at the accident scene?

We thought we had stumbled into such a situation recently. One of our tour boats was returning from a day cruise to the islands. As it neared Punta Gorda, it encountered a small boat that was swamped, barely afloat, and surrounded by a floating debris field that included seat cushions and other stuff.

Fearing the worst, the captain had passengers and crew keep a lookout for survivors in the water, and notified the U.S. Coast Guard in Fort Myers Beach of the situation and their position as he slowly and carefully motored up to the stricken vessel. They eventually got alongside the small boat and were able to get vessel registration numbers for the USCG, which instructed our boat to stand by on the scene and continue to look for possible victims in the water until emergency assistance arrived.

Shortly thereafter, a commercial towboat arrived, presumably having monitored the radio conversation between our boat and the USCG. Then something unexpected happened: A sailboat motored up near the swamped boat and began picking up the floating items, then went to the boat and tied it off.

When asked, the folks on the sailboat said that they'd been towing the small boat astern, had lost their tow, and had come back to recover it. So there was no crisis and no need to continue looking for victims, which was a relief, and the search was canceled.

It's not clear why the sailboat did not tell anyone on scene what had happened. Presumably they were not monitoring a VHF radio since they did not join the conversation about the swamped boat. Had they done so, a lot of worry and effort would have been avoided.

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.com.

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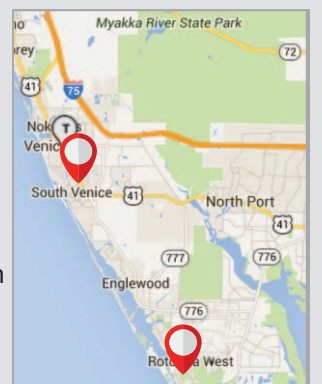
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SLACK TIDES NEWS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

TOO MANY COLD TURTLES



Cape Cod, in the state of Massachusetts, may have some of the largest numbers of turtle strandings in the world. The number of turtles that became trapped on Cape Cod beaches has risen over the past 10 years. That information comes from the Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. This year, volunteers found 829 turtles washed up on the sand. About half of them were dead, including some that were frozen solid. That number is nearly twice what workers found in 2016 and nearly 10 times more than 2008. Some experts think the number of washed up turtles is related to climate change. Over the past 10 years, many turtles have been moving north from the Gulf of Mexico into the warming waters of the Gulf of Maine. Other experts argue that climate change alone cannot explain the increased number of turtle strandings. Jeffrey Seminoff heads the Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Program at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. He believes that the high number of strandings "probably results from the simple fact that there's more turtles."

THAT'S A WEIRD CATCH

CROWN POINT, Ind. (AP) — Authorities say a human foot has been found in a pond in northwestern Indiana. The (Northwest Indiana) Times reports police responded April 8 in Crown Point after a fisherman reported snagging what appeared to be a human foot. Crown Point police Chief Pete Land says in a statement that officers on the scene confirmed the remains were human. The Lake County coroner's office said late Monday that remains had been found. Law enforcement officials returned to the area Tuesday to search the pond. The coroner's office is working with law enforcement agencies on the investigation. Investigators also were looking into cases of people reported missing from around the region and state.

FISHERMEN SAVE MAN

Police in Toledo, Ohio, are hailing the quick thinking and actions of three men who pulled a man to safety after he fell from his wheelchair into the Maumee River on the city's east side. Just after 2 p.m. April 9, a fisherman fell from his wheelchair into the Maumee River from the Docks on Toledo's East Side. Andrew Pacer, of West Toledo, Justin Heuring, of East Toledo, and Thomas Burtscher, of Rossford saw him fall and took action. The three fishermen called 911 and grabbed a rope attached to a submerged fish cage that the man in the water was able to grab onto. They held on to the rope and began pulling the endangered man from the water as emergency personnel arrived, Toledo

Police said. The 68-year-old man was transported to the hospital for exposure and is expected to survive. "Excellent job, Andrew, Justin, and Thomas in helping your fellow Toledoan! If it weren't for your quick action, a life likely would have been lost," the post from Toledo Police read.

DUMB BOATING KILLS

(Fort Myers News-Press) — Southwest Florida's 2019 boating season is off to a particularly deadly start. Just three months into the year, five people have been killed in boating accidents in Lee County, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. That's more than double the total number of Lee County boating accident deaths for the previous year. Only two people died in boating accidents in 2018. Nine people died in boating accidents in 2017, leading the state in deaths for that year. As the weather starts to warm, more people head out on the water to enjoy it. And they all have varying degrees of boating experience, said FWC spokesman Brian Norris. "Right now, winter residents are still here boating. Locals are taking their boats out again. Spring breakers are renting boats or bringing theirs down," Norris said. "This year for spring break, the number of boats is exponentially higher than in the past." There are a lot of new boats out on the water, he said. It's a good sign that people are out there enjoying Southwest Florida's waterways, but a higher number of boats on the water means increased potential for accidents. The cases remain under investigation. It can take anywhere from one week to two months to complete an investigation, depending on the incident, according to FWC investigators.

LOBSTER BAIT SCARCE



Could a tiny fish be the reason your lobster roll costs just a little bit more? New quotas on herring are forcing Maine lobstermen to look at new types of bait to catch the crustaceans instead of traditional Atlantic herring. Ian Mayo, operations manager for Maine Fisheries, a company that deals herring, says the cuts are "drastic" and will reduce his herring haul by "75 percent." The quotas stem from new federal and regional regulations to protect a fish that has a population problem. The changes, crafted by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and New England Fishery Management Council, were implemented after a sharp decline in Atlantic herring was recorded. Dr. James Sulikowski, a marine scientist the University of New England who advises the NEFMC, says a herring collapse could disrupt an entire New

England ocean ecosystem because the fish feeds so many other predators. "We have to protect the adults that are spawning," he said. Sulikowski believes the herring will return, but first, scientists need to figure out why they're disappearing, since the cause is not overfishing. While scientists figure that out, herring costs are going up, leaving lobstermen with a tough choice. They can buy the same fish as they have for years, but at a higher cost, or they can switch their bait.

CORALS NOT MAKING BABIES

The number of new corals on Australia's Great Barrier Reef has plunged by 89 percent since unprecedented bleaching events in 2016 and 2017, scientists say. The events, which damaged two-thirds of the world's largest reef system, are now being blamed for triggering a collapse in coral re-growth last year. "Dead corals don't make babies," said lead author Prof Terry Hughes, from Queensland's James Cook University. The scientists blame the problem on rising sea temperatures. The research, published in journal Nature on April 4, was carried out by a group of scientists last year. It measured how many adult corals along the reef had survived following the mass bleaching events, and the number of new corals that had been produced. "Across the length of the Great Barrier Reef, there was an average 90 percent decline from historical (1990s) levels of recruitment," co-author Prof Andrew Baird told the BBC. The study highlights the link between coral vulnerability and rising sea temperatures resulting from sustained global warming, and recommends increased international action to reduce carbon emissions.

INJURED SHARK CAUGHT

An Alabama fisherman reeled in a shark at the beach in Gulf Shores. But this shark was already caught — by an automotive belt. After catching the shark, the fisherman could see that a belt from a car engine was stuck around the shark, cutting deeply into its body ahead of the dorsal fin. Photography agency Sun Shots happened to be on hand as the fisherman was able to free the shark from the belt, and set it free. They posted the photos to Facebook, lamenting the state of pollution in the Gulf. The shark swam away, seemingly OK, but the belt left a large indentation in front of the shark's dorsal fin.



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BIRDING IN PARADISE • ABBIE BANKS

Photo provided

Cardinals are just one of the many birds living at Wildflower Preserve.



Wildflower Preserve birdy despite construction

It was a beautiful cool and sunny morning — what every Floridian celebrates about spring, hopeful that it will last for months and months. We were on our way to Wildflower Preserve for our monthly birding survey. We met Tom and Gayle Duch, with whom we have done this Lemon Bay Conservancy survey for six years.

LBC board member Eva Furner takes our information and consolidates it. She is creating a Wildflower bird list and brochure. It will show which birds are here in the four different seasons. In addition, the surveys reveal new birds and birds that are becoming rare. Wildflower is closed to the public right now because of construction. However, we are anticipating seeing it finalized in the coming years.

