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POPE DURING EASTER VIGIL: REJECT THE 'GLITTER OF WEALTH'

At an Easter vigil in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis on Saturday encouraged people to resist cynicism or pursuing the "glitter of wealth," and to avoid seeking life's meaning in "things that pass away." See *The News Wire*

Sunday, April 21, 2019

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AN EDITION OF THE SUN

House passes slimmed-down regulation bill

Rep. Grant's proposal would strip counties of local business control

By LIZ HARDAWAY
STAFF WRITER

A bill prohibiting local governments from imposing additional licensing requirements was passed in the Florida House of Representatives last week.

But it's gone through some changes since it was filed Feb. 6 by State Rep. Michael Grant (R-Port Charlotte).



GRANT

Before its passing, Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing, or HB 3, went through three different committees: the business and professions subcommittee, the state affairs committee and the commerce committee. Each gave its analysis, and voted favorably, for the bill.

The bill passed, after its third committee edit and third reading, with 88 yeas and 24 nays on the House floor.

But what's changed?

Mainly the language.

In its February version, the bill was pretty vague. Animal welfare groups were worried the bill would nullify all local ordinances concerning businesses, including those bills implemented to help prevent puppy mills.

The language was cleaned up, and made "more specific," Grant said.

"The first version preempted more things and caused some confusion," he continued. Now the bill reflects Grant's original intent.

The job scope for the bill

CONTROL | 5



CHARLIE SAYS

Me and the Bunny go way back.



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THE CONVERSATION

Why Easter is called Easter, and other little-known facts



By BRENT LANDAU
LECTURER IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Today, Christians will be celebrating Easter, the day on which the resurrection of Jesus is said to have taken place. The date of celebration

changes from year to year. The reason for this variation is that Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. So, in 2020, Easter will be celebrated on April 12, and on April 4 in 2021. I am a religious studies

scholar specializing in early Christianity, and my research shows that this dating of Easter goes back to the complicated origins of this holiday and how it has evolved over the centuries. Easter is quite similar to other major holidays like

Christmas and Halloween, which have evolved over the last 200 years or so. In all of these holidays, Christian and non-Christian (pagan) elements have continued to blend together.

EASTER | 4

GOD IN OUR SCHOOLS

Programs like Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life are alive and well-attended by students

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

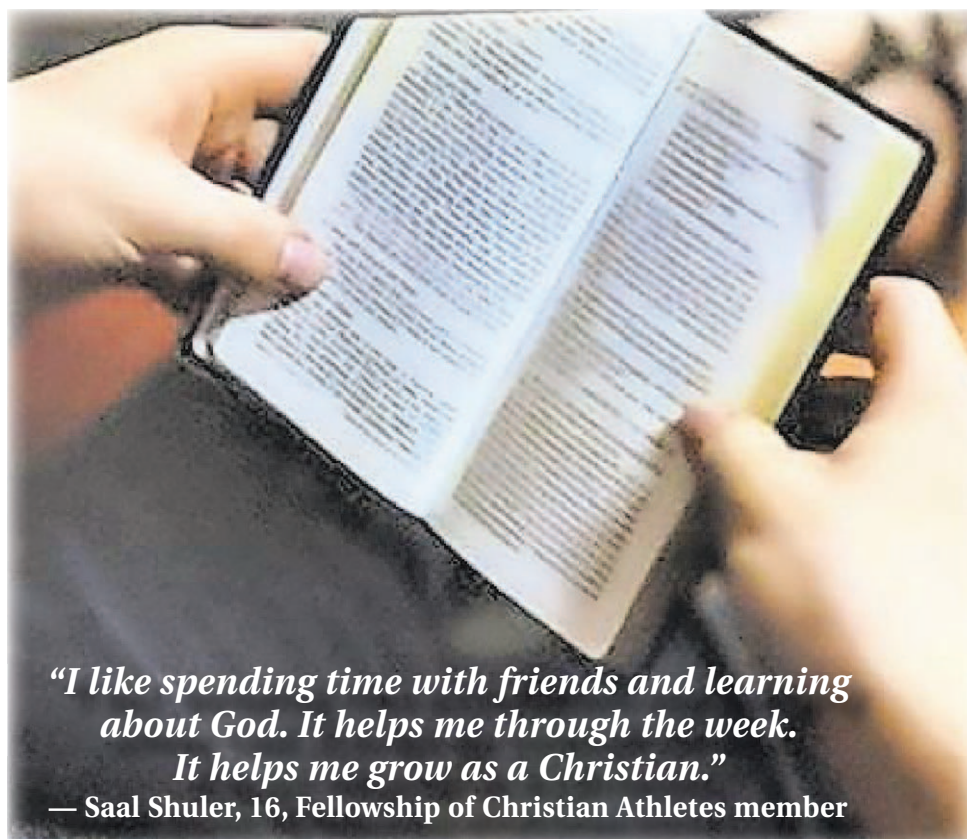
For 30 minutes, Heron Creek middle schoolers put down their cell phones and learned why Jesus died on the cross and how he rose from the dead three days later. Then they ate sour watermelon-flavored Peeps.

While they joked about biting off the heads of sugary bunnies, the overall message at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting was soothing and serious. About 20 students bowed their heads. They prayed at the beginning and again at the end of their meeting held at the school.

Students understand no one in the group has to be an athlete or even a Christian to come to these meetings, eat doughnuts, sometimes play games and listen to a positive message. At 8:30 a.m., the group meets in teacher Daniele Carter's classroom before the first bell rings.

Sixth-grader Athziri Castellano doesn't mind praying in school in front of others her own age. The 12-year-old likes the idea of spending time with those who love Jesus to help start her school day.

"It (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) helps us kids be closer to God," she said. "We have fun learning about Jesus too."



"I like spending time with friends and learning about God. It helps me through the week. It helps me grow as a Christian."

— Saal Shuler, 16, Fellowship of Christian Athletes member

SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Students are allowed to read scripture with friends before and after school.

RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

For years, there has been debate about the place of religion in American public schools. This year, a much-discussed bill in the Florida Legislature would require Florida schools, if passed, to offer Bible study as an elective to ninth- through 12th-grade students.

But groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Young Life provide students with a format for religious

discussion, and events like See You At the Pole prayer gatherings happen one day each September.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes group in North Port is led by Tricia and Todd Reinschmidt and other adult volunteers.

Tricia explained it's understandably difficult to grasp the Easter message that Jesus was born a man and lived for 33 years before he was crucified and

SCHOOLS | 5

Young Life gets a mall life

Young Life ensures students to walk with God at schools and in the mall

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

When the Port Charlotte Town Center mall managers told Tom Parker that 400 middle school students hang out at the mall on Friday nights, Parker asked God for help.

From his perspective, he got it.

As the area director of Charlotte County Young Life, Parker knows he can reach many unsupervised tweens and teens looking for something positive to do on nights and weekends.

For weeks, Parker, his team and volunteers transformed one of the stores that went out of business near Fletcher Music Center into a safe



SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Members of Young Life enjoy spending time learning about God and having a good time in Charlotte County schools and in the community.

place for students through a partnership with the mall.

"We painted the walls and have new tile coming next

week," he said. "We will use the building in the mornings.

Then from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. we will have mentoring,

homework help and tutoring for students. We may open it

LIFE | 5

Ocean currents carried Red Tide close to shore, scientists say

An 'upwelling' current moved the Red Tide bloom from where it originated offshore to the gulf beaches

By CRAIG PITTMAN
TAMPA BAY TIMES

During the 14 months that a massive Red Tide algae bloom was plaguing Florida's beaches, scientists cited a number of factors for why it was so bad.

Dust blown over by the Sahara Desert played a role. So did pollution from the Mississippi River. Climate change was involved. So was nitrogen-rich runoff from leaky septic tanks, overloaded sewer plants and fertilizer washing off of yards and farms.

Now a new study led by a University of South Florida scientist has announced that another, subtler force was at work, too: deep sea ocean currents.

By deploying an ocean-going robot called a "glider" to collect data for a month during the algae bloom, the

scientists confirmed a long-held hypothesis that while blooms originate 10 to 40 miles offshore, they are transported to the Florida coast by subsurface currents.

"The physics control the biology," said Bob Weisberg, a physical oceanographer with the university's College of Marine Sciences. He was lead author on the study, which was just published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans

Red Tide algae live in the Gulf of Mexico year-round. No one knows what sets off an explosion of their population, causing what's known as a bloom. Blooms usually begin in the early spring or summer 10 to 40 miles offshore.

In late August, the scientists dispatched the torpedo-like glider into the Gulf of Mexico to a spot where they

suspected the Red Tide algae bloom began: near the bottom about 50 miles off the coast between Clearwater Beach and Sarasota Bay. The glider picked up a high concentration of chlorophyll, a signature of the Red Tide algae cells, near the bottom.

Weisberg's team, which included scientists from the university and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, used the data collected by the glider and ran it through a series of computer simulations. That's how they determined that a type of current called an "upwelling" occurred at just the right time to sweep the harmful algae from the bottom up into the shallower water near shore.

There the poisons in the toxic algae killed fish, manatees, dolphins, sea turtles and sea birds. It also irritated the eyes



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTOS

A slurry of dead fish, the result of Red Tide, was visible in Clearwater Harbor on the north side of Sand Key Park as Red Tide lingered along the coast in September.

and throats of anyone who tried to visit the beach. The bloom, which was first detected in

July 2017, lasted until Thanksgiving 2018. Weisberg said he hopes to use what they have

learned to develop a prediction about the possible severity of any 2019 Red Tide blooms by mid-June.

PGPD, CCSO look to create first-time offender program

Diversion program could provide ways to avoid arrest record

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

First-time criminal offenders may have other options in Charlotte County soon, including a way to avoid an arrest record.

The Punta Gorda Police Department received Punta Gorda City Council approval at Wednesday's council meeting to partner with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, among other state and local offices, to establish the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program.

The goal of APAD is to educate first-time adult offenders with minor

offenses in the county to prevent future criminal offenses, according to the city's resolution documents.

Arrest diversion programs like APAD could potentially allow a person the opportunity to avoid an arrest record if they fulfill specified intervention and community service obligations.

"We are still in the development stages of this program," said Katie Heck, CCSO public information officer. "The approval from the city for PGPD to participate was one part of the procedures that need to be completed."

The resolution further states that the offices involved with APAD realize some minor offenses often occur due to errors in judgment or mistakes where criminal sanctions might not be needed. Criminal sanctions can "adversely affect" a person's ability to gain employment, serve in the military, attend an academic institution, or otherwise inhibit someone's individual goals.

"As soon as everything else is set," Heck said. "We will be ready to provide more information and commentary. We anticipate this being in the next month."

Email: dsutphin@sun-herald.com

North Port eyes purchasing land for retention ponds

Project a part of planned widening of Price Boulevard

By TOM HARMENING
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — The City Commission is slated to begin acquisition of land along Price Boulevard to construct retention ponds for the planned road widening when it meets in regular session Tuesday night.

Retention ponds along Price Boulevard near McCaughey Waterway, Blue Ridge Waterway, Creighton Waterway and Low Street are on the planning map for the four-lane expansion of Price, which is slated to begin late this year. The land designated

for the ponds is currently privately owned.

The multi-million dollar project has been eyed for years, with different concepts applied to and, in some cases, rejected, for one of the busiest east-west arteries in the city.

In other action expected Tuesday night, the city will consider purchasing the statue "Roseate Spoonbill" by Donald Gialanella and placing it at the northwest corner of Price Boulevard and Sumter Boulevard.

The commission has placed a \$10,000 spending limit on purchasing

the statue.

The panel is also slated to review the master plan for Biscayne Square, a four-phased mixed use commercial development, located at Commerce Parkway and Gateway Avenue.

A Dollar Tree is planned in the first stage of the development.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. The meetings can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/NorthPortFL or www.cityofnorthport.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

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Get ready for the Easter Bunny

Area egg hunts

Easter Sunday is today. Get ready for the Easter Bunny at area egg hunts events.



VENICE

• The Venice Lions Club invites all blind and visually impaired children and their siblings to an Easter Egg Hunt with beeping eggs. The hunt will be on at 1 p.m. today, Sunday, at Venezia Park, 450 Nassau St. The eggs will be hidden and participants will find them by listening for the loud beep. Attendees will need a buddy for assistance. There is no cost, thanks to the generosity of the Lions Club.

NORTH PORT

RSVP is requested. To RSVP or for more information, call Lion Shelley at 941-485-2354.

• Easter egg hunt. AMVETS Post 2000 hosts an Easter egg hunt from noon to 2 p.m. today, Sunday for AMVETS families and North Port children. Children up to age 8 are invited. Registration is required by April 19. Sign up by stopping by the post or calling 941-429-1999. The post is at 401 Ortiz Blvd., Warm Mineral Springs.



EASTER BY THE NUMBERS

18.1 billion

Total annual spending on all Easter-related goods



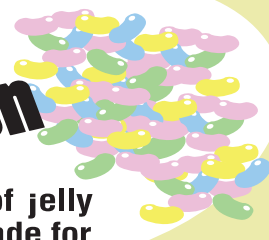
37%

Plan to purchase Easter gift on smartphone



16 billion

Number of jelly beans made for Easter



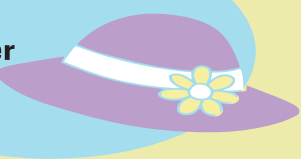
87%

The percent of people who will buy Easter candy



\$3.3 billion

Total amount spent on Easter clothes



\$2.9 billion

Total amount spent on gifts



90 million

Chocolate Easter bunnies are produced each year



60%-65%

Americans who will attend church services on Easter



\$2.5 billion

Total annual spending on Easter candy



38%

The percent of people who will buy Easter flowers



Source: History.com, National Retail Federation
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

EASTER

FROM PAGE 1

Easter as a rite of spring

Most major holidays have some connection to the changing of seasons. This is especially obvious in the case of Christmas. The New Testament gives no information about what time of year Jesus was born. Many scholars believe, however, that the main reason Jesus' birth came to be celebrated on Dec. 25 is because that was the date of the winter solstice according to the Roman calendar.

Since the days following the winter solstice gradually become longer and less dark, it was ideal symbolism for the birth of "the light of the world" as stated in the New Testament's Gospel of John. Similar was the case with Easter, which falls in close proximity to another key point in the solar year: the vernal equinox (around March 20), when there are equal periods of light and darkness. For those in northern latitudes, the coming of spring is often met with excitement, as it means an end to the cold days of winter.

Spring also means the coming back to life of plants and trees that have been dormant for winter, as well as the birth of new life in the animal world. Given the symbolism of new life and rebirth, it was only natural to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at this time of the year.

The naming of the celebration as "Easter" seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century. As religious studies scholar Bruce Forbes summarizes:

"Bede wrote that the month in which English Christians were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus had been called Eosturmonath in Old English, referring to a goddess named Eostre. And even though Christians had begun affirming the Christian meaning of the celebration, they continued to use the name

of the goddess to designate the season."

Bede was so influential for later Christians that the name stuck, and hence Easter remains the name by which the English, Germans and Americans refer to the festival of Jesus' resurrection.

The connection with Jewish Passover

It is important to point out that while the name "Easter" is used in the English-speaking world, many more cultures refer to it by terms best translated as "Passover" (for instance, "Pascha" in Greek) — a reference, indeed, to the Jewish festival of Passover.

In the Hebrew Bible, Passover is a festival that commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, as narrated in the Book of Exodus. It was and continues to be the most important Jewish seasonal festival, celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

At the time of Jesus, Passover had special significance, as the Jewish people were again under the dominance of foreign powers (namely, the Romans). Jewish pilgrims streamed into Jerusalem every year in the hope that God's chosen people (as they believed themselves to be) would soon be liberated once more.

On one Passover, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate the festival. He entered Jerusalem in a triumphal procession and created a disturbance in the Jerusalem Temple. It seems that both of these actions attracted the attention of the Romans, and that as a result Jesus was executed around the year A.D. 30.

Some of Jesus' followers, however, believed that they saw him alive after his death, experiences that gave birth to the Christian religion. As Jesus died during the Passover festival and his followers believed he was resurrected from the dead three days later, it was logical to commemorate these events in close proximity.

Some early Christians chose to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on the same date as the Jewish Passover, which fell around day 14 of the month

The perfect Peep



Early 1950s

Peeps were made by hand at Rodda Candy Co. in Lancaster, Pa.

• One Peep took 27 hours to make

1953-'54

Rodda Candy purchased by Just Born Candy Co.; Peep production mechanized

Late 1950s

Wings are eliminated



2010

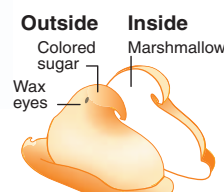
Chocolate-covered Peeps introduced; also available in yellow, pink, lavender, blue, green, orange

Not all Peeps are created equal. How to spot the perfect Peep, with a brief history on the colorful marshmallow candy favorite.

Accurate eye placement



Smooth, curved beak



• Now takes 6 minutes to make one Peep; millions made daily

Source: Just Born Inc. Graphic: TNS

of Nisan, in March or April. These Christians were known as Quartodecimans (the name means "Fourteeners").

By choosing this date, they put the focus on when Jesus died and also emphasized continuity with the Judaism out of which Christianity emerged. Some others instead preferred to hold the festival on a Sunday, since that was when Jesus' tomb was believed to have been found.

In A.D. 325, the Emperor Constantine, who favored Christianity, convened a meeting of Christian leaders to resolve important disputes at the Council of Nicaea. The most fateful of its decisions was about the status of Christ, whom the council recognized as "fully human and fully divine." This council also resolved that Easter should be fixed on a Sunday, not on day 14 of Nisan. As a result, Easter is now celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

The Easter bunny and Easter eggs

In early America, the Easter festival was far more popular among Catholics than Protestants. For instance, the New England Puritans regarded both Easter and Christmas as too tainted by non-Christian influences to be appropriate to celebrate. Such festivals also tended to be opportunities for heavy drinking and merrymaking.

The fortunes of both holidays changed in the 19th century, when they became occasions to be spent with one's family. This was done partly out of a desire to make the celebration of these holidays less rowdy.

But Easter and Christmas also became reshaped as domestic holidays because understandings of children were changing. Prior to the 17th century, children were rarely the center of attention. As historian Stephen Nissenbaum writes, "...children were lumped together with other members of the lower orders in general, especially servants and apprentices — who, not coincidentally, were generally young people themselves."

From the 17th century onward, there was an increasing recognition of childhood as a time of life that should be joyous, not simply as preparatory for adulthood. This "discovery of childhood" and the doting upon children had profound effects on how Easter was celebrated.

It is at this point in the holiday's development that Easter eggs and the Easter bunny become especially important. Decorated eggs had been part of the Easter festival at least since medieval

times, given the obvious symbolism of new life. A vast amount of folklore surrounds Easter eggs, and in a number of Eastern European countries, the process of decorating them is extremely elaborate. Several Eastern European legends describe eggs turning red (a favorite color for Easter eggs) in connection with the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection.

Yet it was only in the 17th century that a German tradition of an "Easter hare" bringing eggs to good children came to be known. Hares and rabbits had a long association with spring seasonal rituals because of their amazing powers of fertility.

When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought this tradition with them. The wild hare also became supplanted by the more docile and domestic rabbit, in another indication of how the focus moved toward children.

As Christians celebrate the festival this spring in commemoration of Jesus' resurrection, the familiar sights of the Easter bunny and Easter eggs serve as a reminder of the holiday's very ancient origins outside of the Christian tradition.

This is an updated version of a piece published on March 21, 2018.



Robbie Rutherford, student pastor at New Day Christian Church, was the guest speaker at the 7 a.m. Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting Thursday morning at North Port High School.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

resurrected. She played a six-minute cartoon to help explain why that happened.

“God knows we mess up and sin,” she said. “He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away our sins. He scarified his life so we could be with him one day.”

Tricia said the group is made up of believers who learn about Jesus and play games and talk. Some share real-life issues that scare or concern them. One student said her father is battling cancer. Students promised to pray for her family.

“We hope that relationships are made outside the classroom,” Tricia said. “When these students see each other in the hallway, we want them to say hello to each other. They can encourage one another because they share the same faith. School doesn’t have to be a dark place. This group has volunteers and a teacher who is there for them.”

Jaylynn Shindel, 13, says the group helps her in her everyday life.

“I love to learn about God in a friendly environment,” she said.

DEEDS AND FAITH

Across the street, an older group of students at North Port High’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes meet Thursdays in art teacher Tiffany Jennings’ class. Todd and other volunteers have weekly guest speakers and fellowship with the students.

On Thursday morning, Robbie Rutherford, student pastor of New Day Christ Church in Port Charlotte, spoke about why God wants his followers to be real in everyday life and not fake. He said the things students post on social media is a reflection of how they live their lives. Then he said he learned a life lesson while in Christian college, his then girlfriend (now his wife) said she had something important to tell him.

“She said that I had always treated her nice, but I was kind of a jerk to others on campus,” he told the teens. “She said, ‘you treat people bad’ and made jokes about them.”

Rutherford said initially he was mad after learning her true feelings about him. Then he realized he needed God’s help to change his thoughts, actions and words.

He read the Bible passage from the Book of James 2:14. Rutherford read it out loud.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”

Todd said he’s trying to share the same message with school coaches. Fellowship of Christian Athletes works with athletic teams who want a ‘character coach’ as part of its program.

“The character coach goes to practices and games and gives a positive message before a game,” he said. “They talk about integrity and give character building lessons that are not religious. Obviously, our hope is that these character coaches lay a foundation that will eventually open doors for other opportunities such as fellowship. But they are there as a positive person in the player’s lives.”

School can be a scary place right now, he said.

“Students worry if a friend tried to harm himself the night before. They wonder if someone’s going to bring a gun on campus,” he said. “They wonder if they’re going to get yelled at or bullied that day. They may have had a traumatic event at home. We offer them a safe place to meet on campus. We are there for them to talk. We don’t judge them.”

NPHS teacher Paulo Serrano agreed. “We encourage students to bring their friends to the morning meeting,” he said. “Our motive is to have them come and listen to a positive message and for a free doughnut.”

Saal Shuler, 16, wore his Fellowship of Christian Athletes shirt to school Thursday.

“It’s nice coming to these meetings,” he said. “I like spending time with friends and learning about God. It helps me through the week. It helps me grow as a Christian.”

Todd needs volunteers to keep building the program in North Port and at Lemon Bay High School in Englewood.

“What if hundreds of people showed up for the girl’s junior varsity volleyball game?” he said. “It would show the players that we care about them, even if we don’t know them personally. We know they are doing something positive.”

Email: eallen@sun-herald.com



SUN PHOTOS BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Heron Creek Middle School students learned about Jesus and then sampled different flavors of Peeps candy.

For more information about Fellowship of Christian Athletes, call 941-468-1009 or visit www.gulfcoastfca.org

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Tree Fair

Tree Fair 2019 is set for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the North Port Community Education Center, 4940 Pan Am Blvd. It is hosted by People for Trees and has been since 1999. “Hundreds of 3-gallon native trees (approx.6-8 feet tall) will be for sale for only \$15 each,” the group said in a news release. “Alice White, chair of People for Trees since its inception in 1997, will lead a number of outside tree informational “walk/talks” about the trees that will be for sale so attendees can choose just the right trees for their yards.” The day also includes a

fairy house contest, enchanted forest, and a “fairy gathering” at 11 a.m. For more information, call White at 941-468-2486, or email treelady12001@yahoo.com or visit www.peoplefortrees.com.

Easter egg hunt

AMVETS Post 2000 hosts an Easter egg hunt from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, April 21 for AMVETS families and North Port children. Children up to age 8 are invited — but registration is required by April 19. Sign up by stopping by the post or calling 941-429-1999. The post is at 401 Ortiz Blvd., Warm Mineral Springs.

CONTROL

FROM PAGE 1

generally includes trade jobs, but isn’t limited to this.

HB 3 would allow these professions to “no longer require a license, fee or application to do painting” or other trade jobs.

“There is no public health or safety reason why that profession needs to be regulated (at the local level),” he said. “It’s a barrier of entry.”

Professions mentioned in the bill include painting, flooring, cabinetry, interior remodeling, driveway or tennis court installation, and decorative stone, tile, marble, granite, or terrazzo installation, plastering, stuccoing, caulking, canvas awning installation, and ornamental iron installation.

Local governments can still impose licenses on occupations before July 1 of this year, but those licenses will expire July 1, 2021.

What do local businesses think?

Some local business owners are concerned about the bill.

Kathy Kemeny, a co-owner of Just Counters and Other Stuff in Port Charlotte, is one of them.

“Less regulations breeds more incompetence,” Kemeny said. “More unfinished

jobs. Less background checks on who enters your home. Less proving you are financially responsible to hold a license.”

She also disagrees that these regulations aren’t a barrier. “Specialty licenses are not preventing good people from getting into the trades,” Kemeny said. “The licenses are a small fee for doing business,” usually averaging \$150 and proving experience of three to five years, she said. “Passing a financial background (check) should not be overlooked. There is value.”

Local business exams, which can test someone’s knowledge of payroll taxes, insurance laws, safety and general accounting, “are protecting the consumer,” Kemeny said. “The license shows legitimacy in an industry.”

“Charlotte County residents were taken advantage of enough after Hurricane Charley by out-of-town companies,” Kemeny said. “I see this bill making it easier for businesses that failed elsewhere to set up shops here ... why are we taking the county’s ability (away) to regulate (themselves)?”

Next stop? The Senate

The bill hasn’t been signed into law just yet. It still has to be approved through the Senate.

SB 1748, the bill’s senatorial companion, hasn’t had any other action since its introduction March 13.

Email: Liz.Hardaway@yoursun.com

LIFE

FROM PAGE 1

up with pool tables and ping-pong tables.”

Additionally, on Friday nights will be a wildlife program for middle schoolers and, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights, there will be activities for middle and high school students. Youth group nights are Wednesday.

“We are still in the process to figure out the best programming,” he said. “We can always use mentors.”

Another exciting feature at the Young Life center at the mall is an escape room designed by Lisa and Scott Gregory, owners of Escape Rooms Unlocked in North Port and Punta Gorda. Students must work together to solve a riddles, clues and puzzles using strategies to successfully “escape” from the game before the time runs out.

To celebrate the May 6 opening, chamber members from Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte and North Port are meeting at 5:30 p.m. for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Then the center opens for the teens’ first big event: A tacky prom.

“It’s not at all like a traditional prom,” Parker said. “Girls can wear hideous dresses and boys can wear powder blue suits. It can be as tacky as they want. It’s a prom for teens in Charlotte and Sarasota county schools. We expect to have about 40 or 50 teens from the Young Life in Englewood. We expect to see some Imagine School North Port students. Some may even come from Venice. It should be a great time for them all.”

Parker said the mall isn’t the only place Young Life volunteers reach students. They are at Charlotte County schools each week before the bell rings. Some stay until late in the day. Leaders pray with students, work on skill-building experiences and kids to share a friendship with them regardless



SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

In the Young Life video featured on the group’s Facebook page, Michelle Wier, former Lemon Bay High School administrator and principal of Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School, talks about the value of the program and how much it helps students.

of their response to the Young Life mission.

“On any given week we work with somewhere from 600 to 700 kids in the schools,” he said. “We come in contact with well over 2,000 of them. We are a positive force in students’ lives. Our leaders know these students well. We are with them in the morning sharing the word. We see them at Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings or prayer around the pole. We eat lunch with some of them. Some of us are substitutes at the schools. Others are coaches.”

“We are there when the burden gets too heavy and they need someone they trust to talk to about any situation,” he said. “We are there for the good times too. We go to their games and cheer them on. We give them ice pops.”

Parker’s team created a video “You Were Made For This” featuring teens speaking about how the Young Life program impacted them. Teachers and principals also tell how Young Life is making a difference in their schools.

“The video is on our Facebook page,” he said. “It really shows who we are and what we do. We’ve had over 1,000 views. We hope to double it by the end of next month.”

One community he

hopes will watch the video is Englewood. He said in order to keep the Young Life ministries operating at Lemon Bay High School, Englewood SKY Academy and L.A. Ainger Middle School, he needs \$1,000 more each month. “We have about 150 to 200 students who are regulars in the program,” he said. “Many others are impacted in Englewood. I need to connect more with that community. Good things are happening.”

This summer, about 50 students will ride horses and go carts, and eat lots of chicken and steak at summer camps in Georgia and North Florida.

“The camp is a place for teens to be teens,” Parker said. “They will play games, be outside, listen to music and we will share the word of Christ with them,” he said. “Regardless of a child’s decision to choose Jesus, we will continue to treat them the same way. We will walk along side of them, cheer them on and encourage them.”

Young Life is always looking for donations, volunteers and mentors. Church groups are also welcome to partner with Young Life.

For more information, visit CharlotteCountyYoungLife.com or call 941-456-5433.

Email: eallen@sun-herald.com

VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Easter, Passover traditions a real time for renewal

OUR POSITION: For people of the Jewish and Christian faiths, this weekend is one of the most important and most celebrated.

Easter egg hunts and the cute pictures they can produce are common this time of the year. Still, the passion of the season is not lost but embraced by Christians and those of the Jewish faith.

Today, Christians here and all over the world, celebrate Jesus' awakening from death as told in the holy scriptures of the Bible. Many will leave their homes before sunrise to participate in Easter services in churches, parks and on beaches.

Jesus' death by crucifixion, his return to life and his exit from the tomb three days later are the foundation of the Christian religion. The Bible says Jesus then revealed himself to his disciples, who were astonished at his resurrection.

Jesus eventually left Earth to ascend into heaven, leaving his disciples to spread the word of his coming back from the dead and his offer of everlasting life to all who believe in him. The disciples never wavered from their beliefs despite the consequences of ridicule and cruel fates they suffered as a result of their teachings and beliefs. It is their faith and willingness to die for it that many point to as evidence of Jesus' life after death, as witnessed by them.

Holy communion and baptisms are part of many Christian services Saturday evening and Sunday. Communion is a tradition that follows the teachings of the last supper Jesus experienced with his disciples and mimics the breaking of bread and drinking of wine (or, often, grape juice) which are symbols of Jesus' body and blood.

Friday evening at sundown began the Jewish festival of Passover.

The seven-day celebration is derived from the Book of Exodus in the Bible and the Haggadah in which the Israelites were led by Moses and freed from slavery in Egypt.

Ten plagues, according to the Bible, were placed upon Egyptians — with the 10th being the death of their first-born son. To avoid the plague themselves, Israelites used lamb's blood to mark their doors. That symbol instructed God to "pass over" them — giving the holiday its name.

Now, the holiday is recognized through both personal, at-home celebrations and large community gatherings.

The religious celebrations should be, can be, a period of renewal for Christians and Jews. This time of the year calls for a renewed energy, a renewal of faith and commitment to serving and living a life that replicates the teachings of the Bible and the paths followed by Jesus and Moses.

To contact ...

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

Contact the senator through his website www.rubio.senate.gov. Navigate to the email. Phone the Tampa office at 813-853-1099.

U.S. Sen. Rick Scott

Contact the senator through his website www.RickScott.senate.gov. Phone the Tampa office at 813-225-7040.

U.S. Rep. Greg Steube

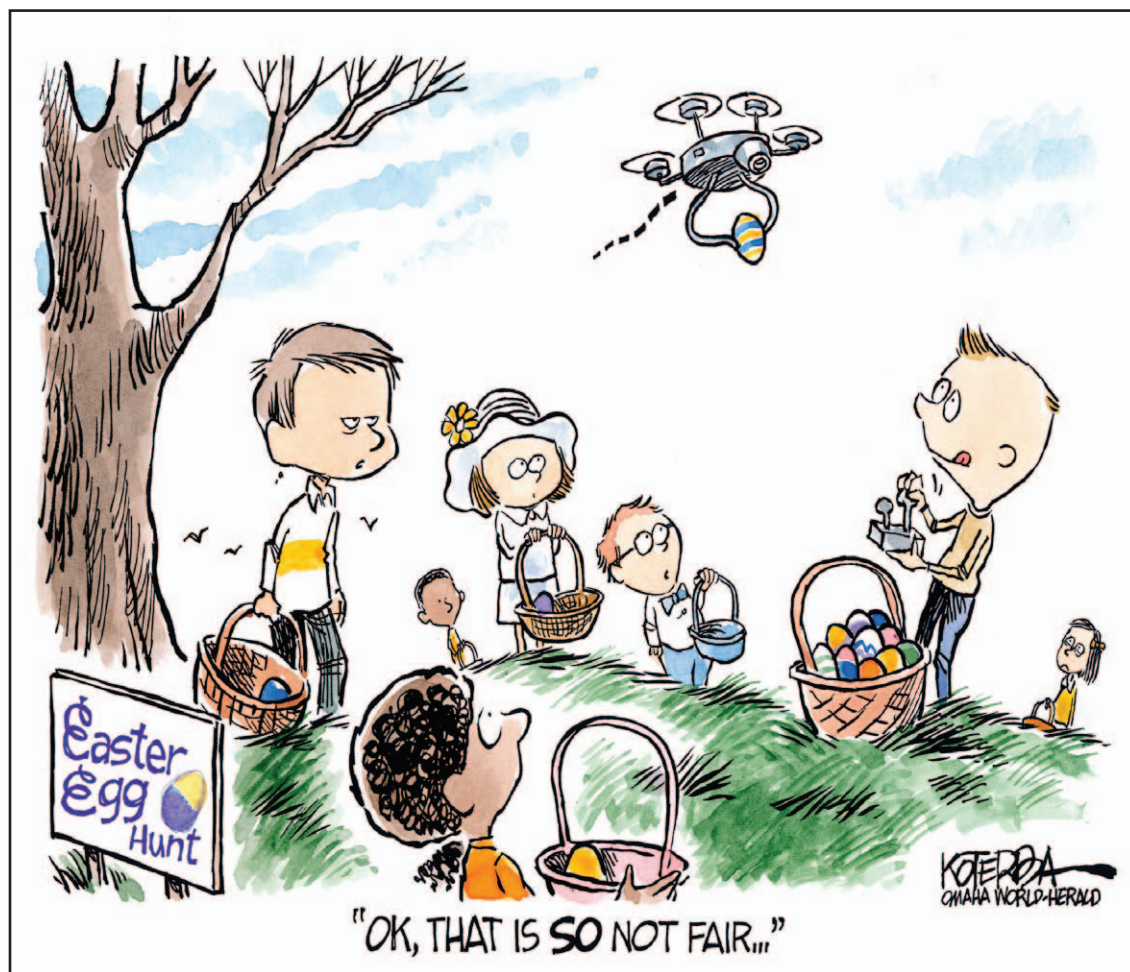
Contact the congressman through his website <http://steube.house.gov>. The Punta Gorda office is at 226 Taylor St., #230. Phone the office at 941-575-9103.

Fla. Sen. Joe Gruters

Contact the senator through the Senate website, www.fl.senate.gov/Senators. Phone the Sarasota office at 941-378-6309.

Fla. Rep. Mike Grant

Contact Rep. Grant by email, Michael.Grant@myfloridahouse.gov. The Port Charlotte office is at 4355 Pinnacle St., Suite C. Phone the office at 941-613-0914.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media shouldn't report on administration

Editor:

Am I crazy or what? If you talk to a person who is crazy and not connected to reality, you tend to walk away from them because you cannot have a conversation with a crazy person, right?

Wouldn't it be just common sense for the media to do the same thing when covering a public figure's event? If the media was covering an event where a public figure started spouting non-facts, wouldn't it make sense if they simply said, "Sorry I can't cover you when you're speaking as a crazy person," and end the coverage?

Is it crazy to think that this would end this nonsense by this president, this administration, this Republican Party, which insists on using their lies to manipulate the people of the United States? Wouldn't it make sense not to give them a platform to spread their propaganda to the masses?

Wouldn't it make sense to have a law that would prohibit media outlets from publishing or broadcasting on the public airways, if they covered crazy people spouting crazy nonsense?

Wouldn't that just make sense? Am I crazy, or what?

John Munn
Englewood

Doolittle Raider came to Punta Gorda

Editor:

Since there has been no mention in this paper of the recent passing of one of World War II's outstanding heroes, we feel compelled to acknowledge his accomplishments.

Col. Richard E. Cole was one of the famed Doolittle Raiders who participated in the historic Doolittle raid on Tokyo. Cole, who died on April 9 at age 103, was Col. Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot and the last surviving raider.

Although no planes were lost over Japan, 15 planes made it safely over China, where fuel loss and bad weather forced all crews to crash land or bail out.

One plane made it to USSR and landed. Three Raiders were killed on bail-out, eight were captured by the pursuing Japanese Army and 64 crew members were saved by National Chinese, who risked their lives moving the Raiders to safety throughout territories occupied by the Japanese militia.

Colonel Cole came to Punta Gorda hosted by the 31st Annual Florida International Air Show in 2011 as part of an historic reunion between three surviving Doolittle Tokyo Raiders and special guests representing the People's Republic of China.

After the war, Cole and the other survivors reunited annually to toast their fallen comrades. Cole was the only surviving member to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the raid at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. His funeral will take place on the April 28, the 77th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid.

Paul Raffa
Becky Bovel
Punta Gorda

Wonderful care at Venice hospital

Editor:

The age of a hospital doesn't define its quality nor does the number of starts it receives. It's the skill of its professionals and quality of care that define excellence.

I experienced the soul of Venice Regional Bayfront Hospital recently. The compassion, care and competence I found there is equal to any heart institute or hospital in the country. I can say this because my care was superb, the staff was attentive, and — well — they saved my life. But I wasn't just a number or another patient. I was seen and treated as a real person.

Truly heartfelt and personal thank you's have been given to Dr. John Galat (a terrific surgeon with deft and heaven-sent hands), Sandy Anderson (a surgeon's assistant with masterly harvesting and closing skills), Dr. Jonathan Drier (a caring and vigilant anesthesiologist), Dr. Joseph

Balzano (the cardiologist who discovered my need for a quintuple bypass), and the nursing staff (especially Ann Bahri) for my surgery, treatment and focused attention to my unexpected predicament.

My deeply felt gratitude also extends to my family for their love and commitment to my care. And I must thank family, friends and several church congregations for their prayers for my recovery. Our common slogan was, "God's got this." He has.

John E. Lutz
Englewood

Worried about the national debt

Editor:

While snowbirds and tourists are here, perhaps they can contact their Republican representatives and senators to let Trump know that John McCain is dead. The socialist wing of the Democratic party scares me but so does the \$22 trillion national debt and a deficit that has worsened the past year while Amazon.com like GE under Obama pay no taxes. My accountant told me about the tax loopholes.

I've never been a POW but some of these rants are a piece of work.

It is embarrassing to what was the Republican Party of my father. For those who never watch Fox, try Shep Smith at 3 p.m. and the adventures of Hannity and Donna Brazille. Brilliant move by Fox. They seem to respect each other while much of the Fox base will hate Donna Brazilla.

John Matheny
Englewood

Health care for all is simply compassion

Editor:

If you look at the latest world ranking of countries with the highest happiness scores based on income, freedoms, longevity and last but not least health care, America is ranked 19th. The top 10 countries all have health care for all. One would think that given

all the advantages that America has to offer that it would be in the top 10. Health care for all should not be based on privilege, wealth or position. Unfortunately, in America it is.

You will hear politicians state that we cannot afford health care for all and that those programs kill people waiting for treatment. Of course, this is completely false and would surely effect the happiness index in those top 10 countries. One would consider these countries as being socialist societies with high taxes to support these programs, but if everyone benefits, everyone should pay.

What would you pay for happiness? In America, we pay on average \$10,000 per person per year for health care and in Canada they pay \$4,800 per person per year. In Canada, everyone is covered and you cannot go bankrupt trying to keep a loved one alive. Canada controls drug costs. Not so in America.

So why do you think Canada ranks number seven and America number 19? By not letting insurance and drug companies control their health care based on profit and eliminating the need to make life or death decisions based on going bankrupt.

Supporting health care for all Americans is not socialism but compassion, especially given our religious values.

George Baillie
North Port

Journalists left selling their souls

Editor:

Wikileaks founder/journalist Julian Assange is expected to be extradited to either Sweden or the U.S. on conspiracy charges. It is alleged that he helped Chelsea Manning (long since convicted of conspiracy) and a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst crack a password allowing access to classified info.

As a U.S. journalist (protected by First Amendment rights, freedom of speech), Assange then took this info and ran to any news outlet that would publish this "scoop." Some of the info was about U.S. Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Journalists worldwide published analysis, opinion and otherwise "reported" this to the public. It was indeed damaging to the U.S.

"This guy walks and talks like a hostile intelligence service," said Mike Pompeo, former CIA director and now secretary of state, speaking of Assange. His attorneys say his actions are those of a legitimate journalist. I agree. So does the president of the U.S., who bemoans America's mainstream media and U.S. journalism as we now know it as the enemy of the people. RIP MSM.

And so it goes, until the last U.S. journalist standing sells his mothers soul to the devil for a \$50 bill.

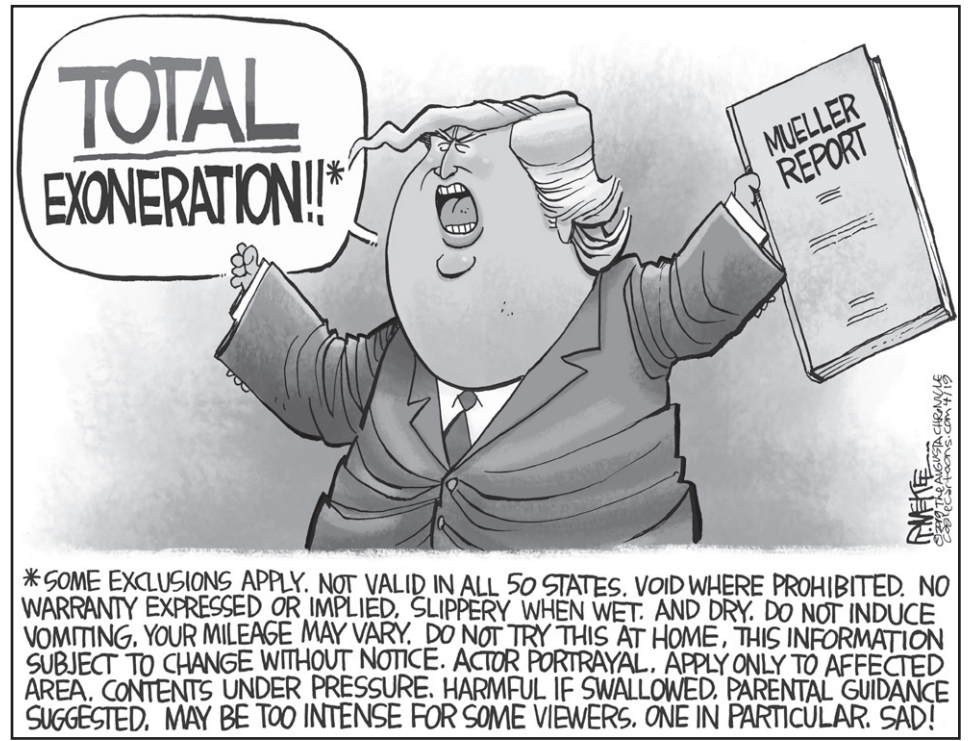
God bless America.
Alan P. Lessman
Punta Gorda

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.

WEEK IN REVIEW



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There's a lot of gray area in Mueller report

NATIONAL REVIEW
JONAH GOLDBERG

Maybe you haven't noticed, but we live in a time when everything is supposed to be black and white. The weird, incestuous relationship between the media and the political parties incentivizes combatants to take positions on the 1-yard lines, if not in the end zones. But what if — and bear with me for a moment — the truth is a lot grayer?

Consider the Mueller report and all the controversies that swirl around it. From where I sit, everyone (with the exception of Robert Mueller himself) comes out looking worse than their loudest supporters claim but better than their shrillest detractors insist.

