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ARMY VETERAN INTENTIONALLY PLOWED INTO PEDESTRIANS

A driver hit a group of pedestrians on a California sidewalk in what appears to have been an intentional act, and faces eight counts of attempted murder. *See The News Wire*

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Vol. 127 | Issue No. 115

www.yoursun.com

AMERICA'S BEST COMMUNITY DAILY

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160,000 gallons of raw wastewater spilled in Charlotte

Pipe break causes county's largest discharge this year

By **ANDREA PRAEGITZER**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

An estimated 160,000 gallons of raw wastewater flowed out of a broken pipe last week in Charlotte County's largest spill so far this year.

The spill happened after a sewer main pipe broke, which the county initially reported to state regulators may have been caused by a homeowner installing a fence post near the 6400 block of Coliseum Boulevard at the Gardens of Gulf Cove subdivision between Port Charlotte and Englewood.

"After further investigation, the pipe looks to be deteriorated due to buildup of sewer gas," said Charlotte County Utilities Department spokesperson Caroline Wannall.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection confirmed it's investigating the incident, which happened April 18 and was reported to the state the next day.

Meanwhile, the county continues to complete mandated improvements to aging infrastructure required under a consent order with the DEP after large spills during Hurricane Irma in 2017.

That was when about 500,000 gallons of reuse quality wastewater and 122,000 gallons of untreated wastewater was discharged with most entering surface water through the stormwater system. It was the largest discharge the county has on record, officials have said.

As far as last week's spill, that's the biggest reported this year by Charlotte County Utilities, state records show.

Last week's spill is being handled separately from the Irma consent order, according to the DEP.

"Approximately 158,000 gallons of raw wastewater reached the pond that has potential to reach the Myakka River," a DEP official wrote in an email to the county last week. "Approximately 2,000 gallons of raw wastewater percolated into the ground."

In the county's effort to clean up the mess, the contaminated area was washed down and disinfected with lime.

The county has sampled an adjacent pond, and although results are not back yet, DEP spokesperson Dee Ann Miller said, "it appears that the spill was contained within the pond, and not discharged to a Class III water."

Ultimately, Charlotte County told state regulators the line was repaired and the discharge had ceased by the morning of April 19.

"The county must follow-up to more definitively determine the cause of the spill and investigate ways to minimize spills in the future," said Miller Tuesday. "They are also conducting required sampling following the spill and they must report those results to DEP."

SPILLED | 4

WHAT IS WASTEWATER?

RAW WASTEWATER: Plant influent or wastewater before any treatment.

WASTEWATER: The used water and solids from a community that flow to a treatment plant. Storm water, surface water, and groundwater infiltration also may be included in the wastewater that enters a wastewater treatment plant. The term "sewage" usually refers to household wastes, but this word is being replaced by the term "wastewater."

• Both terms and definitions are accepted by state associations and regulatory agencies like the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

— Source: Charlotte County Utilities Department

No more living in your car on Kenesaw Street

Homeless may end up moving a block over

By **BETSY CALVERT**
STAFF WRITER

You could call them Snow Birds.

That's how bad the homeless problem has gotten on Kenesaw Street, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell told the *Sun* after commissioners banned overnight

parking there.

People are driving down to Charlotte County just for the winter and setting up a base in their car on this street, he said. They are drawn to the services at either end, he said.

Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to ban overnight parking on the street that has Jesus Loves You Ministry on

one end and Charlotte County Homeless Coalition on the other. It's just woods in between. One organization offers meals, the other showers and laundry services. Neither returned calls for comment.

"They chose to live that way," Prummell said of the car

CAR | 4



SUN PHOTO BY BETSY CALVERT

About six cars were parked on Kenesaw Street recently during the day. Some are owned by homeless people and some may belong to staff from Jesus Loves You Ministry.

US measles cases hit highest mark in 25 years

MEASLES

is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.



It is so contagious that if one person has it, 9 out of 10 people of all ages around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected.

— Source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Division of Viral Diseases

Misinformation is turning parents against vaccines

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK — Measles cases in the U.S. this year have climbed past 680 to their highest level in 25 years, a resurgence largely attributed to misinformation that is turning parents against vaccines.