As we arrived, we saw that wildflowers were blooming everywhere — so fitting to see at Wildflower Preserve. Once upon a time, this was a golf course; however, Lemon Bay Conservancy purchased the property a while back and is turning it into a wonderful nature preserve. LBC decide to improve the preserve and closed it for renovations.

The property is still in rough condition from having a lot of work done to create the final plan, and wild hogs have made hiking in some of the areas quite difficult. Nevertheless, we were sighting a lot of birds and enjoying huge fields of wildflowers.

Several mourning doves and a mockingbird greeted us in the parking lot. We heard quite a bit of bird song from the cardinals. As we hiked the main trail, we sighted a red-shouldered hawk on the snag of a dead tree. A boat-tailed grackle came along and there was a bit of a confrontation before they both flew away.

Tom got his eye on a bird quite far away. When we looked in the binoculars, we saw it was an American kestrel. A red-bellied woodpecker was working its way up the side of a pine tree right along the trail. Moonflowers were blooming everywhere and vines were growing up into the palms and pines, with huge clumps of the beautiful white flowers in bloom. As we turned the corner, the sun highlighted a male cardinal. His bright red feathers were aglow in the morning light.

A huge flock of white ibis flew overhead

along with a single great egret. Red-winged blackbirds were flitting along the shore of one of the ponds. However, we didn't see much here because we were struggling through muck and terrain that the pigs had rooted up. With such rough hiking, it was not a good idea to look up for birds, and we kept our eyes on where we were walking.

We finally reached firm ground where a happy cottontail rabbit sat nibbling on some leaves. Several common gallinules were scooting across the water as we approached one of the ponds. We could here a pileated woodpecker off in the distance. The huge mulberry tree was covered with berries — a real treat for the birds when they ripen in a few weeks.

Gayle's sharp eye spotted a prairie warbler high in the trees. The bright yellow stood out against the green of the treetops. We also heard common yellowthroats singing in a stand of trees. As we hiked on, we had a little flurry of palm warblers flying back and forth in the shrubs. Further along the trail, we sighted a lone pine warbler.

Another red-shouldered hawk was

sitting on the limb of a dead tree about a quarter of a mile away. Looking through the binoculars it appeared to be the light color phase. Suddenly several blue jays started harassing the hawk, driving it from one tree to another to another. Finally it just gave up and flew away. There was no mid-morning nap for this hawk.

As we were exiting, Tom was beckoning to us to hurry up because he had sighted a blue-headed vireo. Fortunately, it hung around for a few minutes and we got to see it.

Shortly afterward, we saw several black vultures circling overhead. That seemed like a message that it was time to leave. We had a wonderful morning at Wildflower Preserve, but we were all hungry and it was time for some coffee and breakfast. We'll be back next month to see what has changed.

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.

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THE FISH COACH • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Pursuing pompano



WaterLine photo by
Capt. Josh Olive

**Pompano do love
those silly jigs.**

When people come to me for help with improving their fishing skills, I usually steer the conversation toward their goals. Finding out what they really want to do and why is key to determining what skills they need to work on and in what areas they should focus their efforts.

However, this also frequently puts me in the position of having to burst bubbles. For example, when a local angler recently told me that he wanted to target pompano but also want to fish mostly in the canals of Punta Gorda Isles, I had to tell him it wasn't a realistic plan. Sure, you might catch a pompano in PGI. I once caught a 22-inch gag in 2 feet of water from a Palm Island dock. But I don't expect it to happen again, and I don't expect you to hook more than a handful of pompano in many years of fishing in PGI.

So then I asked him which he wanted more: To catch poms, or to stay in the canals. After thinking for a moment, he decided he was willing to travel a bit in pursuit of pompano. We sat down and built a strategy for him, much of which I'm now going to share with the rest of you.

WHERE TO GO

Pompano might show up anywhere, but some places are much more likely. These fish generally prefer hard-packed sand and shell to soft mud, are more comfortable in higher-salinity waters, and are particularly

drawn to steep dropoffs. Looking for areas that meet all of these specifications leads us to the Gulf passes, which are often pompano hotspots.

There are also certain inshore areas that regularly host pompano. One of the most widely known is the Cape Haze bar. You can find your own smaller spots as well. Just cruise along slowly on deeper flats or along the outer edge of the bar in 4 to 6 feet of water. This time of year, the water is clear enough that you can spot shelly areas and dropoffs.

There are a few spots on the lower east side that pompano like, but there are a lot more in Pine Island Sound. Yes, that's a long haul, especially if you're putting your boat in at Laishley or Port Charlotte Beach. But this is a "go to where the fish are" situation. Plus, it's a good thing for you to have a wider knowledge of fishing spots.

BAITS TO USE

Many fishermen seem to think that pompano feed mostly on shrimp. While shrimp are on the menu, adult pompano eat them only occasionally. As juveniles, their diet is primarily small bivalves (clams, coquinas, etc), sand fleas and other small crustaceans. As they grow into adulthood, they focus more on larger bivalves, such as calico clams, sunray venus and tellins (which goes far in explaining their preferred habitat).

So does that mean you should be using clams for bait? You can, but most anglers prefer to offer them their childhood favorites: Sand fleas and shrimp. Even as grownups, they'll still eat what they liked as kids.

Pompano also eat smaller fish as the opportunity presents itself. More than one beach snook fishermen has been surprised by a pompano grabbing his snook lure. Spoons retrieved slowly just over the bottom can be very effective, and soft plastic shad work also.

The best choice, though, is a silly jig. These lures are very simple, just lead molded onto a hook and painted. But they are deadly on pompano when fished right: Let it sink to the bottom, then lift it several feet up and let it fall rapidly. The sound of the heavy bait thumping on the sand, the sediment that puffs up, and the bright colors (pink, orange or chartreuse) are all attractive to pompano.

To make a good lure better, you can add a piece of cut shrimp or Fish Bites attractant. This is called tipping, and it can really help fish find your lure when visibility is low due to heavy surf or murky conditions.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Pompano are hard fighters but don't usually go for cover, so there's no need for heavy tackle. Lighter gear (something in the 8- to 15-pound class) is more sporting and

will put a bigger smile on your face.

Although pompano don't school as tightly as jack crevalle or ladyfish, they do form loose aggregations. Where you find one pompano, there are almost certainly others nearby. Keep fishing that spot — work it very thoroughly.

Because of what pompano eat, they spend most of their time looking downward. No matter what your using to catch them, keep it near the bottom. If it's not within a foot or so of the sand, it's probably going to be ignored.

You may have heard about pompano "skipping" in boat wakes. A passing boat will often disturb pompano and cause them to jump out of the water. Sometimes you can turn around and successfully cast to those fish. However, here's the important bit that many anglers miss: If pompano were there once, they'll probably be there again. Treat any spot where you skip pompano as a potential honeyhole for later.

As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on how and where to fish in Southwest Florida. Whether you're a complete beginner or just looking to refine your techniques, he can help you get past the frustration and start catching more fish. Lessons can be held on your boat, on local piers or even in your backyard. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.

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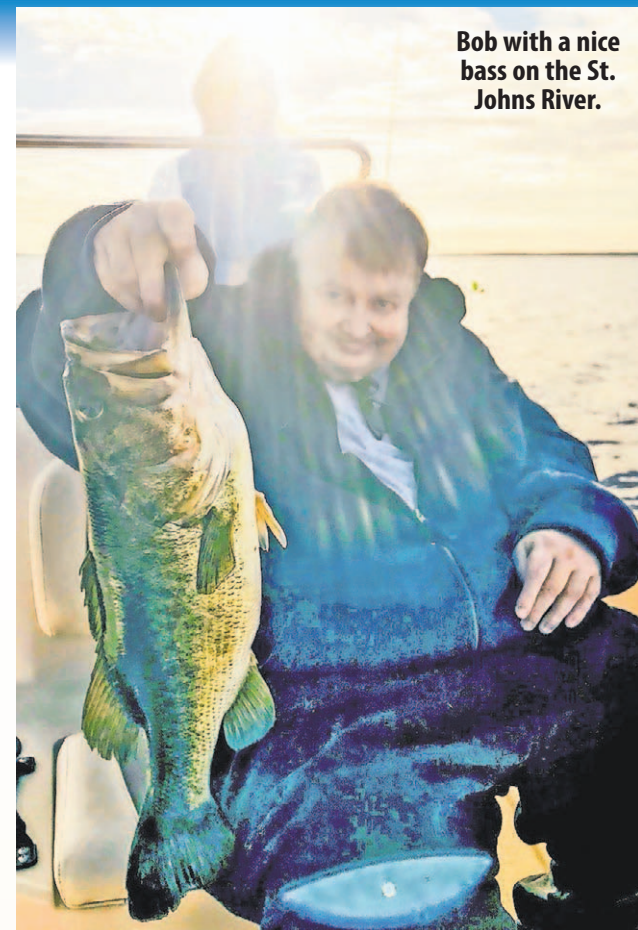
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Reader Photos



Kate Combs and Greta Cole caught and released this Boca Grande snook with Capt. Steve Hogan.