President Trump is the most obvious example. By now, anyone interested has either read or heard summaries of the Mueller report, so I won't get deep in the

weeds. Any fair reading shows that it's far from the "total and complete exoneration" Trump and his supporters claim. But it does exonerate Trump of many of the most extreme accusations bandied about on cable TV and in op-ed pages over the last two years. According to Mueller, as well as Attorney General William Barr and Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein, the president didn't coordinate — a more precise term than "collude" — with the Russian government in the 2016 campaign. He did behave badly. He welcomed Russia's efforts and praised WikiLeaks (a useful dump for Russia-acquired dirt on Hillary Clinton). In fact, his campaign may have coordinated with WikiLeaks. It's possible Trump or

his lieutenants may even have wanted to work with the Russians but were too incompetent to do it.

That's bad. I would even argue it's outrageous. But it's not what countless Democrats and anti-Trump journalists claimed or hoped for.

Moreover, Trump may have acted like he was guilty of something, but evidence for the thing he was supposed to be guilty of couldn't be found. It's not outlandish to think that some of his suspicious behavior stemmed from anger at being wrongly accused and ignorance about how to properly conduct himself.

As for the obstruction charges. Reasonable people can conclude that Trump wanted to, and almost certainly tried to, obstruct the probe. Some of his behavior would be illegal if he weren't the president. But he is. And the legal arguments invoked by Barr and Mueller for letting him off

the hook from criminal prosecution aren't as absurd as many claim.

That brings us to the attorney general. Barr's reputation took a hit when he opted to pre-spin the report's findings in such a favorable light. But the claims that he's disgraced himself don't give enough consideration to the serious legal, constitutional and even political issues at play. Perhaps such spin was the embarrassing price he had to pay to get Trump to agree to the report's release?

The executive branch should not serve as a de facto impeachment committee of the legislative branch. Barr believes the president cannot be indicted for exercising his constitutional powers, and he cites the standing Justice Department policy that a sitting president cannot be indicted. You can disagree with that, but the claim that Barr is part of a cover-up

is unfair. What kind of "cover-up" involves releasing the actual report with few redactions? Barr's positions on the legal and constitutional issues were well known when he was confirmed, and while controversial in this partisan climate, they're hardly outside the mainstream.

Then there's Congress. For the last two years, the congressional GOP has behaved as if we live in a parliamentary system, where the head of the party is also the head of government, and the legislators of the same party are obliged to follow the leader. But that's not how our system works. Congress is the first branch of government and is supposed to have a more adversarial relationship with the executive branch, regardless of party. You'd think Republicans, who claim to revere the Constitution, would know this.

The Democrats have been just as bad. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, has lied, in classic McCarthyite fashion, about having damning evidence he has to keep in secret (as have some former Obama officials). Both parties have been happy to let Mueller do the job properly reserved for Congress.

And that brings us to Mueller. He resisted both the demonization of Team MAGA and the flattery of Team Resistance and simply did his job. It's not his fault that so many in the media and Congress have been reluctant to do theirs.

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.

The Mueller Report is the beginning, not the end

The report from special counsel Robert Mueller provides a devastating portrait of President Trump's behavior that may invite the beginning of an impeachment inquiry and a constitutional confrontation. A collision of some kind between the president (along with his attorney general) and Democrats who control the House of Representatives is now inevitable.

The report's bottom line is easily lost in the details about Trump himself: that the United States has a president whom Russia actively intervened in our politics to elect. The Russian-controlled Internet Research Agency, Mueller's report concluded, created "a targeted operation that by early 2016 favored candidate Trump and disparaged candidate (Hillary) Clinton."

Mueller also clearly did not in any way encourage Attorney General William Barr to end further inquiry into whether the president obstructed justice. On the contrary, Mueller went out



Washington Post
E.J. DIONNE

of his way to tell Congress that it has every right to decide that issue itself. "Congress has authority to prohibit a President's corrupt use of his authority in order to protect the integrity of the administration of justice," he wrote.

Mueller also noted: "The conclusion that Congress may apply the obstruction laws to the President's corrupt exercise of the powers of office accords with our constitutional system of checks and balances and the principle that no person is above the law."

The report will only embolden House Democrats who are already investigating the president and may increase pressure to launch formal impeachment inquiries, even though Democratic leaders have

been reluctant to move in that direction.

Barr's behavior has been truly shameful. From the moment he issued his letter on March 24 suggesting that the final Mueller document would clear the president — now we know it has done quite the opposite — Barr has behaved less like an attorney general than as a defense lawyer doubling as the president's spokesman.

Hours after the report was released, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said that "Attorney General Barr appears to have shown an unsettling willingness to undermine his own (Justice) Department in order to protect President Trump" and that Barr had been "disingenuous and misleading." Barr's behavior continued until the last moment before the report was made public. At a wholly unnecessary news conference that ended roughly an hour before the document was released, Barr spoke

as though Mueller had resolved the entire matter in Trump's favor and repeated the president's battle cry, "no collusion," four times.

But Mueller — perhaps anticipating the importance of the word "collusion" in Trump's propaganda — was explicit in saying that "collusion is not a specific offense or theory of liability found in the United States Code, nor is it a term of art in federal criminal law."

In fact, Mueller detailed many conversations and ties between the Trump circle and Russia. "In sum," he wrote, "the investigation established multiple links between Trump Campaign officials and individuals tied to the Russian government. Those links included Russian offers of assistance to the Campaign. In some instances, the Campaign was receptive to the offer, while in other instances the Campaign officials shied away."

Then came the one line in the report that Trump unambiguously liked and on which he wants to

hang his entire argument: "Ultimately, the investigation did not establish that the Campaign coordinated or conspired with the Russian government in its election-interference activities." But given the sentences that came before, it's clear that not "establishing" a conspiracy is not the same as having found no evidence of cooperation.

Here again, Mueller's caution about leveling charges against the president still leaves Congress — particularly the House Intelligence Committee — with ample room to probe the "multiple links" with Russia that Mueller documented.

Oddly, Trump may have been protected from even more damaging conclusions about obstruction by staff members who refused to do what he asked. "The President's efforts to influence the investigation were mostly unsuccessful," the report found, "but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the President declined to carry out orders or accede

to his requests." Whatever this is, it is not exoneration of Trump.

The Mueller report paints a broad picture of an administration that systematically lied to just about everybody, including the public and the media. It describes a president prepared to do whatever was necessary to close down inquiries into his behavior and Russian ties. And it noted that "some of the individuals we interviewed or whose conduct we investigated — including some associated with the Trump Campaign — deleted relevant communications or communicated during the relevant period using applications that feature encryption."

Mueller's findings do not end Trump's troubles. On the contrary, he is now in greater jeopardy because we know even more about what he did. Congress must take all the further steps required to ensure accountability.

E.J. Dionne is on Twitter: @EJDionne.

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Florida lawmakers seek to purge undocumented immigrants from voter rolls

By SAMANTHA J. GROSS
TAMPA BAY TIMES

TALLAHASSEE — As several bills aimed at shaping the 2020 election are set to make a landing in the Legislature this year, a set aimed at ensuring non-citizens are removed from voter rolls is poised for a floor vote.

Senate Bill 230 and House Bill 131 would require that each county supervisor of elections enters into an agreement with the clerk of the circuit court to receive, on a monthly basis, a list of potential jurors who have identified themselves as undocumented immigrants.

Each supervisor would then have to compare the information with the voter roll. The bill also requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to continue to give a similar list to the elections supervisors each month, which they already do.

“The purpose of this bill is to assist election offices and maintain the accuracy of the official voter registration list,” said bill sponsor Rep. Amber Mariano, a Hudson Republican.

Some supervisors of elections across the state have agreements with clerks of court to share this information. If a person checks “not a citizen” on a jury form, for example, that person is contacted by the supervisors. They can then be removed from the voter rolls or, if they indicate that they are citizens, they can remain on the rolls. This bill would codify that voluntary relationship in all 67 counties.

Hillsborough and Collier counties, for example, send monthly reports to their elections supervisors

with the names of people who indicated on a jury form that they are not citizens. In Hillsborough County, nine people were reported as non-citizens in the last year.

Currently, the Department of State identifies ineligible voters contained in official lists of registered voters every odd-numbered year by using change of address information provided by the United States Postal Service or from returned mail from registered voters who have not voted in the last two years. If the voter doesn't update his or her information by the second general election after being designated as inactive, the voter's name must be removed.

Senate bill sponsor Joe Gruters said the idea of the bill is to make it “easy to vote, hard to cheat.”

“The fact that the Democrats are voting against it is mind-boggling,” the Sarasota Republican said. “This is a list that people themselves are clarifying themselves as non-voters. We want to make sure we protect the integrity of the system.”

Opponents say the method is a problematic way to maintain voter rolls.

Common Cause Florida says the bill will cause more citizens to be removed from voter rolls because people's status changes over time. If a non-citizen gets a driver's license, for example, they may become naturalized before it's time to renew.

“There is no database of citizens. There is no database of non-citizens,” said Common Cause chair Liza McClenaghan. “They're points in time. They're not long-term designations.”

McClenaghan said the outcome will be lower

participation in future elections. “You're going to end up with a lot of false positives that are not appropriate for disenfranchising voters,” she said.

She pointed out what happened in 2012, for instance, when the Department of State created a list of more than 180,000 voters it initially determined were not citizens after an attempted match between driver license information and the voter roll.

The list of names was then narrowed to approximately 2,600, and later to 85. Of the 2,600 names identified, hundreds of citizens came forward to indicate they had been misidentified. A federal appeals court ruled then that former Gov. Rick Scott's administration violated federal law by trying to remove non-citizens from the voter rolls too close to the 2012 presidential election.

The decision invalidated efforts by the Department of State to remove non-citizens from the voter rolls ahead of an election in which a Florida victory was crucial to President Barack Obama's re-election.

Other groups said the law would impose a burden on supervisors of elections who would be required to spend considerable amounts of time matching data, issuing notices and conducting hearings in cases they think will likely involve eligible voters who have been incorrectly identified due to outdated records, administrative errors and deficient data-matching methods.

Michelle Kanter Cohen, of the Fair Elections Center, said she takes issue with outdated data as well as the fact that

there aren't safeguards to make sure people who are eligible to vote aren't being inaccurately flagged.

She said all logistical problems aside, the idea that non-citizens are voting in significant numbers is untrue.

“Voters all sign an affidavit under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens or are otherwise qualified to vote,” she said. “What these efforts have shown is that there are very few instances where someone is purposefully on the voter rolls and voting when they aren't a citizen. There's been a lot of fear-mongering about that issue, but the reality is it's almost mythological in a sense ... reasonable list maintenance is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of voters' rights.”

Immigrant rights groups also oppose the bill and say the law would make it easier for people to target undocumented immigrants because the information, once sealed by the DHSMV, would become public record under the Secretary of State.

The Florida Immigration Coalition is specifically opposed to the list of immigrants the legislation requires. It says the public list of undocumented people could contribute to hate crimes toward immigrants, which are already on the rise in Florida.

Federal law currently restricts public access to information contained in a driver's license record, like Social Security numbers, addresses and medical information. But voter registration forms are public record, so the information sharing would bring immigration status to light.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests:

- Javier Miranda Salazar, 22, of Tampa, Fla. Charge: operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. Bond: \$1,000.
- Lanaija Raymon Nesmith, 20, 300 block of Fitzhugh Ave., Punta Gorda. Charge: out of county warrant. Bond: none.
- John Anthony Porter, 33, 13300 block of Bucket Circle, Port Charlotte. Charges: trafficking more than 28 grams but less than 150 kg of cocaine, possession or use of drug paraphernalia, possession of firearm ammunition or weapon by Florida convicted felon, trafficking more than 14 grams of amphetamines, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: \$77,500.
- Jacquet Deleon Kaymore, 28, of Palatka, Fla. Charge: driving while license suspended, third or subsequent offense. Bond: none.
- Christopher James Ruff, 45, 10400 block of Greenway Ave., Englewood. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, DUI, and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: none.
- Joseph Scott Carter, 40, 22300 block of La Guardia Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$17,500.
- Tammy Lee Stankus, 44, 4800 block of Cromey Road, North Port. Charges: resisting officer without violence, two counts of violation of probation or community control, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, reckless driving first offense, possession or use of drug paraphernalia, and failure to stop a vehicle as ordered by a law enforcement officer. Bond: none.
- Timothy Earl Lapointe, 50, 8400 block of Truman St., Englewood. Charges: battery by intentional touch or strike and violation of probation or community control. Bond: \$5,000.
- Demetrius Amos Donyell Golden, 42, of Valrico, Fla. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana, possession or use of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: \$10,000.
- Rachel Colleen Kelly, 25, 1st block of Pinehurst Court, Rotonda West. Charge: battery by intentional touch

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.

- or strike. Bond: \$2,500.
- Justin Erik Larson, 34, homeless of Port Charlotte. Charges: possession or use of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: \$7,500.
- Lois Jean Iannucci, 54, 4300 block of Gardner Dr., Port Charlotte. Charges: violation of probation or community control and battery by intentional touch or strike. Bond: none.
- Marvin Lee Owens, Jr., 40, 3600 block of Swanee Rd., Port Charlotte. Charges: two underlying charges and failure to appear. Bond: none.
- Tyler Rashod Middleton, 23, 17800 block of Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Charges: two underlying charges, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, failure to appear, and violation of probation or community control. \$9,000.
- Megan Elizabeth Kacica, 41, 700 block of Jarvis St., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession or use of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine, and first degree larceny/petty theft of property \$100 to under \$300. Bond: \$10,000.
- Gladys Margarita Herrera, 38, of Homestead, Fla. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: \$7,500.
- Gwenda Deloris Lynom, 55, of Fort Myers. Charge: first degree larceny/petty theft of property \$100 to under \$300. Bond: \$2,500.
- David Shawn Hillsman, 32, of Fort Myers. Charge: driving while license suspended, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$5,000.

The Punta Gorda Police Department reported the following arrests:

- Quetine Ja-Koree Williams, 25, 9200 block of Kings Court, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession or use of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine, and possession of a controlled substance. Bond: \$6,000.
- Robert Joseph Salkowski, 58, of Cape Coral. Charge: petty theft, third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$5,000.

— Compiled By Liz Hardaway

Crosspoint's cross hairs lowered on Sarasota County

Church, county in middle of dispute on number of students at facility's school

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

ENGLEWOOD — A discrimination lawsuit filed against Sarasota County by an Englewood church may come to a quick end if county commissioners agree during their meeting Tuesday in Sarasota.

According to a memo to commissioners from County Attorney Rick Elbrecht, his office has been in discussions with attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom, which is representing the church, and have drafted a settlement to resolve the matter.

Last month, Alliance attorneys filed the lawsuit in federal court in Tampa on behalf of Crosspoint Church of the Nazarene alleging discrimination for the commissioners' denial of a special exception that would have increased

the number of students at the church's school to 90.

Commissioners denied the application for the special exception following a public hearing in November.

Since then the church has also amassed \$40,000 in fines levied by Sarasota County Code Enforcement for having more than 25 students at the school.

According to Elbrecht's memo, the proposed settlement calls for the commission to hold a new hearing on the church's application within 60 days, and if it is approved, the county would reimburse the church almost \$10,406 it paid in fees for the previous application.

The county would also release the \$40,000 in code enforcement liens and pay \$20,000 in attorney fees to

the Alliance.

In return, the church would dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice, meaning they could not file it again, if commissioners approve the request after the second public hearing.

In the event that commissioners approve the settlement but deny the special exception again, Elbrecht notes that “litigation would continue,” according to the memo.

The lawsuit claims discrimination based upon several federal and state statutes, and the First and Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The church is located on West Green Street near residential areas. During the November public hearing, several residents complained about the additional traffic and other impacts allowing the

special exception would have on their neighborhoods.

Commissioners voted 4-1 with Commissioner Charles Hines dissenting to deny the request saying they felt the location was not the proper place for a larger school.

Commissioners will meet Tuesday and Wednesday in commission chambers at the County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd Sarasota. The meetings will begin at 9 a.m. each day.

Access Sarasota TV will also televise the meetings, and agendas are available at www.scgov.net by clicking on Meetings and Agendas under the Services A-Z tab. For more information, residents can also call the county's Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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Father pickets for drivers to slow down

By **BRIANNA KWASNIK**
STAFF WRITER

A parent of a Peace River Elementary student has made it his mission to remind drivers to slow down around schools.

Chris Analetto, 48, stands at the corner of Hancock Avenue and Beaver Lane every day around 2:40 p.m. for at least a half hour with a sign.

School Zone 15 mph, it reads.

While picking up his fourth-grade son at school, he said he almost got run over a few times. His first concern was his and his son's safety, and it snow-balled from there.

Initially, he stood and yelled. Drivers weren't receptive to the message, because most didn't understand what he was yelling about. Their windows were up and their AC was on.

"I would get aggressive, I get passionate about it, and I don't really realize it," Analetto said.

He appeared to be yelling.

A few parents complained to the school resource officer inside the school, and she suggested he change his approach.

So he crafted a sign. He grabbed some crayons that were laying around the house and some scrap wood.

Still, the sign was hard to read.

After a local television station published a story about his mission, Jay Prassel of Venice saw it and offered to donate a better sign.

"The sign was awful," Prassel said of Analetto's



SUN PHOTO BY BRIANNA KWASNIK

Chris Analetto holds a speed limit sign near Peace River Elementary School to remind drivers to slow down in school zones. He has done so for four to five weeks now.

original sign. "Come on man, we need something bigger and better," he told him.

"I think what he's doing is right, as long as it's done in a non-confrontational way. I think any reasonable person has zero tolerance for some of this stuff," Prassel said.

Analetto said in the beginning he had no real goal in mind, except to slow down traffic. He's been holding his sign for four to five weeks now, but says he will be out there as long as he feels he is needed.

Monday afternoon temperatures were in the high 80's, but that didn't stop Analetto and two of his friends from slowing down drivers.

Jack Wilczewski doesn't have kids in the school, but saw on Facebook what Analetto was doing and wanted to help raise awareness.

"Kids are our future and they deserve some respect," he said. "Most of the people are good-natured, they're just

in a hurry and not paying attention [to the signs]."

He suggested another sign or speed bumps might help drivers, but acknowledges those things cost money.

Fermin Romero picks up his grandson, who is in first grade at Peace River.

He joined Analetto Monday afternoon to show his support for what he is doing.

"He was out here all by himself. He was telling other parents, but it's up to them whether or not they're going to participate," he said. "It's just irresponsible. I've purposely pulled out in front of people to get them to slow down."

Romero said part of the problem is people not paying attention. When school lets out, the flashing light goes on to remind people that the speed limit is 15 mph.

"The last thing you want is a child to get killed at the school your kid goes to," Romero said.

Email: Brianna.kwasnik@yoursun.com

Efforts underway to solve traffic issues at US 41, W. Retta Esplanade

Long lines of traffic blocked flow at busy Punta Gorda intersection

By **DANIEL SUTPHIN**
STAFF WRITER

Some relief is in sight for traffic issues at the intersection of southbound U.S. 41 and West Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda.

The Florida Department of Transportation has added "a big X" and signage at the intersection to help discourage drivers traveling south on U.S. 41 from blocking the intersection.

"FDOT was asked to look at this intersection due to long lines of traffic blocking the West Retta intersection," said Punta Gorda spokesperson Melissa Reichert.

FDOT assigned subcontractors to paint and add signage, according to Reichert. The signs were placed on both sides of U.S. 41 at Retta Esplanade.

"(With) the signs, it



SUN PHOTO BY DANIEL SUTPHIN

The intersection of southbound U.S. 41 and West Retta Esplanade. Efforts are being made by the Florida Department of Transportation to relieve traffic issues at the intersection.

should be clear that blocking the intersection is not allowed," Reichert said.

There has been talk in the Punta Gorda community about adding traffic lights to the intersection but no official information was available at the time of this report.

"The department is conducting a signal warrant analysis for the U.S. 41/Retta Esplanade intersections," said

JoAnn May, FDOT spokesperson.

"At this time, a signal has not been approved for either location (southbound and northbound U.S. 41 in Punta Gorda)," May said. "If a signal was approved, the timeline for installation would depend upon the funding source, and we have not completed any cost estimates for this."

Email: Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Volunteers sought

North Port Meals on Wheels seeks drivers for deliveries. The job requires about 90 minutes of commitment per week. It starts about 9:30 a.m. at 13624 Tamiami Trail. To volunteer or for more information, call 941-474-8802 or email northportmealsonwheels@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed

WKDW FM is seeking volunteers to assist with its "Writers on the Air" show that takes place from 2-4 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call Linda at 941-223-1262.

North Port Library are seeking volunteers to help run its bookstore inside the library. The bookstore helps raise funds for special reading programs at the library. Schedules are usually for about 2-3 hours per week. To apply, stop by the North Port Public Library bookstore.

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Shawn Carvey
FRIDAY 10:00A

Fire Chief
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City Hurricane Preparation & Response

Kathleen Weeden
FRIDAY 10:30A

Engineer
CITY OF VENICE
City Flood Mitigation & Storm Water Management

Phil R. Snyder
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PARROTHEAD CLUB'S NEW LOCATION



Parrothead club has moved their monthly meetings (phlockings) to the banquet room at Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar.
—See page 4B

WHAT'S IN YOUR EASTER BASKET?



There's more to Easter treats than chocolate bunnies.
—See page 5B

EGG HUNT AT EUMC



With thousands of plastic eggs filled with candy and some extra special prizes, the annual egg hunt attracted hundreds of children.
—See page 10B

OUR TOWN: SUNCOAST HOMES

Sunday, April 21, 2019

How Dad kept food on the table

Growing up, holiday dinners were always a big hit with my family. Somewhere near early adulthood, the joy of these celebrations became tempered with the realization that these "happy days" could not go on forever.

I did not fully appreciate the challenges my parents overcame to provide our family with a good life until I, too, faced the challenges of parenthood.

Sometimes my Dad had to step out of the box to keep food on the table.

On one occasion, I saw first-hand how he did this. This tribute to him, first published by The Sun in 2007, describes that day.



Columnist

Brett SLATTERY

off leaving everyone empty-handed. This went on for a while.

One morning, dad told mom he needed her to open the store for him. Once she left, dad herded us into the pickup truck, along with his shotgun. And off to work we went.

Within 20 minutes, we were rolling down a road I had never seen. To the left was a tall chain link fence. It was capped with shiny-new, barbed wire.

Up ahead, we saw an opened gate. But the opening was blocked by milling strikers. Dad slowed as he pulled the truck into their paths. He said "sit up."

Dad had everyone's undivided attention. He slowly raised his shotgun into plain view as he laid it across the dash. Dad had a brief, but very loud, exchange with the men. Both sides were yelling about their kids.

The men backed off as dad kept the truck rolling. Dad drove forward to the loading dock where another group of men were milling around.

Dad told us to "stay put" as he stepped out the truck. He told the men he was there to pick up his order. I think a major decision had already been made at that point. Dad told them he would load the truck himself, but he didn't have to. The strike ended a few days later.

My dad died at 82. He knew hunger, but his kids never did.

Brett Slattery is a Realtor and broker/owner of Brett Slattery Realty llc. Brett and his wife, Deb, specialize in residential home sales and listings. Reach him via 941-468-1430, Brett@BrettSlattery.com, or www.BrettSlattery.com.

My dad was a very hard worker. He was a product of the great depression. He often worked multiple jobs because he remembered when a man was lucky to hold any job. I remember the day he loaded my brother, sister, myself, and his 12 gauge shotgun into a pickup truck. Dad said that we were going to go to work with him. That was nearly 50 years ago. My mom still doesn't know what dad did that day. But it kept food on the table.

Going to work with my dad was nothing new. My sister and I tagged along since our very early years. He was a meter reader. It was exciting. We ran to keep up with him as he flew through front yards, side yards, back yards, an amusement park, trash-can alleys, and best of all, garages.

In 1958, dad did something risky. He quit his job. He went deep into debt to open a liquor store. Judging from the mood of the house, the business was off to a happy start. Then something happened.

The delivery drivers went on strike. Things became strained. The store shelves were collecting more dust. Dad's disgruntled customers drove

3696 Tonkin Drive, North Port



3696 Tonkin Drive, North Port, FL 34287
 County: Sarasota
 Year Built: 2005
 List Price: \$484,900
 LP/SqFt: \$203.83
 Garage/Carpport: Two Car Garage
 Beds: 3
 Baths: 2.5
 Sq Ft Heated: 2,379

Total Acreage: .34 Acres
 Pool: Yes
 Location: North Port
 Listing Agent/ Brokerage: Lois Kozak, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty, 941-468-2973



629 Sawgrass Bridge Road, Venice



629 Sawgrass Bridge Road, Venice, FL 34292
 County: Sarasota
 Year Built: 1999
 List Price: \$469,900.00
 LP/SqFt: \$186.10
 Garage/Carpport: 2 car attached
 Beds: 3

Baths: 2
 Sq Ft Heated: 2,525
 Total Acreage: .20
 Pool: yes
 Location: Sawgrass Community
 Listing Agent/ Brokerage: Marty Haines, Remax Alliance Group, 941-308-4627

12406 Corporal Circle, Port Charlotte



12406 Corporal Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33953
 County: Charlotte
 Year Built: 2010
 List Price: \$359,900
 LP/SqFt: \$244.50
 Garage/Carpport: None
 Beds: 3
 Baths: 2
 Sq Ft Heated: 1,472

Total Acreage: .23
 Pool: Yes
 Location: Water Front Port Charlotte
 Listing Agent/ Brokerage: Bruce Henry, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty, 941-628-3200

Six home renovations that return the most at resale

By **JENNIFER BRADLEY FRANKLIN**
 BANKRATE.COM

Renovations can make us happier in the places we call home, but some of the most dramatic updates can add real value when it's time to sell.

Since kitchen, deck and other upgrades can represent a significant cost, it's helpful to know what kind of return you might expect before you decide to write a check.

"Budget is the number one pain point for most remodeling professionals when they meet with potential clients," says

Clayton DeKorne, chief editor of the JLC Group, a collection of magazines serving building professionals. Since 2002, the organization's Remodeling, a magazine for the construction industry, has produced the annual Cost vs. Value report, which examines the cost of popular home renovations versus the return on investment (ROI) at resale.

The 2019 Cost vs. Value report compares the average cost of 22 remodeling projects with the value those projects retain at

RETURN

FROM PAGE 1B

resale in 136 U.S. markets, based on a survey of 3,000 real estate agents and firms. It's important to note, however, that costs can vary greatly by region based on the cost of labor and materials, as well as the level of service offered by individual remodelers.

In any project, there are the so-called hard costs of labor and materials, but the real value is a combination of personal enjoyment and additional value at the time of a home sale.

"There's no project on the list that returns lower than 50 percent," DeKorne explains. "On the lower end of the ROI spectrum are the bigger-ticket projects that have a whole lot of personal selection involved, such as choosing finishes in a bathroom remodeling project. They may or may not translate from one buyer to the next, but there is value in those personal finishes. A homeowner is going to get enjoyment in those things while they're living there."

Whether you plan to stay in your house for a long time or just a few years, it's smart to know which home renovations add the most value. Here are the six home remodeling projects that deliver the highest returns.

1. Garage door replacement

- Average cost: \$3,611
- Average resale value: \$3,520
- Cost recouped: 97.5 percent

A good-looking garage door tops the list when



TNS PHOTO

Renovations can make us happier in the places we call home, but some of the most dramatic updates can add real value when it's time to sell.

it comes to getting cash back on your investment when you decide to sell your house, according to the 2019 Cost vs. Value report. The estimate for this job is based on the cost of removing and disposing of an existing 16-by-7-foot garage door (or two-car garage door) and replacing it with a new four-section garage door with heavy-duty galvanized steel tracks, assuming the motorized garage door opener is compatible. This curb-appeal enhancer will get you back almost every dollar you spent on it when you sell your house.

2. Manufactured stone veneer

- Average cost: \$8,907
- Average resale value: \$8,449
- Cost recouped: 94.9 percent

Replacing vinyl siding with stone veneer on part of your home, such as an entryway, is a big curb-appeal upgrade for your home. For this project, existing vinyl siding is replaced with adhered manufactured stone veneer. This average cost estimate is based on installing 36 linear feet (LF) of sills, 40 LF of corners and one address block, with materials

including two layers of a water-resistant barrier, corrosion-resistant lath and fasteners and more. This cosmetic improvement and accent design element is likely to catch the eye of a potential buyer and can allow you to recoup nearly 95 percent of your renovation costs.

3. Minor kitchen remodel

- Average cost: \$22,507
- Average resale value: \$18,123
- Cost recouped: 80.5 percent

Creating a modern-looking and functional kitchen can add more than just value to your home: it can boost your enjoyment of everyday activities like cooking, entertaining friends and sharing meals with your family. However, potential buyers see the intrinsic value of this kind of upgrade. On average, you'll recoup a little more than 80 percent of the cost of a minor kitchen remodel. In a remodeling project of this kind, you might replace

appliances with new, more energy-efficient models, reface cabinets with new shaker-style wood panels, install new countertops, replace hardware, install a new sink and faucet, add new flooring and repaint.

4. Deck addition (wood)

- Average cost: \$13,333
- Average resale value: \$10,083
- Cost recouped: 75.6 percent

If you're lucky enough to own a house with a big yard, having a wooden deck can be an extra enhancement to enjoy the outdoors around your home. The average cost of adding a wooden deck from scratch (estimated based on a 16-by-20-foot deck, including a railing system with pressure-treated wood posts, railings and balusters) is approximately \$13,333. But the good news is that this feature, which also includes a built-in bench and planter, can hold more than 75 percent of its value come sale time.

5. Siding replacement

- Average cost: \$16,036
- Average resale value: \$12,119
- Cost recouped: 75.6 percent

Old, dilapidated siding can make even the nicest house look worn-out. For the average home, replacing 1,250 square feet of old siding will cost you just over \$16,000 and you'll get back roughly three-quarters of that investment upon resale. This upgrade includes the factory trim at the openings and corners.

6. Entry door replacement (steel)

- Average cost: \$1,826
- Average resale value: \$1,368
- Cost recouped: 74.9 percent

You will recoup nearly 75 percent of your cost by replacing your main entry door with a 20-gauge steel door, complete with clear dual-pane half-glass panel, jambs and an aluminum threshold with composite stop. These doors come factory finished with the same color on the front and back sides.

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FloridaPublicNotices.com

Contact your local representative and tell them how you feel.

State Rep. Mike Grant
(R-Port Charlotte)

E-mail assistant Jim Browne
Jim.Browne@myfloridahouse.gov
District Office: (941) 613-0914
Tallahassee Office: (850) 717-5075

State Sen. Joe Gruters
(R-Sarasota)

E-mail: joegruters@gmail.com
E-mail assistant Vickie Brill
vbrill12@gmail.com
District Office: 941-378-6309
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Charlotte Harbor Parrothead Club 'phlocks' to new location

Provided by BEVERLY IREDALE

The Charlotte Harbor Parrothead club has moved their monthly meetings (phlockings) to the banquet room at Hurricane Charley's Raw Bar in downtown Punta Gorda.

The club members gather on the second Tuesday of every month for live music and their monthly dose of Parrothead "party-ing with a purpose." Members are asked to bring items to be donated to the month's chosen charity (local Charlotte County registered charitable organizations) and there is a 50/50 raffle every month that splits the proceeds between the winning member and the month's chosen charity. Meetings are from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and

guests pay only \$5. Each month new members are initiated.

The April meeting started with an Adult Easter Egg Hunt and then members settled in to listen to live music by "Bruce and Tiki D." The charity was "Peace River Wildlife Center" and in addition to items donated they received over \$200 from the 50/50 raffle and proceeds from the Easter Egg Hunt.

If you enjoy making new friends, live entertainment and would like to make a difference in your community, club members want you to join and learn how to "Party with a Purpose!"

Charlotte Harbor Parrothead Club is a 501(c)3 organization. For more information visit: www.chphc.com.



Vickie Harris, club charity director.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

From left to right: Gail Phillips, Club VP Laurie Patch and Roseanne Kruse having fun after the "Adult Easter Egg Hunt."



Live music was provided by "Bruce and Tiki D."



Pat Doyle and Charlene Butler enjoying a night "party-ing with a purpose."



Ken Reinhardt, Club Membership Director with new member Randy.

Need that hard-to-find item? Find it in the Classifieds.

Advertisement

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BUSINESS Journal

Count on the Best Service at Dr. D's Auto Repair



Dr. D's Auto Repair, 23415 Janice Avenue in the Whidden Industrial Park in Charlotte Harbor

Call **Dr. D's Auto Repair** for all your auto repairs. Owner, Mike True, and his staff are all ASE certified and they offer the finest full service repair in this area. Dr. D's repairs all types of vehicles including motor homes and four wheelers. At Dr. D's you can count on the best service,

diagnostics, repairs, replacement parts, etc. Only superior quality replacement parts are used and rates are very reasonable. With the computerized engine analysis, you can be assured that the service required on your vehicle is necessary. True is well known as an excellent

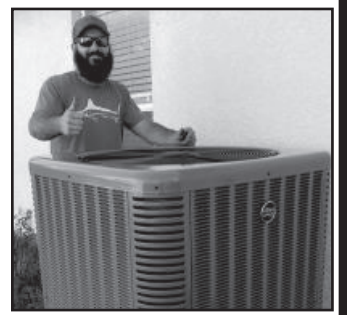
auto mechanic and the business enjoys an excellent reputation. Dr. D's is located at 23415 Janice Avenue in the Whidden Industrial Park in Charlotte Harbor and the phone number is **941-743-3677**. For the best service at a reasonable price, call or stop by Dr. D's Auto Repair.

For Reliable Service – Count on A-C Services Inc.

Since 2007 **A-C Services Inc.** has built a solid reputation as Port Charlotte's most reliable service team. A complete HVAC company specializing in a/c replacements and service they have completed hundreds of installs throughout Charlotte, Sarasota and Desoto counties. Owner/operator and 30 year Charlotte County resident John Damon claims "If your house is becoming humid – you should

be coming to us". They offer quality RUUD products and feature "variable" speed air handlers that remove more water than conventional systems, allowing your home to feel dry and more comfortable. If you need to replace an a/c system, a service call, or routine maintenance, A-C Services has you covered. Partnered with RUUD, all their systems come with a 10 year manufacturer warranty

and 2 years of service after the sale. You can always put your trust in **A-C Services Inc.** the unmatched service, competitive prices, and overall value are why their loyal customers won't go anywhere else. You can visit them at www.a-cservices.com or at www.facebook.com/acservicesinc. To schedule an appointment, call or text them at **941-380-0973** - anytime.



A-C Services Inc. Port Charlotte call 941-380-0973

Westchester Gold & Diamonds, Serving Charlotte County Over 37 Years



Westchester Gold & Diamonds, 4200-F Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

Westchester Gold & Diamonds has served Port Charlotte and the surrounding area for 41 years. Their store in Baer's Plaza at 4200 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952 carries an eclectic blend of new and old. Shop not only unique custom and new pieces, but pre-loved and estate jewelry as well. Special coins, David Yurman pieces, and art deco

jewelry are just a few of the items in stock. If you are on the search for timepieces, you can find them there, from vintage wristwatches to Rolexes. They also have the stock and knowledge to service Rolex watches. There are even designer pieces for a low price. Westchester Gold sells predominantly jewelry but antiques also line the shelves

and decorate corners. To browse jewelry online, visit Westchester Gold and Diamonds' website: <http://westchestergold.com/>. Whether you're in the market for a unique adornment or an interesting antique, Westchester Gold and Diamond might be the place for you!

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coverings for home or office, Absolute Blinds is there to assist you with free estimates. The store is at 2842 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. Past and present customers can like Absolute Blinds' Facebook page. For more information, visit www.absoluteblinds.com or call **941-627-5444**.



Absolute Blinds 2842 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte call 941-627-5444

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WINNERS CIRCLE

American Legion Post 103

• Sunday Darts winners April 14: Game 1: 1-Margaret Baldwin, Tommie Holl; 2-Kathy Meadows, Sue Watson; 3- Nancy Heder and Dave Heder. Game 2: 1-Kim Smith, George Stern, Jr.; 2-Margaret Baldwin, Tommie Holl; 3-Marion Goodman, John Branscome.

American Legion Post 110

• Bridge winners April 15: Bucky Jacques, 4650; Lucia Kelly, 4610; Linda Kopp, 4470; Ann Beers, 3920.

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

• Ladies Bridge winners April 16: 1-Kaye MacDonald; 2-Janie Ressel; 3-Irene Runkle.

Charlotte Square Condominium Complex

• Charlotte County Bridge Group winners April 13: Alfie Yanchic, 3470; Virginia Clayton, 3450; Trudy Riley, 3420; Roger Stone, 2530.

Cultural Center of Charlotte County

• Duplicate Bridge winners April 11 (a.m.): 1-Peter Harrington, Bob Bonjean; 2-Ronald and Sheryl Marker; 3-Linda Jones, Alice Williams. April 11 (p.m.): (N/S) 1-Diana and Warren Prince; 2-Chris Sullivan, Barbara Witt; 3-Denis Leduc, Peggy Villela. (E/W) 1- Bill Vigneault, Pam Dean 2-Pat Betts, Randy Wentworth; 3-Sandy Burkart, Bonnie Taylor Gillings. April 16: (N/S) 1- Helen Sullivan, Anny Poveromo;

2-Dave and Donna Vaughn; 3- Bonnie Elliott, Sue Zlotocha. (E/W) 1-Pat Betts, Fred Andreas; 2-Marilyn Grant, Randy Wentworth; 3-Karen Stamm, Bud Cole. • Mah Jongg winners April 11:

Table 1: Linda Kopp, Toni Trezise; Table 2: Carole Drake, Barb Polisar; Table 3: Dorothy Quirk, Cathy Ferguson; Table 4: Marie Devlin. April 16: Table 1: Linda Kopp, Bea Oram; Table 2: Gina Adamo, Carole Drake; Table 3: Connie Opritza, Sue Keefer; Table 4: Elaine Sarkisian, Doris Marlin; Table 5: Natalie Wiley, Table 6: Ruth Watkins, Table 7: Marie Devlin; Table 8: Emily Hughes, Judy Sprague.

Englewood Elks

• Trivia Game winners April 17: 1-Phillies; 2-Sexy Seniors. Fisherman's Village Yacht Basin Mahjongg winners April 16: 1-Fran Kelly, 180; 2-Leslie Ryan, 17; 3-Martha Huntszicker, 125; 4-Peggy Thompson, 105. April 18: 1-Teresa Coady, 210; 2-Martha Huntszicker, 150; 3-Peggy Healy, 135; 4-Leslie Ryan and Fran Kelly, 100.

Kings Gate

• Friday Night Double Deck Pinochle winners April 12: Dick Lajoie, 1134; Gary Sblendorio, 1094. • Wednesday Night Double Deck Pinochle winners April 17: Gary Sblendorio, 1241; Dice Lajoie, 1240. • Bridge winners April 15: 1-Dee Weisenberg, 4070; 2-Jerry Shoemaker, 3510; 3-Helen Witzke; 3240; 4-Virginia Clayton, 3180.

Kingsway

• Ladies Bridge winners: April 3: 1-Carol Fisher; 2-Dee Nutt. April 12: 1-Linda Bellmore, 2-Marilyn Gilbert. April 17: 1-Linda Bellmore, 2-Carol Fisher.

• Partner Bridge winners April 17: 1-Ron and Dee Nutt; 2-Linda Bellmore and Liz Brown.

Moose Lodge 2121

• Contract Bridge winners April 17: Barbara Allore, 6990; Luis Miceli, 5270; Trudy Rikey, 4960; Connie Oberlander, 4870. • Euchre Card Game winners April 11: Fred Walls, 76; Joe Comeau, 71; Chris Iwonski, 71; Diane Walls, 70; Janet Knechtel, 70. April 18: Harry Godfrey, 80; Patrick Giordano, 75; Linda Loudther, 69; Mike Emerine, 69; Joy Saddler, 67; Barb Carie, 67; Ted Miedlar, 65.

Port Charlotte Bridge Club

• Bridge Club winners April 12: 1-Jerry Shoemaker, 5210; 2-Jim Ellsworth, 4960; 3-Pinky Harmon, 4310; 4-David Beard, 3970.

PGICA

• Monday Night Duplicate Bridge winners April 15: 1-Sharon Biernat, Marcia Ling; 2-Debbie Meyer, Penny Stiffler; 3-Christine Kwak, Jane Stenberg.

Riverwood Trivia

• Trivia winners April 12: 1-Corner Wackers; 2-Blue Penguins.

Twin Isles Country Club

• Duplicate Bridge winners April 17: 1-Katie Costello and Barbara Clay; 2-Nancy Scheer and Marilyn Holder. April 18: 1-Mary Lou Miller, Pam Lawler; 2-Nancy Scheer, Ginny Bowden; 3-Dagmar Shepperd, Marilyn Holder.

CHARLOTTE EVENTS

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Featured Event

Secular Community of SWFL Meeting Sunday, April 28, 2019, a presentation and discussion of the history, philosophy, and moral codes of secular humanism will be facilitated by member Joseph Fenty. This will take place from 3 to 5 pm at the Punta Gorda Boat Club, located at 802 W Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda.

■ TODAY

Farmers Market History Park Farmers Market open every Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 501 Shreve St., between Virginia Ave. & Henry St.

941-639-1887
Eagles Eagles 2311 Harborview Road PC 941-629-1645 Funday with Linda
Easter Sunday We are closed so volunteer families can

enjoy Easter with their Family Punta Gorda Elks 12 p.m. Bar/Tiki open, 2-5:30 Easter Dinner (Reserv. Only), 2-5 Music/Cap'n Rick at the Tiki @25538ShorePG637-2606, mbrs&gsts

ENGLEWOOD EVENTS

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

■ TODAY

Sunday buffet Am Legion 113 3436 Indiana Road Rotonda 697-3616 Closed All Day for Easter Re-open Mon. morning 10 a.m.

Easter Sunday Rotonda Elks Lodge is closed today as volunteers and employees enjoy Easter Sunday with loved ones.
Bar Games Rotonda VFW Post 10476 Sunday Bar Games 2:00-4:00PM Come early and join

the fun 3725 Cape Haze Drive. Rotonda 697-1123
EASTER BUFFET EASTER HAM BUFFET \$10:00 – \$12:00 at door VFW Auxilliary 550 N. McCall Road. Englewood. 941-474-7516

NORTH PORT EVENTS

■ TODAY

AMVETS 2000 Special No Breakfast today, will resume next Sunday, Easter Sunday Dinner 2-4 p.m. 401 Ortiz Blvd NP 941-429-1999

North Port Moose Happy Easter! Brunch from 11-2! 14156 Tamiami Trl NP 9414262126 Legionnaire discount day

North Port VFW Members & Guests, Sunday Funday, \$0.25 off drafts, domestic bottles & well drinks, 4860 Trott Cir, NP 426-6865
AMVETS 2000 Dinner Easter Dinner 2-4 p.m. Ham & all the fixings for a donation of \$8 401 Ortiz Blvd NP 941-429-1999
AMVETS 312 David X sings his songs beginning at 5 p.m. 7050 Chancellor Blvd NP (941) 429-5403.