Health officials in hard-hit

New York City on Wednesday reported 61 new cases since late last week, in what would make this the nation's worst year for measles since 1994, with eight months still to go. Other states are reporting more cases, too.

Florida has seen two cases this year in Broward and Pinellas counties, according to news reports.

The official nationwide count will not be released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention until Monday. CDC officials said they are reviewing the latest reports.

Roughly three-quarters of this year's illnesses in the U.S. have been in New York state, mainly in two ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities

in Brooklyn and suburban Rockland County. Most of those cases have been in unvaccinated people.

The number of cases is likely to go even higher. Measles is highly contagious and can spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes. And in recent

MEASLES | 4

New toll roads could be a boon to billionaires

Bill expanding 2 toll roads, adding another passes in Florida Senate



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

Thomas Peterffy remained atop the Forbes list of the world's richest billionaires who declare they are residents of Florida.

By **LAWRENCE MOWER & LANGSTON TAYLOR**
TIMES-HERALD TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's richest man is Thomas Peterffy, a supporter of President Donald Trump who served on Gov. Ron DeSantis' campaign finance team.

Worth an estimated \$18.5 billion, according to Forbes, he also happens to own most of Taylor County, which is prime real estate for a proposed toll road that is a priority of Florida Senate President Bill Galvano.

Galvano has said he doesn't know Peterffy, and the Palm Beach billionaire said he had not heard about the project until he saw a March story in the Florida Phoenix about the coincidence.

"The first and only time I heard of this was in a newspaper article that insinuated

I had bribed officials to do this," Peterffy said. "I just find it ridiculous, reprehensible, and I do not understand how these people come up with these things."

But Peterffy, who gave \$310,000 to DeSantis' campaign last year, is hardly the only person who could profit off a bill that would expand two toll roads and build one new one through rural parts of Florida.

Road builders, home builders, engineers and other interests are poised to reap billions by what would be Florida's largest expansion of toll roads in half a century.

Despite the magnitude of the idea, the bill (Senate Bill 7068) is being treated like a bargaining chip by the leaders of the House and Senate in the final weeks of the Legislative session.

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CHARLIE SAYS
Keep wastewater away from my pond.

Derelict sailboat removal drags on to third day

By **ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH**
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — Workers have removed the 1970 Formosa sailboat that's been sitting on its side for a year and a half in Chadwick Cove.

But, the job isn't done yet, and as of Wednesday, the boat was stuck a little over two miles away at Indian Mound Park.

It's been three days since workers from Sea Tow of Venice towed the derelict boat from the sand bar near Englewood Beach to the boat ramp at Indian Mound Park. The West Coast Inland

Navigation District paid \$10,000 to Craig Marcum, owner of Sea Tow Venice, to remove the sailboat.

However, Marcum's crew has hit a few snags this week once the steel vessel reached the ramp. Marcum rented a crane from an Arcadia company.

For nearly five hours, the crane pulled the listed boat slowly out of the water. Nine times the two tow chains snapped. Marcum left for 45 minutes and returned with wooden posts. He positioned them under the boat to help drag it out of the water. They quickly shredded as they were

dragged under the boat. The crane operator added yellow tow straps to the chains.

By late Wednesday, the boat was mostly away from dock and out of the water but was stuck on a small hump at the ramp.

"We will be back Thursday with heavier chains," Marcum said. "Once it's completely out, the boat will be chopped up and put in two Dumpsters at the park and hauled away."

There are two boat ramps at the park. The one on the opposite side of the derelict boat is still in use during the sailboat removal.

Email: eallen@sun-herald.com



SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

The derelict sailboat at Indian Mound Park was lying in nearby Chadwick Cove for a year and half.

Fruitland Ave. residents want more than lower speeds

Residents want to end speeding motorist cut-through

By **STEVE REILLY**
STAFF WRITER

ENGLEWOOD — Fruitland Avenue residents didn't object to Charlotte County commissioners dropping the speed limit on their road from 30 mph to 25 mph Tuesday.

They just didn't think it's going to be enough.

The commissioners approved a cluster of speed limit changes throughout the county Tuesday, including reducing speed limits from 30 to 25 miles per hour. These include streets in the Creekside subdivision near Punta Gorda, and Englewood neighborhoods including Rotonda Heights and Englewood East, where Fruitland is.