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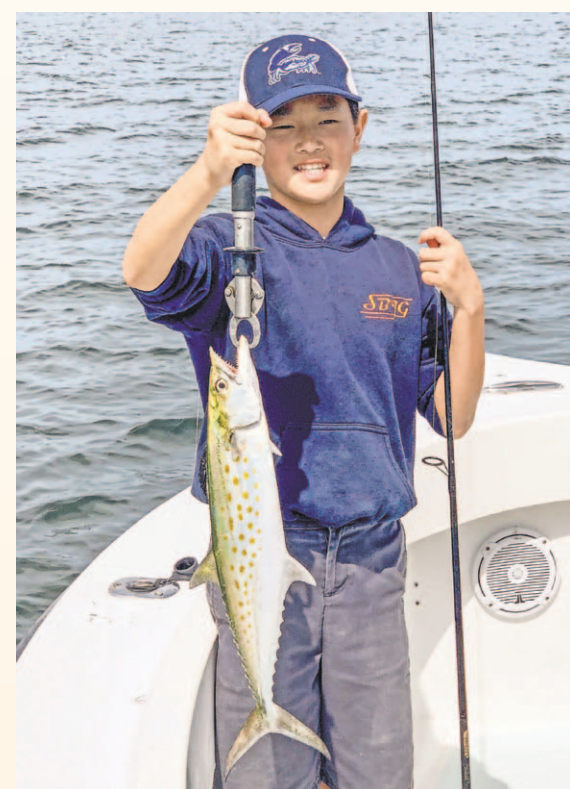
Bob with a nice bass on the St. Johns River.



Sal Gagliardi (we think that's him, anyway) with a redfish caught and released at the old Fishery dock.



9-year-old Annalise Ruegg caught her first Spanish mackerel at Boca Grande, assisted by dad Ian Ruegg and Captain Grandpop.



Holy mackerel! Aidan Cote caught this big Spanish with Captain Jesse Beye.



Lance Barker of Trenton, Ohio, caught and released this Lemon Bay snook.



Jeffrey Verost caught and released this 31-inch snook at the Port Charlotte Beach pier.



Makayla Rassbach with a mangrove snapper she caught in Shell Creek.



Scott Kregness with a Charlotte Harbor tripletail.



David Fonder went way out in the Gulf for his 32-inch red grouper.



Al Bolan fished on Early Riser with Richard Madison and caught a beast of a red grouper: 28.5 inches and 19 pounds.

Learn a lot while it's hot



Photo provided
Mackerel make excellent training fish for beginner and intermediate saltwater fly fishermen.

STAY FLY • CAPT. REX GUDGEL

The fishing has gone crazy with the warmer temperatures and the migration of bait coming into the Harbor. Schools of bait are everywhere, and there seem to be predatory fish on almost every school. This is a great time to get kids, beginners and intermediate fly fishers out on the water. With bites coming fast and furious, it's an opportunity for the less experienced fisherman to work on some important techniques. Let me give you a few examples.

Casting is, of course, the most important aspect of fly fishing to practice. But you don't need fish for that — you can practice it on the lawn at home any time. If you can throw a pile of line and fly 30 feet from the boat, you are able to work on a couple things on the water.

First off, you need to get good at stripping. No, we're not removing any pieces of clothing to loud raunchy music — we're just moving the fly. After you make a cast, the line must be controlled up under a finger (or fingers) on the rod hand. From this point, strip the fly by pulling the line back toward your body through the fingers with the opposite hand, (making the line outside the rod tip shorter).

I know for many of you this may sound very trite and remedial, but quite often I have people on my boat who say they have "fly fished for years" — but they have no idea that they need to move the fly or how to do it. Just last week, I had two trout fisherman from New York who had trouble with this very thing. Don would make a nice short cast,

30 to 40 feet, then mend his line (we were drifting so the line would bow). And then he'd just wait, staring down the line.

I laughed and asked him if he was tired. "No, why?" Dude, ya gotta move the fly! I did a quick demo and explained the process, and hooked a nice mackerel in so doing. Don and his buddy Greg went to work, trying out their new stripping skills.

It was working. I would see the lines jump as the fish hit the flies — but then the rodtips would immediately go straight up in the air, and no fish would be hooked. OK, guys, it's time for another demo. Let's work on the "strip set."

First I explained it to them. As you fish the fly back and feel a take, leave the rodtip down and just make a harder quick strip. If you don't feel the fish, just resume stripping as normal until the next take. Raising the rodtip (we call that a trout-set) is a hard habit to break, but in saltwater fly fishing it's a must.

In fresh or salt water, if you are fishing any kind of streamer pattern, leave the rodtip down until you feel the weight of the fish after strip setting. Then and only then raise the rod tip a little. If you get a hit and then immediately raise the tip of the rod, you have now moved the fly completely out of the fish's line of sight. He's swimming around wondering where his dinner went!

Leaving the rodtip down will make you much more productive. It will also save you the time and trouble of recasting so often. Having to recast will just give you more chances of

spooking fish or tangling fly and line.

Now let's move on to another client. Steve has been fishing with me for several years now, and he's a great guy to spend a day on the boat with. Steve has really improved his casting and fishing techniques during our time fishing together. He has worked on his casting to the point that he can cast equally well with either hand, which gives him a big advantage in certain scenarios with wind and having a fish show up on his backhand side. But still, he's one of these guys that has a dark cloud hanging over his head when it comes to catching fish.

We put an end to that this week. With the Harbor alive with bait and busting fish, we spent the first couple hours running from blitz to blitz casting a 6 weight. You could see that cloud just dissipate from hanging over his head. I don't have a clue how many fish he caught. I do remember they were all on the big side for schoolies. Five- and 6-pound jacks burning off line and bending that 6 weight in half. Ladyfish up to 24 inches jumping and fighting like little tarpon. Mackerel up to 27 inches smoked that little 6 weight reel, then stayed in the cooler to later be smoked themselves for fish dip.

When the bite slowed down, I sat him on the cooler to catch his breath and have a drink as I pointed the boat toward the backcountry.

The tide had come in enough to allow me to navigate the skiff to almost anywhere I wanted to go. As I sat the boat down in a sandhole and picked up the pushpole, Steve

said maybe he should quit while still on a "fish-catching high." I told him that we'd catch some snook and a couple of reds, then on the way back to the ramp we'd catch a trout or two to give us a slam. I reminded him to relax on the casts when we spotted the fish and continue to strip set just like he had all morning.

Except for trout-setting on a couple of nice snook and casting right on the tail of a 30-inch red, Steve did very well and landed several snook to 23 inches. He landed a nice little redfish and leaedered one that got away at the boat. Of course, he said it counted and that it was my fault it got away. I said, "Let's head for the dock; you've done enough damage for today."

Off we went. About halfway back, he yelled "What about my trout? I want my slam!" I love it. The dark cloud was gone and he was anxious to finish off the day with a couple more fish. I sat the boat down on a nice little grassflat. He caught two trout and was ready to head in. I said he had one slam, he said he had two.

Fishing is great right now, don't miss out on some great "catching practice" while the action is hot.

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.