■ MONDAY

Basic Exercise \$3/class 9-10 AM NP Senior Center 4940 Pan American Blvd 426-2204 Join Brenda for a good workout and feel better.
Mahjong 9 AM-12:30 PM NP Senior Center 4940 Pan American Blvd 426-2204 Learn something new. Will teach Looking for more people

WEEKLY RECORDS

Charlotte County marriage licenses

• Juan Ramos of Beaver Falls, Pa., and Mary Elizabeth Rinker of Beaver Falls, Pa.
• Clyde Ronald Janvrin of Newburyport, Mass., and Debra Susan Liner of Newburyport, Mass.
• Jeremy A. Carruthers of Wakeman, Ohio, and Stephanie L. Carruthers of Wakeman, Ohio
• Brandon Michael Tesch of Rotonda West, and Caitlin Rebecca Stevens of Rotonda West
• Kathryn Marianne Shultz of Punta Gorda, and Clinton Wayne Emery of Punta Gorda
• Eric John Gerry of Punta Gorda, and Lynanne Marie Mailloux of Punta Gorda
• Josiah Dionisio Aponte of North Port, and Axenia Sacali of North Port
• Giuseppe Michael La Rocca of Englewood, and Cassandra Marie Nemes of Englewood
• Eric Emil Roessler of Port Charlotte, and Kara Marie Culbertson of Port Charlotte
• Thomas John Walsh of Cape Coral, and Christine Joan Casano of Punta Gorda
• Krystian Andrzejczyk of North Port, and Aleksandra Witkowska of North Port
• Anthony Dominic Genik of Port Charlotte, and Kaitlynn Jessica Estrada of Port Charlotte
• Beth Marie Chaisson of Port Charlotte, and Kevin Andrew Gibson of Port Charlotte
• Imre Árpád Beke of Port Charlotte, and Julianne Mercedes Kaiser of Port Charlotte
• Edwin Orlando Bedward of Fort Myers Beach, and Tamra Lynn Ricketts of Fort Myers Beach
• Oleg Timofeevich Dolbun of North Port, and Anna Vitalievna Ostrikov of North Port
• Scot Fredric Ewing of Englewood, and Sheary Irene Berntsen of Belleview, Fla.
• Keith Wayne Znamenak of Port Charlotte, and Irish Jane Manderico Aviles of Port Charlotte
• Kevin Wayne Gourley of Englewood, and Amanda Tiffany Hamer of Englewood
• Jenna Marie Angelini of North Port, and Tommy Lee Rose of North Port
• Christopher Richard Pretzer of Punta Gorda, and April Lynne Pretzer of Punta Gorda
• Brandy Fae Danahy of Port Charlotte, and Adam James Mangett of Port Charlotte
• Edward Algird Povilaitis of Rotonda West, and Diana Lynn Carlson of Englewood
• Thomas Haley Ziegler of Englewood, and Donna Jean Ziegler of Englewood
• Paul Madus of Port Charlotte, and Megan Jeanne Deiana of Port Charlotte

• Lance Davis Holden of Port Charlotte, and Rachel Elizabeth Bass of Port Charlotte
• Wayne Francis Macneil of Venice, and Cheryl Ann Gentle of Venice
• Frederick Joseph Remmers of Punta Gorda, and Joan Reta Trudo of Punta Gorda
• Joseph Howard Tanksley of Punta Gorda, and Stacie Michelle Henderson of Punta Gorda
• Cara Lynn Minucci of Punta Gorda, and Chad Erin Meissner of Punta Gorda
• Raymon S. Sherman of Port Charlotte, and Mary E. Wilkins of Port Charlotte
• David Tyler Hartley of Punta Gorda, and Kaitlyn Ashley Drag of Punta Gorda
• Tamara Leigh Connors of Port Charlotte, and John Russell Standley of Port Charlotte
• Taylor Ann Victoria Marchany of North Port, and Michael Chase Bladorn of North Port
• Gavin Ray Sexton of Punta Gorda, and Elizabeth Catarina Furman of Punta Gorda

Charlotte County divorces

• Carroll Redick Anderson v. Kristin Marie Anderson
• Billie Jo Baxter v. Michael A. Baxter

• Edward Gary Coady v. Theresa Mariani Coady
• Jennifer Kennedy Currie v. James Alan Currie
• Todd R. Franz v. Lynda J. Franz
• Brian Hickman v. Mary Elizabeth Hickman
• Brandy Hunt v. Jerry Hunt
• Richard Kelley v. Susan Kelley
• Nancy L. Key v. Ricky L. Key
• Victoria Marie Legrand v. Donald MacCauley
• Tanya Martinez v. Ramon M. Martinez
• John McCaffrey v. Arlene McCaffrey
• Carmen A. Oliveras v. Elsa E. Oliveras
• Theresa Ann Rodriguez v. Juan Anthony Rodriguez
• Diane Schweizer v. John Schweizer
• Kristen Nicole Shaw v. Gregory Shaw
• Teresa A. Sikorski v. Robert T. Sikorski
• Vanessye Lee Smith v. Victor Jerome Smith
• Wanda I. Solis v. Scott D. Moore
• Robert R. Sylvester v. Deborah Ann Bussin
• Kathleen Trp v. John J. Hilow
• Teresa Tucker v. Lloyd Tucker
• Aidenith Vega v. Luis Angel Vega, Jr.
• Michelle G. Vegas v. Joshua P. Vegas

BIRTHDAY

CONTACT US

Each week in Sunday's Sun, we run free birthday announcements, along with a photo. Email your jpg photo of the birthday boy or girl of any age, along with the person's name, age, and birthday month and date, to Sherri Dennis at sdennis@sun-herald.com. For more information, call Sherri at 941-206-1010.



Happy 1st birthday to Julien Lebeau on his special day April 18.

PUBLIC NOTICE RE-CERTIFICATION OF 2018 TAX ROLL

THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER
RE-CERTIFIED THE 2018
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
REAL PROPERTY TAX ROLL
AND THE 2018 CHARLOTTE
COUNTY TANGIBLE
PERSONAL PROPERTY
TAX ROLL TO THE TAX
COLLECTOR ON APRIL 15,
2019, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 193.122(2), FLORIDA
STATUTES.

PAUL L. POLK, CFA, AAS
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. or shortly thereafter, Ordinance No. 2019-13 will be read for first reading in the **City Chambers located at 4970 City Hall Boulevard, North Port, Florida.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-13

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, CHAPTER 4 – BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, ARTICLE XI – NORTH PORT YOUTH COUNCIL, SECTION 4-202 – MEMBERSHIP, TO ALLOW FOR A RESIDENT MEMBER WHO ATTENDS SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

These meetings will be held in the North Port City Chambers, North Port Florida in public session on the date, time and location specified to consider the following Ordinance and proposed passage thereof:

The proposed Ordinance may be inspected by the public at the Municipal Building during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. All interested parties may attend the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance.

No stenographic record by a certified court reporter is made of these meetings. Accordingly, anyone seeking to appeal any decisions involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these meetings upon which any appeal is to be based.

Kathryn Wong
City Clerk

An egg-cellent Easter

Saturday's 55th annual Easter Egg Hunt made everybunny really hoppy

By LIZ HARDAWAY
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of troops lined up behind the painted white line.

Donned in bunny ears, tennis shoes and pink bows while gripping their baskets, they were waiting for the Easter bunny to give them the go-ahead. They were antsy. They could see the eggs, but it was what was inside the eggs that they wanted. The eggs, brightly colored in the trimmed field, were filled with mini-Tootsie Rolls, Jolly Ranchers and maybe even a golden ticket that would promise more prizes later.

Saturday was the 55th annual Easter Egg Hunt at the North Charlotte Regional Park, which was put on by Charlotte County Community Services. And regardless of the bounce houses, whimsical decorations and groups doing the chicken dance, only one thing mattered in this field. It was the war for the eggs.

"It's every man for himself," said Jessica Bigord, who came to the event with her sister, niece and nephew.

The bunny gave the go-ahead, and a mob of children, ages 4 to 6 in this egg hunt, charged for the hundreds of eggs sprinkled on the other side of the field. They anxiously grabbed for as many eggs as possible, many popping in half, and dumped them into their buckets. Plastic eggs flew, some candy was lost. Parents shouted, pointing to eggs like a football coach.

"It's absolute chaos," said Narissa Seepaulsing, the organizer for the event and a recreation specialist for Charlotte County Parks



Xavier Bigord (left) and his younger sister Mia Bigord (right) are experiencing the egg hunt that their mother did 20 years prior.



Some kids were hoping to find a golden ticket in their egg, which would give them an extra special prize, like Bluetooth headphones or a Play-Doh set.



After gathering their eggs, kids would take out the candy to see how much they got.



SUN PHOTO BY LIZ HARDAWAY

Alexander Garcia, 18 months, dumped all his eggs out of his basket.

and Recreation.

And among the chaos was 4-year-old Xavier Bigord, dropping a flurry of eggs into his Batman bucket.

"We learned to get a bigger bucket," said his mom, Samantha Bigord, who's been taking her family to the event for the past three years. But the event has been in her life a lot longer.

Samantha and sister Jessica came to the event as kids themselves, and were brought by

their father.

Back then, "they kept the grass higher," Jessica said, "so you actually hunted."

The grass is a lot shorter now, but Samantha doesn't mind because Xavier is allergic.

Before they went hunting, the family wasn't among the crowd. They were still behind the line, but less than 10 feet away from the eggs on the left side of the field instead at the complete opposite end of the eggs.

"He doesn't like crowds," Samantha said about Xavier, who has autism and Jacob's Syndrome. "I don't want him to get overstimulated."

Management at the event were "super accommodating," Samantha said.

Charlotte County Community Services organized the hunt, which involves 30,000 plastic eggs — the cost of which isn't quite offset by the event's more than 35 vendors and sponsors, Seepaulsing said. However, she added, it does bring the community together. Around 1,400 people were in attendance at 11 a.m.

Saturday.

The egg hunt is one of the largest events the county puts on, and it was free to the public.

Once Xavier and his little sister Mia grabbed all their eggs, they spread roughly 50 of them on the ground, seeing what candy they got.

One-year-old Mia would put Xavier's chocolate in her bucket, as Xavier is allergic to that as well, and Xavier would take all the fruity candies.

This was the family's unofficial Easter celebration, as Samantha has to work today.

"It's nice to pass on that tradition," Samantha said.

Jessica agreed, hoping to take her baby, who's due in three weeks, to next year's event. "It makes me feel like a kid again."

Email: Liz.Hardaway@yoursun.com

DEATHS

FROM PAGE 6B

ENGLEWOOD

Wiley Newell Garner

Wiley Newell Garner lived in Englewood for 20 years and died on April 6, 2019,



in Sylvania, Ohio. He was 92 years old. Born in Strasburg, Virginia, on February 2, 1927,

Mr. Garner attended schools in Virginia with his younger brother Marshall. His mother, Sarah Gertrude Garner, served as a teacher and his father, George Wiley Garner, served as a high school principal and sports coach.

After graduation, Mr. Garner worked in a shipyard at Newport News, Virginia. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces and became an aerial photographer. He was stationed at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Lowry Field in Denver, Colorado, for the remainder of World War II. While stationed in Denver, Mr. Garner met Lorraine Juanita May Flanders. They married in 1946 and had three children — David, Judy, and John.

After Mr. Garner was honorably discharged, he became a professional photographer in Washington, D.C., and later worked in sales for Smith Corona. He obtained an associate degree in business administration from the University of Denver. From the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, he held branch manager positions for Smith Corona in Omaha, Nebraska, and Cleveland, Ohio. After leaving Smith Corona, he founded WyGar Associates in Chesterland, Ohio, in 1971. His business served as a manufacturer's representative for product lines of several office equipment companies and covered a five-state area.

After spending several winters in Englewood, he moved there in 1997. While there, he became a member of the local Elks Lodge, became active in local senior groups, was an avid golfer, and competed in local pool tournaments. A long-time Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians fan, he also followed the Tampa Bay Rays and Tampa Bay Buccaneers while living in Englewood. In 2017, he left Englewood and moved to Sylvania, Ohio, to be near family. In recognition of his artistic skill, an exhibition of his photography was held on May 5, 2018, at a local art gallery. Mr. Garner is survived by his brother and his children.

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Pines hosts Easter egg hunt

Family, friends join residents of assisted living facility for Easter tradition

The North Port Pines hosted an Easter egg hunt for their residents on Friday. Due to severe weather conditions, the event took place inside the facilities.



SUN PHOTOS BY MONICA AMAYA

Sharon Addayson collects Easter eggs during a hunt held at North Port Pines on Friday.



North Port Pines resident Theresa Miller had extra help finding the eggs, from Colton VanDerspoil, 6.



Bertha Laviola finds Easter eggs everywhere at North Port Pines on Friday.



Marge Grundy finds some not-so-hidden treats during an Easter Egg hunt at North Port Pines held on Friday.

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Children hunted for more than 10,000 eggs at Englewood United Methodist Church

With thousands of plastic eggs filled with candy and some extra special prizes, the annual hunt Saturday at Englewood United Methodist Church attracted hundreds of children. An army of church volunteers helped children make crafts, get their faces painted, play games and served lots of sno cones. The church gave out hundreds of baskets to children.



Little Berkley Dignam reaches for an egg at the hunt Saturday at Englewood United Methodist Church.



Anna Doyle, 1, takes an egg from a homemade bunny basket.



Vineland Elementary School student Havanna Wack, 9, hunts for eggs.



Englewood Elementary School student Korah Kastor, 6, was one of hundreds of children who had their face painted at the egg hunt celebration at the church.



Jade Engelke, 4, investigates the prize inside her newfound egg.



Peyton Syme, 9, a Vineland Elementary School student, shows off her finds at the egg hunt.

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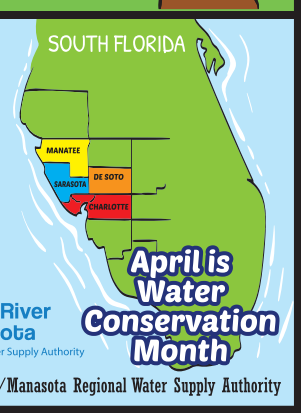
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Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt



Event accommodated children with special needs and their families

The Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs was held on April 6 at Bayshore Live Oak Park, in Punta Gorda.

The Charlotte County Community Services presented the event featuring vendors, face painting, arts and crafts, a magic show, Smokey the Bear and the Easter Bunny.

For information on upcoming events, including the 55th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20, visit www.charlottecountyfl.gov.



Mitchie the Clown, shows 5-year-old Mikenna a balloon rabbit, at the Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs.



Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt event founder Mike Norton spreads Easter eggs ahead of the hunt.

FEELING FIT PHOTOS BY JERRY BEARD



Mitchie the Clown, performs a magic act at the Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt.



Volunteer Carrie O'Brian paints a tattoo on the arm of 12-year-old Mylo Frattarelli, as Mylo's grandfather and father look on. From left: Carrie O'Brian, Richard Fratterelli, Mylo Fratterelli and Ed Fratterelli.

Dye Easter eggs with all-natural ingredients

There are plenty of all-natural foods like fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices that can get the job done

PROVIDED BY MCC

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition passed down from generation to generation. Easter eggs symbolize rebirth, which fits in well with both religious and seasonal celebrations.

While there are many kits on the market that enable people to easily color eggs, there also are plenty of all-natural

foods like fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices that can get the job done just as effectively. For those who plan to eat the eggs afterward, natural dyes may be preferable to dyes from kits.

Below are a few tried and true methods for producing brilliantly hued eggs with items from the kitchen, courtesy of The Spruce and

Martha Stewart.

Beautiful blues

Give chicken eggs a beautiful robin egg shade with red cabbage. Simply shred one cup of red cabbage into a pot. Bring the cabbage and roughly 4 cups water and 1 tablespoon salt to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Let the broth cool. Strain out the cabbage and stir

in 2 tablespoons of distilled white vinegar. Let the eggs sit in the dye for the desired duration to achieve light to dark blue eggs.

Perky pinks

Use beets to create pink and red eggs. Take 1 or 2 beets and roughly chop them. Combine with 4 cups water and 1 tablespoon of salt in a saucepan. Bring it to

a boil, then reduce and simmer for 30 minutes. Strain the mixture and allow to cool. Add 2 tablespoons of vinegar. Use the solution for red and pink eggs.

Happy yellows

Cast a sunny glow on eggs with a common household spice and some tasty carrots. Turmeric is touted for its anti-inflammatory

benefits, but it also makes a great dye. Bring 1 tablespoon of turmeric, 3 to 4 sliced carrots, 1 tablespoon salt, and 4 cups of water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Let cool, strain and stir in 2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar. Use the dye for a lovely yellow shade.

Turn to all natural items for safe and easily dyed Easter eggs.



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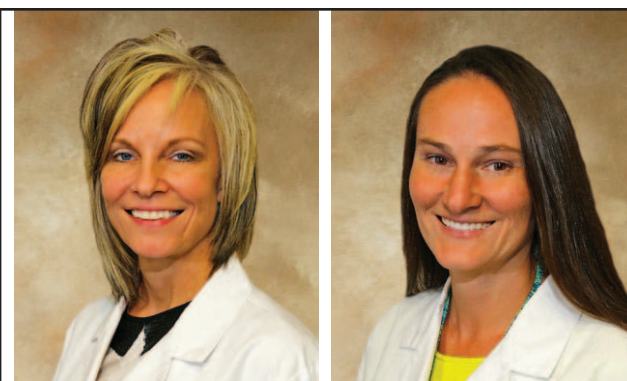
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Florida measles threat grows as more young children go unvaccinated

By NASEEM S. MILLER and CINDY KRISCHER GOODMAN

ORLANDO SENTINEL AND SUN SENTINEL

As measles outbreaks are popping up across the country and the number of unvaccinated children in Florida is climbing, state health officials and parents worry that one of the most infectious diseases that was practically eliminated in the United States two decades ago could have a resurgence.

"I respect the right of parents to choose what they want for their child, but I do not want their choice to affect my kid," said Susie Gilden, a Davie mother of a second-grader and a preschooler. "It is not fair that my children's health should be endangered."

In Central Florida, more than 2,400 kindergartners in public and private schools weren't vaccinated because of a religious or medical exemption during the 2017-2018 school year. That's about 7.5 percent of the student population.

For longtime pediatricians who had seen the number of measles cases dwindle over the years, the upward trend is alarming.

"Measles is like that shark that's always looking for the hole in the net," said Dr. Kenneth Alexander, chief of the division of infectious diseases at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando. "It's one of the most infectious diseases there is."

Throughout Florida, about 11,500 children — almost 6 percent of the state's 200,000 students — started public school in kindergarten this school year with some form of exemption from required vaccinations. The numbers for private schools are even higher.

The increase in exemptions comes as 465 measles cases have been confirmed this year in 19 states, including Florida. Last week, New York City declared a public health emergency in four Brooklyn ZIP codes after seeing more than 285 cases of measles since October.

More concerning, in the first week of April, 78 new cases of measles were reported in the United States, more than in any other week this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Florida, children must

MEASLES

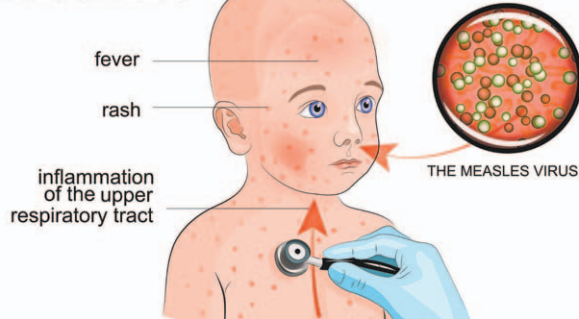


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

be vaccinated to attend public or private schools, but there are exemptions that excuse them. Parents can get a doctor to say vaccines present a medical problem or they can opt out of vaccines on religious grounds. Religious exemptions require only a parent's signature on a county health department form.

Each year more Florida parents are using religious exemptions to send their children to school without some or all vaccines, according to data from the state health department. Students in public elementary schools with religious exemptions rose by about 35 percent over the last five years.

When accounting for all children up to 18 years old, including those in private schools and preschools, between 2013 and 2018, the total religious exemptions in Florida climbed each year from about 12,200 students to nearly 25,000 — an increase of about 105 percent over that span of time, according to data provided by the Florida Department of Health.

The biggest jump happened in the 2018 school year when the state granted an additional 5,300 religious exemptions, almost 25 percent more than it had in 2017.

"So something is going on here with these exemptions," said Dr. Karen Liller, professor at University of South Florida's College of Public Health. "Of course, we have the whole anti-vaccination movement that is strong. And that has been part of this issue. But we know in public health that vaccinations are safe. And vaccinations are needed."

Measles, which is one of the most infectious viruses known to man, can spread through the air, or by contact with a surface up to two hours later. Worse, people

can be contagious days before symptoms develop.

While medical practitioners encourage parents to vaccinate their children with two doses of the MMR vaccine, a growing and vocal group of people — empowered by social media — oppose vaccinations, convinced the measles vaccine has or could harm their children's development or lead to autism.

Numerous scientific and medical studies have shown no link between vaccines — or any of their ingredients — and autism.

Christina Sullivan of Tampa said her oldest child, now 10, had a vaccine reaction as a baby that included high fever and a decline in developmental progression. She has obtained a medical exemption for him and his younger brother.

"I think there's a scare factor around the disease. If a child has gotten vaccines and if it's as effective as parents say, their kids should be protected."

Nationally, the overall number of vaccine exemptions is increasing, too. During the 2017-18 school year, 2.2 percent of kindergartners across the country were exempted from vaccination,

"Although the overall percentage of children with an exemption was low, this was the third consecutive school year that a slight increase was observed," according to a 2018 report from the CDC.

Amid measles outbreaks across the country, lawmakers in states such as New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Maine, Iowa, Oregon and Washington are considering ending the practice of exempting students from vaccines for religious beliefs.

"The worry is that anti-vaccination is going to get stronger and stronger and we're going to see the vaccination rates go down. And that's the concern,"



TNS PHOTO

Dr. Michelle Tellado, a pediatrician at Nemours Children's Primary Care in downtown Orlando, conducts a check-up on 15-month-old Olivia Coffelitto the week after she was given vaccinations.

Liller said. "The state of Florida has a lot of visitors. We have people out and about and if we don't have herd immunity, if we lose that immunity, that virus is going to spread."

Florida's goal is to have 95 percent of the kids immunized by the time they enter kindergarten, according to the Florida Department of Health. But not even half of its counties have achieved that goal.

Measles can be stopped from spreading when a high percentage of the population is vaccinated against it. It's called herd immunity. When the immunization rates drop below 91 percent to 95 percent, the odds increase for a measles outbreak.

Orange County, with a 91 percent immunization rate among kindergartners, ranked next to last among the state's 67 counties during the 2017-2018 school year. Broward County ranked slightly better with an almost 94 percent immunization rate. Both lag well behind Franklin County in the Panhandle, which ranked first at 99.2 percent immunization rate.

Meanwhile, there are neighborhoods within each county where the rate of religious exemptions — the number of unvaccinated children — is higher than average, making it easier for a virus like measles to spread.

"If you look at the exemption rates nationally, or at the state level, it's quite low, but they tend to cluster geographically and they tend to cluster socially," said Dr. Daniel Salmon, professor and director of the Institute for Vaccine Safety at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

"So if you have a child in that school or in that community, it doesn't really matter what the national rate is even at the state level. The question is, what is the likelihood of your child coming into contact with an unvaccinated child?" Salmon said.

Any likelihood concerns Province Zamek, a Miami mother of two teenage daughters.

"It bothers me for two reasons. First, measles is so contagious and second, because I feel like if you do your homework, you will end up vaccinating. Getting vaccinated is less dangerous than not, and you're putting other people's kids at risk."

Florida parents are able to learn the number of unvaccinated children in a specific school — public and private — but not in an individual classroom.

An interactive map, compiled by the state health department and based on county subdivisions, further highlights where clusters of families in Florida with religious exemption live. While the overall rate of schoolchildren in Florida with religious exemptions averages 3 percent, in certain pockets of each county the exemption rates can be as high as 30 percent.

For instance, several clusters in Pinellas County, which had a measles outbreak last year, especially in the coastal areas near Clearwater, have exemption rates as high as 33 percent.

There is no cure for measles, just treatment of the symptoms.

"The time to vaccinate your child is not at the last minute, when all of a sudden there's a case in the community and you're panicking and rethinking," said Dr. Alix Casler, chief of pediatrics for Orlando Health Physician Associates.

Before a measles vaccine became available in the early 1960s, 400 to 500 people died each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By 2000, the disease was eliminated in the United States.

Meanwhile, measles isn't

the only vaccine-preventable disease surfacing in the state. Florida's children have experienced the spread of other diseases in the last few years such as chicken pox and pertussis. So far, Florida has been spared from mumps cases although the disease has hit colleges in the Northeast.

With preventable diseases cropping up more often, Amy Silver said it hasn't swayed her decision not to vaccinate her two children in the Hillsborough County Public Schools and one in private preschool. Silver said her family has a history of autoimmune weakness, which influenced her decision.

"I felt like if I vaccinated them, I would be playing Russian roulette," she said. Silver has secured temporary medical exemptions for her children that need to be renewed annually.

Silver said she doesn't keep it secret that her children are unvaccinated. With clean water and sanitation, Silver said she considers diseases like measles less serious than previous times in history.

"I don't feel there's any harm to others being around my kids."

Pediatricians, who find themselves being asked to give medical exemptions, tend to give more temporary rather than permanent. Last year, students in Florida's public and private schools had more temporary medical exemptions than religious. But with the strengthening anti-vaccine movement, some pediatricians are refusing to care for unvaccinated children.

But Dr. Thomas Lacy, division chief for primary care and urgent care at Nemours, said he treats unvaccinated children, although he continues counseling the parents about the benefits of vaccination every visit.

"To not immunize is basically going back to the pre-modern times when kids got sick and died. I mean, it's just a step backward," he said.

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Vaccine wars: Social media battle outbreak of bogus claims

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Like health officials facing measles outbreaks, internet companies are trying to contain vaccine-related misinformation they have long helped spread. So far, their efforts at quarantine are falling short.

The digital scrapbooking site Pinterest — which has been a leading online repository of vaccine misinformation — in 2017 took the seemingly drastic step of blocking all searches for the term “vaccines,” affecting even legitimate searches for information. It was part of the company’s enforcement of a broader policy against health misinformation.

But it’s been a leaky quarantine. Recently, a search for “measles vaccine” still brought up, among other things, a post titled “Why We Said NO to the Measles Vaccine,” along with a sinister-looking illustration of a hand holding an enormous needle titled “Vaccine-nation: poisoning the population one shot at a time.” Search results for “vaccine safety” and “flu vaccine” can turn up posts with scientifically debunked information.

Facebook, meanwhile, said in March it will no longer recommend groups and pages that spread hoaxes about vaccines — and that it will reject ads that do this. This appears to have filtered out some of the most blatant sources of vaccine misinformation, such as the website Naturalnews.com, which had regularly posted anti-vaccine propaganda and showed up high in Facebook searches about the topic.

But even after the changes, groups — such

as one with 197 members and more than 10 posts a day seeking to “discuss the dangers of vaccination” was among the first results for a search on “vaccine safety.” A more generic “vaccine” search, meanwhile, turns up the verified profile of Dr. Christiane Northrup, a high-profile physician who’s outspoken about her misgivings about — and at times opposition to — vaccines. On Facebook’s Instagram, hashtags such as “vaccineskill” and accounts against vaccinating children are easily found with a simple search for “vaccines.”

In social media’s battle against misinformation, bogus claims about the dangers of vaccines are the next target. With some dangerous childhood diseases making a comeback due to lower vaccination rates, Facebook, Pinterest and others are trying to put the genie back in the bottle, even as they are hesitant to acknowledge responsibility for spreading falsehoods.

“There has been hesitancy about vaccines as long as vaccines have existed,” said Jeanine Guidry, professor at Virginia Commonwealth University who studies social media and vaccines. Such sentiment, dating back to the 1700s, was once confined to towns and local communities. Online, it dates back long before Facebook and Twitter. A 2002 study on Google search results found that 43 percent of the sites surfaced after searches for “vaccination” and “immunization” were anti-vax.

Still, experts in online misinformation say the impact of social networking and its unfiltered, algorithmically boosted dissemination of the most

“engaging” posts — whether true or not — have fueled a much broader spread of anti-vaccination propaganda. Richard Carpiano, a professor of public policy and sociology at the University of California, Riverside, who studies vaccine trends, said there is a “disproportionate” number of websites on the topic with misinformation, peddled by “anti-vax activists” and parent bloggers. Researchers have even found Russia-linked bots trying to sow discord by amplifying both sides of the vaccine debate.

“It’s completely understandable why parents would seek out this stuff,” he said. The problem is, they spend a lot more online than they do in a doctor’s office where they are much more likely to receive accurate information.

The bogus notion that vaccines cause autism — kicked off by a now disproven study from 1998 — didn’t start on social networks but it has certainly spread there. Health care officials and experts worry about the echo chambers of misinformation on social media that have become prevalent in the past decade and their role in pushing parents who are on the fence into the anti-vax camp.

While headlines in the past two years have largely focused on fake political news proliferating on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, large swaths of people (along with bots) are also sharing concerns and bogus “research” about the perceived dangers of vaccinating children.

Guidry said social media amplifies these conversations and makes it easier for people to have such conversations in echo chambers



AP FILE PHOTO

Measles, mumps and rubella vaccines sit in a cooler at the Rockland County Health Department in Pomona, New York. With measles outbreaks wreaking havoc around the world, Facebook, Pinterest and others are trying to put the genie back in the bottle, even as they are hesitant, even unwilling to acknowledge outright responsibility for spreading falsehoods.

that can reinforce misinformation. Her research found that that Pinterest — popular with women — has been especially susceptible to vaccine falsehoods. Nearly 75 percent of vaccine-related “pins” (the visual posts on the service) were against immunization in her 2015 study, compared with roughly a quarter on Twitter (based on another study). While Pinterest has strengthened its systems against such posts since, Guidry notes that stuff still gets through the filters.

Misinformation on Facebook is more difficult to study since a lot of it isn’t public, especially when people post in hidden or secret groups — where much of the hoaxes and false claims are spread. In such groups, like-minded people congregate to share their views and receive support from their peers. Facebook’s new policies mean fewer people will

find those groups, but the company is not going so far as banning them altogether.

Carpiano said it is difficult to study the actual impact social media has had on vaccine uptake, but “we do see decrease in coverage and rise in gaps of coverage,” as well as the clustering of vaccine-hesitant people. This, he said, has correlated with the rise of lots of different sources of information people now have at their fingertips. Despite high-profile outbreaks, overall vaccination rates remain high in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control. But the percentage of kids under 2 who haven’t received any vaccines is growing.

Fake news about health and medicine often follows a similar trajectory as fake news about politics. Some of it is for financial gain, some is intended to wreak havoc in the public

discourse, some is spread by people who might genuinely believe it. InfoWars, the conspiracy site run by Alex Jones, routinely pushes anti-vax agenda and stories of “forced inoculations,” even as it peddles bottles of “Survival Shield” iodine. Natural News, meanwhile, has built a business on unproven health claims and selling \$29 jars of “organic apple peel powder.”

Carpiano noted that even with anti-vaccination activists getting a large share of the public’s attention, much more common are parents who are merely hesitant or concerned about immunization. Understandably, they seek out information — and a lot of what they find is false.

“It is a misinformation campaign,” he said. “Often couched in ‘oh we are for choice, understanding, education,’” he said. “But fundamentally it is not open to scientific debate.”

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Area companies back Cancer Connection Center

Funding comes from a popular bicycling event

By **ROGER BUTTON**
COLUMNIST

Among area companies contributing to the new Team Tony Cancer Connection Center in Sarasota were PGT Innovations of North Venice, donating premium windows and doors; Michael Saunders & Company, which outfitted the space with computers; Tri-County Air Conditioning, supplying a state-of-the-art air conditioning and venting system and Sharp, which contributed a 60-inch touchscreen TV.

The nonprofit foundation recently unveiled the new center at 3562 S. Osprey Ave., Suite C, Sarasota, which provides free peer-to-peer cancer support and resources to cancer fighters, survivors and caregivers.

A coffee-shop-style

concept offers a safe, warm, supportive and welcoming environment with free resources and educational opportunities to enhance the well-being of those affected by cancer.

Tony McEachern, founder of the Team Tony Cancer Foundation and a 16-year brain cancer survivor, was diagnosed at age 33.

"It would have been helpful to have someone who had gone through the process to offer some insight and inspiration," he said.

"The center is the first of its kind, and since opening more than 100 people have come through our doors, looking for help and wanting to contribute," he added. "The community came together to build it and I am so grateful for the support of our mission to help those battling cancer."

The Werlin Education Center in the center



PHOTO PROVIDED

Team Tony Cancer Foundation members at the center ribbon cutting are Melissa Ferlazzo, left, development director; Kelly Deam, support program coordinator; Linda Vernon, board member; Lori Kayser, co-founder; Tony McEachern, founder; Angela Long, program director; Art Day, with Day Hagan Asset Management; Shelly Glenn with Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute; Tom Cramer, founding board member and Shaun Merriman with CenterState Bank.

provides space for training, workshops, educational classes, meetings and collaborative sessions with community partners. Visitors can learn about

community cancer services and resources or attend a workshop.

Annually, cyclists from South Sarasota County participate in one of the

largest fundraisers, the Gran Fondo for the Team Tony Cancer Foundation.

This year the Gran Fondo is on Oct. 6 at Nathan Benderson Park.

It's a family day of cycling, with participants choosing from one of four courses" 100 miles, 66 miles, 33 miles or 8-mile cruiser ride.

University of California patient gets first cancer treatment made from stem cells

By **BRADLEY J. FIKES**
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

A new form of cancer immunotherapy has been given to a University of California, San Diego Health patient in the first test of immune cells grown from stem cells.

The patient, Derek Ruff, is being treated for stage four colon cancer, which recurred after a decade in remission. The disease continued to progress despite chemotherapy and radiation, said UCSD's Dr. Sandip Patel, who treated Ruff.

Ruff is getting infusions of what are called "natural killer" or NK cells,

made by San Diego's Fate Therapeutics. Fate has worked closely with UCSD's Dr. Dan Kaufman, an expert on these cells.

Ruff began getting multiple doses of NK cells in February. In early April, he said the immunotherapy hasn't debilitated him like previous treatments.

"Before I got the first treatment, I was very apprehensive," said Ruff, 52. "I had been through a lot of chemo, and chemo makes you feel really bad."

It has yet to be determined if the NK cell treatment, called FT500, is working.

Fate is testing these

NK cells in patients with advanced solid tumors, where a better-known cell therapy called chimeric antigen receptor, or CAR T cells, has shown limited benefit.

CAR T cells are genetically engineered to detect a specific molecular marker on the cancer cells. These cells have revolutionized cancer treatment, especially for blood cancers. Two approved treatments are available, Kymriah and Yescarta.

But the CAR T cells must be custom-made from the patient's own cells, an expensive process that takes weeks. And they haven't been extensively tested against solid tumors, such as Ruff's.

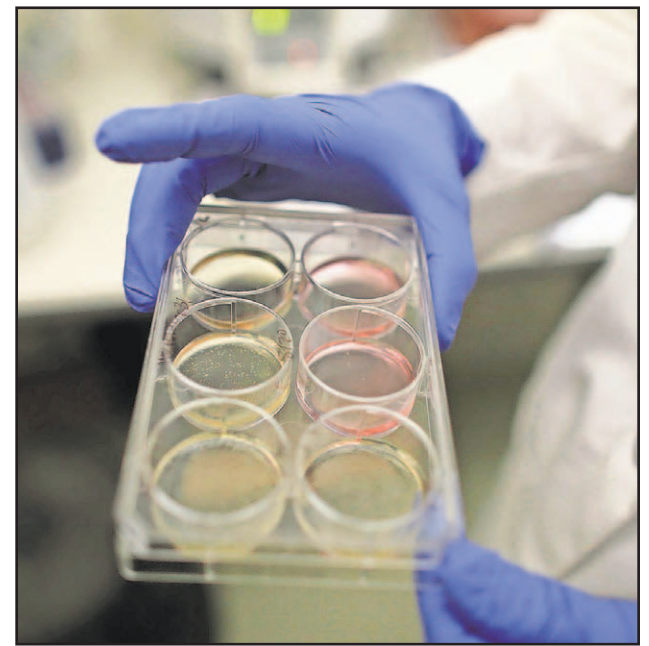
Patel said he was particularly excited by the idea of treating solid tumors with NK cell therapies. "Patients with solid

tumors are the biggest population of patients that we see in aggregate, and are a major unmet need in terms of cellular immunotherapy," Patel said.

FT500 is a first-of-kind product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for experimental use.

Unlike CAR T cells, which are custom-made from a patient's own cells over a period of weeks, FT500 is produced in advance as an "off the shelf" treatment and doesn't require immune matching. Due to economies of scale, "off-the-shelf" treatments are expected to cost less.

Fate starts with what are called induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPSCs. These are adult cells "reprogrammed" to resemble embryonic stem cells. These iPSCs are then matured into NK cells.



TNS PHOTO

A tray of stem cells at the University of Connecticut's Stem Cell Institute at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Connecticut.

"This product is derived from a master bank of induced pluripotent stem cells that self-renew, and thus are able to continually make these NK cells,"

Patel said. "If this works, patients can be treated en masse with these cells, given and administered like other drugs, but are living cellular products."

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Support Groups

Lung Cancer Support Group of Punta Gorda

Lung Cancer Support Group of Punta Gorda meets the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. on the 4th floor of the medical office building at Bayfront Health hospital campus on E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda.

Speakers:
May 14: Thomas Cappello, speaking on estate planning
For more information, call 941-637-9575 or email icgarg@embarq-mail.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Call 941-426-7723 for information on meetings

in the Arcadia, Venice, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, North Port and Englewood areas, including dates times and places.

Alzheimer's support groups

The Alzheimer's Association holds monthly caregiver support groups for spouses, adult children and family members who want to connect and share insight with others in similar situations. RSVP is not required to attend. For questions on groups and services through the Alzheimer's Association, please call 941-235-7470.

Port Charlotte area
• 3 p.m. third Tuesday at South Port Square

(Harbor Terrace), 23033 Westchester Blvd., Port Charlotte.

• 3 p.m. third Thursday at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte.

Punta Gorda area
• 3 p.m. third Monday at Life Care center, 450 Shreve St., Punta Gorda.

• 3 p.m. second Tuesday at Punta Gorda Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda.

Englewood area
• 10:30 a.m. third Friday, Englewood United Methodist Church, 700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group meets from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. the second Tuesday every month at The Springs at South Biscayne, 6235 Hoffman St., North Port. Call 941-426-8349 to register.

Amputee Support Group

The Amputee Support Group meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at the Life Care Center, Punta Gorda. Contact George Baum at 941-787-4151 for more information.

At Ease, Veterans

Combat veterans from Gulf Cove United Methodist Church are providing some of the support and discussion that our veterans deserve. On the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., they are at the American Legion Post 113, at 3436 Indiana Road in Rotonda West. Veterans are invited and encouraged to join them. Gulf Cove UMC is located at 1100 McCall Road in Port Charlotte, just ¾ mile south of the Myakka River on Route 776. The church can be reached at 941-697-1747 or GulfCoveUMC@gmail.com and their website is found at http://GulfCoveChurch.com.

Breast cancer networking

The Venice Breast Cancer Networking Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Elite Health Wellness Center at 4125 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 2, Venice. Time is from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. It is a safe place for newly diagnosed and survivors to talk with and support speakers in alternate months. Contact Dawn Moore at 941-408-9572 or http://www.jfcs-cares.org/services/cancer-support/.

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LIBERATE PHYSICIAN CENTERS

Researchers are testing ultrasound to treat neuropathic pain

By SARAH MEEHAN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Steroid injections, nerve stimulators and spinal fusions were no match for the chronic pain in Tammy Durfee's left side — never mind the “searing-hot poker” sensation that would jab her leg without warning. After a decade searching for relief, a four-hour procedure in Baltimore put her pain to rest.

Durfee, of Higginsville, Mo., was the first U.S. patient to be treated for neuropathic pain using focused ultrasound in a medical trial being conducted by University of Maryland School of Medicine researchers. Just as a magnifying glass can concentrate sunlight to burn holes in leaves, focused ultrasound concentrates sound waves to singe a small area of the brain, preventing neurons from overreacting and triggering pain.

Durfee's treatment is part of a broader trial in which Maryland medical school researchers are studying the use of focused ultrasound on neurological conditions including essential tremor, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. Proponents of focused ultrasound expect the non-invasive therapy could become a mainstream treatment for dozens of conditions ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's disease in the years ahead.

Often associated with pregnancy sonograms, ultrasound is a technique that sends sound waves through the body, often to create medical images. Focused ultrasound pinpoints the sound waves to a specific area to burn tissue.

The technique looks to be a promising treatment for neuropathic pain, a fairly common condition that is notoriously difficult to treat. The sensation is caused by damage to nerves, the spinal cord or neurons in the thalamus, the part of the brain that relays information

from the body's sensory receptors.

Neuropathic pain encompasses a range of diagnoses, and symptoms affect an estimated 7 percent to 10 percent of the population. It can manifest in different ways, with both continuous and intermittent pain. The condition does not usually respond to pain medications, and surgical remedies only work for some patients.

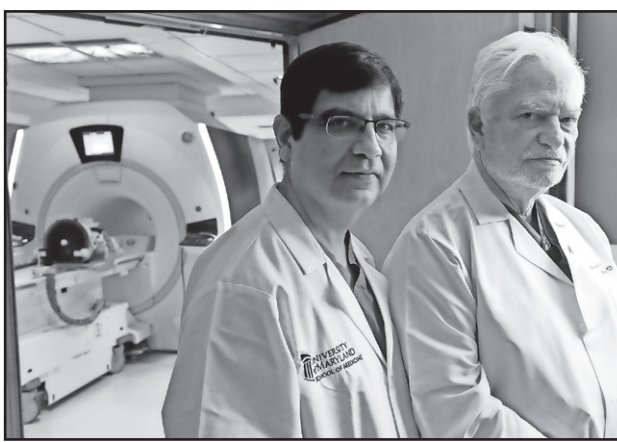
“Even if it responds early on, the treatments eventually fail. And the side effects of treatments are many and very, very serious. Many medications lose their effectiveness,” said Dr. Dheeraj Gandhi, the University of Maryland's director of interventional neuroradiology and the study's principal investigator. “Most patients don't have very many options and they have to live through this constant pain and the effect it has on the rest of their brain, including cognition, the effect on mood and unemployment. The majority of patients are not able to live their lives to their fullest.”

Durfee spent her days avoiding movement after her pain began in 2010. She stayed in bed as long as possible in the morning before leaving for her job as a pharmacy technician at Walmart. In the evenings, she tried to find a comfortable seat on the couch until she went to sleep.

“It made my days very, very long,” Durfee said. “I never knew when the deep, searing poker pain was gonna hit.”

Steroid injections, spinal fusions, pills and nerve stimulators helped, but the effectiveness of each treatment faded eventually.

Tim Clanton, 54, had seven knee surgeries, an ankle surgery, three spinal sympathectomies — in which a nerve is cut or clamped — and three nerve blocks after a belt-loader crushed his knee as he was hauling luggage onto a commercial jet more than 30 years ago.



TNS PHOTO

Drs. Dheeraj Gandhi, left, Chief of Interventional Neuroradiology, and Howard Eisenberg, Neurosurgery, University of Maryland Medical Center, are using targeted ultrasound to treat neuropathic pain in a clinical trial.

“Over the years I've had probably every anti-inflammatory that is known to man, along with lots of other medication,” the Dallas resident said. “Being on medication is not good. I prefer not to be, but I also have to work and provide a living for my family.”

Fatal overdoses, mostly related to fentanyl, continue to climb in Maryland

Gandhi said focused ultrasound could provide more lasting relief for neuropathic pain patients and help reduce their reliance on pain medications — including opioids, which are often used to manage neuropathic pain.

“If you look at overall health costs for pain-related treatments, the U.S. probably spends more than \$500 billion annually on treatments related to pain,” Gandhi said. “So if this procedure works well in these types of patients, it could be a very significant alternative to what we have today.”