The county also reduced the speed limit of 45 miles per hour

to 40 along the newly rebuilt section of Placida Road south of Rotonda West Boulevard, and the new Piper Road extension linking Punta Gorda Airport with U.S. 17.

But of all the people who live on all those streets, only Fruitland residents questioned whether the county's actions were sufficient. The residents told commissioners they needed more than lower posted speeds to solve their traffic problems.

What exactly they wanted depended upon whom you asked. Lorraine Arsenault and Al Marchand wanted to see the installation of four "tear-drop" islands, as well as sidewalks and crosswalks. Motorists would have to slow down and navigate around the islands.

Marchand noted how county traffic studies show more than

3,000 vehicles traveled the residential street within a 24-hour period. Traffic increased significantly when the new Winchester Boulevard South corridor was completed in 2015, although the road has been a popular shortcut for years.

Besides helping motorists avoid heavier traffic on South McCall Road (State Road 776), Fruitland — which now links with Avenue of the Americas on the other side of Winchester — is the shortest route between Lemon Bay High School and L.A. Ainger Middle School. Englewood East and Rotonda residents use the roads to get to the parks and public pool on San Casa Drive, or as an alternative route to Walmart on South McCall.

The fact that it's a one-mile long straightaway doesn't help things.

Resident Bob Ferraris said he's had to replace five mailboxes due to speeding motorists.

The county is now installing a traffic signal at the Winchester intersection Fruitland shares with the Avenue of the Americas for safety reasons. Making the intersection safer for motorists could actually intensify traffic on Fruitland, some residents contend.

Catherine Heart — a member of the Englewood East Non-Urban Street and Drainage Unit Advisory Board that helps to fund road and other infrastructure improvements and the mother of two children — told commissioners sidewalks are needed on Fruitland to ensure a safer walk for children to their schools.

"Unfortunately, there are drivers in the county who are not respectful of children and families," Heart said.

Fruitland resident Harry Farringer volunteered to join the Englewood East advisory board due to the problems on Fruitland. He'd like to see Fruitland closed off at Winchester. He petitioned

his neighbors and more than 92 percent of the respondents, he said, supported closing it off to thru traffic.

"It should have never been open for the type of traffic the county trying to put through it," Farringer said.

Stop signs at intersections along Fruitland were among the suggestions, but Venkat Vattikuti, county traffic engineer, said unwarranted stop signs can sometimes aggravate traffic problems, rather than minimizing problems.

The lower speed limit, Vattikuti said, may prove to be a first step for subsequent efforts to calm traffic along Fruitland. County Public Works officials will be monitoring traffic and the motorists responses to the slower speed limit.

In six or more months, he said, Public Works will have a better idea what, if any, additional traffic calming devices will work.

Email: Steve.Reilly@yoursun.com

Speed limits to drop on dozens of streets in Englewood and Punta Gorda

By **BETSY CALVERT**
STAFF WRITER

Charlotte County Commissioners set and lowered speeds on several county roads during Tuesday's commission meeting. They made the changes based on citizen complaints and recommendations from county engineers and public safety officers.

They voted to set the speed limit at 45 miles per hour for the new section of Piper Road near the Punta Gorda Airport from Henry Street to U.S. 17.

They also lowered the speed limit on Placida Road from Rotonda Boulevard West to Gasparilla Pines to 45 miles per hour, following the rebuilding of that road.

Commissioners lowered speeds from 30 to 20 miles per hour on the following roads in the Creekside Subdivision in Punta Gorda:

- Creekside Drive.

- Bishop Creek Way.
- Winding River Road.
- Clear Creek Way.
- Spring Gulch Lane.
- Brook Forest Road

from.
Commissioners lowered speeds from 30 to 25 miles per hour on the following streets in Rotonda Heights in Englewood:

- Abbott Court.
- April Road.
- Arrow Lane.
- Bebb Court.
- Bell Court.
- Beryl Drive.
- Blue Road.
- Bonita Drive.
- Byron Court.
- Canal Road.
- Cougar Way from Telman Road to Spinnaker.
- Cutlass Drive.
- Cypress Road.
- Dixie Way.
- Eagle Court.
- Flower Road.
- French Court.
- Garland Way.
- Glades Drive.
- Hardee Way.
- Hawk Drive.