BLUE CRAB AU GRATIN

- 4 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 cup half and half
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 1/2 tsp grated onion
- 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 1/2 cups fresh blue crab lump meat
- 1 cup grated cheddar or Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs

Butter

Preheat oven to 350°F. Melt butter in medium saucepan; stir in flour, salt and pepper until blended. Slowly add milk and wine; stir until smooth. Add onion and lemon juice. Cook over low heat until sauce thickens, stirring constantly. Grease a 2-quart casserole or 4 shallow gratin dishes. Pour a small amount of sauce to cover bottom of casserole. Add a layer of crab, sprinkle with cheese. Repeat layers and end with a layer of cheese. Cover with bread crumbs and dot with butter. Bake for 45 minutes. Let sit 5 minutes before serving. Yields 4 servings.

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by

WaterLine

— Recipe from
FL-Seafood.com

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A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD



Photo provided

In the Chesapeake Bay, underwater seagrass beds are growing again, sheltering crabs and fish. The long-awaited recovery depends on efforts to prevent nutrients from polluting the giant estuary.

Our problems have solutions

Recent appointments by our governor give me more hope than I've ever had on the state level. I am extremely disappointed in our cities and counties lack of insight; they are dumping sewage frequently and getting by saying they are sorry.

This is especially disheartening because we already know how our water quality can be improved. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Chesapeake Bay programs are making headway on several fronts: Improving water quality, reducing pollution inputs, and rebuilding their oyster population.

Gov. DeSantis is attacking our water programs aggressively and appointing people who are very qualified to understand and address our real problems. Ron Bergeron, appointed to the South Florida Water Management District board, and Dr. Tom Frazier as our state's first-ever chief science officer, are true experts — they care about our future.

I've worked with both of these men, and I believe in their integrity and dedication to our natural resources. I'm convinced they can and will contribute positive ideas and workable solutions, if we allow them to do their jobs. They have a wealth of firsthand understanding of our waters and ecosystems. There is hope, but it will take time and cooperation from other government bodies — especially our legislators.

Governments do not normally work

quickly. There are many good reasons for this, but this time they need to get our problems turned around now! We do need to use our voices to promote working solutions. We must be careful not to allow distractions to derail our goals. We must stay vigilant and focused to save our waters. There is serious big money in development and other powerful business interests that would rather see us focused on celebrity gossip or fighting each other.

We have momentum, but we need serious traction and dedication. There are many groups keeping water quality on our radar. This is the time to make sure we are reducing our nutrient inputs — each of us, everywhere we can. Don't just blame the big problems. Remember, solutions start at home for all of us.

I am shocked that our local governments get by with continuing to dump untreated or partially treated waste into our waters. Sarasota and Venice have an appalling record of adding to our water problems. They need to be forced to cease and desist yesterday. This is criminal and must stop now!

Suncoast Waterkeeper is preparing to file lawsuits on Sarasota County under the Clean Water Act. They say that Sarasota's Bee Ridge waste water treatment plant has continued to discharge between 2.5 and 3 million gallons of waste water daily into the Phillippi Creek watershed. According to the suit, this has been going on since 2013.

The amount of nutrients equals the amount of all the septic systems along the creek; doubling the nutrient load put into our waters. This has been a huge contributor to our red tide problems for a decade at least. It must stop! With Midnight Pass closed, much of these nutrients end up flowing out of Venice Inlet.

Venice has been a habitual offender also, dumping whenever we have a big rain event. Their Gulf beaches are closed frequently because of sewage spills. I believe much of our red tide and fish population reduction is a direct result of these spills. Our algae problems are fed by these nutrients too.

OK, we have problems — what can we do? Consider what the Chesapeake Bay restoration folks are doing, which is working. Here is an excerpt from an article I found at ChesapeakeBay.net:

The Chesapeake Bay Program measures progress toward the achievement of water quality standards in the Bay using three environmental factors: dissolved oxygen, underwater grass abundance (to measure water clarity) and chlorophyll-a.

Chlorophyll-a: Last year we saw a reduction in chlorophyll-a, a measure of algae growth. Large algae blooms can block sunlight from reaching underwater grasses, causing them to die. As they decompose, the water loses oxygen, which fish and other underwater life need to survive.

Underwater grasses: Underwater grasses absorb excess nutrients and need clear water to

thrive. In 2018, the acreage of grasses increased, indicating that the water was clear of algae blooms and excess sediment.

Dissolved oxygen: Just like humans, underwater life needs oxygen to survive. An increase in dissolved oxygen, like we saw last year, means that blue crabs, striped bass and other critters had more access to a resource they need to survive.

This year the Chesapeake was 40 percent cleaner than it was at its worst, but it's taken 35 years to get to this point. I know this is a long time, but we have been polluting for much longer. Improvements are closely linked to reduced nitrogen loads from its watersheds.

This is helping reduce algae and increase the healthy seagrasses. Also, their oyster programs are showing impressive positive results, producing food-quality oysters and cleaner waters. Clams can help also.

These are win-win opportunities, and we can duplicate here. Look up these types of successful campaigns that are working for other areas. We don't have to figure everything out — we need to use the resources we have available to research how others are dealing with the same issues.

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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OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

If you have an event you want included in the Outdoor News Bulletin Board, email it to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS PUT EYES ON SEAGRASS

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 941-764-4346.

FISHING CLUB MEETS

The Englewood Fishing Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. April 11 at the Rotonda Community Center (646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West). This month's speaker will be Capt. David Hutcherson of Gator Flats Charters, speaking on snook and seasonal fishing locations. Admission is free and open to the public. For more info and directions, visit EnglewoodFishingClub.net.

IMPACT OF PLASTICS ON WILDLIFE

Dr. Terry Root, professor emeritus at Stanford University and co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, will offer a presentation on the impacts of plastic on the environment at 6:30 p.m. April 12 at the Congregational United Church of Christ (1201 Aquí Esta Drive, Punta Gorda). Eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year: from sea turtles to sea salt, this plastic waste has lingering, devastating effects. Enjoy a stimulating discussion, refreshments and door prizes, and gain the tools you need to reduce your use of plastics. For more info, contact Sierra Moen at 941-575-3385.

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 conservation-minded 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 941-861-9822 or email kcléments@scgov.net.

ROTARY NAUTICAL FEST

The Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary will present its 2nd Annual Nautical Fest and Flea market, set for April 13-14 at the Englewood Elks lodge (401 N. Indiana Avenue, Englewood). Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Enjoy a fun-filled day exploring the newest boats on display by the area's top boat dealers with special show pricing. Learn local fishing techniques on grouper, tarpon, redfish and more, presented by some of the areas best local fishermen. Find that hidden nautical treasure you've been searching for from one of the many seaworthy vendors. Meet the Englewood Waterfest 2018 OPA World Championship Team Raven. Food and drinks will be available. If you would like to donate any new or used nautical themed items for the flea market, including boating equipment and fishing rods or tackle, contact David Flower at 941-468-2023. All proceeds for this event help support local charities. For more info, visit NauticalFest.com.

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 941-575-5435.

AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETS

The April meeting of the Peace River Audubon Society, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. April 18 at First Alliance Church (20444 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte), will feature a presentation titled "Love is in the Air" by Reinier Munguia. Reinier is a full-time naturalist and nature photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines and scientific publications. Everyone is welcome. For more info, call Mike at

ONGOING EVENTS

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 to 9 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.

WHAT'S THAT BIRD?: Volunteer bird interpreters share their expertise on ID and behavior of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl and other avian visitors at Myakka River State 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.

863-244-2652 or visit PeaceRiverAudubonSociety.org.

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 to 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 public is welcome to attend.

ID BIRDS WITH VENICE AUDUBON

The next meeting of the Venice Audubon Society will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 23 at the Venice Audubon Center on Annex Road (behind the R.L. Anderson Admin Bldg). A PowerPoint presentation with active participation will cover the eight woodpecker species that are found in Florida. Come test your ID skills, learn key field marks, and some fun facts. There is a good chance that there will be some surprises. There will be a quiz or two, so take good notes! The public is welcome and there is no charge. Call 941-496-8984 for more info.

WALK AT TIPPECANOE

Join Kate Borduas on a guided walk through 308-acre Tippecanoe Environmental Park at 9 a.m. April 24. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park (2400 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte). For directions or more info, call 941-475-0769.

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/20uSvzV>.