Dr. Neal Kassell, founder and chairman of the Focused Ultrasound Foundation, said the University of Maryland trial could prove that such treatment fills the “holy grail” of improving health outcomes while decreasing costs. The risk of infection is low because there are no surgical cuts. And, because it's a one-time treatment,

focused ultrasound could reduce costs for pain patients, too.

For now, Gandhi said, the procedure's cost is comparable to open-brain surgery because so many researchers are involved.

The study is one step in an arduous process toward regulatory approval. The current trial allows researchers to treat five patients with one of three types of neuropathic pain: shooting pain that does not respond to neurosurgery, pain from spinal cord injuries or phantom limb pain after an amputation.

If the treatment's safety is proven, the research team will review results with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and request permission to treat more neuropathic pain patients.

Neuropathic pain is among more than 100 conditions being studied for treatment with focused ultrasound.

“Fields like this grow exponentially and I believe we're right now at the inflection point of that curve,” said Kassell, whose organization is funding the University of Maryland trial. “Focused ultrasound will be as revolutionary to therapy as (magnetic resonance) scanning was to diagnosis.”

Some doctors caution that more research is needed before focused

ultrasound can be lauded as a cure-all.

Dr. Art Sedrakyan, a professor of health care policy and research for Weill Cornell Medical College, said such therapies as focused ultrasound, cryotherapy and microwave ablation may show promise, but their long-term effects are unknown.

“We need to ensure that we don't get too excited about them in terms of their effectiveness,” Sedrakyan said.

He's developing a database of patients treated with such emerging technologies, so they can be tracked for years.

“We need to clearly encourage innovation,” Sedrakyan said. “But what's critical is to ensure evaluation.”

Though treating neuropathic pain with focused ultrasound is experimental in the United States, it's gained more traction in Europe, where Dr. Daniel Jeanmonod pioneered the technique in Switzerland. His team referred Durfee to the Maryland trial after she came across his work.

For the procedure, a patient's shaved head is affixed to a steel frame to immobilize it as they lay in an MRI machine. The top of the head is submerged in a water bath and coupled to a focused ultrasound transducer — a helmet-like contraption with more than 1,000 elements that direct sound waves to burn a 5-6 millimeter section of the brain. Doctors constantly monitor the patient, who is awake during the procedure.

“We're actually, if you will, cooking a small group of nerve cells,” said Dr. Howard M. Eisenberg, chair of Maryland's neurosurgery department, who is conducting the trial.

It was uncomfortable at times, Clanton said — like a headache. But it was a small price to pay for relief from 33 years of pain that left him limping, stopped

him from playing with his three children and stole his quality of life.

“As a kid, you hear people that are older and you think, how can someone live with pain? I found out at (age) 20,” Clanton said. “It's been tough. And if more patients can do this, it could be life changing.”

Clanton's pain has not disappeared since his treatment in December, but he said it's dulled. He's limping less and doesn't shy away from stairs. Best of all, he said, he's lowered his medication doses — something he wants for other patients in his position.

“When pain is bad you kind of sit there and you're hurting and it's an all-day thing and all night. You never get out of it,” Clanton said. “So if at minimum they do the procedure and the medication that they're on works more efficiently, that's worth it. And I can tell you that that's happening with me.”

Durfee had the procedure Sept. 13, and her results were immediate. After the procedure ended, she sat up on the table without assistance and did something she hadn't done in years — she danced out of the hospital room.

“I've been pain-free ever since,” she said.

Gandhi, Eisenberg and their team are monitoring the patients for a year with the aim of seeing at least a 40 percent reduction in their pain intensity and a 30 percent reduction in disabilities related to their pain. So far their patients have seen positive results, though it's too soon to tell how effective the treatment will be in the long term.

Clanton said his friends and family have commented that he's moving more easily. And Durfee can now wrestle with her dogs, play with her grandchildren and sit through a movie without wiggling to find a comfortable position.

“I like being pain-free,” she said. “It's fabulous.”

Using Fusion One to improve your health

By GREGORY WHYTE
THE CULTURAL CENTER
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

If you are 55 or older, it is possible that you already possess one or more diseases or conditions that are likely to decrease your ability to live your life to its fullest. Conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, respiratory disease and high blood pressure that are familiar to many seniors do not have to prevent you from living a healthy and fulfilling life.

A program that has been helping folks secure and/or maintain favorable degrees of fitness and health is Fusion One. It is, in my opinion, one of

the safest, simplest and most effective holistic and natural health programs available to the public. It is a system of therapeutic exercises that is used by people of all ages and walks of life. Fusion One's very nature makes it ideal for older persons managing or recovering from certain illnesses and those attempting to get in shape.

Unlike similar programs, Fusion One was created to address many illnesses and health conditions. Its exercises constitute three distinct forms: a lying form, a seated form and a standing form. It is through the use of these forms that the system is able to

address the fitness and health needs of people of all ages.

Since its creation over 30 years ago, the program has been used to help prevent and manage a number of diseases and health conditions. They include osteoporosis, arthritis, Parkinson's disease, asthma and other respiratory conditions, cardio vascular diseases, dementia, depression and other mental health disorders, sarcopenia (loss of muscle tissue due mainly to inactivity) poor balance, stress and more.

The Fusion One program offered at the Cultural Center has been assisting local residents and visitors to Charlotte

County in a big and beneficial way. Its muscle and joint re-strengthening service and its balance improvement and re-mobilization services have helped persons using canes, walkers, scooters and wheelchairs to walk with little and, in a number of cases, no external support.

Its breathing improvement, weight and pot belly reduction and stress management services are quite popular and have become favorites of many residents of the county.

Michael Gudo started

the Fusion One program after an extensive back operation and having a hip replaced. He needed a cane to walk. After just six weeks he did not need the cane, and after 12 weeks returned to work doing 10 hours a day and almost always on his feet.

John Papsun is a satisfied student who took the Fusion One balance improvement class and experienced exceptional results. When he started his training he was using a cane. Now, several months later, he is cane free.

Opportunities to make use of the Fusion One program are many. Here is one. If you have come to the end of your physical therapy sessions and know, deep within, that you have not fully recovered; Fusion One is a viable option. Simply call the Fitness Center at 941-625-4175, ext. 263 for assistance.

Fusion One program should not be used to replace the services offered by your physician or health advisors. Discuss Fusion One with your health provider.

Support Groups

Substance abuse support group

The Substance Abuse support group meets at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Lifeworks Substance Abuse Services, 4678 Tamiami Trail, Suite 105, Port Charlotte. Contact George at 941-979-5023 for more information.

Lung cancer support group

The North Port Lung Cancer Support Group meets from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at Sarasota Memorial ER in North Port along Toledo Blade Boulevard. The group is for people with lung

cancer along with their caregivers. No RSVP nor charge is required. For more information, call or email Marc Cohen at 941-240-8989 or marcscohen@aol.com.

Lung Matters support group

Lung Matters support group meets from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Call Port Charlotte Rehab Center for locations and more information at 941-235-8011.

Holly's Hope

Holly's Hope, a group formed by Joan and Ed Morgan after their daughter Holly died by suicide

in 2017, will host the first support group in North Port to help with grief from suicide. The group will meet on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in Module Three outside New Hope Community Church, 5600 S Biscayne Drive. For more information on the group, contact Vogel at 317-250-7316 or email at amy.vogel98@gmail.com.

Stroke support group

A stroke support group will be held at 1 p.m. on the last Friday of each month at Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Executive Dining Room, 21298 Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte.


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The Parkinson's EXPO: 23 Florida counties, 15 states, 126 volunteers

Provided by **SUZANNE DAMERON**
 NEURO CHALLENGE FOUNDATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
 The 2020 Parkinson's EXPO: Feb. 29, 2020 at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Habon Blvd., Palmetto.



The volunteers stood out in the sea of people at the Bradenton Area Convention Center with their vivid orange T-shirts that said "Parkinson's EXPO." The 126 member volunteer crew, a mix of area residents, students, professionals and retirees, were on hand to help the Neuro Challenge staff execute the EXPO from check-in to helping people get to where they needed to be to delivering a boxed lunch to each person in the arena within the 10-minute window before the noon speaker. They succeeded.

The Parkinson's EXPO, attended by more than 1,300 people from southwest Florida and beyond, represented 15

states and 23 counties in Florida. The free educational event, the largest of its kind in the country, featured national Parkinson's experts on the latest research, treatment and disease management options for every stage of Parkinson's as well as diverse resources for attendees to explore.

"Parkinson's is a complicated disease, showing up differently for each person diagnosed which is why we provide such an array of resources and Parkinson's expertise; there is no one answer that fits everyone," said Neuro Challenge CEO



PHOTO PROVIDED

Parkinson's Expert Dr. Michael Okun, National Medical Director of Parkinson's Foundation and University of Florida, Gainesville with Neuro Challenge Foundation CEO Robyn Faucy-Washington. Dr. Okun spoke on the latest findings in Parkinson's research.

Robyn Faucy-Washington. Neuro Challenge provides the Parkinson's EXPO at no charge. Next year's Parkinson's EXPO is scheduled for Feb. 29

at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. Find out more about living well with Parkinson's at neurochallenge.org or call 941-926-6413.

NEWS & NOTES

6th Annual Englewood Earth Day Sunday Festival

Englewood will unveil its 2019 edition of the Englewood Earth Day Sunday Festival, on April 28 at the community park and nature trails next to the Buchan Airport on Old Englewood Road. Earth Day will feature guest speakers who will hold forth on such subjects as wildlife rescue and rehabilitation (presented by Peace River Wildlife Center), Florida garden medicine from the point of view of Cristina Babiak, M.D., the plight of vanishing species such as the threatened Florida Gopher Tortoise and Florida Scrub Jay, and a goat milking opportunity (by local goat rancher Nicole Kastor and her team of 4H volunteers). There will be plenty of opportunities for adults to have something to think about in a relaxed, well, environment that has something to offer just about everyone, from the eco-friendly art, healthy food choices, drum beats from dance, etc., Yoga, and the music of Babyl, an emerging talent from Sarasota who so inspired and entertained event goers in years past that they have agreed to a return engagement this year. For more information, visit <http://planetenglewood.com/englewoodearthday.html>.

Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's

- North Port JFCS Care Partner Connection with Carolyn Stephens, LCSW (Open Forum and Sharing) and Parkinson's Power Hour; from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 24 at Neuro Challenge Foundation North Port, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port.
- Voice Aerobics: A fun and enriching therapeutic group to promote voice amplification and cognitive fitness with Mary Spremulli, Speech Language Pathologist; from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 25 at Neuro Challenge Foundation North Port, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port.
- Movers and Shakers Parkinson's Discussion Group "Alternative Energy Based Training: Exercises: Movement, and Meditation" with Robin Bennett, Movers and Shakers Group Member Venice Care Partner Support Group with Ellen Schaller, NCF Care Advisor

(Open Forum and Sharing); from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 25 at Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd, Venice.

- Punta Gorda Parkinson's Support Group People with Parkinson's and Care Partners Breakout Groups; from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on April 26 at Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda.

For a full listing of Neuro Challenge programs and services, visit www.neurochallenge.org.

Golf Tournament raises funds for Domestic Violence Survivors

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) is hosting its Annual SPARCCle on the Links golf tournament at Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice on April 25. With the support of sponsors, community donations and golfers, the tournament raises funds to help provide life-saving, free and confidential programs and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Serena Williams fans will have the opportunity to bid on a limited edition purple backpack designed by the tennis champion and Purple Purse ambassador at this year's silent auction. Players can also participate in a putting contest, pay and pop and cork pull. Shotgun begins at 1 p.m. with a delicious dinner will be served after the tournament. For more information, visit www.sparcc.net/events or contact Communications Manager Cherie Heasley at 941-365-0208, ext. 124.

Lunch and Learn

The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies will be hosting a free lunch and learn event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 25 at Charlotte Community Foundation, 227 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda. It will be focused on the statute of limitations regarding sexual assault. Our guest speaker, Lesley Barton, has long advocated for a change in the legal statute in an effort to provide survivors the right to report when they feel ready. Space is limited. RSVP by calling C.A.R.E. at 941-639-5499 or email Stephanie.Lucy@carefl.org.

Free Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Lee Health's Lee Health

Solutions, in partnership with many local community agencies and supported in part initially by a grant from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, is offering "It's All About You" – a research based Chronic Disease Self-Management program originally developed at Stanford University Patient Education Research Center. The program is designed for people 18 years of age or older with chronic health conditions to help them learn ways to better manage their chronic conditions and the symptoms that often accompany chronic health conditions. The workshop is 2.5 hours once a week for 6 weeks and it is free. The workshops will be offered on: Fridays beginning April 26 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Arden Courts, 15950 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers and Tuesdays beginning April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the East County Regional Library, 881 Gunnerly Road N. Lehigh Acres. For more information or to register, call 239-343-9264.

National Drug Take-Back Day

Spring is here and time to get rid of all those unwanted items; when doing your spring cleaning don't forget the medicine cabinet. National Drug Take-Back Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 27. Locations include the following Charlotte County Sheriff's Offices: 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood; 7474 Utilities Road, Punta Gorda and 3280 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. For more information, visit <http://saferxtips/index.html>.

Trail run at Gator Wilderness Camp School

Enjoy the beautiful scenery while testing your skill and stamina in a 5K, 10K, 15K race at 8 a.m. on April 27 at Gator Wilderness Camp School grounds, 449930 Farabee Road, Punta Gorda. Great food and fun for the family. Register online by April 25 at www.runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/GatorWildernessCampTrailRun. For more information, call 941-639-7722.

Dining in the Dark

The Lighthouse of SWFL will host the 9th Annual Dining in the Dark event to raise funds for programs serving people with blindness and vision loss from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on April 27 at

the Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers. This is a unique, sensory awareness experience with a first-hand glimpse into the challenge of living with blindness and vision impairment. Guests will enjoy jazz music, hors d'oeuvres, and New Orleans-inspired gumbo. Tickets are \$125 each and are available at www.dininginthedarkswfl.com or by calling 239-997-7797.

Cinco De Mayo trivia night

Chelsea Place will host a Cinco De Mayo trivia night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 30 at Chelsea Place Adult Day Care, 3626 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. A donation of \$10 is requested for an evening of food, beverages and trivia. All proceeds raised will be donated to Charlotte County Habitat. For more information, call Aime at 941-787-0687.

Bank offers free stroke education

Fawcett Memorial Hospital is offering free stroke-risk education assessments at Charlotte State Bank & Trust. These one-on-one consultations will take place at bank offices from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. according to the following schedule:

- May 1–Parkside, 3002 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- May 15–Charlotte Harbor, 23112 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor
- May 29–Punta Gorda, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda
- June 12–North Port, 4300 Aidan Lane, North Port

While the assessments are free, reservations are recommended and may be made by calling Consult-A-Nurse 941-624-4441. Walk-ins are welcome and will be seen as time permits. Residents are invited to sign up and attend the free course at their closest bank office. One of Fawcett's stroke-specialized nurses will meet attendees in private sessions to discuss risk factors and how to reduce them. "Research shows that 85 percent of strokes occur with no apparent warning signs and that nearly 80 percent of all strokes are preventable through managing risk factors," said Alexandria Davis, marketing director at Fawcett. "Since there are no tests that can detect a stroke before it happens, understanding and controlling risk is vitally important."

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Chelsea Place concludes senior care conference series

By DAN MEARNS

Chelsea Place Senior Care owner Kris Chana received highly positive feedback after the first two events in the series of free public education seminars, presented in conjunction with the Seniors Blue Book resource guide at Chelsea Place Senior Day Care and Activities Center. The first two conferences were held on March 30 and April 6, with the third and final conference set for April 27.

The conferences are based on "Florida's 5-Step Guide to Senior Care," a colorful, 16-page booklet developed by Chana and his wife, Chelsea. The first conference covered Step 1: Caring for the Caregiver. Steps 2 and 3, Organizing Legal Affairs and Making a Financial Plan, were addressed in the second conference.

"We averaged an attendance of 50 people at the first two events," Chana said. "Everyone who attended felt the information was extremely valuable and so worth the time to come."

The April 27 event will cover Step 4, Find the Right Care, and 5, How Do You Choose the Right Providers? It takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the adult day care center at 3626 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. There is no charge to attend and a

complimentary lunch will be served.

"We have 14 amazing speakers who will be sharing incredibly helpful information with everyone who attends," said Chana.

Topics and speakers include:

- Private vs. Medicare Home Health Care, Sue Chandler, Pam Monnier and Jamie Brown.
- Adult Day Care Centers, Debbie Spear.
- Independent Living, Chad Johnson.
- Age in Place Alternative, Lisa Kopp.
- Assisted Living, Noelle LaPonte and Samantha Reyes.
- Memory Care, Melissa Vanderbilt-Bestor.
- Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), Karen Amador.
- Skilled Nursing Facility, Jessica Cantwell.
- Hospice Care, Nafi Cunningham.
- Senior Resources, Amie Conti and Kris Chana.

Reservations are requested and may be made by calling Senior Resource Specialist Amie Conti at 941-787-0687.

Chana plans to make the series an annual event. Following are comments from some of the attendees at the first two conferences:

Laura Sauerwein: Was time well spent.
Mary Ellen Taylor:

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Find the Right Care and How Do You Choose the Right Providers?
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27.
WHERE: Chelsea Place Senior Care, 3626 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. There is no charge to attend and a complimentary lunch will be served.
INFORMATION: Reservations are requested and may be made by calling Senior Resource Specialist Amie Conti at 941-787-0687.

Well organized and informative.

Jon-Dawn Marquardt: We learned a lot.

Ann Reynolds: A great addition to our community.

Medsol Clinical Research Center: A great event. Thank you for all that you do for our seniors.

Mary Ellen Taylor: A presentation that all seniors (age 65+) should hear.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Chelsea Place and Alzheimer's Association personnel next to the Memory Mobile at the first conference, from left, Kris Chana, Debbie Spear, Robert Harris, Linda Shuman, Amy Schenk, Amy Tithof and Amie Conti.



Financial advisor Jeffrey Tamas talks to attendees at the second conference.



Ivey Winkler discusses veterans' benefits at the second Senior Care conference.

Kratom linked to nearly 100 US overdose deaths, CDC finds

By MARI A. SCHAEFER
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Kratom, the popular but unregulated herbal supplement derived from a Southeast Asian tree, has been linked to 91 overdose deaths in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this week.

In the study, the CDC looked at data on 27,338 overdose deaths reported from 11 states from July 2016 to June 2017 and in 27 states from July 2017 to December 2017.

Kratom was detected in postmortem toxicology testing for 152 deaths. In 91 of those cases, medical examiners or coroners concluded that kratom was the cause of death, including seven where the herbal product was the only substance found on postmortem testing. Of those cases, 69 were men and 22 were women.

In about 80 percent of

the deaths where kratom was found, the subject had a history of substance misuse, and approximately 90 percent had no evidence they were being medically treated for pain. Advocates say Kratom can relieve pain and help with opioid withdrawal and promote a sense of well-being.

The report released Thursday also stated that the number of kratom-positive deaths may be an underestimate.

The data was pulled from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System. Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware are among the states that reported their findings between July 2017 and December 2017.

Other drugs found in the post-mortem testing included fentanyl, heroin, prescription opioids and alcohol, according to the report.

The report also stated there were 1,807 calls to

the national poison center concerning reported exposure to kratom from 2011 to 2017.

There have been at least four deaths in the Philadelphia region in which kratom was the only substance found in the postmortem toxicology testing.

Kratom is sold online, in gas stations and smoke shops, and is typically brewed as a tea, chewed, smoked or ingested in capsules. It is banned in several countries, including Australia, Denmark, Germany, Malaysia, and Thailand, as well as several U.S. states and municipalities.

In November, the Food and Drug Administration found that samples of the unregulated product are contaminated with heavy metals including lead and nickel.

The agency has unsuccessfully sought



TNS PHOTO

Capsules of the herbal supplement Kratom are seen in Miami, Florida.

to regulate the product and had issued a public health advisory in

November 2017. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has

identified kratom as a drug of concern, the CDC reported.

Support Groups

Cancer support group

Fawcett Memorial Hospital, an HCA affiliate, now offers a cancer support group for cancer patients, their families and caregivers. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Research shows that social support has benefits for cancer patients, those recovering from treatment and their family and loved ones by reducing anxiety and stress, emotional distress and depression, fatigue and the experience of pain while improving mood, self-image, ability to cope with stress and feelings of control. In addition, having a supportive social network can help with recovery and adjusting to life after treatment. The support group allows those experiencing a cancer diagnosis to cope with the emotional aspects by providing a safe place to share their feelings

and challenges while allowing people to learn from others facing similar situations.

Cancer patients and their family members are encouraged to attend. Active participation is not required, listeners are welcome. Physicians and other health professionals will periodically speak to the group on cancer related topics. For more information or to RSVP, please call Fawcett's oncology patient navigators at 941-624-8318.

Cancer Support Ministry

First United Methodist Church offers a scripturally based cancer support ministry to anyone affected by this life altering diagnosis. Whether you are new diagnosis or have been battling for a long time, the cancer ministry provides a place where people who understand the treatment journey are available to help, listen and support patients, as well as

survivors, caregivers and family members. The Cancer Support Ministry meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in room 9 at 507 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. All adult cancer survivors and their caregivers are welcome to attend, regardless of cancer type, church affiliation or faith base. For more information, contact Mitzi Kohrman, kohrman1562@comcast.net.

Caregivers Support Group

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Ave., Port Charlotte, hosts a caregiver support group from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The cost is free and is open to any caregiver dealing with a care-receiver with any debilitating disease. There are no requirements to join the group. For more information, contact Mike Boccia at 941-815-6077.

Codependents Anonymous

Codependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from

CoDependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships.

The Coda meetings in the area meet at the Oasis Alana Club at 2936 S. McCall Road, Englewood.

Monday Step from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Thursday Open from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Friday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
For more information, contact Barbara at 941-474-4190.

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Village Place Health and Rehabilitation Center event raises money for charity

Village Place Health and Rehabilitation Center recently held a quarterly community event with families from the community, residents and staff families.

This event was mostly planned by the residents to sell their crafts that they have been making for months. The goal was to end up donating their money to the charity of their choice. The event raised approximately \$200.

There were fresh cookies and popcorn for everyone being baked in the front lobby, as well as two food trucks and an Italian ice truck in the front lawn. There were two Easter egg hunts, giveaways, mini horses and Zander the goat.

Village Place Health and Rehabilitation Center is located at 2370 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. For more information, call 941-624-5966.



Resident Barbie Bryan



Maria Dentici, Executive Director of Village Place, Kelly Jung and Activity Director Victoria Naekel.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Heath Banck, Kelly Jung and Cole Banck



Resident Pearl Elrod



Briar Glorioso, Erin Glorioso, Emersen Glorioso and Kelly Jung



Zander and Kelly Jung

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Mia Wilson



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BOARD CERTIFIED

Florida Skin Center donates \$3,000 to area philanthropic organizations

**Provided by
KAITLIN SHERMAN
SPIRO & ASSOCIATES**

Florida Skin Center has donated \$3,000 to two regional charities — Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida and The New Beginnings of SWFL, Inc. — as part of its "Dermatology from the Heart" program.

Now in its second year, "Dermatology from the Heart" is Florida Skin Center's way of giving back to the communities it serves via philanthropic organizations that reflect team members' values. These contributions are part of \$88,000 that Florida Skin Center has donated since 2015.

The CAC offers therapeutic counseling, parenting education and prevention programs, among other initiatives,

to victims of abuse and neglect. For the second consecutive year, Florida Skin Center served as a platinum sponsor of CAC's Bling & Bags Bingo fundraiser, which reaches 300 college-educated professional and executive-level women from Lee County.

Additionally, The New Beginnings provides family-style housing and lifetime guidance, among other forms of support, to single mothers living in poverty. Back in February, Florida Skin Center bronze sponsored its 3rd Annual Gala, contributing to the organization's mission to help tens of thousands of single mothers in Lee County.

Providers across all four Florida Skin Center locations voted on the CAC and The New Beginnings, as several of them donate to and volunteer for these

groups in their spare time.

"Most of us are parents, so it is only natural that vulnerable children are close to our hearts," said Founder Anais Aurora Badia, M.D., D.O. "Not to mention, three of our locations are in Lee County, making those who benefit from the CAC and The New Beginnings guests or potential guests of Florida Skin Center. Bottom line, we care about our guests and those who care about our guests, and if we are to truly live and work in a community that grows and thrives, it is in our best interest to work together for common causes."

Before year's end, Florida Skin Center will select one or more organizations to donate to in 2020.

For more information, call the dermatological facility at 239-561-3376.

Yoga

- Englewood Beach: Daily at 8:30 a.m.; and Wednesday at 6 p.m. 941-473-0135.

- Manasota Beach, 8570 Manasota Key Road: Monday-Friday at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.

- Venice Beach Yoga, Daily 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.; Monday-Thursday at 5 p.m.

- North Jetty, Nokomis Beach Yoga, 1000 S. Casey Key Road: 9 a.m. Monday-Friday. All ages and abilities bring a towel or blanket and join. Free will donation.

- Yoga Tots — The Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St., hosts the free program Yoga Tots Storytime from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Fridays for children

ages 12-36 months. Bring your toddler, towels or yoga mat to stretch your mind and muscles with a story and fun yoga poses. For more information, call 941-833-5460 or email: PuntaGordaLibrary@charlottecountyfl.gov.

If you would like your free yoga event added to our events, email feelingfit@sun-herald.com.

BAYFRONT NEWS & NOTES

April 22, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Quit Your Way. Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, Conference Center, 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. Bayfront Health and Tobacco Free Florida offer free tools and services to help you get started. Free. Call 866-534-7909 to register

April 23, 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Emotions of the Heart: Stress Management Class. Bayfront Health Wellness & Rehab Center, 733 E. Olympia Ave., Punta Gorda. Everyone experiences stress from time to time; however, excessive stress can take a toll on your health. Learn techniques to recognize, manage, overcome and cope. Free. Call 941-637-2450 to register.

April 24, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Attend a Seminar: What Do You Have To Lose? Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, Conference Center, 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. If you're considering weight loss surgery, the best place to start is with the right information. That's why we offer free

weight loss seminars as an opportunity to talk with the experts. Seminars are interactive and include members of our weight loss team. You are invited to bring a family member, friend, or other support person with you. Free. Register at www.BayfrontCharlotteWeightLoss.com or call 941-766-4564 to schedule a free consultation.

April 26, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mended Hearts Support Group. Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, Conference Center, 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. Mended Hearts is a national and community-based non-profit organization that provides support to those diagnosed with heart disease. Chapter 405 is right here in Charlotte County! Its members draw on personal experience as they offer peer-to-peer support. If you are a heart survivor or family caregiver, we would like to invite you to our special educational and support session. Free. Call 941-766-4686 to learn more and reserve your seat.

April 27, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Attend a Seminar: What Do You

Have To Lose? Bayfront Health Port Charlotte Bariatric Services Suite, 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. If you're considering weight loss surgery, the best place to start is with the right information. That's why we offer free weight loss seminars as an opportunity to talk with the experts. Seminars are interactive and include members of our weight loss team. You are invited to bring a family member, friend, or other support person with you. Free. Register at www.BayfrontCharlotteWeightLoss.com or call 941-766-4564 to schedule a free consultation.

April 30, May 7 and 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Childbirth and Newborn 3-Class Course. Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, Conference Center, 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte. In this course, you will leave with a better understanding of labor and delivery, the birthing process, anatomy and physiology, birth basics, comfort techniques, hospital procedures and medical interventions. (\$) or ask how you can take this course for Free. Register at www.BayfrontHealthEvents.com.

Support Groups

Ostomy support meetings

The Charlotte County Ostomy Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in Port Charlotte. For more information and assistance, contact Jerry Downs at 941-629-7568 or Gloria Patmore at 941-627-9077.

Diabetes Club and Support Group

Free membership/learn and have fun. Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. every second Wednesday of the month at Living Smart Conference Room, 21216 Olean Blvd., Suite 6, Port Charlotte. For

more information, call 941-624-4800 or visit www.diabetesFL.com.

Food Addicts Anonymous

A 12-step program for those who wish to recover from food addiction. Group meets from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, at First Alliance Church, 20444 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte. For more information, call 941-380-6550.

Courage Over Cancer

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church's cancer care program, Courage Over Cancer, offers support

and ministry to men, women, and families who are affected by cancer. Church and community members touched by this disease are provided with help and spiritual counsel that are specific to their needs as a cancer patient, caregiver, or loved one. This ministry is based on the outreach program Our Journey of Hope which was developed by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. If you or someone you know could benefit from a friend to support them through this journey, contact the church at 941-697-1747 or GulfCoveUMC@gmail.com. Gulf Cove UMC is located at 1100 McCall Road in Port Charlotte.

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*Most calls will result in a same-day appointment; patients may be seen by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Virus identified as a cause of paralyzing condition in children

By JEREMY OLSON
STAR TRIBUNE

A virus appears to be the cause behind a rash of polioliike illnesses that struck Minnesota and other states last fall, causing paralyzing symptoms in several children, including one girl who lost all motor function and remains hospitalized.

Researchers from Minnesota and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday that they found Enterovirus-D68 in the spinal fluid of one of six children who suffered acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM.

The virus caused the condition in that child, and is presumed to be the cause in the other five, according to the researchers, who described their finding as a key piece in a puzzling national outbreak.

“(AFM) is incredibly scary for patients and families,” said Dr. Heidi Moline, the lead author of the report and the University of Minnesota’s chief pediatric resident. “The fact that we were able to definitively identify the EV-D68 virus as the cause of paralysis in one of our Minnesota patients does suggest this virus as a probable cause in our other recent AFM cases.”

Moline said the researchers are working with public health officials to better understand the virus and how it affects children.

EV-D68 has been suspected for some time

as a cause in the United States, in part because of surveillance since 2012 showing that the virus emerged every other fall in lockstep with spikes in AFM cases in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

The virus was previously found in the spinal fluid of a California child, but contamination of the fluid had tainted those results, Moline said.

“This is the first true confirmation that we’ve had,” she added.

AFM is a neurological disorder that affects the spongy gray matter surrounding the spinal cord and damages nerves and their communication with muscles. The first public reports of AFM in 2018 emerged in Minnesota, which ended the year with 10 of the nation’s 228 confirmed cases.

The new research report was based on six children, ages 1 to 9, who were hospitalized between Sept. 19 and Oct. 1 after initial headaches or flu symptoms devolved into limb weakness or paralysis. The CDC released the findings in its weekly MMWR journal.

James Hill of Lakeville said he still can’t believe how quickly his active 7-year-old son, Quinton, went from flulike symptoms to loss of motion in his upper left arm.

“It’s hard looking at pictures, looking back, because he was the healthiest kid you ever met,” Hill said.

Limb weakness was reported in the left arms of two children, the right arms of two

others, and the left legs of two others. Five of the children improved through infusions of immunoglobulin to boost the immune system and physical therapy exercises.

One 7-year-old girl suffered rapid paralysis that has not improved. The report indicates that she has lost all voluntary limb movements but remains cognitively intact.

Research like this week’s study, together with public awareness to AFM, should help clinicians if the pattern holds and cases surge again in the fall of 2022, but doctors still don’t know for certain the best ways to treat it, even with the role of the virus being confirmed, said Dr. Anupama Kalaskar, a co-author of the report and an infectious disease specialist for Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

“Some patients received multiple treatments,” she said, “so it’s hard to tease out which may have worked and which didn’t work.”

Hill’s son regained some upper-arm movement over the winter through physical therapy at clinics and exercises at home designed to kick-start the nerves damaged by AFM.

Quinton underwent surgery in Los Angeles two weeks ago to transplant healthy nerves into his dormant upper left arm. The procedure was something of a disappointment, his father said, because the ideal nerves for transfer were found during

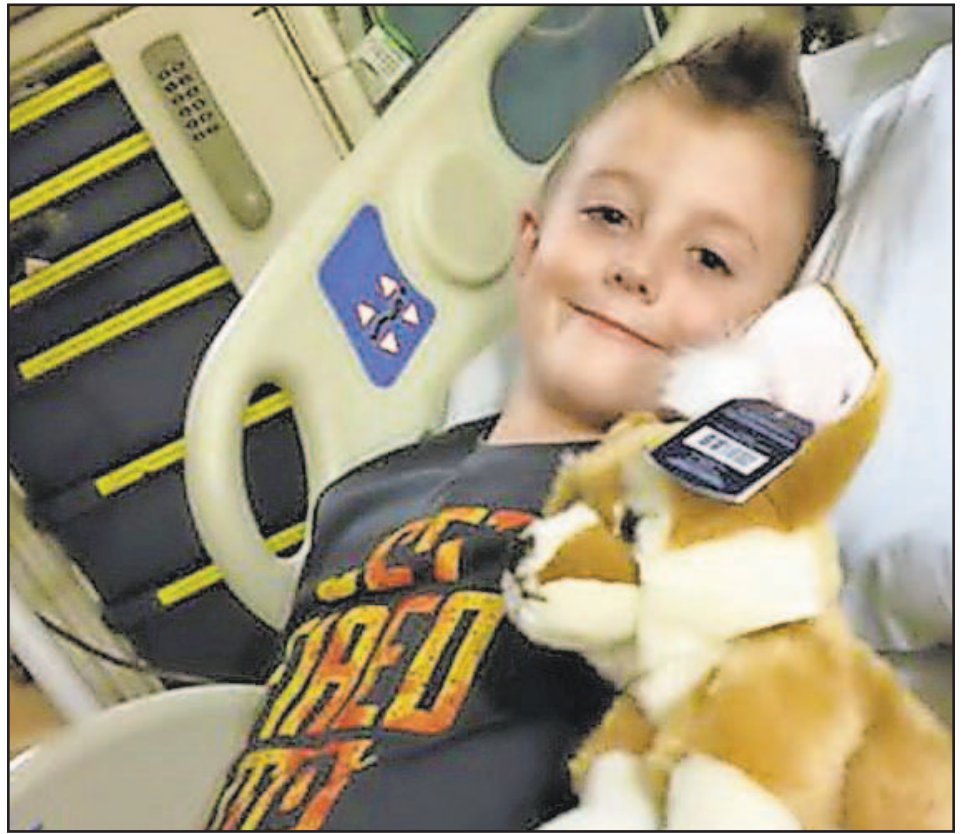


PHOTO PROVIDED

Quinton Hill, 7, was one of the Minnesota children affected by acute flaccid myelitis last year. He lost movement in one arm and was undergoing treatment at the time at Children’s Hospital.

the operation to be unusable. The Hills are hoping the procedure will still restore mobility after Quinton’s cast is removed.

While Quinton has been resilient and upbeat, and even showed some signs of strength-building in his biceps this winter, he still can’t push himself up with his left arm or raise it above his head.

“From our standpoint,” his father said, “we felt strongly that we needed to be able to give him every single chance to be able to move.”

Despite suspicions about EV-D68, doctors and clinicians had

struggled to find any presence of it in the spinal fluid of afflicted children. The virus was found in their noses, but that doesn’t prove that it played a role in a neurological disorder, Moline said. One possibility is that the virus has already exited the spinal fluid before the paralyzing symptoms emerge, so tests simply occur too late.

The confirmation of EV-D68 does not rule out other viruses as potential causes. Nor does it absolve the role of environmental factors, which could explain why most children suffer common colds from these viruses but one

in 1 million children contract AFM due to the exposure.

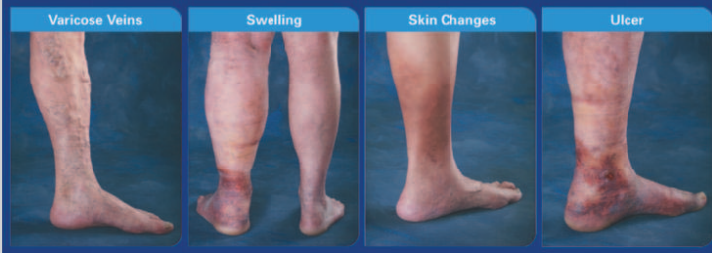
Moline said it does underscore the importance of basic public health steps to reduce the spread of germs: “Our guidance at this time is really to cover coughs wash hands, and try to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, especially in the fall.”

Cases of AFM were confirmed last year in 41 states but have been found in regional clusters, presumably in states where EV-D68 and other viruses are prevalent. California and Colorado have both reported high numbers of cases since 2014.

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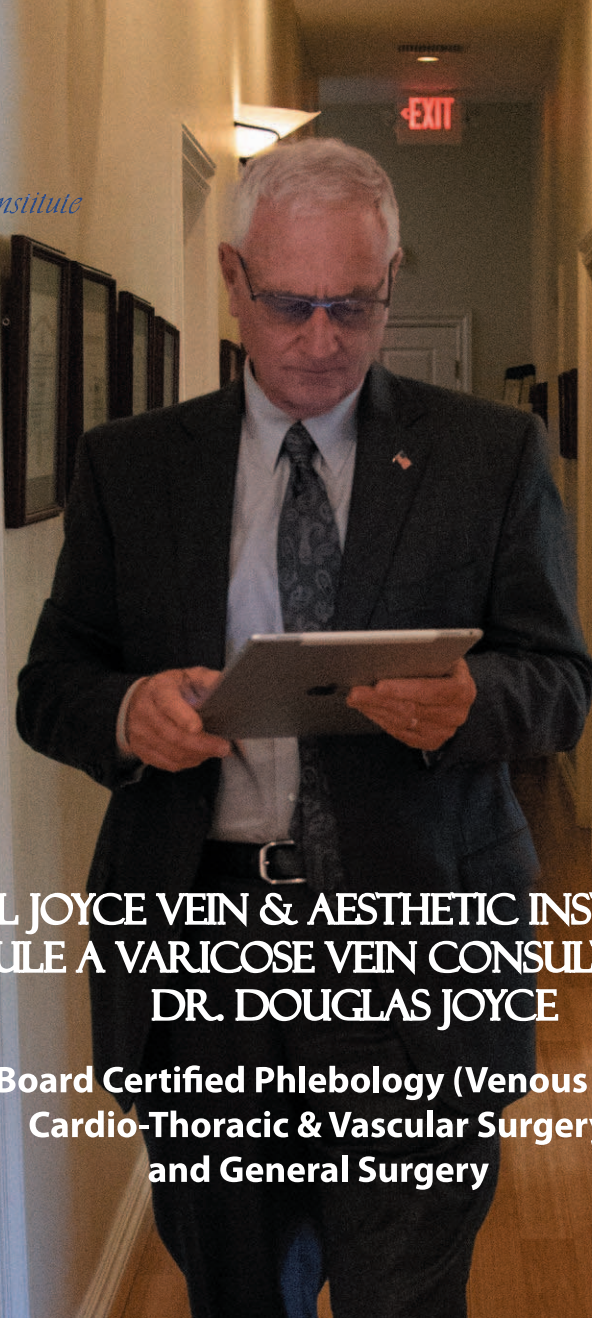
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Being funny at work can hurt women, a study says

By **CASSIE OWENS** and **ANNA ORSO**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Over Jayna Fey's 15 years in the workforce, she's been called too assertive, too comfortable, too "frowny," too familiar. Accurate or not, she used to make self-deprecating jokes about these traits.

Not anymore. The 30-year-old consultant says she's done making cracks about who she is: a pixie-cut-rocking, septum-ring-wearing leader with a brash sense of humor.

But that doesn't mean Fey — who's also managed restaurants and dabbled in standup comedy — is done being funny at work. There are too many benefits.

"I don't want to have any job or be in any environment long term," she said, "where we can't make each other laugh."

A recent study in the *Journal of Applied Psychology* that showed being funny at work can hurt women and help men sparked a conversation about how women professionals fare when dropping jokes in the office. In Philadelphia, women said perceptions of their wise-cracks vary from workplace to workplace, from conversation to conversation.

What's consistent is that good things can happen for women who use humor at work, like sprinkling a presentation with puns to make others comfortable or easing tension with a sarcastic one-liner.

Jonathan Evans, the study author and a doctoral student in management at the University of Arizona, said that while the results suggest women can't benefit



Jayna Fey



Brittnie Knight



Radio personality Mina SayWhat

TNS PHOTOS

from using humor in the same way their male colleagues do, the goal wasn't to tell women to tone it down. Instead, people should use the report to recognize the prejudice.

Researchers had two actors, a man and a woman, deliver presentations as if they were managers of a retail store. Both presented two reports, one funny and one not. The researchers avoided humor that could be risky for women — no sardonic jabs, no making fun. They opted for conversational wit that was more light and self-critical.

More than 300 participants watched their presentations, rating whether they found the boss "functional" or "disruptive." When the male actor was funny, he was rated as more functional. When the female actor was funny, she was rated as more disruptive.

But plenty of funny women haven't seen their careers play out that way. Mina Llon, aka radio host Mina SayWhat on Sirius XM's *The Heat and Boom* 103.9, is sure that humor helped

her as a Latina working in urban radio.

"There's a stigma that comes with being a woman in a male-dominated field. Sometimes, they think we're too serious or we're too focused," she said. "There's these stereotypes that come with being that kind of woman. I think that being comical or being witty kind of breaks down some of those stereotypes."

Brittnie Knight, a program associate at the Knight Foundation who's hosted a podcast called "Black Girls Laughing," knows how to adapt her humor to the audience at work. Knight, a biracial black queer woman who lives in West Philadelphia, can't remember ever being told that a joke of hers was inappropriate. And she cracks jokes all the time. Her sarcasm, she said, "is always on."

Some of her peers in the nonprofit world, she explained, have read her as aggressive and sassy. If she wasn't a black woman, she doesn't think that would happen.

Like many professionals, she uses humor to broach tough conversations — like using sarcasm to call out everything from casual racism to institutional biases. That approach gets the conversation rolling, she said, but "hasn't worked with seeing action followed up with that."

A 2000 study in the *Journal of Managerial Psychology* noted that women and people of color across genders in the workplace were historically discouraged in professional development guides to avoid humor altogether. But in diverse settings, people might be using jokes as a means to cope. Evans said that while they didn't evaluate how race would shift reactions, that merits further study.

Researchers say humor improves work relationships, but funny comments can be ambiguous and humor styles vary, especially in crosscultural conversations. Also, how people hear humor is influenced by stereotypes.

Cecily Cooper, an associate professor of management at

the University of Miami who's researched humor in workplaces, said those differences can even cause anxiety during conversations that should be fun. She added that the study says more about gender than humor.

"We still have these pervasive gender differences in terms of how women are evaluated compared to men," she said, "and in initial reactions, women never fare as well, and that's been shown over and over again in a lot of different contexts."

Since the experiment captured only first impressions, the study's authors acknowledge that other factors could offset a poor reception to jokes. For example, the researchers wrote in the *Harvard Business Review*, a funny woman boss with "a reputation for arriving early, staying late" could skip the costs that other women pay for trying to get laughs.

The problem, they wrote, is this shows women must "meet a higher performance standard before benefiting from the use of humor."

SayWhat said there are pluses to using humor as a woman in radio — using it makes you more likable and brings levity to news or commentary.

Still, she's noticed women can't seem to use sexual humor the way men can, without risking the consequences or being oversexualized. When she's discussing R-rated topics on her show, she's careful about not going too far.

Navigating this, she said, is about balance. And learning not to put women in boxes.

"God forbid I'm smart and I'm pretty," she quipped, "and I have a sense of humor."