- Hunter Road.
- Indian Creek Drive (from Sunset Road to half-way to Boundary).
- Island Court.
- Kings Drive.
- Lady Lane.
- Opal Drive.
- Rebel Court (from the dead end to half-way to Boundary).
- Red Road.
- Rifle Road.
- Rock Road.

- Sesame Road East.
- Sesame Road West.
- Sidney Court.
- Siesta Road.
- Spring Drive.
- Spur Drive.
- Sunny Way.
- Sunrise Drive.
- Sunset Road.
- Sunset Road North.
- Swan Drive.
- Sweetwater Drive.
- Telman Road.
- Temper Lane.

- Venice Road.
- Wayne Road.
- West Drive.

Commissioners lowered speeds from 30 to 25 miles per hour on the following streets in Englewood East:

- Apple Valley Avenue.
- Brookhaven Terrace.
- Fruitland Avenue.

Commissioners lowered speeds from 30 to 25 miles per hour on

the following streets in the Lemon Bay MSBU:

- East 8th Street.
- East 7th Street.
- East 6th Street.
- East 5th Street.
- East 4th Street.
- East 3rd Street.
- East 2nd Street.
- East 1st Street.
- Hickory Drive.
- Manor Road.
- Lampp Drive.

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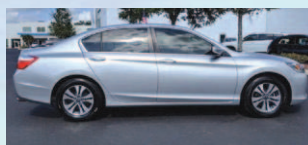
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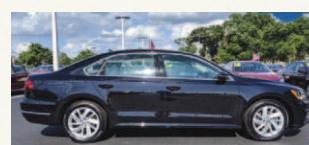
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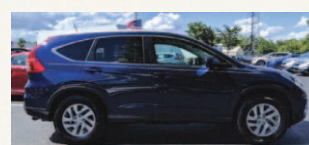
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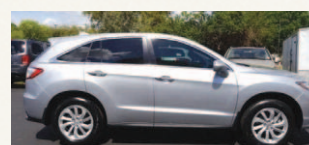
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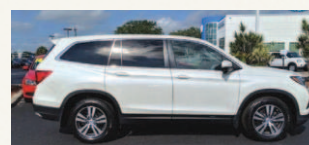
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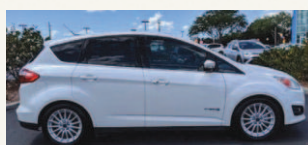
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MEASLES FROM PAGE 1

days, Jewish families have been gathering for Passover meals. It can take 10 to 12 days for symptoms to develop.
 The CDC recommends the vaccine for everyone over a year old.
 The vaccine, which became available in the 1960s, is considered safe and highly effective, and because of it, measles was declared all but eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. But it has made comebacks since then, including 667 cases in 2014.
 Public health experts say some U.S. communities have low vaccination rates because of the spread of bad information — especially the now-debunked notion that the

measles-mumps-rubella vaccine is linked to autism — through social media, pamphlets, hotlines and other means.
 “Many parents are afraid. And if you want to believe your kid doesn’t need that many shots, there’s plenty of places to find people who agree with you,” said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, former head of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “It’s not so easy to discern what is real and what is not.”
 For most people, measles is not life-threatening. The most common symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. However, a very small fraction of people can suffer complications such as pneumonia and a dangerous swelling of the brain.
 According to the CDC,




for every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die from it. No deaths have been recorded this year.
 On Monday, the CDC put the nationwide count of measles cases at 626. The latest New York City illnesses would push the national tally past 680 and closing in on 700, according to an Associated Press review of state and national figures.
 In 1994 there were 963 cases.
 Up to now, the biggest single U.S. measles outbreak in recent years was in 2014, when 383 cases were reported in the Amish community in nine Ohio counties. But on Wednesday, New York City officials said the outbreak centered in some of Brooklyn’s Jewish neighborhoods has accounted for 390 cases since October.