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 Blvd., 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 the 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 healthy tree, etc. There will be a "Fairy Gathering" at 11 a.m. led by "Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver who will also provide the musical entertainment. For more info, contact Alice at 941-468-2486, 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>.

HANG OUT WITH SCRUB JAYS: Spend the morning with the scrub jays at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiami 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. No 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

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.

RADIO WATERLINE SEMINAR

The next event in the Radio WaterLine seminar series will be held May 1 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.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MEETS

Flotilla 98 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950). Join them at their May 1 meeting and find out all that they do: Boating safety classes; Vessel safety checks; Safety and security patrols; Radio watchstander; Search & rescue; Disaster response; Pollution response & patrols; and much more. For more information about Flotilla 98, call 941-639-3811 or visit USCGAuxCharlotteHarbor.org.

WATER QUALITY MONITORS NEEDED

The health of Lemon Bay is important to us all. Each month volunteers monitor the water quality at sites from Alligator Creek in Venice to Bull Bay in Placida to see that it stays that way. On the first Monday of each month, trained volunteers travel to one of 16 sites to test the water for various parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, etc. This information is collected and stored in a database with the Florida DEP. Most sites are land-based and no boat is necessary. All that is needed is an interest in our waters and a commitment of 1 to 2 hours per month. A training session for those interested in assisting in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network will be conducted at 10 a.m. May 2 at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Call 941-475-0769 for more info.

PADDLE THE PEACE RIVER ROOKERIES

Paddle with the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club on May 24 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. Free and the public is invited. Donations to the Sierra Club always gratefully accepted. Participants must provide own watercraft and PFD, and be able to swim. Reservations required; call 941-637-8805.

SAILING SUMMER CAMP

Hey, kids! Learn to sail or improve your skills on Lemon Bay this summer. Registration is now open for youths ages 10 to 17 at the Englewood SKY Family YMCA (701 Medical Blvd., Englewood). Camps provide supervised instruction in the fundamentals of sailing, boat handling, water safety, seamanship and environmental awareness. Instruction is provided by adult US Sailing certified instructors trained in CPR/First Aid. The ability to swim is required. There will be three weeklong sessions: June 10-14, June 24-28 and July

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'll 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 Tuesday if weather permits. Meet at Nav-A-Gator 30 minutes prior to departure. Sign up by calling Steve Burroughs 813-857-4634. Trips are provided by KayakEcoTours.com.

AUDUBON IN THE FIELD

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 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. Coordinator: Nancy Turner, 941-286-0340.

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.

8-12. During each session, camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Cost for each session is \$150 per camper. Camps are held at the ESA Sailing Center (Indian Mound Park, 210 Winson Ave., Englewood). For more info, contact Hugh Moore at 941-500-9622 or the Englewood Y at 941-475-1234. Sessions are limited to 22 campers each.

LEARN TO FISH CAMPS

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center will be once again offering week-long "Learn to Fish" camps for children ages 8 to 13 at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Knot tying, fish identification, cast netting, rods and reels, and more will be delivered through games, practice and time surf fishing in Lemon Bay. These catch-and-release camps teach sustainable fishing practices in collaboration with the FWC protocol with the assistance of local fishing guides. There will be three weeklong sessions: June 10-14, June 24-28 and July 8-12. During each session, camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Cost for each session is \$150 per camper for non-CHEC members or \$135 for CHEC members. Pre- and post-care will be available for additional cost. For more info, call 941-475-0769 or email Bobbi@CHECflorida.org.

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is conducting free vessel safety checks in Englewood. They'll make sure the safety 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 appointment, call Bill Shaw at 941-474-2705 or email ShawCo1@att.net. Visit Flotilla87@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 a shift a month. Volunteers are needed as trail guides to lead guided nature walks through several local Charlotte County properties. These are usually from 9 to 11 a.m. on various days of the week. If interested, a training session will be scheduled. You will learn some plants, animals and interpretive techniques to help you lead these "walks in the woods." Contact Bobbi Rodgers at 941-475-0769 or Bobbi@CHECflorida.org.

**Do you have an event for the Outdoor News Bulletin Board?
Send your event information to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com.
Deadline is two weeks before you want it to print!**

Park that kayak and wade



Photo by Kimball Beery

Les went overboard to catch this fun-size snook. One of the best parts of kayak fishing is getting into isolated wade-fishing spots.

KAYAK FISHING • KIMBALL & LES BEERY

One of the benefits of kayak fishing is access to wadable spots other folks can't get to from shore or by boat. We both enjoy wade fishing and the opportunity it gives us to get really close and personal with grassflats and the things that live there.

Unfortunately, many flats have a soft, sticky bottom or are surrounded by deep water that blocks waders' access. From a boat angler's point of view, shallow flats and shoal bars often block their access to the flats and oyster bars where redfish hang out. A kayak addresses all of these issues, and will carry your gear, a cooler and keep you dry at the same time. Still, wading is a great way to fish and a good reason to stand up while kayak fishing.

When the tide drops, the gamefish you are targeting come out of the mangroves and head for deeper sand holes nearby. This is the time to be wading along an oyster bar in 6 inches of water and casting to those bronze shadows at the drop off. First, though, you must have the proper footwear and park your kayak so that it will still be there when you return.

Before you hop out of your kayak to wade anywhere, check the bottom with your paddle. Even though the water is only 6 inches deep, the mud below may go down another 2 feet. Sand bottom may look firm but turn out to be soft and sticky, holding

your feet in place as your kayak drifts away. Lots of new kayakers end up sitting in the water when their feet get stuck to the bottom. That's when folks wearing automatic inflatable PFDs wish they had the manual type. If you do end up walking on a sticky bottom, walk on your toes, keeping the weight off your heels. It just works better.

Our favorite places to wade fish from a kayak include oyster bars. They build a really firm bottom and are usually close to feeding fish. Approach the bar from the lee (downwind) side and hop out on the white shells. These are the dead oyster shell fragments that are not as sharp as the darker live oysters. The best bars have both light and dark shells. The light ones for wading on and the dark oysters keep the fish around.

Sticky bottom will steal most shoes right off your foot. We recommend using basic scuba boots for their relatively low cost and the big zippers for easy on and off. There are lots of wading boots out there that cost more than these scuba boots. Most boots come in high and low top versions, but we recommend the high top to keep more debris out. Whatever you decide on, be sure to rinse and dry them thoroughly after each use or you'll never want to wear them again. We built a PVC contraption that hooks up to a shop vac blower and will dry four boots in about 20 minutes. It's pretty noisy, though.

The little folding anchors most kayak anglers carry are great for pausing to re-rig on a drift. But if you are walking away from your only ride home, bring a bigger hook. When we hop out to wade, we use a big anchor and a stake-out pole if we can. Many small oyster bars have mangroves nearby where a kayaker can tie off. Just park on the leeward side, tie off to a tree, and run an anchor out the stern to hold it off the shells. On a sand bar, we will use everything we have to secure the kayak. Near any channel, the issue of boat wakes makes anchoring problematic. We generally avoid shoal bars and other spots like that.

The alternative to anchoring your kayak is to tow it along behind you. This has its drawbacks. If there's a breeze, it is better to walk into it if you are towing a kayak. However, this will shorten your casting distance. Wading downwind, your kayak will be passing you or pushing you as you wade along. Another issue becomes obvious when a hooked fish circles around you and gets hung up on the kayak. Keep your kayak close and raise your rod to help keep the fish clear.

Now about safety: Wading anglers commonly tow a bait bucket with shrimp and a stringer for their catch. We have done it too. The shrimp scent from your bait bucket attracts your target fish — which is not a bad thing, but unfortunately, stingrays

are also attracted. Stingrays aren't really a problem unless you step on them. Now, just practice the "stingray shuffle" — slide your feet forward instead of picking them up and putting them down. It's the only dance step you need to learn for a safe and fun time wade fishing from a kayak on the flats of Southwest Florida.

If you want some real excitement, a stringer with struggling and possibly bleeding fish attached will attract sharks looking for that exact thing. Sharks are usually skittish, but just in case, always attach the bait bucket to a belt loop or something breakable with a light 6-foot line. Then attach your stringer to the bait bucket which is several away from your leg.