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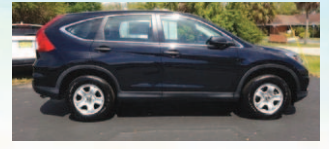
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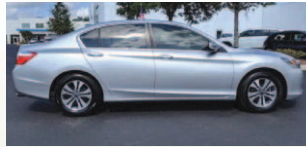
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2014 HONDA ACCORD LX
Stock# 7840H
\$11,245 Plus tax and fees.*



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Stock# 51637A
\$17,845 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 FORD FOCUS SE
Stock# 7821H
\$11,447 Plus tax and fees.*



2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T
Coupe, Stock# 51509A
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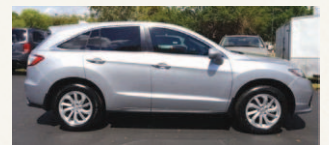
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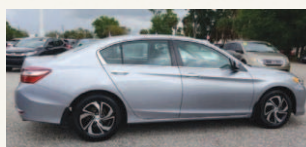
2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE
Stock# 51698AA
\$15,498 Plus tax and fees.*



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Yellow vest
anger burns in
France, fueled by
Notre Dame fire

See page 2



Pope at Easter vigil: reject 'glitter of wealth'

Pope Francis carried a lit Easter candle up the aisle of a darkened St. Peter's Basilica

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — At an Easter vigil in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis on Saturday encouraged people to resist cynicism or pursuing the "glitter of wealth," and to avoid seeking life's meaning in "things that pass away."

"Do not bury hope!" Francis exclaimed, after noting that when things go badly, "we lose heart and come to believe that death is stronger than life."

"We become cynical, negative and despondent," Francis added. For Christians, Easter is a day of joy and hope, as

they mark their belief that Jesus triumphed over death by resurrection following crucifixion.

"Sin seduces; it promises things easy and quick, prosperity and success, but leaves behind only solitude and death," the pope said. "Sin is looking for life among the dead, for the meaning of life in things that pass away."

Encouraging the faithful, Francis said: "Why not prefer Jesus, the true light, to the glitter of wealth, career, pride and pleasure?"

At the start of the ceremony on Easter's eve, Francis, dressed in white robes, slowly carried

a lit candle up the aisle of a darkened St. Peter's Basilica. At the chant in Latin for "light of Christ, the basilica's lights were suddenly switched on in a dramatic tradition.

Arrayed before the steps of the altar was a row of cardinals, wearing ivory robes. Behind them in the pews sat diplomats with their spouses and thousands of rank-and-file Catholics, tourists and pilgrims among them.

Among those in the basilica were eight adults who were baptized by the pope during the Mass. The Vatican said these new faithful are from Italy, Albania, Ecuador,



AP PHOTO

Pope Francis holds a candle as he presides over a solemn Easter vigil ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Saturday.

Indonesia and Peru. From a shell-shaped silver dish, Francis poured holy water over the bowed heads of the three

men and five women, after they walked up to him, one

POPE | 8

Columbine honors 13 lost with community service, ceremony



AP PHOTO

Sixteen-year-old Maren Strother of Denver looks over the plaques for the victims of the Columbine High School massacre before a vigil at the memorial for the victims of the attack nearly 20 years ago Friday, in Littleton, Colo.

The 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre brought a community together for remembrance

By **KATHLEEN FOODY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLETON, Colo. — Community members in suburban Denver marked the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting Saturday by cleaning neighborhoods, volunteering at shelters, placing flowers at a memorial and attending a remembrance ceremony.

The events end a three-day slate of somber gatherings honoring the victims and lending support to their families, survivors of the April 20, 1999, attack and the school's students and staff.

Starting Saturday morning, a steady stream of visitors stopped at a memorial that sits on a hill overlooking the school. The site includes an oval outer wall of stone with plaques featuring quotes from

officials and Columbine students and teachers, and an inner ring with plaques for the teacher and 12 students killed.

People walked silently through, occasionally stopping to hug a friend or wipe away tears.

Sharon and David Hampton brought white roses to place at the memorial, which opened to

COLUMBINE | 4

New attack on Ebola center in Congo; 1 militia member killed

Attacks have posed threats of containing the extremely deadly virus

By **AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUTEMBO, Congo — Militia members attacked an Ebola treatment center hours after another attack killed a staffer with the World Health Organization, a Congolese official said Saturday.

Butembo city's deputy mayor, Patrick Kambale Tsiko, told The Associated Press that the attackers armed with machetes tried to burn down the center in Katwa district overnight. Military and police guarding the center killed one militia member and detained five others, he said. Such violence has deeply complicated efforts to contain what has become the second-deadliest Ebola virus outbreak in history, with the number of new cases jumping each time treatment and prevention work is disrupted.

An attack on Friday on a hospital in Butembo killed an epidemiologist from Cameroon who had been deployed to the outbreak in eastern Congo. Tsiko

cited witnesses as saying the attackers wrongly blamed foreigners for bringing the deadly virus to the region.

This outbreak now has more than 1,300 confirmed and probable cases, including 855 deaths, since being declared last August. The number of new cases has risen alarmingly in recent weeks after other attacks, leading the WHO to convene an expert committee that decided the outbreak, while of "deep concern," is not yet a global health emergency.

Attacks by rebel groups and community resistance have posed serious challenges to containing Ebola, which can spread quickly and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases. Congo's North Kivu region had never faced an outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever before, and health workers have battled misinformation. Some residents did not believe Ebola was real.

In the hospital attack on Friday, gunmen burst into a conference room

EBOLA | 4

Trump-friendly spin on Mueller report puts heat on Barr

By **CHRIS STROHM**
BLOOMBERG NEWS

WASHINGTON — Ninety minutes before Robert Mueller's final report on his Russia probe was released, Attorney General William Barr previewed it from a podium on the seventh floor of the Justice Department.

Barr declared the special counsel had found

"substantial evidence" President Donald Trump's actions toward the investigation were driven by his "sincere belief" it was politically tainted. Still, Barr said, the White House "fully cooperated" with the probe.

Yet Mueller's report painted a far different picture. It chronicled at least 10 examples of efforts by Trump to

obstruct the investigation and offered damaging details about his campaign's embrace of Russia's interference in the 2016 election even though he didn't find a conspiracy.

Now, Barr faces criticism and damage to his reputation for jumping ahead of the long-awaited findings, using selective language and omitting key details to shape a

narrative much friendlier toward Trump and his conservative supporters than the appraisal that Mueller offered in painstaking detail over 448 pages.

With Mueller not appearing at the news conference Thursday, Barr was able to substitute his own more pleasing patina on the report along with sound bites that soothed

the right. Trump's backers embraced the gambit enthusiastically, starting with the president.

"Game Over," Trump tweeted immediately after Barr's performance. And on Friday, Representative Matt Gaetz, a Florida Republican and Trump ally, tweeted a photo showing him holding up the front page of the conservative Washington

Times splashed with a big photo of Barr and the headline: "No Russia Conspiracy, No Collusion."

But Barr is facing scathing criticism from other quarters. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called his performance

REPORT | 4

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Yellow vest anger burns in France, fueled by Notre Dame fire

Yellow vest protesters set fires in Paris to call attention to their problems

By ANGELA CHARLTON
and MICHEL EULER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — French yellow vest protesters set fires Saturday along a march through Paris to drive home their message to a government they believe is ignoring the poor: that rebuilding the fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral isn't the only problem France needs to solve.

Like the high-visibility vests the protesters wear, the scattered small fires in Paris appeared to be a collective plea to French President Emmanuel Macron's government to "look at me — I need help too!"

Police fired water cannon and sprayed tear gas to try to control radical elements rampaging on the margins of the largely peaceful march, one of several actions around Paris and other French cities.

The protests marked the 23rd straight weekend of yellow vest actions against Macron's centrist government, which they see as favoring the wealthy and big business. Protesters view themselves as standing up for beleaguered French workers, students and retirees who have been battered by high unemployment, high taxes and shrinking purchasing power.

But violence and divisions have marred the movement.

Associated Press reporters saw a car, motorbikes and barricades set ablaze around the Place de la Republique plaza in eastern Paris. The smell of tear gas mixed with the smoke, choking the air.

Paris firefighters — who struggled earlier this week to prevent the 12th-century Notre Dame from collapsing — quickly responded to extinguish the flames at Saturday's protest.

Masked protesters hurled paving stones and flares. Helmeted riot police repeatedly charged as they tried to contain the crowd. AP reporters saw at least two journalists injured in the melee. Troublemakers also ransacked at least two stores and one black-clad protester jumped on a parked Mercedes, smashing its windshields.

Paris police said authorities detained more than 200 people by early afternoon and carried out spot checks on more than 20,000 trying to enter the capital for the protest.

The violence contrasted sharply with the peaceful atmosphere at another march through Paris, where demonstrators mourned the Notre Dame blaze while



AP PHOTO

Police tackle a TV cameraman at the Place de Republique during a yellow vest demonstration in Paris, Saturday, April 20. French yellow vest protesters are marching anew to remind the government that rebuilding the fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral isn't the only problem the nation needs to solve.

also keeping up the pressure on Macron. They tried to march to Notre Dame itself, but were stopped by police a few hundred meters (yards) away.

Young women at that march skipped down a street along the Seine River, accompanied by drummers and singers. One protester carried a huge wooden cross resembling those carried in Good Friday processions.

Many protesters were deeply saddened by the fire at a national monument. But at the same time they are angry at the \$1 billion in donations for Notre Dame renovations that poured in from French tycoons while their own economic demands remain largely unmet and they struggle to make ends meet.

"I think what happened at Notre Dame is a great tragedy but humans should be more important than stones," said protester Jose Fraile.

Some 60,000 police officers mobilized for Saturday's protests across France, and the heavy security thwarted some tourists trying to enjoy the French capital on a warm spring day.

"Paris is very difficult right now," said Paul Harlow of Kansas City, Missouri, as he looked sadly at the damaged Notre Dame.

He and his wife Susan were in Paris only for a few days and didn't make it in time to see the cathedral. On Saturday, their efforts to visit museums were derailed by closed subways and barricaded roads.

"I don't think we'll be back," he said.

Other visitors showed solidarity with the yellow vest cause.

"I am not interested in joining them, but I can understand what they're angry about," said Antonio Costes, a retiree from the Paris suburb of Montreuil who came Saturday to see the damage to Notre Dame. "There is a lot of injustice."

Macron champions pro-business policies that he believes will create much-needed jobs in France. He had been scheduled to lay out his responses to yellow vest concerns on Monday night — tax cuts for lower-income households and measures to boost pensions and help single parents — but canceled the

speech after the Notre Dame fire broke out. He's now expected to address the nation on Thursday.

Some yellow vest critics accuse Macron of trying to exploit the fire for political gain. One protester carried a sign targeting Macron that read: "Pyromaniac — we are going to carbonize you."

Another huge sign read: "Victor Hugo thanks all the generous donors ready to save Notre Dame and proposes that they do the same thing with Les Miserables," referring to the famed author's novels about the cathedral and the struggles of France's poor.

The government estimated that some 27,900 people marched Saturday around France, including some 9,000 in Paris. That was below organizers' estimates.

The yellow vest cause started in November over a rise in fuel taxes and expanded to cover a broad list of economic complaints like high taxes and stagnant wages. It has suffered from divisions in recent months, notably over protest violence and the extremist views of some demonstrators.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Police: Girl, 2, shot with gunfire at Florida home

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — Authorities say a 2-year-old girl was wounded when a gun was fired at a Florida home.

The Florida Times-Union reports three adults, the girl, her twin sister, and another boy were inside the house when the shooting happened in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Lt. Shawn Coarsey said the gunshot wound to the foot was not life-threatening.

Coarsey said the adults heard a gunshot and ran into a front bedroom where they found the girl injured.

The girl's mother and grandmother live at the home with an adult family friend. The friend and his girlfriend were at the home when the shooting happened.

It wasn't immediately clear who owned the gun or how the gun was fired.

Former police officer gets 15 years in drug trafficking plot

MIAMI (AP) — A former Miami police officer has been sentenced to 15 ½ years in prison for her involvement in a drug trafficking conspiracy.

Court records show that Schonton Harris was sentenced Wednesday in Miami federal court. She previously pleaded guilty to conspiring with other officers to possess cocaine.

Investigators say Harris provided police protection for what she believed were large shipments of cocaine on three occasions last September and October. She received a cash payment of \$17,000. The deliveries were arranged by undercover FBI agents.

Cases are still pending against two other former Miami officers, Kelvin Harris and James Archibald.

Naked toddler near IHOP leads to arrest of passed out adults

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Employees of a Florida IHOP were headed to work early Friday when they found a naked toddler wandering the restaurant's parking lot. They then found the toddler's mom and the mom's fiance passed out in a nearby van.

Panama City police tell news outlets that the employees were unable to wake 24-year-old Jordyn Freeman and 27-year-old Randy McMillin, both of whom were under the influence of drugs.

Police say two 9-month-old children were also found in the van, along with drugs and drug paraphernalia. They say one of the twins was covered in blankets and pillows.

Police say the soiled children were given clean clothes and diapers and placed with the state Department of Children and Families.

The Ohio couple was arrested on charges including methamphetamine possession.

Florida baby hurt after tree falls on home during storm

LAKE CITY (AP) — A baby has been injured after an oak tree fell on a Florida home during a strong storm, crashing through the ceiling where she slept.

WJAX-TV reports the 9-month-old girl was taken to a hospital near Lake City, west of Jacksonville.

Monika Taylor-Doll said she had to lift a sheetrock that fell on her daughter while she was sleeping. She said the baby looked fine and was taken to the hospital as a precaution, suffering only from a few scratches.

A strong storm system barreled through the South and was also blamed for the Friday death of an 8-year-old girl in Woodville, south of Tallahassee. A 12-year-old boy was also injured.

The week ahead in Florida: Budget, highways, guns in schools

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Florida lawmakers are entering the final two weeks of their annual 60-day session — the period when bills either start flying, or start dying.

It's when things get unpredictable and hectic as deals are being made on the largest issues facing lawmakers. And even though lawmakers have had seven weeks to iron out differences between House and Senate bills, the next two weeks is when bills can rapidly start changing. There was some evidence last week that deals are in the works as Senate health care bills started coming closer to the House bills. Republican Speaker Jose Oliva has made reducing health care costs a priority.

Now we'll see if the House starts moving toward one of Republican Senate President Bill Galvano's priorities: creating three new toll highways to cut through rural areas of the state. One would connect Collier County in the southwest to Polk County, located between Tampa and Orlando. Another would extend the Suncoast Parkway from Citrus County to Jefferson County, which borders Georgia. The other would

extend from the north end of the Florida Turnpike to the Suncoast Parkway.

The idea is to provide better access to rural areas that haven't seen job growth like other parts of the state. They would also relieve congestion on other highways and provide more hurricane evacuation routes.

And while top policy is being negotiated, so will the state's budget. The Senate has proposed a \$90.3 billion spending plan and the House has an \$89.9 billion proposal.

"I'm actually feeling pretty good about everything," Galvano said about the budget.

And while historically the trading on policy issues is often tied to the trading on budget issues, Galvano insisted that won't necessarily be the case.

"There are continuing discussions about policy, but in dealing with Speaker Oliva, we're not horse traders. We both approach the process genuinely and as gentlemen," Galvano said.

Lawmakers have slightly more than a week to work out the budget differences. While the session is scheduled to end May 3, once there's a budget agreement, lawmakers can't vote on it for 72

hours.

It's a cooling off period required by law so the massive spending document can be reviewed before it's finally approved. So in order to get home on time or avoid coming back for a special session, lawmakers must complete the budget by April 30.

Among other big issues coming up, the Senate is scheduled to vote Tuesday on a wide-ranging school safety bill that's divided Republicans and Democrats over one provision: expanding a program that now allows some, but not all, teachers to carry guns in schools. The issue has prompted hours of discussion leading up to the final vote. The bill is based on recommendations from a commission formed to examine the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland last year that left 17 dead.

Despite agreeing on the bulk of the bill, including provisions that focus on mental health screening and reporting potential threats, Democrats and Republicans are divided over changes to the "guardian program." The current program allows teachers to carry guns in school if they have a role outside the classroom, such as an athletic coach. School districts

have to approve the program and teachers have to volunteer and undergo training and psychological evaluations. The bill being considered opens the program up to all teachers, regardless of other roles.

Democrats fear more guns in schools could lead to accidents or possibly shootings if students physically confront teachers. Republicans say arming teachers could prevent deaths, and say it could have saved lives if the program was in place before the Parkland shooting.

A bill to ban sanctuary policies and require local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities is coming up on the House floor Tuesday. It's been the subject of contentious debate, with Democrats arguing it's a politically motivated, unnecessary piece of legislation that targets minorities. Republicans say it's a matter of following the rule of law and it's needed to make the state safer. If an immigrant in the country illegally is arrested and is the subject of a federal immigration detainer, it would require state authorities to alert federal authorities and hold that person for 48 hours.

NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

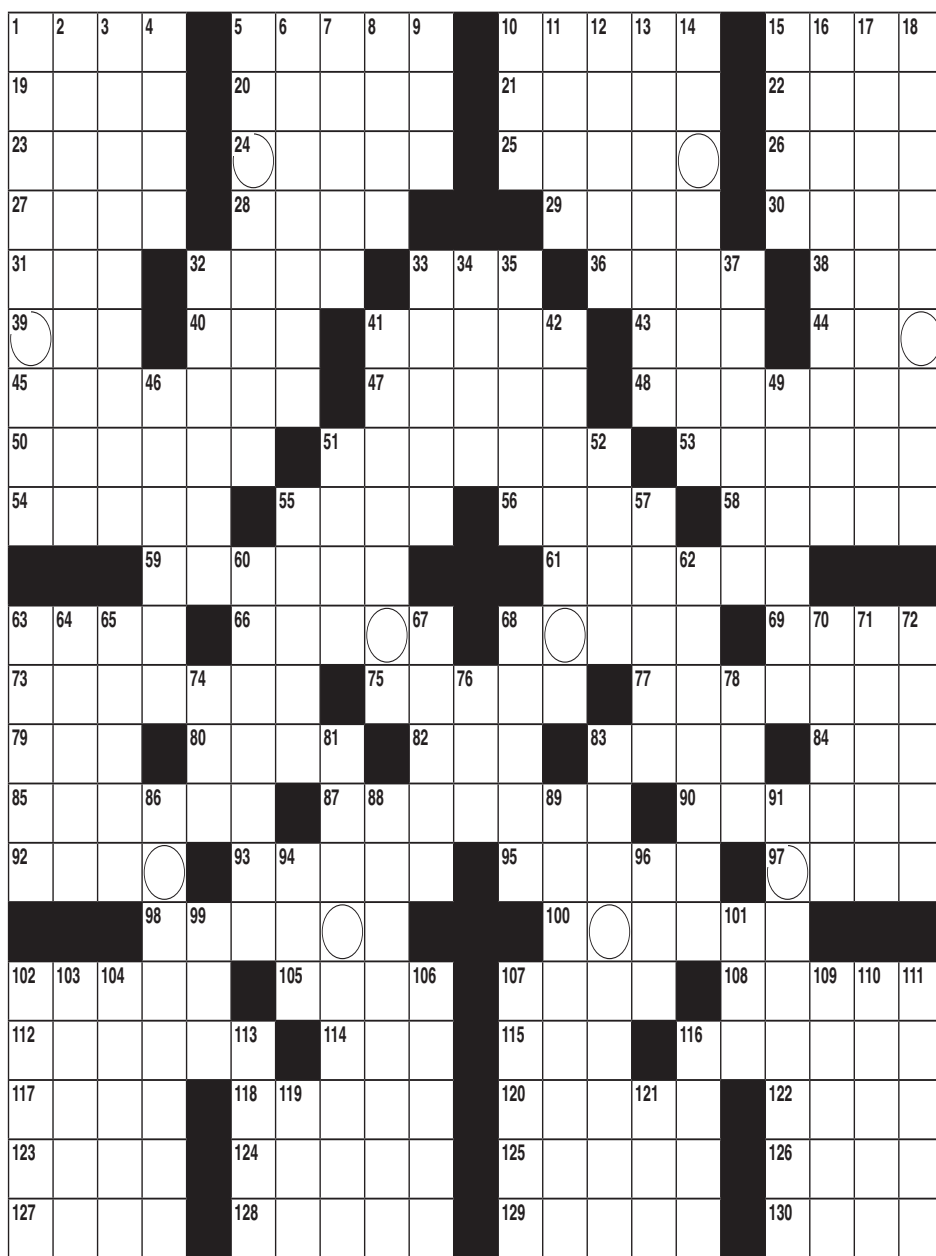
No. 0414

LEFT/RIGHT SYMMETRY

BY WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Will Nediger, of London, Ontario, has a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Michigan. These days he makes his living by constructing crosswords and writing trivia questions.

- ACROSS 40 Road safety spot, e.g., for short 85 Wreck site 129 ___ Park, Colo. 1 [I don't believe it!] 41 Blueprint details 90 Cousin of a martini 5 Time to treat yourself 43 Cryptanalysis org. 92 Blogger's code 10 "The Chosen" novelist Potok 44 Tram part 93 Cuzco residents 15 Vaper's purchase, for short 45 Enlightens 95 Person with a record 19 Performer at a canine talent show in "Garfield: The Movie" 47 Affix with a thumbtack 97 Some breads ... or a homophone for what bread loaves do 20 Water or rust 48 Important address 98 Historical records 21 "Au contraire ..." 50 Ermines, in the summer 100 Flower traditionally used to relieve inflammation 22 Paul of "There Will Be Blood" 51 Hits the jackpot 102 Airheaded 23 "Toodle-oo!" 52 They're full of holes 105 No-nos in many apartment buildings 24 Territories 53 Actress Sohn of "The Wire" 107 Hook's helper 25 Mascara mishap 54 "Phooey!" 108 Junk transporters 26 Sort of 55 Popular girl's name any way you look at it 112 Get ready for a long auto trip 27 Work with a number 56 Father figure? 114 Gaping opening 28 Just fabulous 57 "Curious ..." 115 Cook in the news 29 Guest bed when you don't have an actual guest bed 61 "Begone!" 116 Troy of N.F.L. fame 30 Mr. ___ (fictional sleuth) 62 What "T" may represent commercially 117 ___ Spumante (wine) 31 Grp. that often has its first meeting in the fall 63 Clarinetist Shaw 118 Having a high B.M.I., say 32 Onetime trans-Atlantic fliers, for short 64 Samurai swords 120 Seemingly forever 33 Things to skip 65 Delish 122 Literary character who says, "Cassio's a proper man" 36 Major to-do 66 Totally apt 123 TV's "___ Is Us" 38 Thanks for waiting 67 What you might write to someone you like 124 Object of wishful thinking? 39 Word with "in," "on" or "in on" 80 2016 No. 1 Rihanna album 125 Home of the 2016 men's and women's Olympic marathon winners 82 Peeples person? 126 "Begone!" 83 Goddess represented wearing a solar disk 127 Pricing word 84 Artless nickname? 128 Not bottled, say



- DOWN 1 What some carefree beachgoers do 2 Got comfortable with 3 Pickle 4 Samosa ingredients 5 Epitome of slowness 6 Some track bets 7 Takes a few courses? 8 Goes on to say 9 "Right you are!" 10 Longtime broadcaster of the Masters golf tournament 11 Runs perfectly 12 Tasted, quaintly 13 Down 14 Quagmires 15 Dutch cheese 16 "Murder, She Wrote" setting 17 In the club 18 Start printing 32 Treat with utter contempt 33 Imitation 34 Homes in the woods 35 Seaside rental 37 Get hitched 41 Like the legs of a daddy longlegs 42 Laundry setting 46 Tex-Mex dish 49 Must 51 Walletfuls 52 Part of a dark cloud 55 Verb with "thou" 57 "Ciao!" 60 Sub 62 Roberto of "Life Is Beautiful" 63 Mere smidgen 64 Starfleet Academy attendee 65 Starting lineup 67 Dahlia and Agatha, in the Jeeves novels by P.G. Wodehouse 68 Dazzle 70 ___-face 71 How a ballerina might be seen 72 Knocks the socks off 74 Not, to a Scot 76 Early millennium year 78 Next-to-last letter 81 Stormy 83 Unit in a bar graph 86 ABC sitcom about the Johnsons 88 Oceania's enemy, in "1984" 89 Probes 91 Slightly salty 94 Rip Van Winkle had a long one 96 Liftoff preceder 99 Sch. from which Lady Gaga and Woody Allen were dropouts 101 15-season show set in Vegas 102 Chihuahua, e.g. 103 Ottoman rank 104 Madcap 106 4-0, e.g. 107 Pump up 109 Poker variety 110 Part of an old train 111 Hair net 113 ___ stick 116 Some prosecutors, for short 119 Michael Jackson's second album 121 Countdown time, for short

FOR ANSWERS TURN TO PAGE 3

Ask the Fool

The Best Time to Start?

I'm a new investor. When is the best time to buy my first stock shares? — R.K., Naples, Florida

You can start any time — but only invest dollars you won't need for, say, five or more years.

Trying to time the market is generally futile: Even if the market has been climbing for years, it may keep climbing for a while. Waiting on the sidelines for the perfect time to jump in, you can miss out on gains.

Read up on investing, and commit your hard-earned dollars only when you're comfortable doing so. If jumping in seems too scary, consider buying shares over time.

A great formula for building long-term wealth is to buy into strong and growing companies that have sustainable competitive advantages and are trading at attractive prices.

Can you explain "front-running"? — L.D., Goshen, Indiana

A kind of insider trading, front-running is when someone invests with the aim of profiting on some not-widely-known information.

For example, a mutual fund manager might buy a stock for a personal portfolio and then buy many shares of it for his fund, driving the price up and personally profiting from that.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.



Fool's School

How to Think About Your Home

Thinking of your home as a critical real estate investment is often the wrong thing to do. Yes, it may be the biggest purchase you ever make, but it's not the best wealth-building move.

Yes, property values in some places at various times have soared, making investors a lot of money. But in general, over the long run, homes don't appreciate at a brisk clip.

Even if your home gains significant value before you sell it, you're likely going to buy a similarly valued home in the same general area — so instead of realizing a big gain, you'll essentially just be shifting that value from one

building to another.

Meanwhile, if you need to sell your home quickly, you may not be able to without accepting a lower-than-desired price. Homes don't always hold their value well, either, as fashions change.

For many people, renting is a sensible move, as it can free up a lot of dollars not spent on home insurance, property taxes and repairs — allowing them to spend that money on retirement savings.

So think of your home more as a comfortable place to live than as a great investment. To make money in real estate, consider investment properties — but only if you know what you're doing and have the wherewithal to be a landlord or to improve and flip houses.



Name That Company

I trace my roots back to the 1980 founding in Austin, Texas, of one of the country's first natural foods supermarkets. Over the years, I gobbled up markets such as Bread & Circus, Fresh Fields, Mrs. Gooch's, Harry's Farmers Market, Wild Oats Markets, Bread of Life and Fresh & Wild — and in 2017, a big retailer bought me!

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

My Dumbest Investment

Nano-Trouble

I've made a bunch of dumb investment moves. A particularly bad one was buying the stock of a nanotechnology company many years ago.

The Fool Responds: That company turned out to be a great cautionary tale. It gained a lot of attention in the early 2000s, in part because its name suggested it was engaged in nanotechnology.

Investing in such technologies early can be risky, as you don't know which companies will emerge as big winners and which will fade away.

Patents and potential aren't necessarily good enough to ensure success, especially if a company is burning through a lot of cash, posting losses, racking up debt and/or not yet seeing widespread demand for its offerings.

The company ended up filing for bankruptcy protection in 2009, after its stock fell from a height of nearly \$100 to just \$0.04. It had amassed more than \$400 million in losses between 1998 and 2009.

The Motley Fool Take

Dividends and Growth

The stock of major drugmaker AbbVie (NYSE: ABBV) has been priced at a discount lately over worries that more than 60 percent of its total revenue comes from one drug, Humira, which now faces biosimilar competition in Europe.

However, sales of the company's top two cancer drugs, Imbruvica and Venclexta, are picking up. Endometriosis drug Orilissa is off to a great start, and AbbVie thinks it will soon win another approved indication for the drug in treating uterine fibroids.

AbbVie anticipates approval by the Food and Drug Administration in April for risankizumab in treating psoriasis, with an expected approval for upadacitinib later in the year for treating rheumatoid arthritis.

Wall Street analysts project that AbbVie will be able to increase earnings by close to 10 percent annually, on average, over the next five years. The company also offers a hefty dividend that recently yielded about 5.1 percent, and there's plenty of cash flow available for increases in its payout.

With an appealingly low forward-looking price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio, recently in the single digits, AbbVie seems likely to deliver solid total returns over the long run for patient investors.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to the Nippon Gakki Company, incorporated in Japan in 1897 to make and sell reed organs and pianos. After World War II, I started making motorcycles, too, and that business was later spun off. Today, I'm one of the planet's largest makers of musical instruments; I also make a variety of other things, such as audio products, telecommunications equipment, automobile-interior components and golf products.



Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

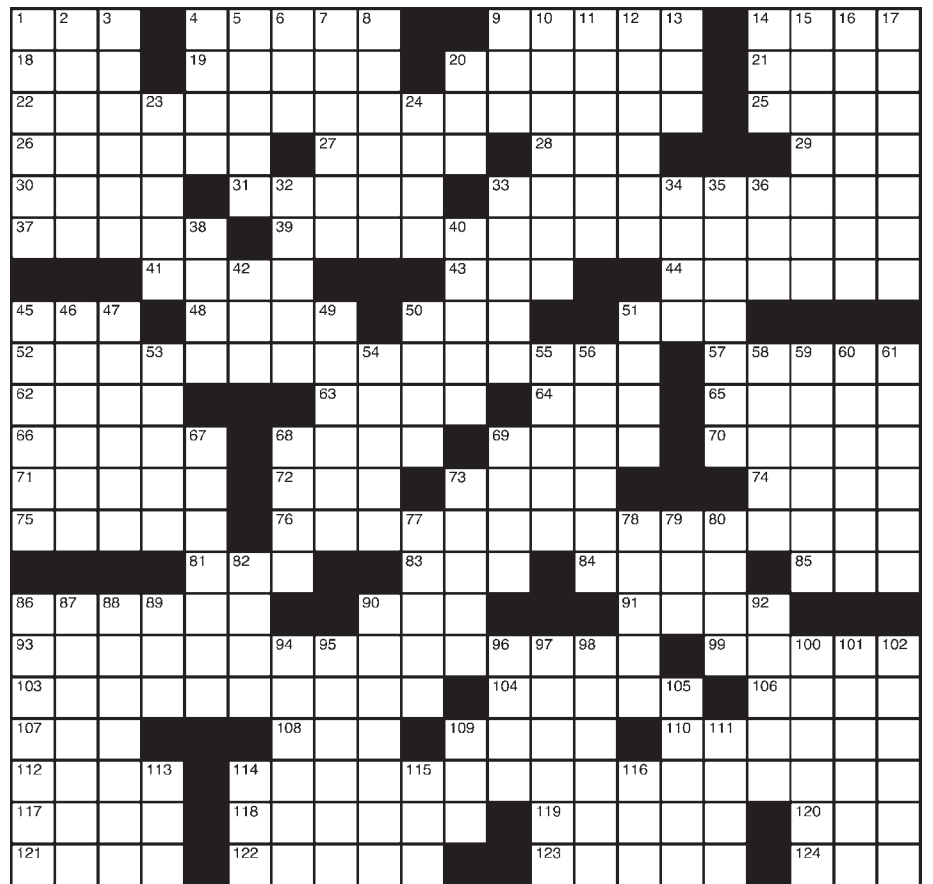
IT'S ALL IN THE GAME SHOW

By Gary Larson

- ACROSS**
- 1 Roll of dough
 - 4 Covert agents
 - 9 Il, on a remote
 - 14 Melt
 - 18 Bar order
 - 19 Ain't right?
 - 20 Beach wear
 - 21 Pixar clownfish
 - 22 [Bee home + Venus + heron kin]
 - 25 Crime film genre
 - 26 In the same place, in footnotes
 - 27 State as fact
 - 28 Kitten's cry
 - 29 NFL ball carriers
 - 30 E Street Band guitarist Lofgren
 - 31 Actor Davis
 - 33 Stereotypical shipwreck site
 - 37 City near Düsseldorf
 - 39 ["Star Trek" villain + mailed + light beam + take pains to avoid]
 - 41 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
 - 43 Take effect, as meds
 - 44 Binges
 - 45 Org. funded by FICA
 - 48 Ward on TV
 - 50 Lennon's love
 - 51 Everyday article
 - 52 [Sass, in slang + inferno + turkey + Babe with a bat]
 - 57 Flavor
 - 62 O.T. book after Amos
 - 63 They may be vacant
 - 64 Furrow maker
 - 65 Run off to wed
 - 66 Harry Potter's forte
 - 68 Junkyard dogs
 - 69 Benefit
 - 70 Hardly bold
 - 71 Gladiator's venue
 - 72 Has too much, for short
 - 73 Aretha's queendom
 - 74 Musical pitch
 - 75 Lazy ___
 - 76 [Legume + yank + pound sound + bee product]
 - 81 Wray of "King Kong"
 - 83 Anger
 - 84 Angry
 - 85 Suffix with cannon
 - 86 Level between kingdom and class
 - 90 "The Raven" writer
 - 91 What's expected
 - 93 [Cutlet meat + statue + quartet + goatee site]
 - 99 Instrument with movable frets
 - 103 Poker pros, say
 - 104 Snap course
 - 106 "Scream" star Campbell
 - 107 Opposite of COD
 - 108 "This Is India" novelist Santha Rama ___
 - 109 Raggedy dolls
 - 110 Advanced
 - 112 Author Dinesen
 - 114 [Utter + cherish + old laundry detergent + harm]
 - 117 ___ stick
 - 118 Climber's tool
 - 119 Hit the road
 - 120 Itinerary abbr.
 - 121 Fed. power dept.
 - 122 "Napoleon Dynamite" sidekick Sanchez
 - 123 Borders
 - 124 Slalom segment
- DOWN**
- 1 Female surfer
 - 2 Suspects' stories
 - 3 New Jersey NHL team
 - 4 "Parsley, ___, rosemary ..."
 - 5 Teaser
 - 6 Mil. roadside hazard
 - 7 Hyphen cousin
 - 8 Lydia's sugar substitute on "Breaking Bad"
 - 9 -op
 - 10 Enlarge
 - 11 Turmoil
 - 12 Kebab holder
 - 13 Body shop fig.
 - 14 Spike TV, once
 - 15 Flexible pronoun substitute
 - 16 1929 title words following "Now he's gone, and we're through"
 - 17 Deteriorates
 - 20 Original D&D co.
 - 23 Ford flop
 - 24 Gone out with
 - 32 Talent
 - 33 Designer's concern
 - 34 Itchy red area
 - 35 Work on galleys
 - 36 Neighbor of Syr.
 - 38 Quick snack
 - 40 Smooths in woodshop
 - 42 Maiden name preceder
 - 45 Plant pores
 - 46 Outback automaker
 - 47 Sayings like "Haste makes waste"
 - 49 Refer (to)
 - 50 Scoreboard count
 - 51 What you used to be?
 - 53 Minneapolis suburb
 - 54 Backs, anatomically
 - 55 Moving brand
 - 56 Stein's confidante
 - 58 2006 Supreme Court appointee
 - 59 Cal Poly city
 - 60 Expressed a view
 - 61 Flight named for its effect on fliers
 - 67 Flower-watering amounts
 - 68 Backup
 - 69 One and only fish?
 - 73 More reliable
 - 77 Devout
 - 78 Opie portrayer Howard
 - 79 To and ___
 - 80 For the woman
 - 82 Asian nurse
 - 86 Material for drainage lines
 - 87 Adds and adds
 - 88 Golf hole measure
 - 89 Honorary law deg.
 - 90 Well-liked
 - 92 Rapper Nicki
 - 94 The Red Baron, e.g.
 - 95 Unraveled
 - 96 Suffix with Pleisto-
 - 97 Take care of
 - 98 Put out, as a magazine
 - 100 Prof's security
 - 101 Wards off
 - 102 Colors again, as hair
 - 105 Still in the game
 - 109 Fifth in NYC, e.g.
 - 111 Till bills
 - 113 "MASH" setting: Abbr.
 - 114 Drink sampling
 - 115 Kitchenware brand
 - 116 Zig partner

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis



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4/21/19

GOREN BRIDGE

UNMAKABLE?

North-South vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

- ♠ A Q 8 5 3
- ♥ K Q 10 7 2
- ♦ J
- ♣ Q 6

EAST

- ♠ K 9 7 2
- ♥ J 9 8 4 3
- ♦ 7 2
- ♣ J 7

WEST

- ♠ 10 6
- ♥ A 5
- ♦ Q 8 4 3
- ♣ A 10 9 8 4

SOUTH

- ♠ J 4
- ♥ 6
- ♦ A K 10 9 6 5
- ♣ K 5 3 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Opening lead: 10 of ♣

Three no trump was headed for down one or more, but South came up with a startling line of play when he was able to read the opponents' table action.

South played dummy's queen of clubs on the opening lead after much thought. East hesitated slightly before playing the jack. South interpreted

this as a play from a doubleton jack, rather than a singleton. South then ran dummy's jack of diamonds, which held the trick after a slight hesitation by West. South led a low spade to his jack, winning the trick when East played low. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and both opponents followed.

South was sure that West had ducked the queen of diamonds earlier. West wouldn't have ducked with only three diamonds, as South, had shown six during the auction. He was already playing West for five clubs after trick one, and now it looked like he also had four diamonds. Should West also hold the doubleton ace of hearts, there was a ray of hope. South led his heart and West innocently played low — a decision he would soon regret. Dummy's king won the trick. Declarer cashed dummy's ace of spades and exited with a low heart to West's now bare ace, discarding a diamond from his hand.

West cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to South's king, but South led his last club to West. West cashed another club, but then had to lead a diamond into declarer's king-10. Not bad!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' e-mails: icaeditors@tribpub.com)

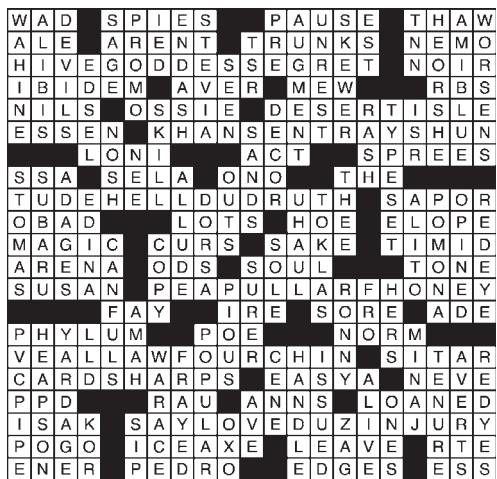
CRYPTOGRAMS

CRYPTOGRAMS CALL ME MAYBE by Myles Mellor

- Z C D T B K Y I F N I D B D Z U W A O A W ' Z
U L W R T C U W D . O Z L R N G D Y R K N D C D
C R A W U G U A F Z U Z R B I Z U .
- U G K M M T X M K K O P T O U Z M I H U S V F I
X F T P S O V R D K . U V T Z G U D T M M I
Z R H D M R T Z K Z T D T O .
- O U F I Q U W E D E D I O W C M P W X W Y
I U T E M B Y M D J M X O F B M D C T J W E ? T I ' J
X W P F Q U W E D !
- G B K V Y D D S G Z S S U K J Y Z K D G . B K
A Y E J B K B Y J G S U K K O B E A F S S F Z K
O B S C K V Z S A K Y G B Y C J E C V Y A K S C E S C
D E C F A !

PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Puzzles on previous pages)



JUMBLE

Answer:

- INHALE STRONG INVOKE
- MARVEL GROGGY INFAMY

When they collected Easter eggs together, it was a —

FAMILY GATHERING

- The plucky skeleton didn't own a phone. It was because he had no body to talk to.
- I fell asleep rapidly with my smart phone. I had finally downloaded a nap.
- What phone network do you think Luke Skywalker is on? It's Yodaphone!
- The carrot looked alert. He said he had to keep his google phone close at hand in

case onion rings!

HOLIDAY MATHIS HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can see patterns that others won't notice (unless and until you point them out.) To see such a thing emerge brings profound satisfaction, akin to a story wrapping up with the perfect ending.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Heavy baggage slows the journey. Whether it's emotional or physical, the cosmic forces align to illuminate the essentials and give you the courage to throw out what you don't need.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one "has the time" because the time doesn't belong to anyone. The best we can do is use time deliberately, which you'll do today once you say "no" to three things having nothing to do with your plan.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). If this day were a marathon, you'd be like the seasoned athlete who understands the magic of pacing. You'll manage your energy very well, so there's plenty to draw on when you need it most.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This represents a rare moment when you'll crave anonymity. You're not hiding, so much as going inside the safety of a cocoon to do the personal work that will allow for your transformation.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be careful not to minimize, alter or deny your own experiences. You're entitled to your version of the story, and you get to frame it however you want. It's most honestly accomplished in the safety of a private journal.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The people around you will have lively opinions about your life. While it's flattering, sometimes you have to distance yourself from the opinions of others in order to hear your own wisdom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Remember the time when the unexpected change shook up your perspective and then something truly positive came out of it? You'll get more of the same, so have a little faith when it goes momentarily a bit sideways.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your moods matter more than you imagine. When you uplift yourself, you uplift those close to you. To raise the energy of your nearest and dearest is to raise the vibration of the planet.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is said that when the student is ready, the master appears. But sometimes the master is late, or clueless. And the student is much better off to speed things along by actively seeking the help of a worthy mentor.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What things mean is more important than what they physically are, especially when it comes to your possessions. Your attachment to an object will bring you through memories and emotions.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your work is an extension of you, but it's not you. The good thing about that sort of extension is that you can be objective about it, take criticism for it, and not let any of that soak in. Nothing personal, just life.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21). Your birthday marks the end of a certain tug-of-war situation in your life. You let go of the rope and watch the opposition tumble backward. Friendships will spark excitement and brilliant escapades. In June, share your business dreams with potential collaborators. A mutually fulfilling joint venture brings summer money. Libra and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 20, 12, 3, and 8.

THE CONVERSATION

Easter eggs: hunting for a solution to excessive packaging



By ELLIOT WOOLLEY

LECTURER IN SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

So which Easter tradition came first? The packaging or the egg? The answer is of course not that surprising (it's the egg). The tradition of giving people eggs at spring time has roots in ancient pagan festivals and exists in the history of a range of religions.

It is only in recent decades that the amount of packaging around a hollow chocolate egg has become a noticeable problem — partly because of a rise in the number of eggs sold. It's true that some manufacturers have made progress in reducing packaging, with a big focus on reducing plastics. Many popular eggs are wrapped in just a layer of foil and a card box (plus any wrappers that come on accompanying confectionery). But this does not mean the problem has gone away.

A report by Which? revealed that around a quarter of the total weight of Easter eggs sold in the UK is taken up by the plastic and cardboard packaging they are wrapped up in. The outer packaging of one of the top-ten selling brands tipped the scales at 152g of a 418g product (36.4%).

According to the environmental charity Friends of the

Earth, Easter egg makers are still failing when it comes to plastic waste. This leads to some 3,000 tonnes of packaging waste each year. But it is too easy to blame the manufacturer — after all, we buy the eggs.