“These cases are stark reminders of why New Yorkers must get vaccinated against the measles as soon as possible,” New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot said.
 Ultra-Orthodox rabbis generally have no religious objections to vaccines and have urged their followers to get inoculated. But the “anti-vaxer” movement has made inroads among the ultra-Orthodox, even though they have little exposure to the internet.
 Earlier this month, city officials ordered mandatory vaccinations in four ZIP codes in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn and threatened fines of up to \$1,000 for noncompliance. City officials said 12 people have been issued summonses.
 There have been three measles-related deaths

Measles outbreak

Outbreaks in New York state continue to drive up the number of U.S. measles cases, which are approaching levels not seen in 25 years.


Symptoms

-  High fever, which begins about 10 to 12 days after exposure.
-  A runny nose, a cough, red and watery eyes, and small white spots inside the cheeks.
-  After several days, a rash erupts, usually on the face and upper neck.


Over about 3 days, the rash spreads, eventually reaching the hands and feet.

reported in the U.S. since 2000, the last one in 2015. The worst year for measles in modern U.S. history was 1958, with more than 763,000 reported cases and 552 deaths.


Transmission

 The virus is spread by coughing and sneezing.
 The virus remains active and contagious in the air or on infected surfaces for up to 2 hours. It can be transmitted by an infected person from 4 days prior to the onset of the rash to 4 days after the rash erupts.

Complications

 The most serious complications include blindness, encephalitis (an infection that causes brain swelling), severe diarrhea and related dehydration, ear infections, or severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia.

Prevention

 All children should get two doses of MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age.
 Sources: CDC, WHO, AP Graphic: Staff, TNS

BILL FROM PAGE 1

The Senate passed the bill Wednesday.
 The House has heard it in one committee, sending it straight to the House floor for a vote or to use as a bargaining chip for something else during the budget negotiations.
 The Sierra Club and other groups fear an environmental disaster, and they wonder about the need for the roads. One would extend the Suncoast Parkway, already little-used, north to the Georgia border.
 “If you have a dog, he could probably sleep in the middle of the highway at certain parts of the day,” said Paul Owens, president of 1000 Friends of Florida, which is against the bill.
 But while the exact route isn’t known, the proposed toll road would inevitably be near what Florida Trend called in 2017 perhaps “the largest continuous piece of undeveloped property in private hands east of the Mississippi River” that includes

half the land in Taylor County.
 A previous owner of that land, Foley Timber & Land, had spent years negotiating a long-term development for the property, Florida Trend reported. In 2015, Four Rivers Land & Timber, where Peterffy (pronounced PETER-FEE) is a main investor, bought 500,000 acres of timberland spread across five counties from Foley. According to the Florida Phoenix, some of that land is zoned for a mixed-use development.
 Peterffy, a one-time penniless Hungarian immigrant who made his billions revolutionizing electronic trading, said no one has spoken to him about it, including the governor. Peterffy appears only to have given to DeSantis.
 He said he has “no idea” what the impact would be on his property, which he plans on holding on to “for a very long time.”
 “I assume that if it went through the property, they would have to buy the right of ways, and I have no idea how much that would be,” he told the Times/Herald on Wednesday. “I’ve never done anything like this, basically,

and I’m not planning to. I certainly won’t stand in their way.”
 He’s not the only large landowner along the route. In Levy County, Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach owns roughly 18,000 acres of land zoned for agricultural use, according to the Gainesville Sun. He also owns Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach. Multiple timber companies also own tens of thousands of acres of land in Dixie and Levy counties.
 In Tallahassee, trade groups like the Chamber of Commerce, Florida Transportation and Builders Association, Florida Trucking Association and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida have been the only ones advocating for it.
 Galvano says the roads are needed to help counties, some of which have the lowest populations in the state, that were left behind during the last decade of economic growth. The bill would not just build roads, but would include water, sewer and broadband internet access as well — the building blocks of any massive development.
 Where the roads would go is

still up in the air, though, and the bill doesn’t guarantee the three roads would be built.
 Rather, it would create three task forces for each of the three roads: extending the Suncoast Parkway north, extending Florida’s Turnpike to meet the Suncoast, and a new road connecting Polk and Collier counties.
 The task forces would be made up of state and local officials and a representative from an environmental group. And in 2020, each would issue a report to the House, Senate and the governor about the projects.
 But the process will be largely controlled by the Florida Department of Transportation, whose secretary reports directly to the governor.
 Transportation officials will have the final say over the project, and they are not required to follow the task forces’ recommendations. After this session, lawmakers will not get another vote.
 Construction would begin in 2022, and the roads would be finished by 2030.
 State Sen. Tom Lee,