If you're properly equipped and take appropriate precautions, wade fishing is a lot of fun. We hope you enjoy using your kayak to get to some amazing spots where others can't. Remember, trout over 20 inches, snook and redfish are closed now to help with red tide recovery.

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.

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A BASIC GUIDE TO THE WATERS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST: 1-Bayshore Piers, 2-Lashley Pier, 3-Ponce de Leon Park Pier, 4-The Skating Rink, 5-Alligator Creek Reef (Charlotte Harbor Reef), 6-Matlacha Bridge, 7-Sanibel Lighthouse Pier, 8-Jug Creek, 9-The Phosphate Docks, 10-Danger Reef, 11-Gallagher Cut, 12-The Tailing Flats, 13-Placida Pier / Placida Trestles, 14-Ski Alley (western cut), Rag Alley (eastern cut), 15-Tom Adams Bridge/Ainger Pier, 16-El Jobean Pier, 17-Snook Haven, 18-Venice Municipal Pier, 19-Venice Jetties.

Want to learn more local fishing spots? Tune in to Radio WaterLine on KIX Country 92.9 FM every Saturday from 7 to 9 a.m. for Spot Check! This week's spot will be **Coral Creek.**



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This map is not intended for navigational purposes. Refer to a nautical chart for navigation information.



WaterLine photo by Capt. Josh Olive
A juvenile alligator as found, in a grassy field about 150 yards from the nearest water.

Tips for coexisting with alligators

PROVIDED BY THE FWC

The American alligator, Florida's state reptile, is an important part of Florida's wetland habitats. This large reptile is found throughout the state in freshwater lakes, ponds, swamps and slow-moving rivers. Occasionally they're found in brackish waters as well.

During spring, alligators become more active and visible. When temperatures rise, their metabolism increases and they begin seeking prey. Although alligator bite incidents resulting in serious injury are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they can be easily observed. If you see an alligator, keep your distance. Also, never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal. When fed, alligators can overcome their natural wariness and learn to associate people with food.

Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn. To reduce the chances of

conflicts with alligators, swim only during daylight hours and in designated swimming areas.

The FWC also recommends pet owners keep their animals on a leash and away from the water because pets can resemble an alligator's natural prey.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and urges people who believe an alligator poses a threat to people, pets or property to call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286). When someone concerned about an alligator calls the Nuisance Alligator Hotline, the FWC will dispatch one of our contracted nuisance alligator trappers to resolve the situation. The FWC also works diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about living with alligators.

The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. Learn more about alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS



These amazing animals are important to Florida's natural areas and found throughout the state.

A few simple rules to co-exist with alligators:

<p>NEVER feed an alligator</p> 	<p>Keep pets away from water's edge</p> 
<p>Swim during the day and only in designated areas</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Keep Your Distance!</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">if you see an alligator</p>

Call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at **866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)** if you're concerned about an alligator.

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Reader Photos



Dick Raus with a 40-plus pound black drum caught on the Peace River near the U.S. 41 bridges.



Linda Johnson of Punta Gorda caught and released this snook on her birthday.



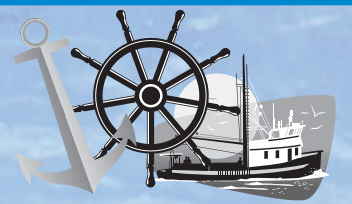
9-year-old Miklo Bloom caught his first sheephead at the Venice north jetty.



Stephanie Smith caught her first fish since she was 4 while on vacation with her husband. She caught this snook on the Manchester Waterway and released it. Grandpa knows where to find the fish!



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Reader Photos

Grayson Rohe from Edmond, Okla., caught his first sheepshead fishing with Papa at Stump Pass.



Bob Perry with a 6-pound, 6-ounce largemouth caught in Port Charlotte.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead will not be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.

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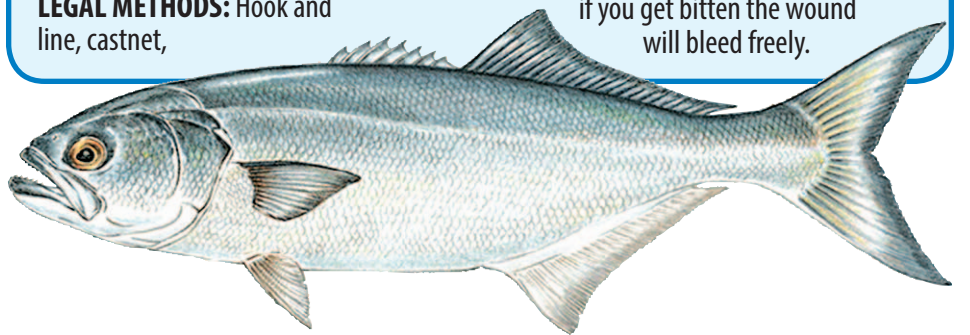
FISH PROFILE • BLUEFISH

SIZE LIMIT: 12" min. (fork length)
BAG LIMIT (per harvester per day): 10
SEASON: No closure.
LOCAL AVERAGE SIZE: About 1 lb
FLORIDA RECORD: 22 lb, 2 oz
WORLD RECORD: 31 lb, 12 oz
FOOD VALUE: Good, but not at all mild. Pair with bacon, salsa, garlic, ginger or other strong flavors. Brining or soaking overnight in buttermilk will reduce the fishy taste. Freezes very poorly.
HABITAT: Shallow salty waters. Often caught over grassflats or anywhere you find jack crevalle or Spanish mackerel.
LEGAL METHODS: Hook and line, castnet,

seine, dip net, spear, gig. Treble hooks OK with natural bait. Snagging OK.

FISHING TIPS: Bluefish are voracious predators and will attack any lure resembling a baitfish. Live baitfish are also a good choice. Blues usually stay in the top half of the water column, and often a school will patrol back and forth through an area for some time. If you're getting cut off, use a short piece of knottable wire leader. Avoid swivels, which make tempting targets for bluefish.

NOTES: Bluefish over 5 pounds are very rare here. Where the big ones are found, they call the little ones choppers. Bluefish have amazingly sharp teeth, and if you get bitten the wound will bleed freely.



LOCAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

SARASOTA POWER SQUADRON — 941-400-6467

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 9 a.m. May 4

VENICE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-408-8591

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. May 18

PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-637-0766

America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27
 Hurricane Preparations for Boaters..... 11:30 a.m. May 18

CAPE CORAL POWER SQUADRON — 239-549-9754

America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. May 6
 America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. June 3

— Provided by Ron Jones

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

PROGRAM	START DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
About Boating Safety	April 13	Cape Coral	724-681-2878
About Boating Safety	April 13	Venice	941-492-5904
About Boating Safety	April 16	North Port	941-661-5774
About Boating Safety	April 20	Cape Haze	717-752-0081
About Boating Safety	April 20	Fort Myers	734-626-0261
Suddenly in Command	April 24	Venice	941-492-5904

— Provided by Dave Nielsen

Reader Photos



Mike Vecellio with one of two king mackerel he caught with Capt Matt Glass.



Natty Harry with her first Pine Island Sound trout.



Peyton Rassbach caught and released this nice mangrove snapper.



Make a big noise for Brad Kruse from Winnetka, Ill., with his first snook of the day.

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2004 PURSUIT 3370 OFFSHORE- EXPRESS W/T-YAMAHA 225 4S- GREAT CONDITION, DIESEL GEN. AIR, GARMIN 12" GPS, FLIR NIGHT VISION, AUTO PILOT, OUTRIGGERS & MUCH MORE \$104,950 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



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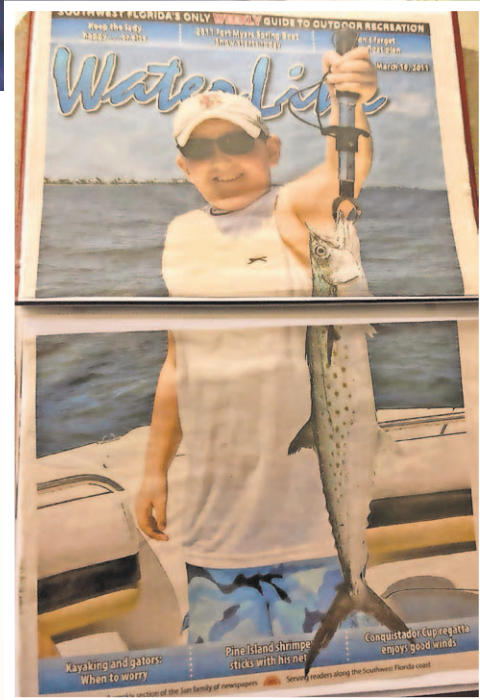


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Reader Photos



Billy MacDonald with two Pine Island trout. He's grown a little since his WaterLine cover photo in 2011.