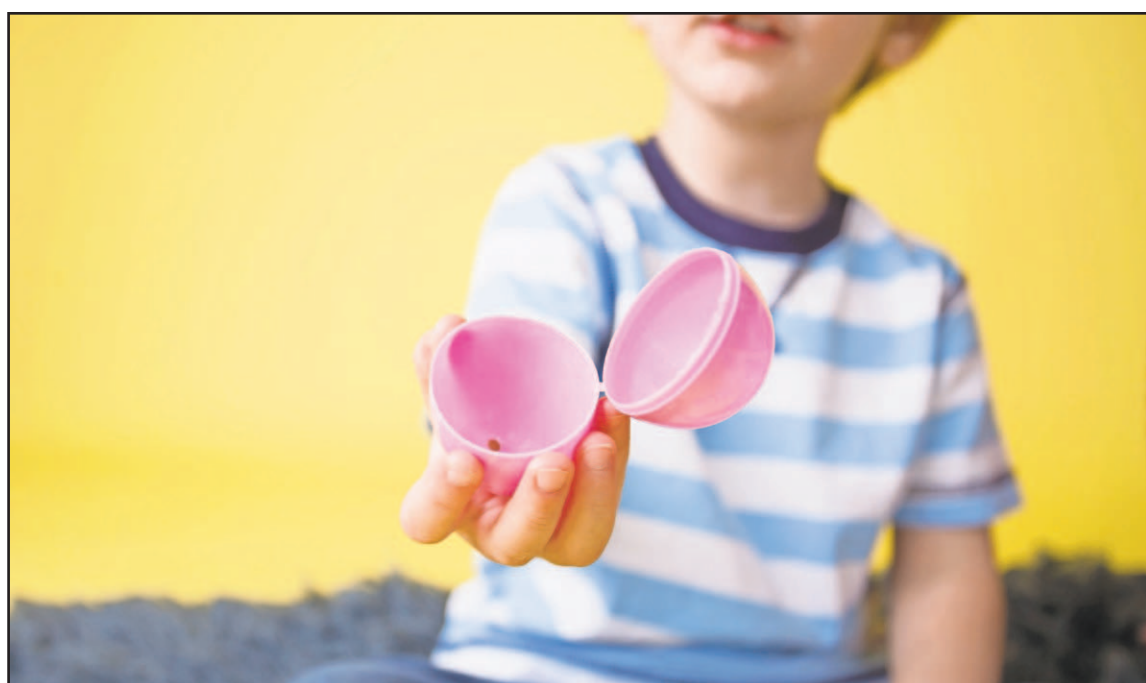
And the packaging does play some role in protecting the chocolate from damage and contamination — otherwise you may end up with food waste (which is actually far worse).

We appear to be at a stalemate — manufacturers do not want to change the big, bright packaging in fear of losing sales. Customers still want to present their friend or relative with a pristine, attractive, traditional gift.

Breaking with tradition

So how can food providers and consumers help to reduce packaging waste? Here are a few options (although some may not be so sweet).

Make the eggs flat. A two dimensional egg can be packaged far more easily and is less prone to damage than a 3D egg which requires additional packaging to protect those thin chocolate walls around a hollow space. Flat eggs could be made just as attractive and would certainly taste the same. They would also improve logistics efficiency by not having to transport so



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

much air.

“Build your own” Easter egg kits — packs could include everything you need to produce a bespoke egg (including two egg halves) for your loved one. There would be no need for plastic packaging and you would be giving a personalized, hand-crafted gift.

Opt for cardboard and items wrapped in packaging that can be recycled — such as cardboard and foil. Typically, it is the more luxurious brands that want to show off their extravagant produce in-store who still use

large amounts of plastic.

Avoid getting drawn in by the additional items or “gifts” that may come with eggs. These are the kind of gifts that nobody really wants, such as a low-quality mug or plastic toy — and the negative environmental impact of producing those could be much greater than that of the chocolate egg and packaging combined. And you will pay a premium for them.

Ignore chocolate this Easter and opt for something more meaningful. Regardless of your religion (or lack of), Easter is

about new life, not new waistlines. Bake or make something (egg shaped if you like) that your family will really like and will mean much more to them than manufactured chocolate. And which the planet will thank you for too.

Whichever way you choose to cut down on packaging this Easter, remember that this is just one of many ways you can reduce your household waste. The world it seems is in the midst of a packaging crisis. Together we can (ahem) crack it.

Private cargo ship brings Easter feast to the space station

By MARCIA DUNN

AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A private cargo ship brought the makings of an Easter feast to the International Space Station on Friday, along with mice and little flying robots.

Space station astronaut Anne McClain used a robot arm to capture Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule as they soared 258 miles above France.

The Cygnus and its 7,600-pound shipment rocketed from Wallops Island, Virginia, on Wednesday, completing the trip in a quick day and a half. It holds numerous science experiments, including 40 mice taking part in a tetanus vaccination study, and three boxy free-flying robots designed to assist astronauts inside and out.

NASA also packed more than 800 meals for the six station residents. Their holiday choices include pork chops with gravy, smoked turkey, potatoes au gratin, lemon meringue pudding and apricot cobbler.

Northrop Grumman named this Cygnus the S.S. Roger Chaffee after the youngest of

the three astronauts who died in the Apollo 1 spacecraft fire in 1967. Chaffee was the only one on the crew who never made it to space.

“It's great to have the S.S. Roger Chaffee officially on board,” McClain radioed. “We never forget that we stand on the shoulders of giants. Please know that every day we remember his sacrifice and that we will continue to honor his legacy by pursuing his passion for exploration. To the S.S. Roger Chaffee, welcome aboard.”

Two hours after its arrival, the capsule was anchored onto the space station by flight controllers working remotely from Houston. The Cygnus will remain there until July, when it is released with trash for a few months of solo orbiting in a test by Northrop Grumman. It ultimately will make a fiery re-entry.

Besides McClain, there are two other Americans living on the space station, as well as two Russians and one Canadian. They will receive another shipment in just over a week from NASA's other commercial supplier, SpaceX.

COLORFUL HISTORY OF THE Easter egg



Peter Carl Faberge, Russian Czar Alexander III's court jeweler, created an intricate platinum, enamel and gold egg in 1883 as a gift for the czar's wife

The tradition of dyeing eggs has roots that can be traced back thousands of years to pre-Christian sun worship festivals. Here's how the custom evolved:

3000 B.C.

• Pagans believed that birds were blessed because they could get closest to the sun god; man couldn't catch the birds, only their eggs, which became symbols of fertility and rebirth

• Sun worshippers in the region now known as Ukraine created intricately decorated eggs covered with nature symbols; they called the craft pysanky and used the eggs in springtime religious ceremonies

988 A.D.

• Ukrainians adopted Christianity, and decorated eggs took on new meaning; the eggs were used to symbolize the rebirth of Christ, incorporating Christian symbols into traditional pysanky designs

1200

• Christian holy days became more popular as Christianity spread in Europe
• Christians in Mesopotamia exchanged colored eggs during their Easter celebrations; these were the first Easter eggs

1290

• Edward I of England ordered 450 Easter eggs covered in gold leaf, which were exchanged by members of the royal household
• Peasants wrapped their Easter eggs with ferns and flowers and then boiled them, imprinting the patterns on the shell

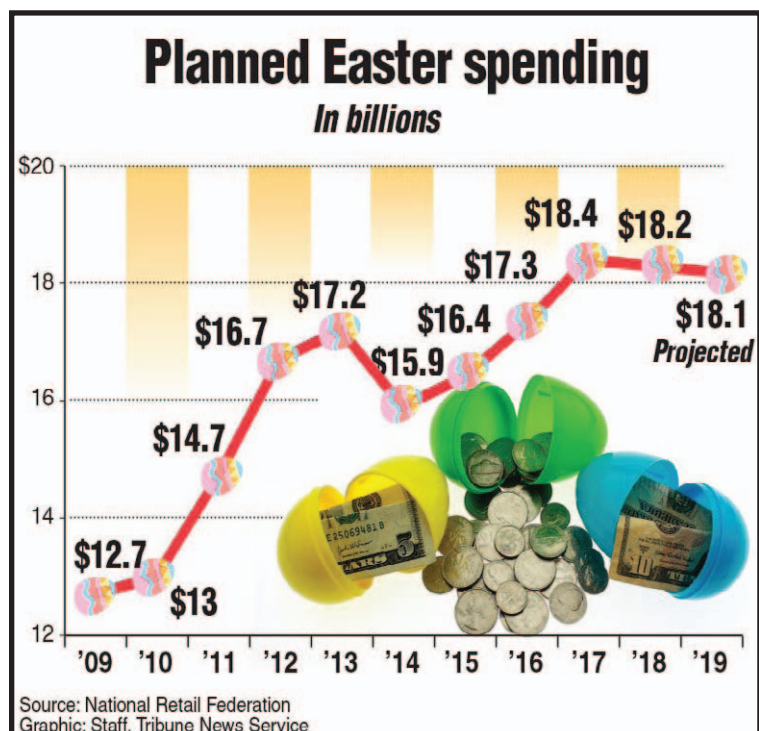
1875

• Chocolate eggs began to gain popularity, and Cadbury Limited became a major producer; new styles, designs and fillings were introduced over the years

1880

• William Townley, a New Jersey druggist who had become well known for his powdered egg dye formula, founded Townley's Easter Egg Dye
• He soon changed the name to PAAS, derived from the Pennsylvania Dutch word Passen, meaning Easter; Townley's formula is now sold in tablet form

• Russian Easter eggs are often dyed red and decorated with the letters XV, which means Christ has risen



POPE FROM PAGE 1

by one, and listened to him calling their first names. On Sunday, Francis

celebrates Easter Mass in late morning in St. Peter's Square and gives a speech from the basilica balcony. Known by its Latin name “Urbi et Orbi” (to the city and to the world), the speech

is an occasion to reflect on the world's war-ravaged and other tense spots while paying tribute to Catholics' practicing their faith sometimes in the face of persecution or other difficulties.



Nadal shocked

Three-time defending Monaco Masters champ knocked off by 13th-ranked Fognini in semifinals. See the story on page 8.

Sunday, April 21, 2019

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■ CHARLOTTE SUN GIRLS WEIGHTLIFTER OF THE YEAR: **Lexus Sweet, Charlotte**

Strength and spirit deliver Sweet success

Tarpon senior was runner-up at 139 pounds for state title, while placing first in bench press

By **BEN BAUGH**
SPORTS WRITER

She's had an athlete's mindset from an early age.

Lexus Sweet's previous routine included the balance beam, vaulting, the uneven bars and floor exercise, having participated in gymnastics for a decade.

Those early experiences would help her transition successfully into another sport, where she's enjoyed great success. It was through the encouragement and suggestion of a friend that Sweet became involved with weightlifting.

Breanna Jacobs, a three-time state champion while at Charlotte, twice in the 129-pound division and once at 110-pounds, convinced Sweet that she should give weightlifting a try. And the rest as they say is history, with Sweet creating her own legacy.

Sweet placed second in the 139-pound weight class at this year's State Championship at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach, after winning Regionals and Districts this past winter. She was the state champion in 2018 at 139-pounds. Sweet's total at States was 10 pounds less than the eventual winner, placing first in the bench press in her division, with a lift of 190 pounds. She totaled at 370 pounds. The Tarpon senior has been selected as the Charlotte

Sun's Girls Weightlifter of the Year.

"I've always been super strong, and I think by having the opportunity to work with Coach (Matt) Galley, my technique has improved drastically, which definitely helps me get higher in the bench press," said Sweet. Sweet's total when she captured the state crown in 2018, was 30 pounds less than her total in 2019.

Gymnastics provided a platform for Sweet to build strength, she said. But the flexibility she developed was also a critical component in the two phases for weightlifting.

"I arch my back ridiculously too much, and with that, it definitely helps me in adding extra weight because of how much I have to bring the bar down to my chest," said Sweet. "But it also helps me with the clean and jerk because I'm able to squat a lot more than people in my weight class should be able to do."

All three of Sweet's coaches have played a significant role in helping her to evolve as an athlete, allowing her to become among the best at her chosen sport.

"They helped me to grow not only strength wise, but also mentally because I'm very hard on myself," said Sweet. "But my coaches definitely pushed me to get through a work out;



PHOTO PROVIDED

SWEET | 3 Charlotte's Lexus Sweet won the state weightlifting title at 139 pounds in 2018, and placed second in 2019. She made the transition to weightlifting after competing as a gymnast for a decade.

■ NBA PLAYOFFS: **Magic**

Siakam's surprise story is no surprise anymore

Cameroon import has torched Orlando

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

ORLANDO — The stars have been stars in these playoffs.

Kyrie Irving has Boston on the cusp of sweeping away Indiana Pacers. Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry and Golden State are coming off a game against the Los Angeles Clippers where the Warriors looked very much like the NBA champions again. Damian Lillard and Russell Westbrook are going at each other big-time in the Portland-Oklahoma City series.

And then there's Pascal Siakam. Toronto's surprise story is no surprise anymore. Siakam has been

perhaps the biggest breakout player in these playoffs, adding to his breakout season for the Raptors — who lead the Orlando Magic 2-1 in their first-round matchup thanks largely to the 25-year-old from Cameroon and his 24.3 points and 10 rebounds per game in the series.

It's easy to forget that Siakam only started playing organized basketball seven years ago.

"Seriously?" Raptors guard Danny Green asked, unaware of his teammate's unique background.

Seriously. Raptors coach Nick Nurse was amused by a recent question suggesting the Siakam

was the team's third option offensively behind Kawhi Leonard and Kyle Lowry. Nurse said the way Toronto sees it, Siakam — "Spicy P" is what they call him in Toronto, and the team sent out bottles of hot sauce with his face on the box to NBA awards voters as part of his Most Improved Player campaign — has really been the second option all season.

At times in these playoffs, he's been the first option. In other words, a star is being born.

"Hey, look, he was terrific," Magic coach Steve Clifford said after Siakam's 30-point, 11-rebound effort in

MAGIC | 6

■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Richt on leaving Miami: 'I didn't want to fake it'

Former Hurricanes head coach gives first public comments since abrupt retirement

By **MATT BAKER**
TAMPA BAY TIMES

ORLANDO — Mark Richt said his sudden retirement from Miami at the end of the season came in part because he thought the Hurricanes would be better off without him.

"I just thought it was the right time to do that," Richt said in his first public remarks since retiring in December. "There's no easy time to do it, for sure, especially when you're the head coach..."

"I felt it was the right time for me as a person, and I felt like Miami would be in better hands. I did because I thought it was the right time for me, and I also

felt like it was going to be good for the university, which is my alma mater, obviously."

Richt spoke with reporters Saturday during halftime of Miami's spring game at Camping World Stadium. The occasion: ESPN announced that he was joining the soon-to-be-launched ACC Network as a studio analyst.

So why did he think the 'Canes would be in better off without him?

"I just felt like me knowing that it was time for me to not do it anymore, I didn't want to fake it," Richt said. "I didn't want to just do it for the money. I felt like, for me to know it was time for me to stop coaching, it was

just obvious that it was going to be good for everybody."

Richt said he began to think about it after Miami ended its 7-5 regular season.

After Wisconsin thrashed his 'Canes in the bowl game, Richt knew it was time to move on.

"I don't know how to describe it other than sometimes you just know," Richt said. "Sometimes you just know."

Richt said he doesn't intend to coach again.

If he is indeed done coaching, he finishes with a 171-64 career record. His 26-13 run at Miami included the program's first ever trip to the ACC title game.

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PICK 2

Apr. 20N	8-3
Apr. 20D	0-7
Apr. 19N	1-9
Apr. 19D	5-2
Apr. 18N	8-0
Apr. 18D	3-1
D-Day, N-Night	

PICK 3

Apr. 20N	1-1-0
Apr. 20D	9-2-8
Apr. 19N	1-0-3
Apr. 19D	6-1-8
Apr. 18N	9-2-0
Apr. 18D	0-6-8
D-Day, N-Night	

PICK 4

Apr. 20N	4-5-0-7
Apr. 20D	2-0-0-1
Apr. 19N	8-0-2-6
Apr. 19D	9-9-7-4
Apr. 18N	0-5-2-0
Apr. 18D	4-9-3-4
D-Day, N-Night	

PICK 5

Apr. 20N	8-7-7-4-7
Apr. 20D	9-9-2-0-9
Apr. 19N	7-7-7-9-7
Apr. 19D	1-2-4-5-3
Apr. 18N	2-9-3-4-8
Apr. 18D	4-1-2-2-8
D-Day, N-Night	

FANTASY 5

Apr. 20	Late
Apr. 19	9-16-22-24-33
Apr. 18	3-5-7-32-35
PAYOFF FOR APR. 18	
4 5-digit winners	\$52,019.86
298 4-digit winners	\$112.50
9,169 3-digit winners	\$10

CASH FOR LIFE

Apr. 18	22-30-33-49-55
Cash Ball	1
...	
Apr. 15	3-13-19-36-50
Cash Ball	2
PAYOFF FOR APR. 18	
0 5-5 CB	\$1,000/Day
0 5-5	\$1,000/Week
5 4-5 CB	\$2,500
4 4-5	\$500

JACKPOT TRIPLE PLAY

Apr. 19	9-28-34-37-38-46
Apr. 16	8-25-30-33-35-42
Apr. 12	2-9-12-25-27-28
PAYOFF FOR APR. 19	
0 6-of-6	\$1,000,000
32 5-of-6	\$530.50
1,665 4-of-6	\$24.50
29,367 3-of-6	\$1
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$1,200,000

LOTTO

Apr. 17	2-25-31-45-52-53
Apr. 13	5-18-28-37-42-49
Apr. 10	18-22-34-39-48-53
PAYOFF FOR APR. 17	
1 6-digit winners	\$6 million
12 5-digit winners	\$6,507.50
753 4-digit winners	\$76.50
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$2 million

POWERBALL

Apr. 20	Late
Powerball	Late
...	
Apr. 17	1-15-17-46-66
Powerball	15
PAYOFF FOR APR. 17	
0 5-5 + PB	\$118 million
0 5-5	\$1 million
2 4-5 + PB	\$50,000
27 4-5	\$100
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$136 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Apr. 19	18-25-43-44-57
Mega Ball	25
...	
Apr. 16	11-29-34-48-54
Mega Ball	10
PAYOFF FOR APR. 19	
0 5 of 5 + MB	\$175 million
0 5 of 5	\$1 million
4 4 of 5 + MB	\$10,000
22 4 of 5	\$500
ESTIMATED JACKPOT	
	\$192 million

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MLB: Red Sox 6, Rays 5

Pham pickoff ends Tampa Bay rally

Boston's Benintendi connected on grand slam, ninth-inning sacrifice fly

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — The World Series champion Boston Red Sox won a series for the first time this season when Andrew Benintendi hit a grand slam and a tiebreaking ninth-inning sacrifice fly and catcher Christian Vázquez picked off Tommy Pham for the final out in a 6-5 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Saturday night.

Boston had lost four of its first six series and split the other two during a 6-13 start, its worst since 1996. The Red Sox beat the AL East-leading Rays 6-4 in Friday's series opener.

Before the game, the Red Sox put right-hander Nathan Eovaldi on the disabled list because of loose bodies in his pitching elbow and said it has not been determined whether he will need surgery.

Rick Porcello gave up two runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings, Matt Barnes (2-0) won after allowing Yandy Diaz's tying home run leading off the eighth, and Ryan Brasier got his fifth save in six chances after getting into trouble. Daniel Robertson singled leading off and Tommy Pham singled with two outs. With Steve Pearce playing off first base, Willy Adames fouled off a pitch,

and Vázquez, who had just entered in the middle of the ninth, received the second pitch and fired to first to pick off Pham.

Boston is no stranger to game-ending pickoffs. Koji Uehara picked off Kolten Wong of St. Louis at first base to end Game 4 of the 2013 World Series.

Boston went ahead in the ninth against José Alvarado (0-1) after Jackie Bradley Jr. singled leading off. Michael Chivas, a 23-year-old taken with the 26th overall pick in the 2014 amateur draft, pinch in his major league debut and doubled. Benintendi followed with his go-ahead fly.

Tampa Bay had won its first six series of the season. The Red Sox won consecutive games for just the second time this year.

Benintendi homered off Charlie Morton in a five-run second after Sandy Leon was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Avisañ García hit a solo homer in the second, and Brandon Lowe drove in a run in the fourth with one of Tampa Bay's franchise-record four triples. Boston had not allowed four triples in a game since June 9, 1983, against Detroit. Austin Meadows hit a two-run triple in the seventh, and Kevin



AP PHOTO

Boston Red Sox first baseman Steve Pearce tags out Tampa Bay Rays' Tommy Pham at first on a pickoff play with two outs during the ninth inning, Saturday, in St. Petersburg. Pearce and Daniel Robertson were on base with Willy Adames up at the time of the play.

Kiermaier and Ji-Man Choi also tripled for the Rays — Choi left in the sixth inning because of a tight left calf.

Morton struck out nine while giving up five runs and six hits in six innings.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Red Sox: 1B Mitch Moreland left in the third inning due to back spasms.

Rays: LHP Blake Snell (fractured right fourth toe) threw 18 pitches in his first bullpen session and is to throw another bullpen session Monday. Manager Kevin Cash didn't rule out the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner from returning Wednesday or Friday.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CLASS A ADVANCED: Charlotte 7, Fort Myers 2

Stone Crabs unleash early barrage

Charlotte does their damage in first two innings to take series from Miracle

By STONE CRABS

FORT MYERS — The Charlotte Stone Crabs plated seven runs in the first two innings Saturday, claiming the series with a 7-2 victory over the Fort Myers Miracle at Hammond Stadium.

The Stone Crabs (6-11) didn't waste any time getting the offense going against Miracle starter Charlie Barnes (1-2). Barnes walked the first two batters before Vidal Brujan was picked off second. Barnes then walked Tyler Frank and Carl Chester to load the bases with nobody out. The next batter was

Ronaldo Hernandez, who rolled a single into left center to give Charlotte a 2-0 lead. Jim Haley followed with an RBI single to left to make it 3-0.

Still up three in the top of the second, Garrett Whitley smacked a double to the wall in center before Zac Law reached on an infield single.

Seaver Whalen followed with an infield single of his own to load the bases with nobody out. Brujan then lined a single to right to score Whitley and make it 4-0. The next batter was Zach Rutherford, who flew out to deep

left to plate Law and extend the Crabs lead to 5-0. After another walk, Hernandez lofted a two-run single to center to cap the rally at 7-0.

The Miracle plated a run in the fourth on a Lewin Diaz single, but Stone Crabs starter Tommy Romero (1-0) limited the damage all evening. The Charlotte right-hander worked around eight hits, limiting the Miracle to one run over five innings. He struck out four en route to his first High-A win.

Mikey York worked two scoreless innings before Jhonleider

Salinas delivered a 1-2-3 eighth for Charlotte.

The Miracle added another run in the ninth on a Ryan Costello sacrifice fly, but Simon Rosenblum-Larson stranded three Fort Myers runners to seal the win.

Winners in three of their last four, the Stone Crabs will begin a three-game series with the Tampa Tarpons (6-11) at 6:30 p.m. on Monday. Brian Shaffer (0-0, 1.69) makes his first start of the year for Charlotte, against Frank German (0-1, 4.15) of the Tarpons.

SPORTS ON TV

COLLEGE BASEBALL	
12:30 p.m.	CBSN — Army at Navy
WOMEN'S COLLEGE GOLF	
8:30 a.m.	SEC — SEC Championship: From Birmingham, Ala.
MEN'S COLLEGE LACROSSE	
11 a.m.	BTN — Michigan at Rutgers
12 p.m.	ESPN — Johns Hopkins at Penn State
COLLEGE SOFTBALL	
1 p.m.	BTN — Minnesota at Nebraska
2 p.m.	ESPN2 — Tennessee at Georgia
3 p.m.	BTN — Michigan at Illinois
4 p.m.	ESPN2 — Auburn at Kentucky
5 p.m.	BTN — Purdue at Northwestern
MEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS	
2 p.m.	SEC — SEC Tournament: Teams TBD, championship, Gainesville, Fla.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS	
4:30 p.m.	SEC — SEC Tournament: Teams TBD, championship, College Station, Texas
CURLING	
10:30 p.m.	NBCSN — World Mixed Doubles Championship: U.S. vs. Latvia, championship, Norway (taped)
GOLF	
1 p.m.	GOLF — PGA Tour Golf: RBC Heritage, final, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

3 p.m.	
CBS — PGA Tour Golf: RBC Heritage, final round, Hilton Head Island, S.C.	
GOLF — PGA Tour Champions Golf: Mitsubishi Electric, final round, Duluth, Ga.	
MLB	
2 p.m.	MLB — LA Dodgers at Milwaukee
OR NY Mets at St. Louis	
7 p.m.	ESPN — Atlanta at Cleveland
NBA	
1 p.m.	ABC — NBA Playoff: Boston at Indiana, East 1st Round, Game 4
3:30 p.m.	ABC — NBA Playoff: Golden State at LA Clippers, West 1st Round, Game 4
7 p.m.	TNT — NBA Playoff: Toronto at Orlando, East 1st Round, Game 4
9:30 p.m.	TNT — NBA Playoff: Portland at Oklahoma City, West 1st Round, Game 4
NHL	
3 p.m.	NBC — Stanley Cup Playoff: Teams TBD
7 p.m.	NBCSN — Stanley Cup Playoff: Teams TBD
RUGBY	
3 p.m.	NBCSN — European Champions Cup: Leicester vs. Toulouse, semifinals (taped)
10 p.m.	CBSN — New Orleans Gold vs. Seattle Seawolves
MEN'S SOCCER	
8:25 a.m.	NBCSN — Premier League: Everton vs. Manchester United
9:30 a.m.	FS1 — Bundesliga: SC Freiburg vs. Borussia Dortmund
10:55 a.m.	NBCSN — Premier League: Cardiff City vs. Liverpool
12 p.m.	FS1 — Bundesliga: Hertha Berlin vs. Hannover 96
4 p.m.	ESPN — MLS: D.C. United vs. New York City FC
7 p.m.	FS1 — MLS: Los Angeles FC vs. Seattle Sounders

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PGA TOUR

Johnson moves atop the RBC Heritage leaderboard

World's top-ranked golfer pulls one shot in front of Lowry, Poulter and Sabbatini

By PETE IACOBELLI
AP SPORTS WRITER

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Dustin Johnson, known for his length off the tee, showed off his precise ball-positioning and hot putter Saturday to take the RBC Heritage lead.

Johnson shot a 3-under 68 for a one-shot lead over Shane Lowry, Ian Poulter and Rory Sabbatini.

The top-ranked Johnson, a South Carolina native who had not played his home state's only PGA Tour stop for nine years before returning in 2018, seems to have found a home on Harbour Town Golf Links' narrow fairways and smallish greens. He had his sixth round in the 60s over the last two years to reach 10 under.

"I'm really enjoying playing in it," Johnson said. "I really enjoyed playing in it last year

after being away for so long. It's something I look forward to now. We have a really big fan base here and growing up in South Carolina definitely helps."

Lowry led the first 48 holes before making three bogeys on his final six holes in a 71. Poulter shot a 67, and Sabbatini had a 68.

Patrick Cantlay kept up his stellar weekend play and was two shots behind. Cantlay shot 64-68 last week at the Masters and had a 66 to lead a group of six at 8 under.

Johnson, who's won 20 PGA Tour titles, showed off other parts of his game that sometimes get overlooked by his massive drives. He saved par out of the pine straw after a bad drive to the right and into the trees on the 12th hole, then made birdie on the par-5 15th after putting his tee shot in the woods.

"The course played tough. It was very challenging," he said. "It was tough getting balls close to the hole."

So Johnson just made a bunch of long putts. He had a 20-footer for birdie on the sixth hole and a 19-footer for birdie on the 13th. The highlight came at No. 14 when Johnson dropped a 47-foot bomb that caught the lip of the cup and rolled almost all the way around before dropping.

If he can keep it up Sunday, Johnson will become just the second South Carolina born player to win the RBC Heritage, joining friend and one-time Dutch Fork High golf teammate Wesley Bryan, who became the first to do it two years ago.

Johnson won the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship in February and tied for second last week in the Masters.

Sun Preps All-Area Girls Weightlifting Team

Brisilda Bejte



Charlotte, senior, 101-pound weight class

After a second place finish to teammate Madison Shepard at Districts, where she bench pressed 135 pounds and clean and jerked 115 pounds; Bejte placed first at the Regionals with a bench press of 125 pounds and a clean and jerk of 130 pounds, totaling 255 pounds.

She would tie for second at States, losing a tie-breaker at the weigh-in following the competition, eventually placing third. Bejte bench pressed 105 pounds, with her clean and jerk lift of 150 pounds to total at 255 pounds for the competition.

"Brisilda was extremely impressive and went from being toward the bottom of State competitors last year to being five pounds away from being State champ this year," said Matt Galley, Charlotte High School girls weightlifting coach.

Ameijha Jones



Port Charlotte, junior, 183-pound weight class

Jones took first place at the Class 1A District 14 meet in January at Port Charlotte High School, bench pressing 145 pounds, with her best lift in the clean and jerk at 150 pounds.

Jones placed second at Regionals, bench pressing 150 pounds, matching her bench press total in the clean and jerk, totaling at 300 pounds.

The Lady Pirate would bench press 155 pounds and clean and jerk the same total at States at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach.

"Ameijha developed quickly as she comes from a very strong and athletic family," said Dave Hoffer, Port Charlotte girls weightlifting coach. "She's extremely coachable and has an exceptional work ethic. She was limited with practice time because she also competed in basketball at the same time. Taking that into consideration, we were quite pleased with how much she improved her technique and strength."

Ariana Kerr



Venice, junior, 183-pound weight class

Kerr was a dynamo, capturing Districts by bench pressing 200 pounds, followed by a 165-pound best in the

clean and jerk. She followed that performance by winning Regionals by matching her district bench press total and by lifting 160-pounds in the clean and jerk.

Kerr's consistency was evident at States where she finished second, once again bench pressing 200 pounds and recording a 165-pound total in the clean and jerk.

"She only lost to one person this year, and that was at the State meet to the eventual State champion," said Sascha Hyer, Venice girls weightlifting coach. "All the girls fought hard this year. It's getting kids to buy-in that it's not only an individual sport but a team sport."

Sara Reid



Lemon Bay, senior, 101-pound weight class

Reid placed first at the 1A District 14 meet, bench pressing 100 pounds and lifting 100 pounds in the clean and jerk.

She would follow that performance eight days later at Regionals in the 1A meet at River Ridge High School, placing second matching her totals at Districts, earning a trip to states.

"I coached Sara the past two years and she has really grown both mentally and physically," said Dawn Hall, Lemon Bay girls weightlifting coach. "She didn't have much confidence her junior year, and I think

that's where she really developed as an athlete. She also became a strong team leader, trying to put the team first and take care of her teammates. She's a tough competitor and because of her being so tiny, probably came as close to her potential as anyone. She continued to perfect her technique over the last two years, and it was a pleasure being able to coach her."

Bri Sepulveda



North Port, senior 110-pound weight class

Sepulveda won her division at both Districts and Regionals, bench pressing 135 and lifting 145 in the clean and jerk at the 2A District 16 meet; she would improve her collective total by 25 pounds at Regionals, bench pressing 155 pounds and lifting 150 in the clean and jerk phase.

The North Port senior will be lifting collegiately and placed third at states, bench pressing 140 pounds and lifting 165 pounds in the clean and jerk.

"Bri is a driven workout warrior, who uses every training session as an opportunity to improve," said Wayne Skelton, North Port girls weightlifting coach. "Coach Luis Morales deserves the credit for making her the mechanical technician she is today. He impressed upon her training that technique is everything, weight will follow. Sound advice considering all she has accomplished. She also accepted a scholarship to Lindenwood University, where she will continue her education in the

classroom and on the platform as a collegiate weightlifter."

Britney Williams



Williams put up incredible numbers. At the District meet, she bench pressed 260 pounds and followed that total with a 185-pound lift for the clean and jerk, cruising to the District title.

At Regionals, Williams would earn another title by matching her total in the bench press and lifting five pounds more in the clean and jerk, to total at 450 pounds.

At States, Williams would bench press 255 pounds, but her clean and jerk lift of 200 pounds, found her totaling at 455 pounds, good enough for fourth place at States.

"Britney became significantly stronger this year," said Galley. "Both she and Brisilda's benches jumped drastically. Britney broke her own school records several times."

Honorable Mention
Anabelle Anderson, Charlotte; Kareine Dejean, Charlotte; Tatiana Wilburn, North Port; Tiffany Crady, Lemon Bay; Nicholette Moss, Port Charlotte; Javi Quiles, North Port; Kylie Flaherty-Cohn, Venice; Jayce Tippman, Venice; Alicia Kowalski, Port Charlotte; Sarah Hamsher, Lemon Bay; Erika Lane, Charlotte; Kylie Kaufman, Port Charlotte; Lauren Meddaugh, Charlotte; Kayla Jarrett, Port Charlotte; Leanna Thompson, Port Charlotte; Aryana Haynes, Charlotte; Zoeie Kaufman, Port Charlotte; Kayla Vaughn, Lemon Bay; Zoey Daniels, North Port and Cheyenne Warren, Charlotte.

SWEET

FROM PAGE 1

pushed me to make a personal record, to try and beat my own record that I made previously."

In addition to Galley, Angie Nolan, who was Sweet's first coach when she began lifting, and Ray Hixson, have also played a critical role in her development. Sweet's Personal Record for both the bench press and clean and jerk is 195 pounds.

"They're amazing coaches, and they're always there for all of us girls," said Sweet. "I honestly couldn't have asked for better coaches."

A positive mental approach; belief in her ability; an indefatigable work ethic and intrepid spirit, have allowed Sweet to succeed in the most competitive of environments.

"Every time I lift, I always remind myself, that no matter the outcome, I know that I can be better than what I was before," said Sweet. "So, stepping up for the bench press, stepping up for the clean and jerk, no matter what weight it is. I always act as if it's my last attempt. I always put 110 percent into every lift."

However, it's Sweet's equanimity that seems to set her apart. The weightlifter's steady demeanor allows her to maintain her focus.

"My approach is very similar," said Sweet. "I usually joke around with my team, and don't get too serious until I have to start warming up and push myself to get ready. It's just an everyday thing. I act if it's just another practice."

But it's Sweet's coaches who continue to serve a source of inspiration, having greatly influenced her as an athlete

and an individual, helping her progress and evolve.

"Lexus did great this year," said Galley. "She overcame some injuries to place second at states. She worked very hard putting in extra work and it definitely showed. She became significantly stronger this year."

Sweet will continue to be a presence in the area, working with those same individuals who've made a significant impact in her life.

"Coach Galley and Coach Hixson both do CrossFit, which I know when I leave high school, I'm going to go to the CrossFit gym and work with them," said Sweet. "They're just amazing people and amazing athletes. I strive to be like them."

Still undecided as to what school she'll be attending, Sweet is hoping to continue her pursuit as an athlete and compete collegiately.

Sweet never envisioned having as much success as she's had, initially transitioning into the sport as a way of having fun, and to see how far the sport would take her.

"I never expected to be where I am," said Sweet. "I strived for it, but it wasn't something I expected to happen."

Charlotte Tarpon culture has been a major variable in Sweet's life, and her school spirit and pride is palpable.

"I will be at their (her teammates) meets next season," said Sweet, of supporting and encouraging her teammates.

"I will be there as much as I can to cheer them on, to give them as much advice or inspiration as they need. I will always be there for the underclassmen."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Charlotte Sun girl's weightlifter of the year Lexus Sweet is always trying to improve. "Every time I lift, I always remind myself, that no matter the outcome, I know that I can be better than what I was before," she said.

MLB ROUNDUP



AP PHOTO

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Kansas City Royals relief pitcher Heath Fillmyer during the first inning, Saturday, in New York. After hitting a single in the sixth inning, Judge exited the game with an oblique injury.

Judge hurts oblique as Yankees beat Royals 9-2

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — All-Star slugger Aaron Judge hurt his left oblique while taking a swing and was expected to head to the injured list as the already banged-up New York Yankees beat the Kansas City Royals 9-2 Saturday.

Judge homered early, but hurt himself in the sixth inning while hitting a single. He was taken to a hospital for an MRI and further tests.

Judge winced after taking a swing in the sixth and gingerly made his way to first base. He left the game after being checked by a trainer.

The Yankees, who began the game with 12 players on the injured list, hit four home runs. Judge connected in the first, Clint Frazier had a solo drive in the second and Mike Tauchman and DJ LeMahieu homered on consecutive pitches in the fourth.

Judge and Frazier hit their fifth homers of the season in the opening two innings off Heath Fillmyer (0-1).

Masahiro Tanaka (2-1) pitched seven innings of one-run ball.

INDIANS 8, BRAVES 4

Corey Kluber bounced back from one of his worst outings in recent years by working seven innings and Carlos Santana celebrated his U.S. citizenship with three hits, as Cleveland topped Atlanta in the opener of a doubleheader.

Kluber (2-2) shook off a rough first inning and allowed four runs.

Max Moroff homered and hit two RBIs for Cleveland. Greg Allen hit a run-scoring double off starter Julio Teheran (2-2) and the Indians scored six runs in the fifth — all with two outs.

Brian McCann and Matt Joyce hit back-to-back homers off Kluber in the seventh.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, CUBS 0

Zack Greinke pitched three-hit ball over six innings and was backed by three home runs as Arizona won for the fifth time in six games.

Greinke (3-1) won for the third time in four starts.

Eduardo Escobar and David Peralta hit back-to-back solo homers against Yu Darvish (1-3) in the first. John Ryan Murphy capped a three-run sixth with a two-run homer.

Christian Walker had four hits. Darvish allowed three runs and five hits in five innings.

CARDINALS 10, METS 2

Miles Mikolas tossed eight stellar innings and drove in two runs, leading St. Louis over New York.

Jose Martinez had three hits and three RBIs and Paul Goldschmidt hit his eighth home run for St. Louis. Mikolas (2-1) became the first St. Louis pitcher to record an out in the seventh inning this season. He allowed two runs and four hits.

Chris Flexen (0-1) surrendered six runs and on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Goldschmidt hit a 464 foot solo homer off Paul Sewald in the eighth.

Cardinals third baseman Matt Carpenter left the game after the sixth inning with a bruised left knee.

TWINS 6, ORIOLES 5

Eddie Rosario homered twice for a

second straight game, Byron Buxton hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the sixth inning and Minnesota beat Baltimore in the opener of a doubleheader.

Rosario also doubled and made a leaping catch at the wall to take away an extra-base hit from Chris Davis.

Williams Astudillo went deep for the Twins.

Dwight Smith Jr., Renato Núñez and Pedro Severino homered for the Orioles.

José Berríos (3-1) gave up all three Baltimore home runs.

BLUE JAYS 10, A'S 1

Rowdy Tellez and Brandon Drury hit back-to-back homers in a five-run fourth inning and Justin Smoak also homered as Toronto won for the fifth time in six games on its road trip.

Toronto pitcher Matt Shoemaker injured his left knee in a rundown chase in the third inning.

PIRATES 3, GIANTS 1

Cole Tucker made a splash in his major league debut, hitting a two-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the San Francisco Giants 3-1 in a game shortened to five innings because of rain Saturday.

Pittsburgh's first-round pick in the 2014 draft, Tucker sent a pitch from Derek Holland (1-3) a projected 431 feet into the bushes beyond the center field wall with two outs in the fifth inning to put the Pirates in front.

Jung Ho Kang hit his third home run for Pittsburgh. Jameson Taillon (1-2) allowed one run and four hits with a walk and three strikeouts.

The game was halted at the conclusion of the fifth and called after a delay of 3 hours, 8 minutes.

Holland struck out seven in five innings.

MARLINS 9, NATIONALS 3

The Marlins put up runs early against Washington Nationals starter Max Scherzer, responded each time the Nationals attempted to rally and backed up Jose Urena's second consecutive quality start with a 9-3 win at Marlins Park to clinch their first series of the season.

The Marlins (6-15) tagged Scherzer for seven runs (six earned) off 11 hits — five of which went for extra bases — and had consistent approaches at the plate all night. Brian Anderson, Curtis Granderson, Starlin Castro and Miguel Rojas each had multi-hit outings. Scherzer lasted just 5 1/3 innings.

BREWERS 5, DODGERS 0

Christian Yelich hit two home runs, pushing his major league-leading total to 13, and Chase Anderson pitched five strong innings in a spot start as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-0 Saturday.

Ryan Braun added a three-run homer for the Brewers, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Yelich hit a solo homer with two out off Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-1).

Yelich hit Ryu's first pitch of the sixth into the right-field seats for a 2-0 lead.

Braun's homer in the seventh off Caleb Ferguson came after Lorenzo Cain's two-out double.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table containing game results for Red Sox vs Rays, Indians vs Braves, Yankees vs Royals, Blue Jays vs Athletics, Marlins vs Nationals, Pirates vs Giants, Diamondbacks vs Cubs, Brewers vs Dodgers, Cardinals vs Mets, and Twins vs Orioles. Includes box scores for each game with player statistics.

SCOREBOARD

PRO BASEBALL

MLB All times Eastern

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Tampa Bay	14	7 .667	—
New York	10	10 .500	3½
Toronto	10	12 .455	4½
Baltimore	8	13 .381	6
Boston	8	13 .381	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	12	7 .632	—
Minnesota	10	7 .588	1
Detroit	9	10 .474	3
Chicago	8	11 .421	4
Kansas City	7	14 .333	6

WEST DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Houston	13	6 .684	—
Seattle	15	8 .652	—
Texas	10	8 .556	2½
Oakland	11	12 .478	4
Los Angeles	8	12 .400	5½

Friday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 6, Kansas City 2
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 4
Chicago White Sox 7, Detroit 3
Houston 7, Texas 2
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 3
Toronto 5, Oakland 1
Atlanta at Cleveland, ppd.
Minnesota at Baltimore, ppd.

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 9, Kansas City 2
Toronto 10, Oakland 1
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 5
Cleveland 8, Atlanta 4, 1st game
Atlanta at Cleveland, 2nd game, late
Minnesota 6, Baltimore 5, 1st game
Minnesota at Baltimore, 2nd game, late
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, ppd.
Houston at Texas, late
Seattle at L.A. Angels, late
Texas at L.A. Angels, late

National League

EAST DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Pittsburgh	11	8 .579	—
New York	11	9 .550	½
Atlanta	9	10 .474	2
Washington	9	10 .474	2
Miami	6	15 .286	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Pittsburgh	12	6 .667	—
Milwaukee	13	9 .591	1
St. Louis	11	9 .550	2
Chicago	9	10 .474	3½
Cincinnati	7	12 .368	5½

WEST DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Los Angeles	14	9 .609	—
Arizona	11	10 .524	2
San Diego	11	10 .524	2
Colorado	8	12 .400	4½
San Francisco	8	14 .364	5½

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 1
Miami 3, Washington 2
Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Mets 5, St. Louis 4
Colorado 4, Philadelphia 3, 12 innings
Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2, 11 innings
Atlanta at Cleveland, ppd.

Saturday's Games

St. Louis 10, N.Y. Mets 2
Arizona 6, Chicago Cubs 0
Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1, 5 innings
Miami 9, Washington 3
Milwaukee 5, L.A. Dodgers 0
Cleveland 8, Atlanta 4, 1st game
Atlanta at Cleveland, 2nd game, late
Philadelphia at Colorado, late
Cincinnati at San Diego, late

Monday's Games

Chicago White Sox at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 10:07 p.m.
Texas at Oakland, 10:07 p.m.

National League

EAST DIVISION

W	L	PCT.	GB
Pittsburgh	11	8 .579	—
New York	11	9 .550	½
Atlanta	9	10 .474	2
Washington	9	10 .474	2
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W	L	PCT.	GB
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Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 1
Miami 3, Washington 2
Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Milwaukee 3
N.Y. Mets 5, St. Louis 4
Colorado 4, Philadelphia 3, 12 innings
Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2, 11 innings
Atlanta at Cleveland, ppd.