R-Thonotosassa, the bill’s sponsor, says it’s still received more scrutiny by lawmakers than transportation projects normally do, since most projects are carried out by the Department of Transportation.
 “I think because we built in these checks and balances that the public is actually more protected than they normally would be if the DOT was out doing this on their own,” Lee said last week.
 While environmental groups appreciate being involved in the process, they have a fundamental problem with the proposal: There’s no evidence the roads are needed.
 The state has not done any road studies justifying it, and a 2016 transportation task force recommended expanding Interstate 75, a proposal that would be undermined by the creation of competing toll lanes.
 David Cullen, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club, said there are easier and cheaper ways to spur the economy in rural Florida if lawmakers want to do that.
 “You don’t need four to six lanes of roads to provide internet access,” Cullen said. “This bill needs to die.”

CAR FROM PAGE 1

dweller. “It’s a very complicated situation. There’s no easy solution.”
 Commissioner Joe Tiseo echoed Prummell’s assertion that the county goes to great lengths to help people who are homeless. But many are resistant, Tiseo said.
 “There’s a lot of homeless people that don’t want the help,” Tiseo said, “and that’s a problem.”
 Commissioner Bill Truex, before voting, asked if

Lullaby Street would still be available for parking. Public Works Director John Elias said yes, and that it has even more space for parking.
 “Effectively, what that would do is, it could end up going over to Lullaby,” Truex noted, without complaint.
 Prummell’s office had asked the county to enact a parking ban on Kenesaw due to ongoing complaints from residential property owners who live a few blocks away. Also, the sheriff’s office reported to the county the list of criminal activities that deputies

routinely handle on that street. Those activities include drunk driving, illegal drug violations, sexual assault, trespass, stolen vehicles and stabbings. Other crises include suicide attempts and numerous medical calls.
 Not many residents spoke at a public hearing before the vote.
 Residents Mike Zarzano and Cynthia Compton were

the only ones to speak out. They both contradicted Prummell’s view that homelessness is a choice.
 “These people don’t choose the life they have,” Zarzano said. He addressed a prominent cause of homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction.
 “Chemical dependency is like a magnet next to a paper clip. It’s very difficult to break them away aside from a spiritual miracle,”

Zarzano said. Everyone is a few steps from homelessness, Compton said, if you consider even homeowners will get kicked out if they don’t pay their property taxes.
 “We keep doing things to restrict these people with no hope,” she said.
 Charlotte County is very generous with the homeless, Prummell said, noting the number of churches that give away tents.
 For those who are motivated to move forward, he said, many county citizens, both paid and volunteer, work very hard to help the homeless.
 Last week before the hearing, several homeless men found on Kenesaw Street told the Sun that blocking parking would hurt many good people they knew.
 Dennis Shirley said he is on a waiting list for temporary shelter with the coalition. Meanwhile, he is living in his car, which has no gas, on Kenesaw Street.
 Email: betsy.calvert@yoursun.com



PRUMMELL



TISEO



TRUEX

SPILLED FROM PAGE 1

Remaining work the county has to do under its consent order for its Irma spills have deadlines of Dec. 31.
 That involves purchasing portable generators or engine-driven pumps, and constructing a grand master lift station interceptor to improve flows from mid-county, DEP records show.
 “The Irma Consent Order addresses some areas of Charlotte County where there is aging infrastructure that is more susceptible to issues that can cause spills,” said Miller. “DEP will continue to work with the county to encourage investment in maintenance and repair of critical infrastructure to serve residents and protect our resources.”
 These are other

wastewater spills Charlotte County has reported so far this year to the DEP, according to “wastewater malfunction” reports filed with the state.
 • **April 1:** 150 gallons of raw wastewater discharged into the ground after escaping from two manholes in Deep Creek near the 26000 block of Rampart Boulevard and 2000 block of Mazatlan Road, after a bypass pump was set too high. County told DEP that its staff was “informed and trained on proper procedure,” and a standard operating procedure addressing this issue was being created.
 • **March 14:** 5,000 gallons of partially treated and raw wastewater was discharged into the environment. That involved 1,500 gallons absorbed into the ground, 1,500 gallons recovered by a tanker truck and 2,000