Sallie with a big largemouth on the St. Johns River.

BOATERS' BARGAINS

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2017 SEA PRO 239 CC- W/ WHITE 300 MERC. VERADO 24 HOURS W/ WAR.- LIKE NEW CONDITION T-TOP, COLORED HULLSIDES, TRIM TABS, ENCLOSED HEAD, GPS, VHF, STEREO FRESH & SALT WATER WASH DOWN & MORE \$ 72,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



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ECONOMY TACKLE
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941-922-9671

Tarpon reports are trickling in, with fish spotted off Casey Key. The fly guys are finding some **snook** on Turtle Beach, and there will be more soon. **Sheepshead** are getting scarce, but the **Spanish mackerel** have been so thick it's stupid. **Snook**, **trout** and **redfish** are steady in Sarasota Bay, and we're seeing a lot of catch-and-release action. **Pompano** are still on the beach, but probably not for long.

GULF & OFFSHORE

Blackfin tuna are steady for the guys who know how to target them. There are some huge **mangrove snapper** on the ledges from 35 feet out, and the **lanes** and **yellowtail** have also been good. We're still hoping for **hogfish**, but they've been absent.

BEST BET

There are still good numbers of big **kingfish** off the beaches, with a few just outside the breakers. Troll a live threadie or blue runner for a serious smoker.

ERIC

COOKS SPORTLAND
Venice
941-493-0025

The jetties have been on and off for **pompano**. The best bite has been on outgoing tides with east winds, and a silly jig is a good proposition there. **Hammerhead** and **bull sharks** have been cruising off Venice Beach. **Snook** are showing up along the ICW. Lemon Bay is hit or miss with snook, **redfish** and **trout**. **Tarpon** are here and there; a couple have been jumped at the Venice Pier.

When winds allow, the bottom fishing is good. Fish 80 to 110 feet for a mixed bag of **snapper** and decent **red grouper**. The best bite is of course on less-known spots. **Kingfish** are around the artificial reefs and bait pods.

The Venice Pier has had a lot of fish around — **bluefish**, **Spanish mackerel** and a few **pompano**. The water is clear and bait is abundant. Silly jigs and spoons are hot.

JIM

FISHERMAN'S EDGE
Grove City
941-697-7595

Whiting have been eating cut shrimp in the surf. We're also seeing a few **pompano** scattered on the beaches. Big **snook** have been coming out of the rivers into the ICW and willing to eat big whiting, mullet or ladyfish. The topwater bite has been good for **redfish** and **snook** in the mornings along protected shorelines. **Tarpon** have moved up into the Harbor and the creeks, but there are few in the Pass.

Blackfin tuna have been caught at 20 to 30 miles over the wrecks, and there are **little tunny** in closer. A few **cobia** have been reported also. Bottom fishing is decent too, with fair catches of **red grouper** in 80 to 110 feet and lots of **snapper**, **grunts** and **porgies** on most reefs and hard bottom.

We're seeing lots of **Spanish mackerel**, **bluefish** and **ladyfish** off the beaches. **Kingfish** are just a little farther out.

JEFF

CAPT. TED'S TACKLE
Port Charlotte
941-627-6800

Fish have been hungry this week. Cut bait has been working well, but so have Sebile Stick Shads and soft plastics. The west wall and Placida Sound have been great for **trout**, **snook** and **redfish**. Fish have also been seen on the east side too, but they're not biting quite as strongly. **Smaller sharks** have been abundant in the lower Harbor.

On the days that allow, it's common for anglers to catch limits of **snapper** on the deeper reefs and wrecks. **Blackfin tuna** are also on those structures and responding well to chum. **Sharks** are out there too, eating many fish as they're being caught.

Tarpon are at the U.S. 41 bridges and in the Harbor. A few fish have been caught in the big pass as well, but not that many. Cutbait and small crabs are catching fish.

ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S
Charlotte Harbor
941-625-3888

Snook action is hot in the canals, and there are some really good fish being caught in Bull and Turtle bays. Cut ladyfish, whitebait, shrimp and blue crabs are all working. A handful of **pompano** are on the lower east wall and the Turtle Bay bar. **Bonnethead** and **blacktip sharks** are in the lower Harbor. **Cobia**, mostly short, are scattered around the Harbor. **Redfish** and **trout** reports have been few this week.

Spanish and **king mackerel** are from the passes to 15 miles out. A few **permit** are on the wrecks. **Snapper**, **grunts**, **porgies** and even a few **sheepshead** are at 3 to 15 miles. **Lane** and **yellowtail snapper** are at 15 to 30 miles, and we're seeing **red grouper** at 35 miles and out.

Juvenile and subadult **tarpon** are all over — the passes, the middle holes, the river mouths, Sanibel. They're not in huge numbers, but they're very fishable.

CAMERON

RIO VILLA
BAIT & TACKLE
Punta Gorda
941-639-7166

Spanish mackerel are taking trolled spoons around bait pods in the Harbor and outside the bars in 6 feet of water. Some **bluefish** are mixed in. Catch-and-release **snook** action is good on live whitebait in the canal mouths. There are **largemouth bass** around the spillways of Port Charlotte hitting live shiners and Rat-L-Traps. Expect a **tilapia** or two if you're throwing a small enough lure.

No reports this week.

Look for **tarpon** anywhere from the deep holes to the I-75 bridges. Slow-troll a live ladyfish or silver mullet, and let the rod holder do the work. Keep a rod rigged in case of a **cobia**.

CAPT. JOHNNY

D&D MATLACHA
BAIT & TACKLE
Matlacha
239-282-9122

Redfish have been around, eating cutbait but liking live bait better. Big **jacks** have been cruising all around Matlacha around the bridge and the edges of the flats. **Snook** have been in the canals and on the mangrove shorelines. **Trout** fishing is slow, but there are some in the backcountry. **Tarpon** have been ignoring crabs this week but hot for threadies. However, that might have changed by today.

Fishing around the shrimp boats has been great for **blackfin tuna** and **kingfish**. The reefs have also had a decent bite on bottom fish.

Small **bull** and **sharpnose sharks** are all over the flats off Pineland. Any fresh or frozen cut fish is going to get attention.

JACK

BAIT N WAIT
Fort Myers Beach
239-466-8737

The Fort Myers Beach bridge has had a lot of fish — **snook**, **mangrove snapper**, **sheepshead**, **jacks** — but everything is small. The Sanibel Causeway has seen a few **tarpon**, but not enough to call it a run yet. Red seaweed has been around and kind of a pain, but it seems to be lessening.

No reports this week.

The Hurricane Bay Bridge has been producing good numbers of big **snook**, and the shark fishermen have been finding **hammerheads** there at night.