Saturday's Games

St. Louis 10, N.Y. Mets 2
Arizona 6, Chicago Cubs 0
Pittsburgh 3, San Francisco 1, 5 innings
Miami 9, Washington 3
Milwaukee 5, L.A. Dodgers 0
Cleveland 8, Atlanta 4, 1st game
Atlanta at Cleveland, 2nd game, late
Philadelphia at Colorado, late
Cincinnati at San Diego, late

Monday's Games

Chicago White Sox at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 10:07 p.m.
Texas at Oakland, 10:07 p.m.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MILWAUKEE 2, DETROIT 0

April 14: Milwaukee, 121-86
April 17: Milwaukee, 120-99
Saturday: at Detroit, late
Monday: at Detroit, 8 p.m.
x-Wednesday: at Milwaukee, 8, 8:30 or 9:30 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at Detroit, TBD
x-Sunday, April 28: at Milwaukee, TBD

TORONTO 2, ORLANDO 1

April 13: Orlando, 104-101
April 16: Toronto, 111-82
Friday: Toronto, 98-93
Today: at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Tuesday: at Toronto, 7 p.m.
x-Thursday, April 25: at Orlando, TBD
x-Saturday, April 27: at Toronto, TBD

PHILADELPHIA 3, BROOKLYN 1

April 13: Brooklyn, 111-102
April 15: Philadelphia, 145-123
April 18: Philadelphia, 131-115
Saturday: Philadelphia, 112-108
Tuesday: at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
x-Thursday: at Brooklyn, TBD
x-Saturday, April 27: at Philadelphia, TBD

76ERS 112, NETS 108

PHILADELPHIA (112)

Butler 4-6 2-2 11, T.Harris 10-20 4-6 24, Embiid 12-22 6-6 31, B.Simmmons 7-12 1-1 15, Redick 3-11 0-0 9, Ennis III 3-6 0-0 7, Scott 3-6 0-0 8, Bolden 0-1 1-2 1, Marjanovic 1-3 2-4 4, Monroe 0-0 0-0 1, McConnell 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 44-88 16-21 112.

BROOKLYN (108)

J.Harris 4-14 2-2 10, Dudley 3-4 0-0 8, Allen 7-11 7-7 21, Russell 6-19 5-21, LeVert 9-18 4-9 25, Graham 0-3 0-0 0, Carroll 0-6 2-2 2. Totals 44-88 16-21 112.

PHILADELPHIA 24 33 28 27 — 112
BROOKLYN 33 30 28 17 — 108

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 8-26 (Redick 3-9, Scott 2-4, Butler 1-2, Embiid 1-3, Ennis III 1-3, Bolden 0-1, T.Harris 0-4), Brooklyn 12-38 (Russell 4-9, Dinwiddie 3-6, LeVert 3-8, Dudley 2-3, Graham 0-2, Carroll 0-4, J.Harris 0-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 55 (Embiid 16), Brooklyn 42 (Allen 8). Assists—Philadelphia 25 (B.Simmmons 8), Brooklyn 23 (LeVert, Russell

6). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 24, Brooklyn 26. Technicals—Butler, Dudley. Ejected—Butler, Dudley, A.—17,732 (17,732).

BOSTON 3, INDIANA 0

April 14: Boston 84-74
April 17: Boston, 99-91
Friday: Boston, 104-96
Today: at Indiana, 1 p.m.
x-Wednesday: at Boston, 7 or 8 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at Indiana, TBD
x-Sunday, April 28: at Boston, TBD

WESTERN CONFERENCE

GOLDEN STATE 2, L.A. CLIPPERS 1

April 13: Golden State, 121-104
April 15: L.A. Clippers, 135-131
April 18: Golden State, 132-105
Today: at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday: at Golden State, 9 or 10:30 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at L.A. Clippers, TBD
x-Sunday, April 28: at Golden State, TBD

SAN ANTONIO 2, DENVER 2

April 13: San Antonio, 101-96
April 16: Denver, 114-105
April 18: San Antonio, 118-108
Saturday: Denver, 117-103
Tuesday: at Denver, 9:30 p.m.
Thursday: at San Antonio, TBD
x-Saturday, April 27: at Denver, TBD

NUGGETS 117, SPURS 103

DENVER (117)

Craig 6-9 1-2 18, Millsap 1-7 0-0 2, Jokic 10-22 8-29, J.Murray 8-14 5-5 24, Harris 2-9 2-2 8, Vanderbilt 0-0 0-0 0, Hernangomez 0-0 0-0 0, Plumlee 3-3 0-0 6, Morris 5-8 1-1 11, Beasley 2-7 2-2 7, Barton 3-10 3-4 12. Totals 40-89 22-24 117.

SAN ANTONIO (103)

DeRozan 7-13 5-6 19, Aldridge 10-18 3-4 24, Poeltl 3-5 2-2 8, White 3-8 2-4 8, Forbes 3-6 2-2 10, Gay 0-7 2-2 2, Ponderexter 0-0 0-0 0, Cunningham 1-1 0-0 3, Bertans 2-4 1-2 5, Motiejunas 2-4 1-2 7, Mills 3-6 6-8 12, Walker IV 1-2 0-2 3, Belinelli 1-5 0-0 3. Totals 37-79 24-32 103.

DENVER 22 32 37 26 — 117
SAN ANTONIO 34 20 25 24 — 103

3-Point Goals—Denver 15-31 (Craig 5-7, Barton 3-3, J.Murray 3-5, Harris 2-5, Beasley 1-4, Jokic 1-4, Morris 0-1, Millsap 0-2), San Antonio 5-17 (Forbes 2-4, Cunningham 1-1, Aldridge 1-2, Belinelli 1-3, Gay 0-1, Bertans 0-1, Walker IV 0-1, Mills 0-2, White 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denver 45 (Jokic 12), San Antonio 46 (Poeltl, Aldridge 9). Assists—Denver 25 (Jokic 8), San Antonio 23 (White, DeRozan 5). Total Fouls—Denver 22, San Antonio 22. Technicals—DeRozan, Ejected—DeRozan, A.—18,354 (18,351).

PORTLAND 2, OKLAHOMA CITY 1

April 14: Portland, 104-99
April 16: Portland, 114-94
Friday: at Oklahoma City, 120-108
Today: at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday: at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
x-Thursday: at Oklahoma City, TBD
x-Saturday, April 27: at Portland, TBD

HOUSTON 2, UTAH 0

April 14: at Houston, 122-90
April 17: Houston, 118-98
Saturday: at Utah, late
Monday: at Utah, 10:30 p.m.
x-Wednesday: at Houston, 8 or 8:30 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at Utah, TBD
x-Sunday, April 28: at Houston, TBD

PREGAME.COM LINE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Today

National League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Chicago	-105	Arizona	-105
Washington	-170	at Miami	+158
at Pittsburgh	-155	San Francisco	+145
Los Angeles	-135	at Milwaukee	+125
New York	-117	at St. Louis	+107
at Colorado	-135	Philadelphia	+125
at San Diego	-135	Cincinnati	+125

American League

at Detroit	-123	Chicago	+113
Minnesota	-151	at Baltimore	+141
at New York	-225	Kansas City	+205
at Tampa Bay	-123	Boston	+113
Houston	-205	at Texas	+185
at Oakland	-155	Toronto	+145
at Los Angeles	-112	Seattle	+102

Interleague

at Cleveland	-118	Atlanta	+108
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Updated odds available at Pregame.com

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PLAYOFFS

Today

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
Boston	2	204	at Indiana
Golden State	8½	235	at L.A. Clippers
Toronto	5½	207	at Orlando
at Oklahoma City	6	223½	Portland

BASEBALL

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Placed RHP Nathan Eovaldi on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Thursday. Recalled RHP Marcus Walden and LHP Bobby Poyner from Pawtucket (IL). Sent ZB Marco Hernandez to Salem (Carolina) for a rehab assignment.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Designated DH Hanley Ramirez for assignment. Reinstated INF Francisco Lindor from the 10-day IL.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled RHP Dillon Peters to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled RHP Luke Bard from Salt Lake.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Sent LHP Gabriel Moya to Pensacola (FSL) for a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Purchased the contracts of RHP Tyler Cloyd from Somerset (Atlantic) and RHP Christian Bergman from Sugar Land (Atlantic).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Placed C Mike Zunino on paternity leave. Optioned RHPs Emilio Pagan and Casey Sadler to Durham (IL). Recalled C Nick Ciuffo and RHP Jake Faria from Durham. Transferred RHP Jose De Leon to the 60-day IL.

TEXAS RANGERS — Optioned LHP Kyle Bird to Nashville (PCL).

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned OF Tim Lincecum to Reno (PCL). Recalled RHP Taylor Clarke from Reno.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Optioned RHP Josh Sborz to Oklahoma City (PCL). Reinstated LHP Hyun-Jin Ryu from the 10-day IL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned OF Austin Dean to New Orleans (PCL). Selected the contract of 3B Jon Berti from New Orleans. Fired hitting coach Mike Pagliarulo. Named Jeff Lincecum interim hitting coach. Promoted minor league hitting coordinator Eric Duncan to assistant hitting coach. Transferred RHP RHP Ferrell to 60-day IL.

NEW YORK METS — Placed RHP Jacob deGrom on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Tuesday. Recalled RHP Chris Flexen from Syracuse (IL). Sent 3B Todd Frazier to Syracuse for a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PIRATES — Placed INF Eric González on the 60-day IL and OF Starling Marte on the 10-day IL. Assigned RHP David Peralta to Indianapolis (IL). Recalled INF Cole Tucker from Indianapolis. Selected the contract of OF Bryan Reynolds from Indianapolis. Sent OF Lonnie Chisenhall to Indianapolis for a rehab assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent RHP Luke Gregerson to Memphis (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Placed OF Manuel Margot on the paternity leave. Recalled UT

ODDS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

DALLAS 3, NASHVILLE 2

April 10: Dallas, 3-2
April 13: Nashville, 2-1, OT
April 15: Nashville, 3-2
April 17: Dallas, 5-1
Friday: Dallas, 5-3
Saturday: Dallas, TBA
Monday: at Dallas, TBA
x-Wednesday: at Nashville, TBA

STARS 5, PREDATORS 3

DALLAS 1 3 1 — 5
NASHVILLE 1 1 1 — 3

First Period—1, Nashville, Grimaldi 3 (Eillis, Josi), 6:25. 2, Dallas, Dickinson 1 (Polak, Hintz), 13:08. Penalties—Forsberg, NSH, (slashing), 3:15.

Second Period—3, Dallas, Radulov 3 (Sequin, Benn), 0:40. 4, Dallas, Radulov 4 (Benn), 7:41. 5, Nashville, Johansen 1 (Forsberg, Josi), 9:18. 6, Dallas, Seguin 2 (Benn), 15:54. Penalties—Faksa, DAL, (slashing), 11:52; Johansen, NSH, (roughing), 11:52; Ekholm, NSH, (unsportsmanlike conduct), 16:21.

Third Period—7, Dallas, Dickinson 2, 1:57. 8, Nashville, Turris 1 (Granlund), 2:25. Penalties—Heiskanen, DAL, (hooking), 3:39. Shots on Goal—Dallas 14-8-4-26. Nashville 9-8-16-33.

Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 2; Nashville 0 of 1.

Goals—Dallas, Bishop 3-2 (33 shots-30 saves). Nashville, Rinne 2-3 (26-21). A—17,633 (17,113). T—2:31.

Referees—Wes McCauley, Brian Pochmarra. Linesmen—Ryan Daisy, Brad Kovachik.

ST. LOUIS 4, WINNIPEG 2

April 10: St. Louis, 2-1
April 12: St. Louis, 4-3
April 14: Winnipeg, 6-3
April 16: Winnipeg, 2-1, OT
April 18: St. Louis, 3-2
Saturday: St. Louis, 3-2

BLUES 3, JETS 2

WINNIPEG 0 0 2 — 2
ST. LOUIS 1 1 1 — 3

First Period—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 2 (Schenn), 0:23. Penalties—None.

Second Period—2, St. Louis, Schwartz 3 (Bozak, Dunn), 12:36 (pp). Penalties—Trouba, WPG, (high sticking), 7:36; Byfuglien, WPG, (roughing), 10:39.

Third Period—3, St. Louis, Schwartz 4 (O'Reilly, Pietrangolo), 3:55. 4, Winnipeg, Byfuglien 2 (Copp, Hayes), 12:17. 5, Winnipeg, Little 1 (Perreault, Byfuglien), 19:22 (sh). Penalties—Tarasenko, STL, (tripping), 6:13; Wheeler, WPG, major (high sticking), 17:49.

Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 5-1-14-20. St. Louis 11-16-9-36.

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 0 of 1; St. Louis 1 of 4.

Goals—Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 2-4 (36 shots-33 saves). St. Louis, Binnington 4-2 (20-18). A—18,524 (19,150). T—2:38.

Referees—Kevin Pollock, Francois St Laurent. Linesmen—Matt MacPherson, Mark Shevchuk.

COLORADO 4, CALGARY 1

April 11: Calgary, 4-0
April 13: Colorado, 3-2, OT
April 15: Colorado, 6-2
April 17: Colorado, 3-2, OT
Friday: Colorado, 5-1

VEGAS 3, SAN JOSE 2

April 10: San Jose, 5-2
April 12: Vegas, 5-3
April 14: Vegas, 6-3
April 16: Vegas, 5-0
April 18: San Jose, 5-2
Today: at Vegas, 7 p.m.
x-Tuesday: at San Jose, TBA

AHL CALDER CUP PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

(Best-of-5; x-if necessary)

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION

CHARLOTTE 1, PROVIDENCE 0

Saturday: Charlotte, 5-0
Today: at Providence, 5:05 p.m.
Wednesday: at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 27: at Charlotte, 6 p.m.

BRIDGEPORT 1, HERSHEY 1

Friday: Bridgeport, 3-2, 2OT
Saturday: Hershey, 2-0
Tuesday: at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Thursday: at Hershey, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 27: at Bridgeport, 7 p.m.

NORTH DIVISION CLEVELAND 2, SYRACUSE 0

Friday: Cleveland, 5-3
Saturday: Cleveland, 5-1
Today: at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
x-Thursday: at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 27: at Syracuse, 7 p.m.

TORONTO 1, ROCHESTER 0

Friday: Rochester, 4-1
Today: at Rochester, 3:05 p.m.
Wednesday: at Toronto, 7 p.m.
x-Friday, April 26: at Toronto, 7 p.m.
x-Sunday, April 28: at Rochester, 5:05 p.m.

Jose Pirela from El Paso (PCL).

HOCKEY National Hockey League

CALGARY FLAMES — Signed F Martin Pospisil to a three-year, entry-level contract.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Assigned F Otto Somppi from Syracuse (AHL) to Orlando (ECHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled G Ilya Samsonov from Hershey (AHL).

American Hockey League

AHL — Suspended Bridgeport F Travis St. Denis one game.

ECHL

ECHL — Suspended Florida D Michael Downing and Kalamazoo LW Luke Sandler two games and Idaho LW Kale Kessy one game.

SOCCER

National Women's Soccer League

SKY BLUE — Signed M Kenie Wright.

COLLEGES

GEORGIA — Sophomore F Nicolas Claxton declared for the NBA draft.

PRO HOCKEY

NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

All times Eastern

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE COLUMBUS 4, TAMPA BAY 0

April 10: Columbus, 4-3
April 12: Columbus, 5-1
April 14: Columbus, 3-1
April 16: Columbus, 7-3

TORONTO 3, BOSTON 2

April 11: Toronto, 4-3
April 13: Boston, 4-1
April 15: Toronto, 3-2
April 17: Boston, 6-4
Friday: Toronto, 2-1
Today: at Toronto, 3 p.m.
x-Tuesday: at Boston, TBA

WASHINGTON 2, CAROLINA 2

April 11: Washington, 4-2
April 13: Washington, 4-3, OT
April 15: Carolina, 5-0
April 18: Carolina, 2-1
Saturday: at Washington, late
Monday: at Carolina, TBA
x-Wednesday: at Washington, TBA

N.Y. ISLANDERS 4, PITTSBURGH 0

April 10: N.Y. Islanders, 4-3, OT
April 12: N.Y. Islanders, 3-1
April 14: N.Y. Islanders 4-1
April 16: N.Y. Islanders, 3-1

WESTERN CONFERENCE DALLAS 3, NASHVILLE 2

April 10: Dallas, 3-2
April 13: Nashville, 2-1, OT
April 15: Nashville, 3-2
April 17: Dallas, 5-1
Friday: Dallas, 5-3
Saturday: Dallas, TBA
Monday: at Dallas, TBA
x-Wednesday: at Nashville, TBA

STARS 5, PREDATORS 3

DALLAS 1 3 1 — 5
NASHVILLE 1 1 1 — 3

First Period—1, Nashville, Grimaldi 3 (Eillis, Josi), 6:25. 2, Dallas, Dickinson 1 (Polak, Hintz), 13:08. Penalties—Forsberg, NSH, (slashing), 3:15.

Second Period—3, Dallas, Radulov 3 (Sequin, Benn), 0:40. 4, Dallas, Radulov 4 (Benn), 7:41. 5, Nashville, Johansen 1 (Forsberg, Josi), 9:18. 6, Dallas, Seguin 2 (Benn), 15:54. Penalties—Faksa, DAL, (slashing), 11:52; Johansen, NSH, (roughing), 11:52; Ekholm, NSH, (unsportsmanlike conduct), 16:21.

Third Period—7, Dallas, Dickinson 2, 1:57. 8, Nashville, Turris 1 (Granlund), 2:25. Penalties—Heiskanen, DAL, (hooking), 3:39. Shots on Goal—Dallas 14-8-4-26. Nashville 9-8-16-33.

Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 2; Nashville 0 of 1.

Goals—Dallas, Bishop 3-2 (33 shots-30 saves). Nashville, Rinne 2-3 (26-21). A—17,633 (17,113). T—2:31.

Referees—Wes McCauley, Brian Pochmarra. Linesmen—Ryan Daisy, Brad Kovachik.

ST. LOUIS 4, WINNIPEG 2

April 10: St. Louis, 2-1
April 12: St. Louis, 4-3
April 14: Winnipeg, 6-3
April 16: Winnipeg, 2-1, OT
April 18: St. Louis, 3-2
Saturday: St. Louis, 3-2

BLUES 3, JETS 2

WINNIPEG 0 0 2 — 2
ST. LOUIS 1 1 1 — 3

First Period—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 2

2019 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DRAFT

APRIL 25-27 · NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

NEXT WAVE

COMPILED BY RALPH RUSSO AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

MORE: WWW.PRO32.AP.ORG AND WWW.TWITTER.COM/AP_NFL

3 0 4 0 HEADS OF THE CLASS 4 0 3 0

X-KYLER MURRAY, 5-foot-10, 205, Oklahoma QB
Strengths: Explosive athlete with a strong arm, nice touch and solid accuracy. Can make throws on the run and break big scrambles with his speed and elusiveness. But looks at home in the pocket, too.



Weaknesses: Kyler Murray is small. You might have heard, but it didn't stop him from winning the Heisman Trophy.
Fact: Murray's Allen (Texas) High School team went 43-0 with three championships in the state's most competitive division.

X-DWAYNE HASKINS, 6-3, 230, Ohio State QB



Strengths: Big guy with a big arm who commands his offense. Good accuracy and short and mid-range throws.

Weaknesses: Heavy-footed and prone to fall back against pressure. Only 14 career starts.
Fact: Led the nation with 4,831 yards passing and 50 touchdowns last season.

X-NICK BOSA, 6-4, 266 pounds, Ohio State DE
Strengths: Quick off the edge and relentless, just like his brother, Chargers star Joey Bosa.

Weaknesses: Maybe some durability concerns because last year's season-ending injury cut short the one season in which Bosa would have gotten a large volume of snaps. Not quite as big as Joey so there could be some concern about how he holds up at the point of attack.



Fact: Bosa had 29 tackles for loss, including 17 1-2 sacks in 30 games with the Buckeyes.

JOSH ALLEN, 6-5, 262,

Kentucky LB

Strengths: Size, speed, athleticism are all ideal. Even some room to add a few pounds if necessary.



Weaknesses: Some technique could use polishing, but not much to complain about. He was given freedom in college that he might not have in the NFL. Will have to transition to operating in more structure.

Fact: Won Bednarik Award and Nagurski Trophy as top defensive player in college football last season.

X-QUINNEN WILLIAMS, 6-6, 303, Alabama DT

Strengths: Nearly

unblockable last season with a combination of quickness, power and strong hands. Squeezes in between double-teams or just overwhelmed most single blockers.

Weaknesses: Could nitpick about his weight as he might be more comfortable playing in the 290s. That's about it.

Fact: One-year starter who made a case as the best player in college football in 2018.

(x-denotes early entrant)



Kyler Murray

POSITION OUTLOOK

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK

Position outlook: The most interesting player in the draft with Kyler Murray and a few players likely to be selected earlier than they should because that's what happens with quarterbacks.

RUNNING BACK

Position outlook: The trend away from first-round running backs has been broken in recent years, but there is no Ezekiel Elliott or Saquon Barkley in this group.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Position outlook: This draft seems light on those plug-and-play offensive tackles teams covet. Even some of the better tackle prospects have teams considering them at guard. But depth looks good.

WIDE RECEIVER

Outlook: The best prospects all have at least one question mark to keep them out of the first 10 or 12 picks, but enough talent to put them in the first round.

TIGHT END

Outlook: Three possible first-rounders and then a bunch of players who do a few things well that will likely land them in the middle rounds.

DEFENSE

END/EDGE RUSHER

Position outlook: This draft is stacked with defensive linemen of all types. The edge rushers and ends could dominate the first 10 picks.

TACKLE

Position outlook: Maybe even deeper than the edge guys.

LINEBACKER

Position outlook: Linebackers have to be able to really run to be drafted in the first round these days and there are two of them in this year's class that fit the type.

CORNERBACK

Position outlook: NFL teams draft cornerbacks in bulk. This year's class is light on early first-rounders, but look for a run in the late first and early second rounds.

SAFETY

Position outlook: Safeties are becoming more valuable to NFL teams, but this year's group might not produce a first-rounder.

SPECIAL TEAMS

KICKERS/PUNTERS

Outlook: Punters are more likely to break into the draft than kickers these days.



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BOZEMAN, MONTANA

CONTENT BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP PHOTO

Toronto Raptors' Pascal Siakam (left) grabs the ball in front of Orlando Magic's Evan Fournier during the second half in Game 3, Friday. Siakam is averaging 24.3 points per game in the series.

MAGIC FROM PAGE 1

Game 3.
There's four games on tap Sunday: Boston has a 3-0 lead and can become the first team to advance to the second round if it wins at Indiana. All three other series on the schedule — Golden State at the Los Angeles Clippers, Toronto at Orlando and Portland at Oklahoma City — have the road teams leading 2-1 and in position to all go home for potential closeout wins if they get victories on Sunday.

Here's a look at Sunday's game:
RAPTORS AT MAGIC Game 4, 7 p.m. EDT,

TNT EASTERN CONFERENCE FIRST ROUND: Toronto leads series 2-1

BOTTOM LINE: The Toronto Raptors visit the Orlando Magic in the Eastern Conference first round with a 2-1 lead in the series. The Raptors won the last matchup 98-93. Pascal Siakam scored 30 points to help lead Toronto to the win and Terrence Ross recorded 24 points in defeat for Orlando.

The Magic have gone 25-16 in home games. Orlando averages 45.4 rebounds per game and is 27-14 when out-rebounding opponents.

TOP PERFORMERS: Ross leads the Magic

with 2.7 made 3-pointers and averages 15.1 points while shooting 38.3 percent from beyond the arc. Nikola Vucevic has averaged 16.2 points and added 9.1 rebounds over the last 10 games for Orlando.

Kawhi Leonard leads the Raptors averaging 26.6 points and has added 7.3 rebounds per game.

LAST 10 GAMES: Raptors: 8-2, averaging 113.5 points, 45.6 rebounds, 27.8 assists, 7.8 steals and 4.6 blocks per game while shooting 47.8 percent from the field.

Magic: 6-4, averaging 110.8 points, 45.4 rebounds, 26.2 assists, seven steals and 4.8 blocks per game.

■ MLB

Mets say deGrom may not need MRI after all

Newsday

ST. LOUIS — Preaching caution but stressing their low degree of concern, the Mets allowed Jacob deGrom to play catch Saturday, one day after putting him on the injured list with a sore right elbow and two days before he visits with team doctors.

DeGrom said he "felt completely normal" and blamed the soreness he felt Thursday, which caused the Mets to scratch him from his start this weekend against the Cardinals, on his recent strep throat.

Manager Mickey Callaway said that deGrom feels so good that the Mets might not bother with his previously scheduled MRI on Monday. Dr. David Altchek, the Mets' medical director who spoke by phone with deGrom after he was sore, will make the MRI decision.

DeGrom said he plans to pitch Friday at Citi Field against the Brewers. "I thought the whole time that I was going to be fine," deGrom said Saturday morning after throwing out to about 120 feet. "I wasn't really that concerned. It was just soreness. It was sore in there. It wasn't really pain. My whole body was hurting. I had a fever for a few days, then had come down with strep throat. I was just having a hard time getting rid of that.

"I honestly think it

goes back to the week that I've been sick — not throwing, not running, not lifting, not doing anything. I think my body was just run down. I wasn't eating a whole lot, wasn't able to get a whole lot of fluids in me. Now we're just trying to rebuild."

After deGrom was sore Thursday, Callaway said Friday that the ace was headed back to New York for an MRI. That plan quickly changed, with deGrom ending up staying with the team through the weekend and waiting till Monday to see doctors in New York. The Mets put him on the IL, retroactive to Tuesday.

Why wait until Monday to get checked out?

"Because of how much he improved," said Callaway, who added with a laugh: "And then it's Easter. (Doctors are) not scheduled to work. They're not like us. They get Easter weekend off."

As of Friday, the Mets said a deGrom MRI was still the plan. Saturday morning, as deGrom threw, Callaway said that was no longer necessarily the case.

"The doctors are gonna evaluate him and see," Callaway said.

DeGrom said he was confident nothing is wrong. "Honestly, that'll be up to Dr. Altchek," deGrom said. "I got an MRI whenever I signed the deal and everything

was perfectly fine. So I don't think anything happened in those four starts. I would have felt something on a pitch. I don't think anything happened. I think it just goes back to being run down and not feeling well and going out there and trying to pitch."

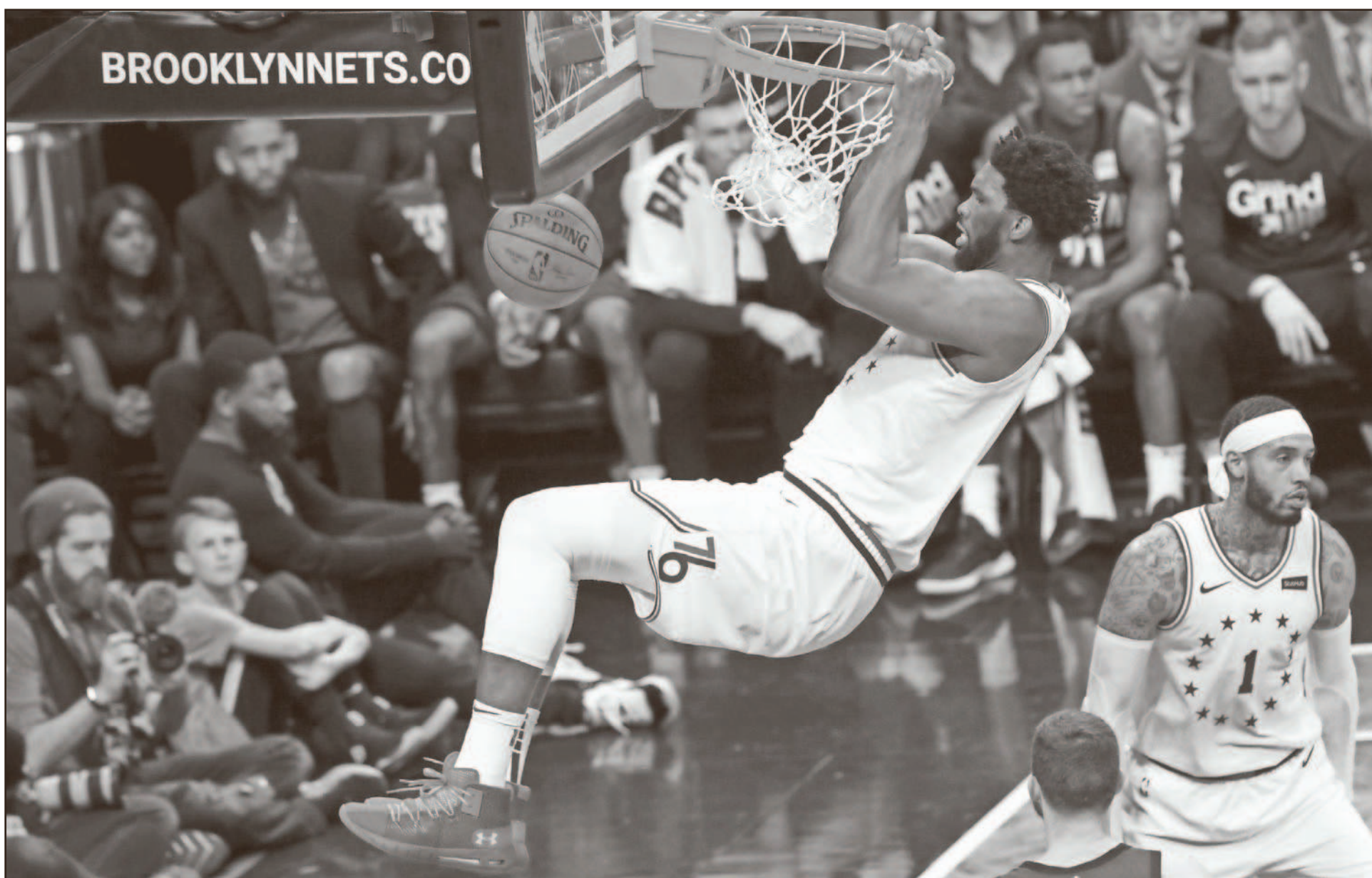
"I've had Tommy John before (in 2010) and done those tests and everything feels fine with that. Not really worried about the spot (the elbow is) in. It was just more being smart and not trying to go out there and do too much too early and risk a more serious injury."

And then there was the matter of deGrom throwing Saturday. Callaway said that spoke to the genuine lack of concern on the Mets' part. DeGrom said he wanted to start to get back into a normal routine, the absence of which — since he's been sick — was the source of the soreness to begin with, he believes.

"I talk about it all the time, how much I throw and prepare between starts," said deGrom, who usually throws two bullpen sessions between starts. "It goes back to the throwing thing for me. I feel better when I throw. We had that discussion, 'Hey, should we just wait till we see the doctor?' I said, 'Well it's not feeling bad, so why go two more, almost three more days without throwing?'

■ NBA PLAYOFFS: ROUNDUP

Embiid makes noise in return



AP PHOTO

Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid scored 31 points and grabbed 16 rebounds against the Brooklyn Nets in Game 4, Saturday, in New York. Embiid also had a flagrant foul that led to two ejections.

After missing Game 3 with sore knee, Philadelphia center unloads on Brooklyn

By The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Joel Embiid had 31 points and 16 rebounds, and passed to Mike Scott for the go-ahead 3-pointer with 18 seconds left as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets 112-108 on Saturday to take a 3-1 series lead.

Embiid also had a flagrant foul that led to a scuffle and two ejections during an eventful return to the lineup after missing Game 3 with a sore left knee.

Tobias Harris had 24 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the 76ers. They can advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the second

straight season with a victory at home Tuesday night.

They got a big boost from the return of Embiid, who scored eight straight points in the fourth quarter after the Nets led by seven. He helped the 76ers overcome the loss of Jimmy Butler, who was ejected in the third quarter after Embiid's hard foul on Jarrett Allen.

Caris LeVert scored 25 points after being inserted into the Nets' starting lineup. D'Angelo Russell and Allen each added 21.

Jared Dudley also was inserted into the starting lineup for the Nets and had been agitating the

76ers with his defense and his talking, but was gone midway through the third quarter as one of the central figures in the scuffle that spilled into the stands.

Embiid swung his arm forcefully while fouling Allen, and Dudley quickly moved in and bumped Embiid. Butler then ran in and pushed Dudley to start the shoving. Dudley, Simmons and referee Ed Malloy all got knocked into the seats, and after a lengthy video review, Butler and Dudley were given technical fouls and ejected, and Embiid's foul was ruled a flagrant 1.

Embiid would later make the biggest mark

with his offense. The 76ers were trying to get the ball to him trailing by one after Joe Harris' layup, but Embiid couldn't control the pass under the rim. But he regained the ball and found Scott in the corner for a 3 and a 110-108 lead.

Allen then turned the ball over after three Sixers surrounded him and Harris closed out the scoring with two free throws.

NUGGETS 107, SPURS 103

Nikola Jokic had 29 points and 12 rebounds, Jamal Murray added 24 points and the Denver

Nuggets beat the San Antonio Spurs 117-103 on Saturday night, rebounding from a flat performance tie the first-round series at two games apiece.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and nine rebounds for San Antonio. DeMar DeRozan added 19 points before he was ejected with five minutes remaining after arguing with an official over an offensive foul.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Denver.

The Nuggets were more aggressive and physical after a deflating Game 3 loss, just as Denver coach Michael Malone had hoped.

"I want to see some emotion. I want to see some fire. I want to see some passion," Malone said prior to the game.

Malone was able to stir that fire with a couple of changes after Derrick White's 36-point outing in San Antonio's Game 3 victory.

Torrey Craig started over a struggling Will Barton and was charged with defending White to open the game, with Murray switching to Forbes. The moves proved beneficial, if not at first.

White was limited to eight points on 3-for-8 shooting after going 15 for 21 on Thursday. Craig finished with 18 points.

■ NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS: Stars 5, Predators 3

Dallas skates out to 3-2 advantage on Nashville

Radulov's two goals in second carry Stars

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP SPORTS WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The young Dallas Stars have blossomed this postseason, and now their top line of Jamie Benn, Tyler Seguin and Alexander Radulov are showing just how much damage they can do together.

The combination has put the West's first wild card a win away from reaching the second round.

Radulov scored two goals in the second period and the Stars beat the Nashville Predators 5-3 on Saturday to push the Western Conference's No. 2 seed to the brink of elimination.

The Stars now lead this best-of-seven series 3-2 over the two-time defending Central Division champs. Dallas will have a chance Monday night at home in Game 6 to join Colorado and Columbus as the latest lower seed coming through in the opening round.

"I think we keep

getting better, and we have to keep getting better," Dallas coach Jim Montgomery said. "The next one's the hardest one because it's the potential to end someone's season. That's the challenge in front of us now."

Jason Dickinson also scored twice, Seguin had a goal and an assist, and Benn matched the NHL playoff record for most assists in a single period with three in the second. The Stars also scored at least five goals in back-to-back playoff games for the ninth time in franchise history, the first since Games 3 and 4 of the 1991 conference finals when this team was still in Minnesota.

Ben Bishop, named a finalist for the Vezina Trophy during the game, made 30 saves for the win.

"It's a great honor," Bishop said of being a finalist. "As much as it is an individual award, it's a team thing. The guys have done a great job in front of me all season."

Rocco Grimaldi, Ryan

Johansen and Kyle Turris scored for Nashville. The Predators lost back-to-back playoff games for the first time since Games 5 and 6 of the 2017 Stanley Cup Final. Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said his Predators have been in these situations before.

"They've answered the bell," Laviolette said. "They'll answer the bell in Game 6 and we'll bring it back here."

Laviolette got forward Brian Boyle back after missing the past three games with an appendectomy and mixed up his lines.

Credit Dallas' top line for making the Predators pay for those mistakes. Seguin, Benn and Radulov took 16 of the Stars' 26 shots, and the trio was responsible for all three goals in the second. Montgomery said Benn was banging his stick wanting more ice time for the line, and Seguin said that line is all about work and will.

"Obviously, we have the skill and talent there," Seguin said.

■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Swift eager to be Georgia's No. 1 tailback

By CHARLES ODUM
AP SPORTS WRITER

ATHENS, Ga. — D'Andre Swift's long wait has ended.

Finally, the junior stands alone atop Georgia's depth chart at tailback. Swift has seized the opportunity this spring.

Georgia coach Kirby Smart said Swift "has set himself apart from the other offensive players because of his demeanor and body language."

Swift's talent as a big-play running back has always been clear, but even so he's had to be patient. At Georgia, known as Tailback U for its rich tradition at running back, the depth chart often includes NFL-caliber talent.

In Swift's 2017 freshman season, Georgia's ground game was led by Nick Chubb and Sony Michel. Last season, when Chubb and Michel were enjoying success in the NFL, Swift was the co-leader of the running attack. He was the team's leading rusher, but started only five games as Elijah Holyfield shared the lead role.

Georgia has had two 1,000-yard rushers for two

straight seasons — Chubb and Michel in 2017 and Swift and Holyfield in 2018. Entering Saturday's G-Day spring game, it appears this season could be different. There's no obvious candidate to challenge Swift's lead role.

With Holyfield hoping to be selected in next week's NFL draft, there is a clear separation between Swift and his backups, including Brian Herrien, James Cook and Zamir White.

Swift said he expects "great things" when White, a big name in the Bulldogs' top-ranked 2018 freshman class, is cleared following his return from knee surgery. White was held out last season and protected from contact this spring.

Swift, who has the unique distinction of being Georgia's leading returning rusher and receiver, shares the spotlight with quarterback Jake Fromm as the leaders of the offense in 2019. After leading the Bulldogs with 1,049 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns in 2018, Swift could be headed for a very busy season. That suggestion makes him smile.

"I get to show everybody

in the country what I really can do with a high workload," Swift said last week. "I'm ready."

Swift (5-foot-9, 215 pounds) says he has logged extra hours in the weight room to prepare as he anticipates additional carries. He has never had more than 17 carries in a game. He has been extremely productive, averaging almost seven yards per carry for his career.

Fromm said he's confident Swift can handle more carries.

"He's ready," Fromm said. "... I can't wait to see what he does this fall. I definitely think he's capable of carrying as much load as he wants to carry."

Swift is especially important in 2019 as Georgia must replace many of Fromm's top receivers.

Riley Ridley, Mecole Hardman and tight end Isaac Nauta left early for the NFL draft. That leaves a huge void. Demetris Robertson has earned praise this spring as a breakout candidate at receiver, while Jeremiah Holloman and Tyler Simmons are the most experienced targets.

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TODAY / TONIGHT

Sunny and pleasant. Clear. HIGH 79° LOW 53°. 0% chance of rain. 74° GULF WATER TEMPERATURE

MONDAY

Mostly sunny and delightful. HIGH 84° LOW 57°. 0% chance of rain

TUESDAY

Mostly sunny and nice. HIGH 87° LOW 61°. 0% chance of rain

WEDNESDAY

Pleasant with sunshine and some clouds. HIGH 87° LOW 64°. 5% chance of rain

THURSDAY

Nice with partial sunshine. HIGH 87° LOW 68°. 10% chance of rain

FRIDAY

Clouds and breaks of sun. HIGH 86° LOW 66°. 25% chance of rain

Map of Florida showing weather conditions across various cities including Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville.

FLORIDA CITIES

Table listing weather for Florida cities: City, Today (Hi, Lo, W), Mon. (Hi, Lo, W). Includes cities like Apalachicola, Bradenton, Clearwater, etc.

TIDES

Table for TIDES: Location, High, Low, High, Low. Includes Punta Gorda, Englewood, Boca Grande, etc.

MARINE

Table for MARINE: Location, Wind, Speed, Seas, Bay/Inland direction. Includes Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs, Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola.

SUN AND MOON

Table for SUN AND MOON: Date, Sun (Rise, Set), Moon (Rise, Set). Includes dates Apr 26, May 4, May 11, May 18.

SOLUNAR TABLE

Table for SOLUNAR TABLE: Date, Minor, Major, Minor, Major. Includes dates Today, Mon., Tue., May 11, May 18.

WEATHER HISTORY

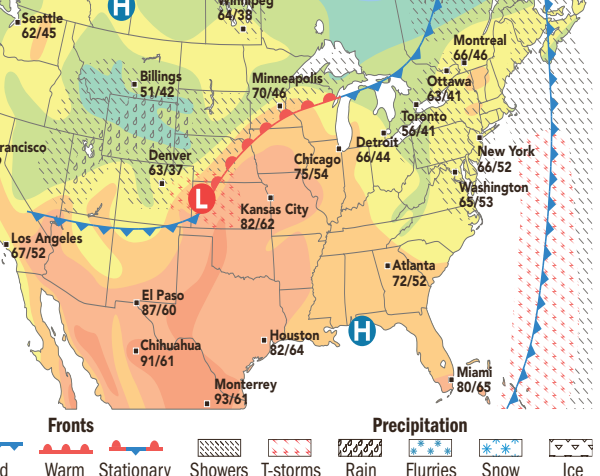
Several hundred people died when flooding reached the Mississippi Delta in Louisiana on April 21, 1927.

WEATHER TRIVIA

Q: Where do you not want to stand during a thunderstorm? A: Under a tall, lone tree

THE NATION

Show us noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



U.S. Extremes: High 89° at Needles, CA. Low 16° at Stonington, MI

Table for U.S. Extremes: Today, Mon. City, Hi, Lo, W, Hi, Lo, W. Includes cities like Albuquerque, Anchorage, Atlanta, etc.

Table for WORLD CITIES: Today, Mon. City, Hi, Lo, W, Hi, Lo, W. Includes cities like Amsterdam, Baghdad, Beijing, etc.

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

PORT CHARLOTTE

Port Charlotte weather: Punta Gorda through 2 p.m. Saturday. Temperatures 76°/67°. Precipitation 0.81".

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Table for MONTHLY RAINFALL: Month, 2019, 2018, Avg. Record/Year. Includes months from Jan. to Dec.

VENICE

Venice weather: Venice through 2 p.m. Saturday. Temperatures 75°/70°. Precipitation 0.63".

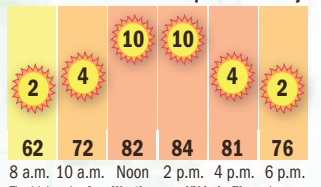
SEBRING

Sebring weather: Sebring through 2 p.m. Saturday. Temperatures 76°/56°. Precipitation 0.39".

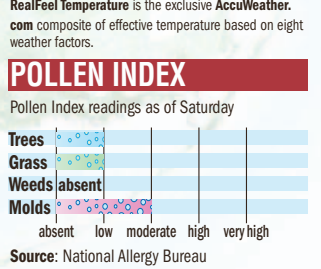
AIRPORT

Table for AIRPORT: Hi/Lo, Outlook, Delays. Includes locations like Ft. Myers, Punta Gorda, Sarasota.

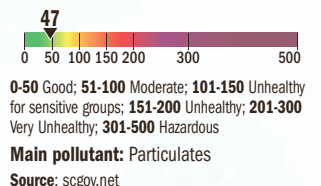
CONDITIONS TODAY



POLLEN INDEX



AIR QUALITY INDEX



MEN'S TENNIS

Fognini stuns Nadal to reach Monte Carlo final

13th seed wins in straight sets, puts an end to Spaniard's three-year win streak at Masters

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP SPORTS WRITER

MONACO — Fabio Fognini ended Rafael Nadal's winning streak at the Monte Carlo Masters, stunning the defending champion 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to reach the final for the first time and hand Nadal his first defeat here since a loss to Novak Djokovic in the 2015 semifinals.

Fognini had beaten Nadal twice before on clay, and also once at the U.S. Open in five sets, but this was arguably the most impressive.

"I have the game to play against him," the 13th-seeded Fognini said. "I had nothing to lose."

He wasn't concerned if Nadal was out of form. "That's not the question that I have to answer," Fognini said. "I just say that I played an incredible match."

Still, the second-ranked Nadal called it "one of my worst matches in 14 years" and the 32-year-old Spaniard said it was "difficult to find an explanation" for capitulating on his favored clay-court surface.

Yet the second-ranked Nadal called it "one of my worst matches in 14 years" and the 32-year-old Spaniard said it was "difficult to find an explanation" for capitulating on his favored clay-court surface.

second set. He served for the match at 5-0 and 40-0, but Nadal saved three match points, broke back and held.

"I was lucky to win the two games," said Nadal, who had not even lost a set here since conceding one in the second round against Britain's Kyle Edmund in 2017.