THE FISH COACH'S TIP OF THE WEEK: A lot of anglers are switching to whitebait, if they can catch any. Catching whitebait is only a part of the equation — if you can't keep it alive, you might as well buy it frozen at the tackle shop. Here are some tips for keeping your whitebait frisky: Don't overload the well, especially on a rougher day. The ride to your fishing spot will probably kill a bunch of your baits. Round wells work a lot better than rectangular ones for this purpose. If your boat doesn't have one, consider having one installed if you plan to do a lot of whitebait fishing. A well full of bait needs a lot of oxygen, but forcing the baitfish to swim against a strong current will weaken them. A wide outlet that flows a little slower will keep your bait healthier than a high-pressure small outlet (same for the drain). You can also add an aeration system to help supply plenty of oxygen for your baitfish. — *As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on fishing techniques. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.*

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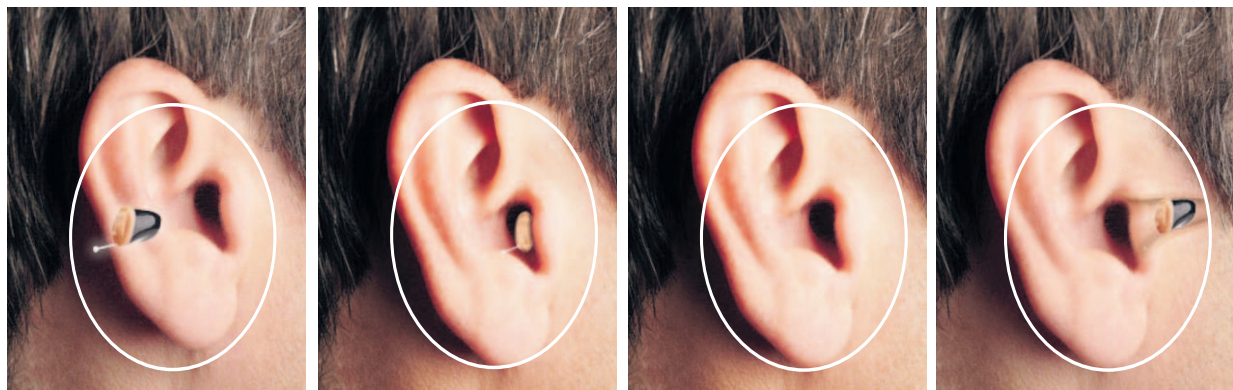
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 Stream audio from your TV or other electronic audio source directly to your Via AI hearing aids. It offers excellent sound quality, is easy to use and supports both analog and digital input sources.

This hearing aid fits entirely in the ear canal! It does not fill the outer ear or go over the ear.

What do patients think about Audibel Hearing Aids?



"I was fit with custom Audibel hearing aids. I survived polio at age 20 and was told I would not hear in my left ear. With my new Audibel hearing aids I hear better than ever. My family and I are very happy and thankful for Audibel."



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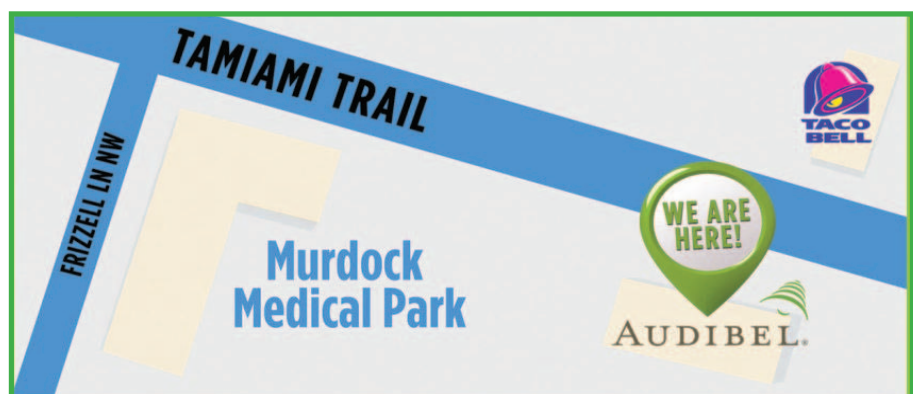
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- 2** **Patients** do not depend on us. We depend on them.
- 3** **Patients** are not an interruption of our work. They are the purpose for our work.
- 4** **Patients** favor us with their patronage. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve them.
- 5** **Patients** come to us for help and guidance. We are to provide it with patience and compassion.
- 6** **Patients** will always be treated with dignity. They are human beings with needs, feelings, and emotions like our own.
- 7** **Patients** are not people we argue with. They are people we listen to in order to understand their unique needs.
- 8** **Patients** are people who bring us their needs. It is our job to identify and fill those needs.
- 9** **Patients** are deserving of the most courteous and attentive experience we can give them.
- 10** **Patients** are not just a part of our practice, they are a part of our family.

Is Audibel the right choice? Ask our patients.



Steve Peet

"When my wife ordered me to come to Audibel to get aids, I fought her at every turn. Finally, I gave in and lucky I did! The aids have been a godsend for me! They help me so much and I cannot go without them."



Felicia Vick-Mitchell

"Audibel's hard work, dedication and going above and beyond for me are indescribable, and I am and will forever be thankful."



Albert Marcantonio

"I am so completely satisfied with all aspects of my association with Audibel – beginning with the friendly service from the front desk, to the professionalism in the overwhelming examination equipment room."



Dorothy Kenesie

"My new Audibel hearing aids are beautiful and wonderful! I can hardly feel them and can't even see them. It's almost like my own natural hearing is back."



Eileen Wood

"I have been pleased with everything and the best of all is that I can hear and understand others, including the telephone."



Thomas Coughlin

"I had hearing aids for approximately 4-5 years. I had purchased these from Audibel and continued to go there for service. My experience has been OUTSTANDING."



Helen Morse

"I didn't realize how poorly I was hearing until I started wearing Audibel aids. I love them and they have made a big difference in my everyday life."



Bonnie Novak

"My hearing aids have brought about the most remarkable change to my life. Since I purchased them I feel more confident when I'm out in a crowd because I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything."



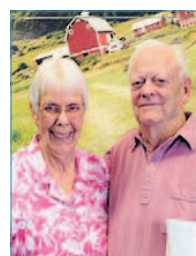
Carolyn Roberts

"I want to thank Audibel for giving me back my hearing. At age 81 I wasn't the easiest listener. The specialist was very patient bringing me through the process."



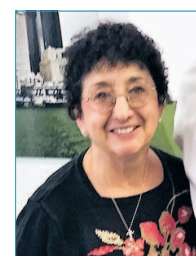
Douglas Willis

"I wish I would have come in a long time ago, but I kept putting it off – now I'm so glad to be able to understand and enjoy things around me. I can hear the birds sing and talk to my wife, grandkids, and kids."



Marjorie & Charles Johnson

"We have never had hearing tests like the specialist at Audibel gave us. We now hear sounds we never heard before."



Frances Ingallinera

"I have had hearing aids for about 40 years. For TV I relied on closed captioning. Since I have been wearing the new aids, I find myself listening to TV and not relying on the captioning."



Catherine Brownell

"They are small, comfortable, adjustable, and let me know when I need batteries. I would highly recommend Audibel."



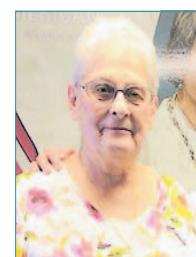
Terry Muse

"The personnel are so friendly and helpful. I would recommend Audibel to anyone looking for a rewarding experience – easy, affordable and hassle FREE."



Bobby Giggelman

"I am hearing sounds I haven't heard in years. I am able to enjoy being around people and hear complete conversations. You never know how much of life you miss when you can't hear."



Janice Clark

"Any problems incurred are handled with a friendly attitude and properly dealt with too. Complete satisfaction with the hearing aids and the expertise and kindness of my specialist."



James Hoyt

"I first began wearing Audibel hearing aids when I was a professor and traveled internationally to teach. Audibel provided me an international number and representatives in many nations to help me if I encountered issues while travelling and teaching abroad. I have found all staff members to be helpful and accommodating."



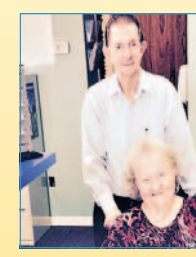
Brent Tharp

"Losing some of my hearing was devastating and depressing for me. I was plagued at an early age – running into my adulthood with chronic ear problems. I thought that was just how life was supposed to be. Until, I met the professional staff at Audibel!"



J. Michelle Cianfarra

"I lost a great deal of my hearing in a vehicle accident ten years ago. This new set of Audibel wireless, Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids have given me a better hearing experience with greater variety than I had with my last pair (which were not Audibel's). I feel refreshed since wearing my new Audibel hearing aids. I don't feel as if I'm relying on other means of communication as I was before. They have enhanced my living experience as I come in contact with others every day and can communicate better all because I hear so much better than I did before. The friendly staff are customer-service oriented and help me with my hearing challenges. Thank you for this experience."



Evelyn Straughn

"I am so glad I have Audibel Hearing Aids. I now know I have missed a lot by not hearing what goes on. I would recommend them to anyone and I'm very pleased with the ongoing help with any questions or concerns."

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