Serving again for the match at 5-2, Fognini hit a superb forehand down the line on his fourth match point. He next plays unseeded Serb Dusan Lajovic in their first-ever meeting, and one few would have predicted.

Least of all Fognini. He trailed by a set and 4-1 down during his first-round match against Andrey Rublev.

"If you told me at the beginning of the week 'See you on Sunday (for the final),' I would laugh in your face," Fognini said.

The 48th-ranked Lajovic staged an impressive comeback of his own, meanwhile, rallying from 5-1 down to beat 10th-seeded Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-1. That match was a suitable appetizer to the higher drama which followed.

Nadal had dropped his first three service games Friday in his quarterfinal against Guido Pella, and the early signs were not good this time. His first game against

Fognini lasted 12 minutes, with Nadal saving four break points before conceding the first of six breaks of serve in the match.

In his quarterfinal and semifinal combined, Nadal conceded 23 break-point chances.

But whether Fognini, who previously lost 11 times to Nadal overall, could capitalize seemed uncertain.

The 31-year-old Italian can lose his temper on court, and it got the better of him during the fourth game.

With heavy winds swirling around the court, Fognini's towel flew off his seat and landed on the clay during the first point. He complained to the umpire, perhaps to get the point replayed, and then angrily put the offending towel into his drinks box.

Nadal broke him to love to lead 3-1, and Fognini got a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"The chair umpire made a bad call," Fognini said. "He gave me a warning for nothing."

Fognini irate, Nadal serving for a 4-1 lead — another comfortable Nadal route to the final looked on.

But Fognini broke back to 3-2 and then broke Nadal to love in the ninth game with some momentous shot-making.

Momentum was on Fognini's side, not to

mention some luck. Serving for the set at 5-4 and 30-30, his shot hit the net and turned into a perfect drop shot.

Fognini raised both arms in apology, and then superbly put away a volley at full stretch on the next point to clinch the set.

He hit a delightful two-handed, backhand cross-court winner to break at the start of the second set.

Nadal is usually the undisputed crowd favorite on the French Riviera, but shouts of "Fabio, Fabio, Fabio" rang out at the Monte Carlo Country Club.

Many Italian fans likely made the short trip along the coast from nearby San Remo — where Fognini grew up.

"It's a big opportunity to them to come here and watch me play," Fognini said. "I don't know how many are coming tomorrow."

Still, he should have most of the support against Lajovic, who earlier won 10 straight games to lead 4-0 in the second set before Medvedev finally again held serve.

It could have been an all-Serb semifinal but Medvedev knocked out the top-ranked Djokovic in Friday's quarterfinals.

There have only been three winners here since 2005: Nadal, Djokovic (2013 and '15) and Stan Wawrinka ('14).



AP PHOTO

Spain's Rafael Nadal (top) reacts during his semifinal match in the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters against Italy's Fabio Fognini (bottom) in Monaco, Saturday. Fognini, the 13th seed, pulled off a shocking upset of the defending champion in straight sets.

The FUNNIES

PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ

THE EASTER BEAGLE IS COMING!!

THANK YOU..THANK YOU VERY MUCH

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

SORRY, KID... THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES!

THE LOCKHORNS
BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

TOO BAD YOU CHANGED THE DEDUCTIBLE TO \$500.

LEROY TRIPPED OVER THE GARDEN HOSE, DEAR ... HE WASN'T INJURED WHILE BEING KNIGHTED.

SHOULD WE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE TIME WE PLAN OR THE REAL TIME WE'LL ARRIVE?

WHAT KIND OF WINE COMES WITH A 'BEST-BY' DATE?

THE TRICK IS PICTURING TEN LITTLE MOTHERS-IN-LAW.

Hi and LOIS

WHAT AN UPLIFTING SERVICE!

IT SURE WAS!

LOOK AT ALL THE EASTER BONNETS.

I LOVE EASTER SUNDAY.

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME. AND GET OUR BASKETS.

WE ALSO HAVE A DELICIOUS MEAL TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

WHY AREN'T YOU EATING?

WE'RE ALL FILLED UP WITH CHOCOLATE EGGS.

MARY WORTH

"A GOOD DECISION IS BASED ON KNOWLEDGE, NOT ON NUMBERS." - PLATO

I HAVE EVERYTHING READY FOR OUR FIRST MEETING...

AND NOW...

WHEN ARTHUR'S RETURN TRIP TO THE STATES IS DELAYED...

IF YOU SEND ME FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, MY DARLING, WE'LL BE TOGETHER THIS WEEK AS PLANNED!

MY CLIENT'S HAVING PROBLEMS AND HASN'T PAID ME YET! I'M SORRY MY TRAVEL COSTS SO MUCH!

I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK TO YOU WITH INTEREST WHEN I SEE YOU! I DREAM ABOUT BEING WITH YOU!

MOY BRIGMAN 4/21/19

ME TOO. I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT SENDING YOU MONEY. AGAIN.

ESTELLE...! I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME!

The FAMILY CIRCUS
By **BIL KEANE**

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4-21

BIL and JEFF KEANE

WIZARD OF ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

NICE DAY FOR SOME WALL SITTING

Facebook.com/WizardOfId

www.wizardofid.com

4-21-19

NICE EASTER GET-UP THERE, HUMPTY!

NO, NO, IT ISN'T

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Mort Walker's
beetle bailey

UP AND AT 'EM!

BEEP BEEP

6:00

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS HIKE, SARGE!

THE MORNING SUN ON MY BACK...

THE FRESH AIR FILLING MY LUNGS

THE EXERCISE IS INVIGORATING!

WWW.MORTWALKER.COM

NOT TO MENTION THE CAMARADERIE AND FRIENDSHIP

YOU SENT HIM BACK TO CAMP? HE'S OBVIOUSLY NOT WELL

4-21

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HAGAR
the horrible
by **DIK BROWNE**

IF YOU HATE HUNTING, WHY DID YOU COME?

FOR YOU, IT'S A HUNTING TRIP.

FOR ME, IT'S A GUILT TRIP!

NOT A DUCK IN SIGHT

NOT TO WORRY

WOK WOK WOK

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT DUCK CALL?

IT'S IMPORTED FROM SCOTLAND

WOK WOK?

HMM... LOCH NESS MANUFACTURING CO.!

4-21

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BLONDIE
By **SEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL**

I CAN'T SLEEP BECAUSE I KEEP THINKING ABOUT MY DIET

TRY CHANGING THE SUBJECT IN YOUR MIND, SWEETHEART

REMEMBER YOURSELF THAT YOUR WILLPOWER IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOUR APPETITE

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD FIGURE THAT OUT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!

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4-21



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston

GIGGLE GIGGLE! GIGGLE!

WAKE UP, MICHAEL! - GUESS WHAT I DID!

I WENT DOWNSTAIRS AN' FOUND ALL THE EASTER EGGS AN' THEN I HID THEM AFGAIN BEFORE ANYBODY GOT UP!

...AN' I BET THEY'RE SOMEWHERE NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THEM!!

URBP!

garfield.com

LOOK, GARFIELD. ONLY ONE DONUT LEFT

IF YOU ATE IT, I'D FEEL SAD BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET ANY

IF I ATE IT, I'D FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET ANY

SO, CONSIDER THIS...

IF WE SHARED IT, I'D BE HAPPY THAT WE BOTH GOT SOME!

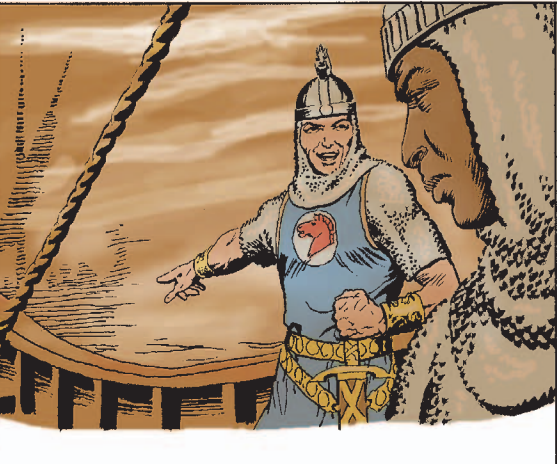
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, ISN'T IT?

Hal Foster's Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES



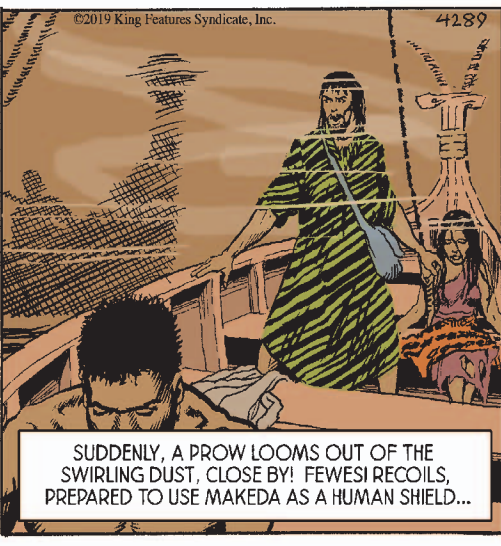
THE GREAT SIROCCO WINDS HAVE PASSED, BUT A PALL OF DUST AND FOG LEAVE BUKOTA AND VAL'S VESSEL OARING BLINDLY THROUGH A MURKY VOID.



THEY PROCEED AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE, SO AS NOT TO REVEAL THEIR POSITION. THEN - DUMB LUCK! VAL MOTIONS TOWARD A DIM SHAPE LYING DEAD AHEAD.



ON HIS SHIP, FEWESI GLARES ABOUT IN DESPERATION. THE STORM HAS SPARED HIM FOR THE MOMENT, BUT HIS BEWITCHED CREW, DRIVEN TO EXTREME EXHAUSTION, LIES USELESS. HE CAN HEAR THE DISTANT CLACK OF OARS, BUT CANNOT PINPOINT THEIR DIRECTION.



SUDDENLY, A PROW LOOMS OUT OF THE SWIRLING DUST. CLOSE BY! FEWESI RECOILS, PREPARED TO USE MAKEDA AS A HUMAN SHIELD...



... BUT IT IS NOT BUKOTA COME FOR HIM! IT IS A FISHING VESSEL, BLOWN BY CHANCE RIGHT INTO FEWESI'S HANDS. THIS, INDEED, IS A GIFT FROM THE DARK GODS. THINKS THE HEALER AND DESTROYER, AS HE SMILES BALEFULLY AT THE FRIGHTENED FISHERMEN.

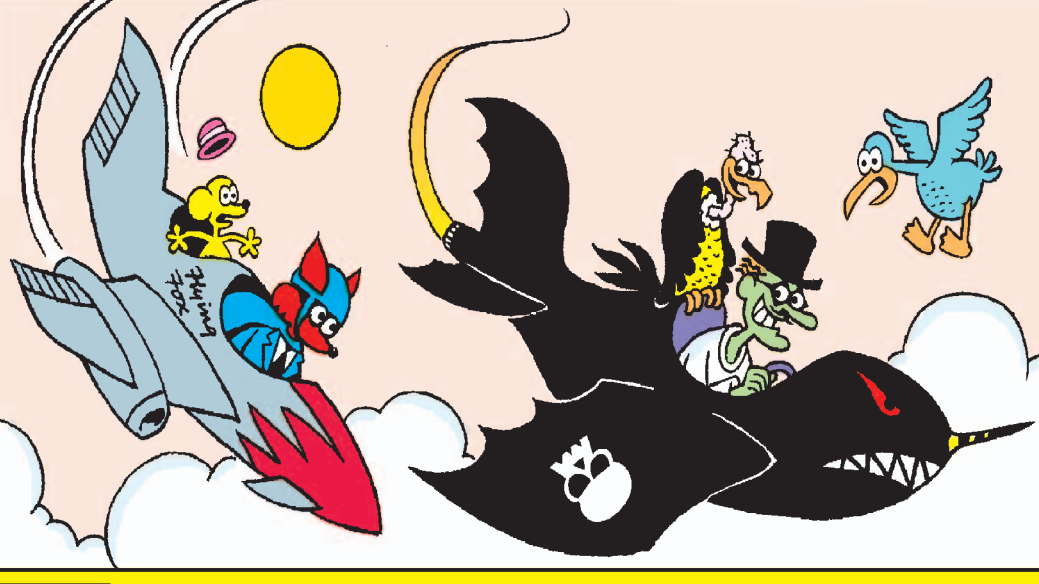
NEXT: Stealth tactics

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

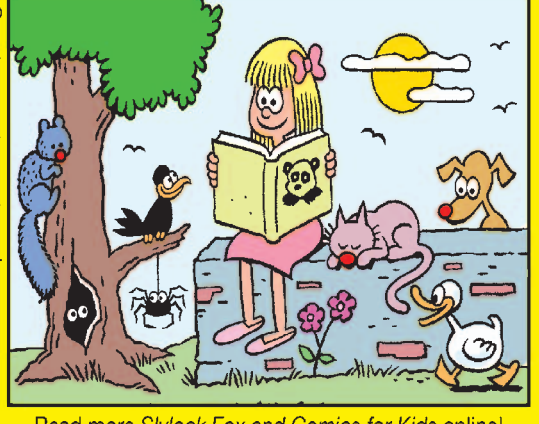
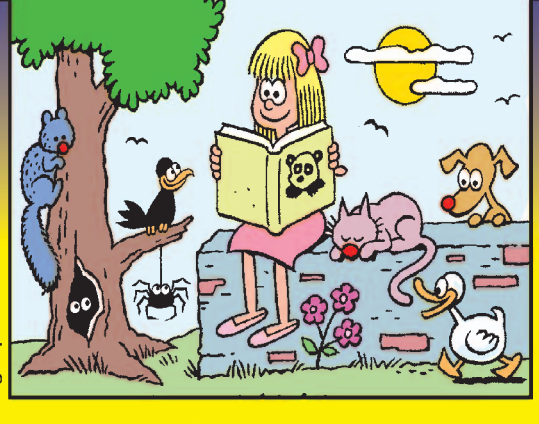
BY BOB WEBER JR.

After causing a town-wide power failure panic, Count Weirdly is heading to a secret hideout located at the lowest land area in North America. Slylock Fox is determined to follow the creepy count until he lands next to the hideout. Where specifically are they headed?

Solution -- They are headed to Death Valley, California, the lowest place in North America.

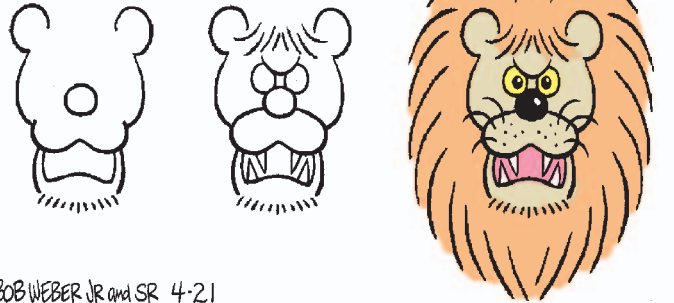


Spot six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Spider, shoe, flower, finger, brick, dog's paws and brick.

HOW TO DRAW a lion



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Meredith, age 12

Submit your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com

Which of these mammals once roamed North America?

- a) Camel
- b) Cheetah
- c) Woolly mammoth
- d) Lion

Answer -- All of them!

Read more Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids online! On Instagram @slylockfoxcomic On Instagram @spotsixdifferences www.facebook.com

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN

HOW WAS BAND PRACTICE, JEREMY?
A LITTLE TAMER THAN USUAL.

JEFF MACNELLY'S STPE

By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly

4/21

SENATOR, WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT?

ELECTILE DYSFUNCTION.

SHOECOMICS.COM ©19 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features

PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

POOF! POOF!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TRYING SOME OF THIS NEW AIR FRESHENER,

POOF!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

AAH...AAH...

CHOO!

4/21

I LIKE IT.

THE BJORN LOSER

by Art & Chip Sansom

I HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS!

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT MY FAMILY'S ROOTS GO BACK TO THE BRITISH ISLES.

WELL, I DECIDED TO FORMALLY INVESTIGATE MY ANCESTRY WITH A GENEALOGY SEARCH SERVICE.

I SENT THEM ALL OF MY FAMILY HISTORY THAT I HAD RECORDS OF - BIRTH DATES AND LOCATIONS BACK TO MY GRANDPARENTS. THE RESULTS HAVE JUST ARRIVED!

THEY TRACED MY FAMILY TREE BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS! AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE, EVERYTHING I THOUGHT ABOUT MY PAST WAS WRONG!

IT TURNS OUT MY ANCESTRY MAINLY TRACES BACK TO SCANDINAVIA!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE NOW THE BJORN LOSER!

TIGER

BY BUD BLAKE

WHAT'S GRAVITY? I DUNNO

HOW DOES THE LIGHT GO THROUGH THIS WIRE? BEATS ME

WHY DON'T OCEANS RUN OFF THE EARTH? CAN'T SAY

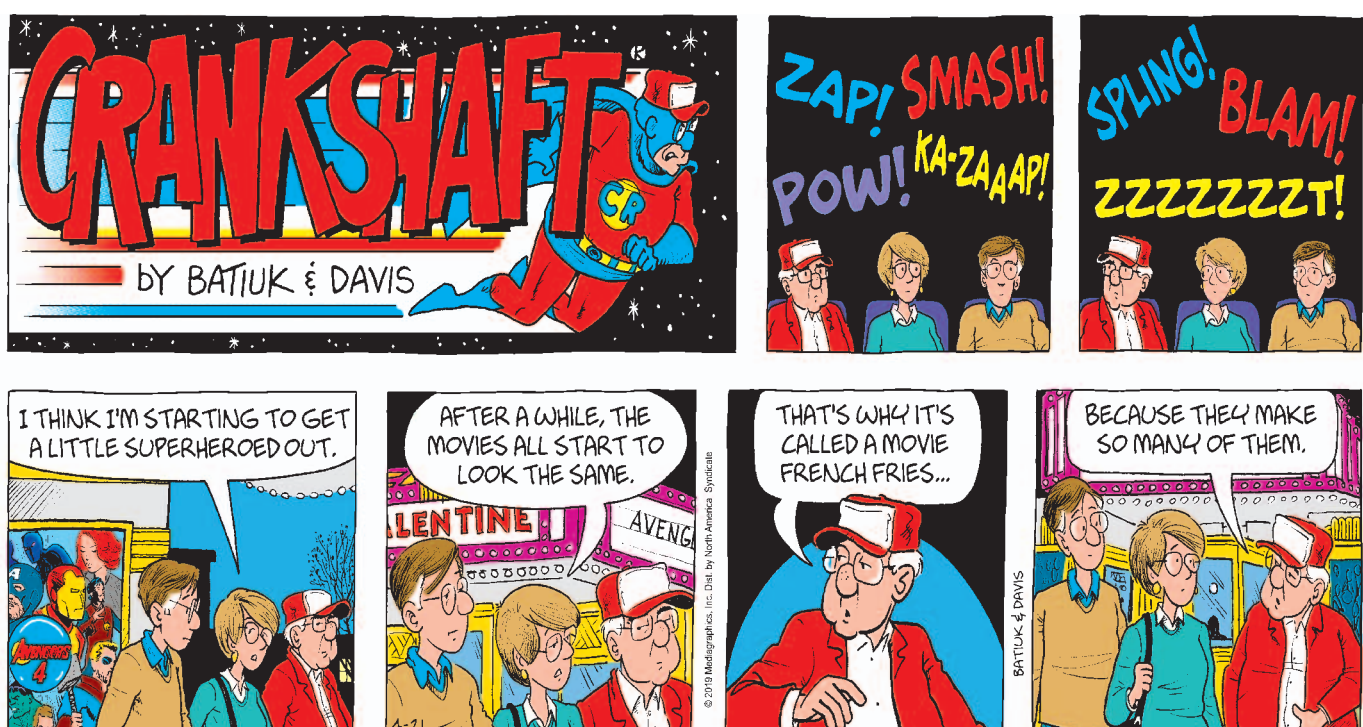
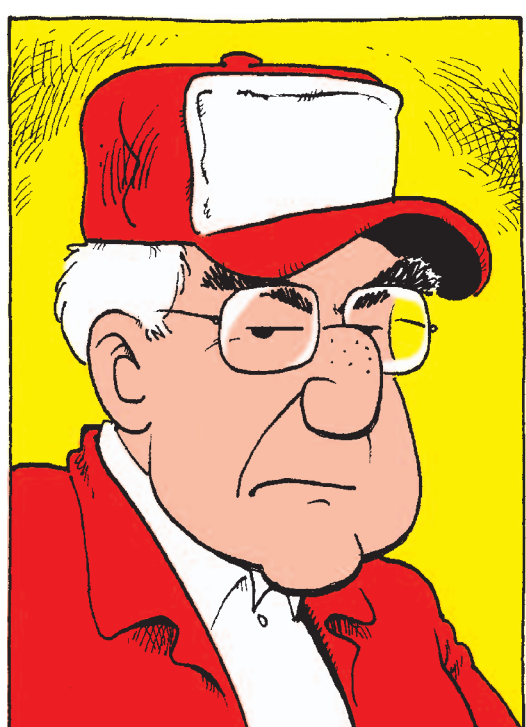
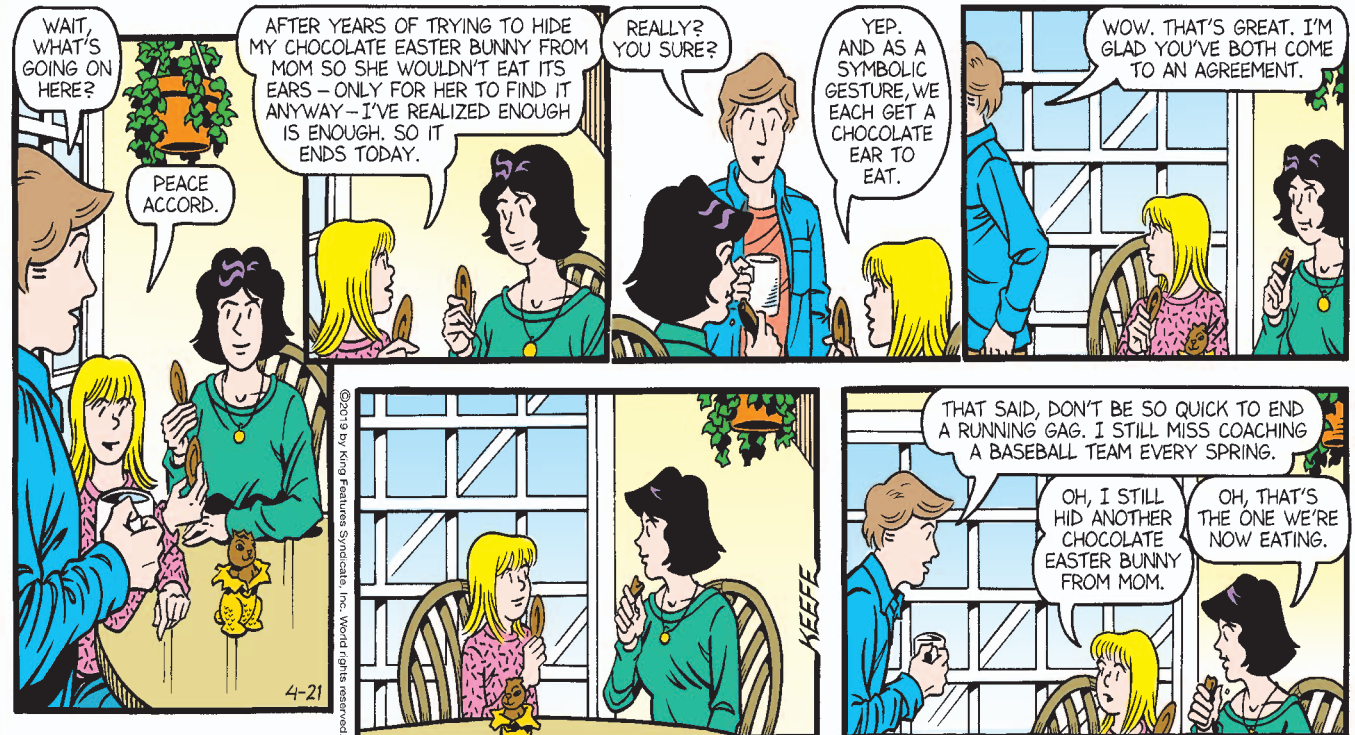
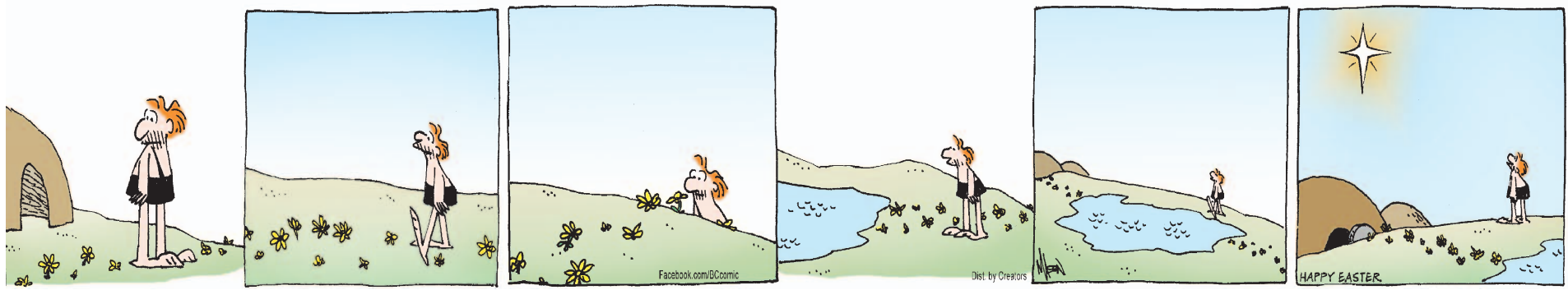
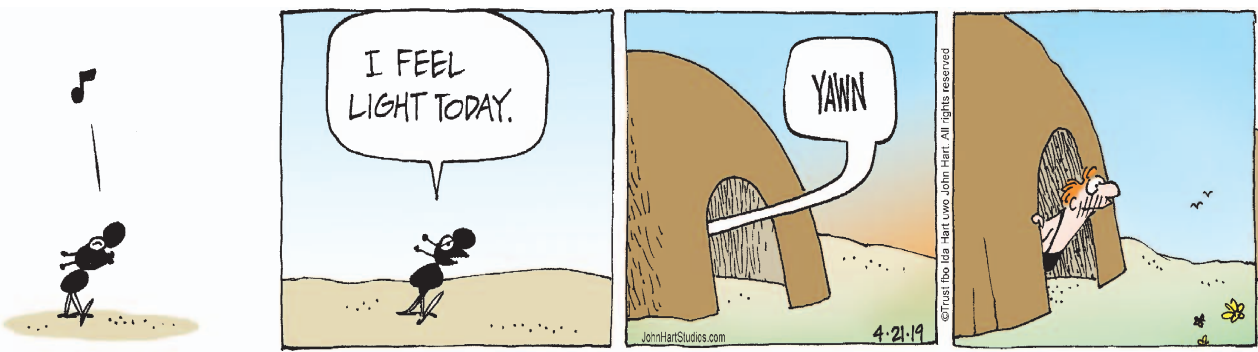
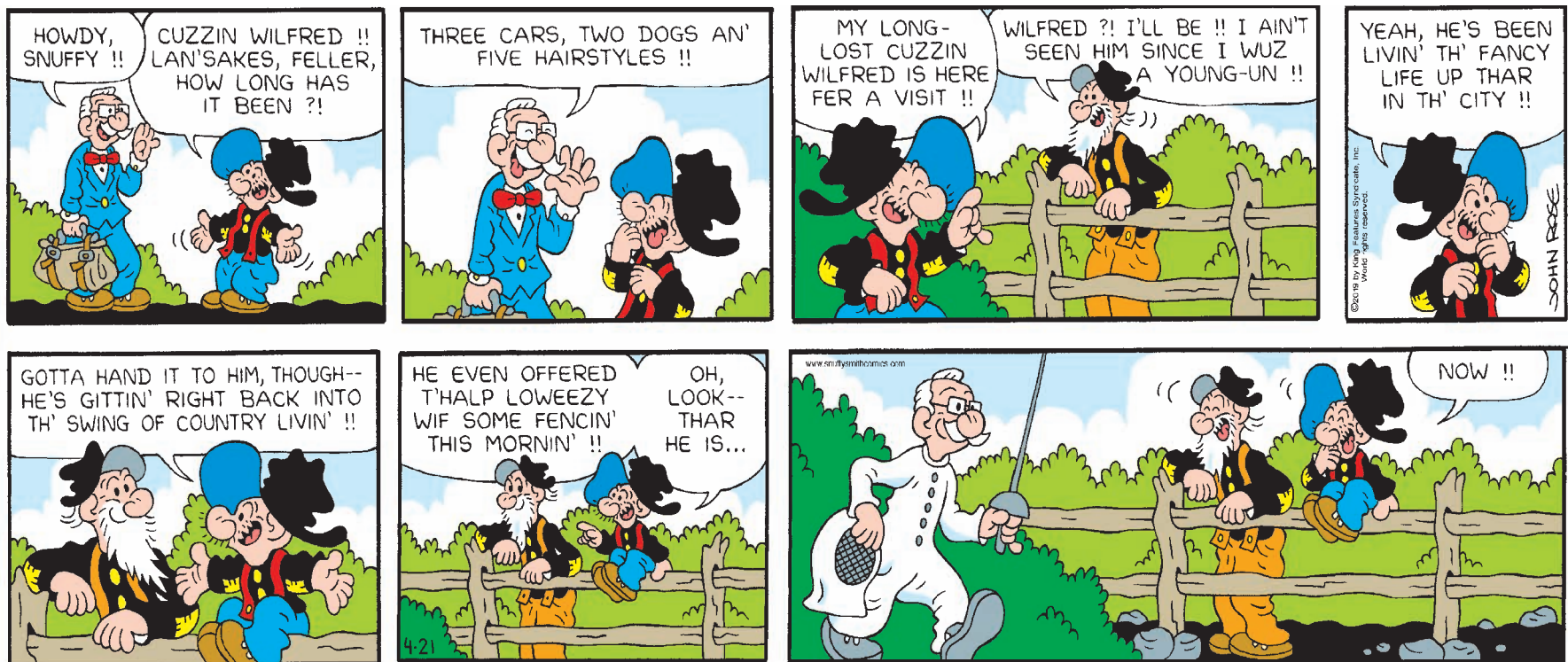
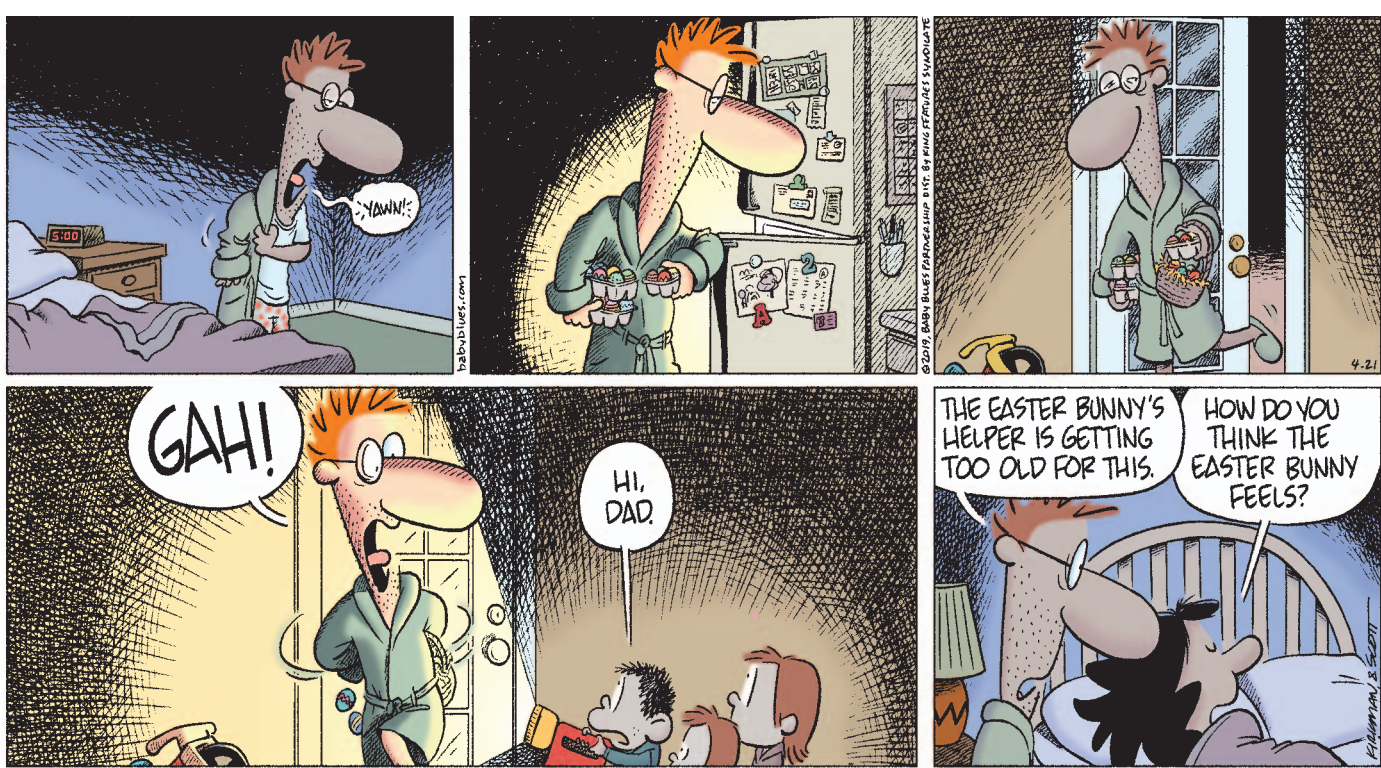
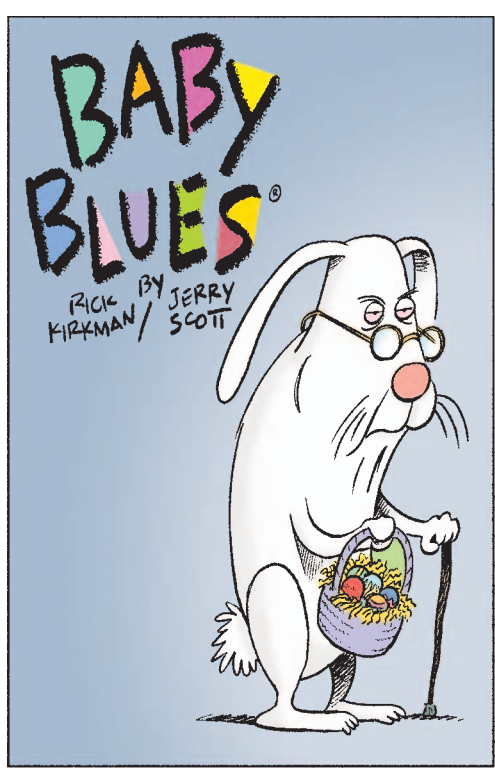
HOW DO THEY STUFF VOICES IN HERE? I DON'T KNOW

WHAT DO RABBITS HAVE TO DO WITH EASTER? I'VE NO IDEA

DO BIRDS GET AIRSICK? I DUNNO

IS IT OKAY IF I ASK YOU ALL THIS STUFF?

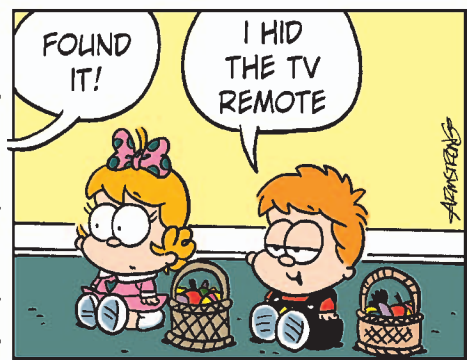
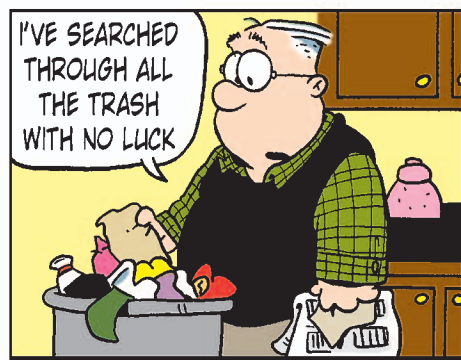
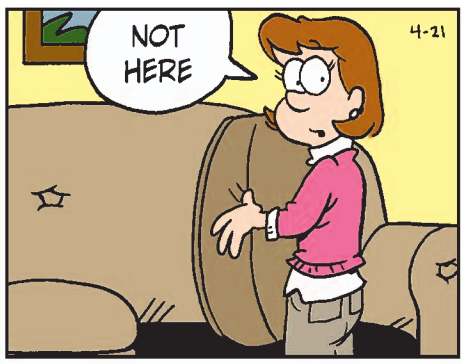
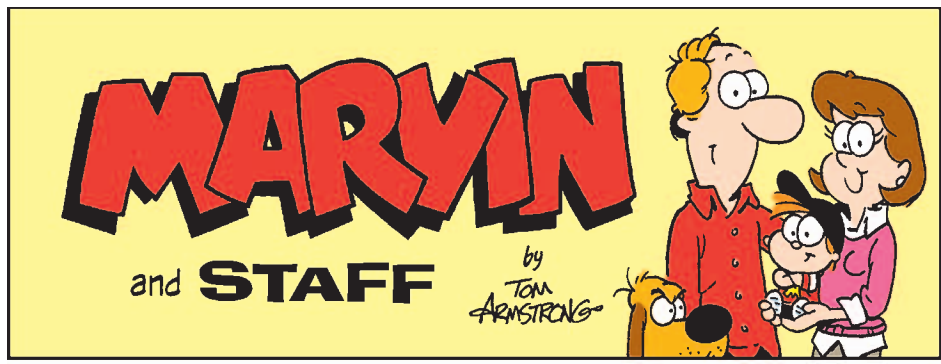
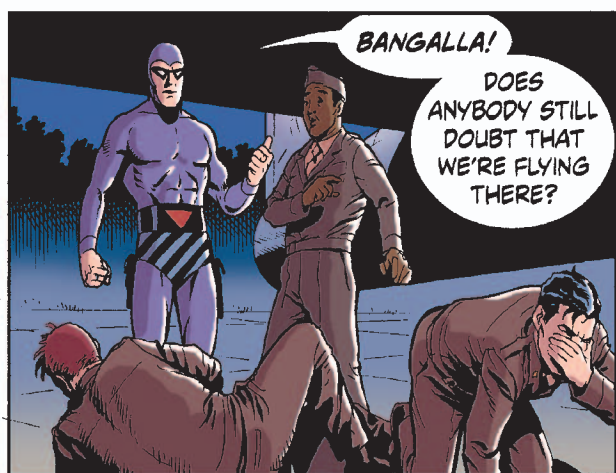
SURE - HOW ELSE WILL YOU LEARN!





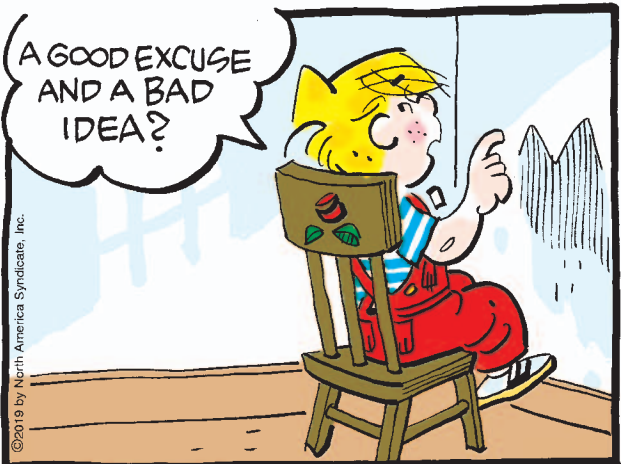
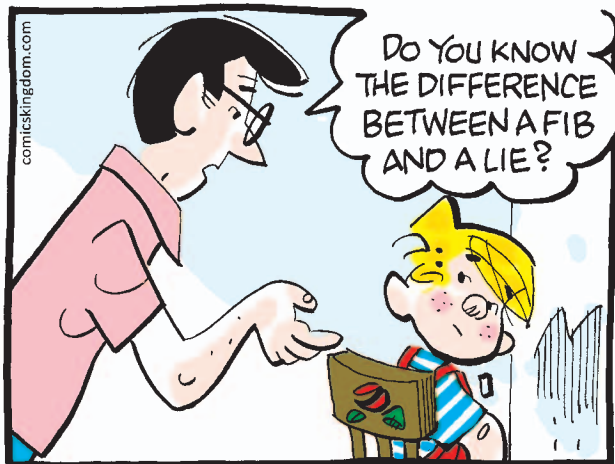
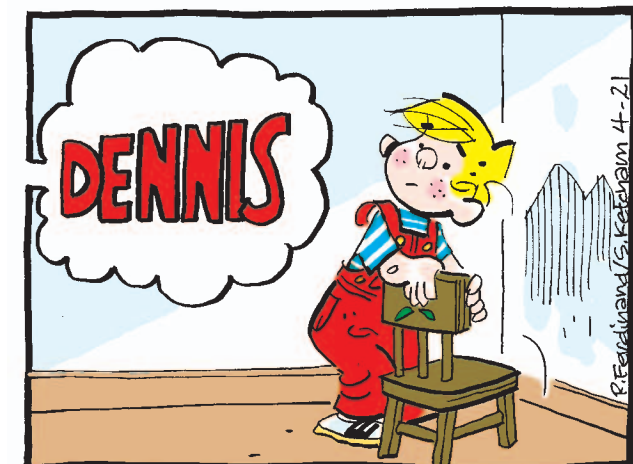
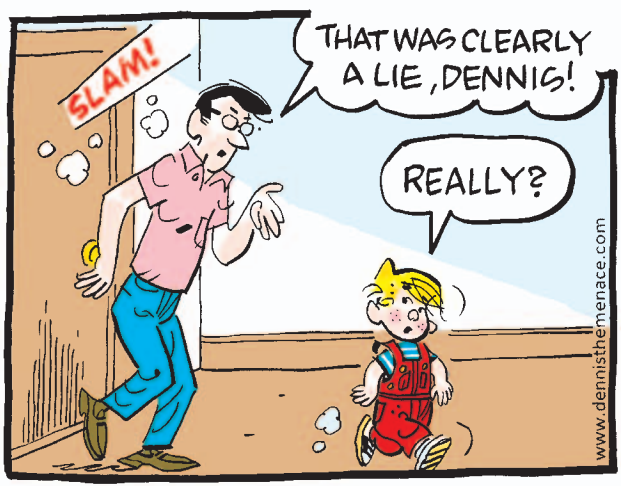
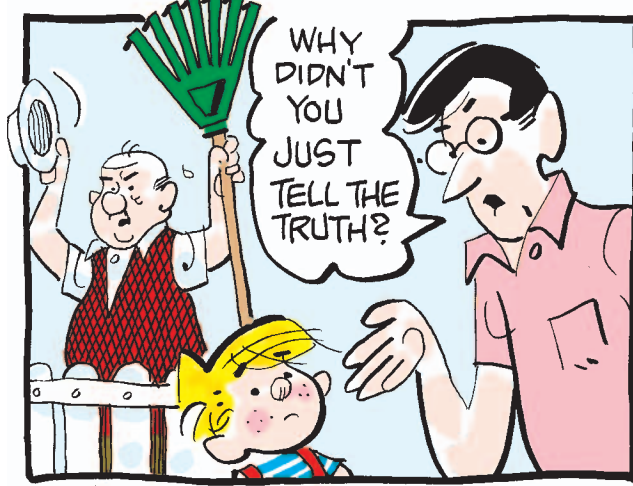
THE PHANTOM

BY LEE FALK



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