gallons discharged into a stormwater pond along Kings Highway following a leak of a gasket at the 23300 block of Olean Boulevard. Charlotte County Utilities said aging force mains will be replaced and repaired, along with removal of several lift stations that should “greatly reduce the operating pressure thus minimizing the potential for future failures due to pressure issues.”
 • **Feb 6:** 2,500 gallons of partially treated wastewater spilled at the 4300 block of Rock Creek Drive in Port Charlotte after Florida Power & Light struck a line while doing work. About 1,000 gallons went into a nearby waterway and 1,500 gallons were recovered.
 • **Jan. 29:** A vehicle ran over a “service line blow off” causing 4,600 gallons of partially treated wastewater to spill at the

15400 block of Aldama Circle in Port Charlotte. About 1,150 gallons was recovered and the rest flowed into the Hennipen Waterway.
 • **Jan. 21:** Rats chewed through pump cords at the 26000 block of Parana Drive in Punta Gorda at “a customer’s cleanout,” and 1,000 gallons of raw wastewater spilled. About 600 gallons was recovered and the rest soaked into the ground.
 • **Jan. 11:** 500 gallons of raw wastewater spilled and was recovered at the 2500 block of Harbor Boulevard near the Promenades East Condominiums when a contractor working for Charlotte County struck a main line while excavating in the area.
 • **Jan. 6:** 60 gallons of raw wastewater seeped from manholes but no waterways or storm drains were affected

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
 “The Department’s investigation into this matter is ongoing,” said Florida Department of Environmental Protection spokesperson Dee Ann Miller. DEP takes any unauthorized discharge seriously.
 “In the event of a discharge, our response is threefold,” said Miller, who shared how the process works.
 1.) Work with the facility to identify any releases and ensure the release is stopped as quickly as possible.
 2.) Gather and analyze information surrounding the circumstances of the reported incident to evaluate it from a regulatory perspective to determine if there were any violations.
 3.) Identify any further corrective actions needed, including solutions to avoid future discharges and possible enforcement.
 DEP has a number of enforcement tools it can use to address any identified violations. The nature of the violation and circumstances surrounding the event are used in the determination of which one is best suited.
 Along with the possibility of fines and penalties, which is one enforcement tool, enforcement can also be requiring necessary restoration and/or remediation actions through a Compliance Assistance Offer, Consent Order or other enforcement mechanism.

near the 24000 block of Santa Inez Road in Punta Gorda. It happened when an underground power supply from an electrical meter failed.
 • **Jan. 6:** 10,000 gallons of reclaimed water spilled into an empty swale on the 9600 block of Eagle Preserve Drive in Englewood, and soaked into the ground but waterways and storm drains weren’t affected by the spill caused by a leaking gasket.
 Email: Andrea.Praegitzer@yoursun.com

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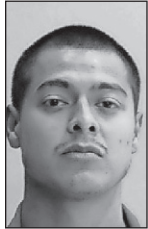
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Jail snitch leads to armed robbery suspect's arrest

Suspect accused of robbing Arcadia Speedway at gunpoint in 2018

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

The Arcadia Police Department announced the arrest of Jacob Lee Valdez, 25, of Carrabelle, Florida, for armed robbery of an Arcadia gas station in 2018.



VALDEZ

According to the affidavit for an arrest warrant, the Speedway store on South Brevard Avenue was reportedly robbed at gunpoint by a man who ordered an employee to "give him all the money from the cash register." APD did not identify a suspect at that time.

In February, APD officers visited a Department of

Corrections Work Camp in Crawfordville to speak to a man who said he had information about the Speedway robbery. The witness said he had been in the Charlotte County Jail in August 2018, at the same time as Valdez and some others. Valdez allegedly told the witness he and another man had entered the store wearing masks. Valdez reportedly said he had a gun but did not say what kind or caliber. After the robbery, the pair fled, and in doing so Valdez damaged the grill of his Ford truck.

APD officers reviewed video from the robbery and observed the two men, noting their clothing. They also confirmed Valdez was in the Charlotte jail at the same time as the witness; he had been arrested by Charlotte County deputies the day after

the Speedway robbery on a charge of possession of a firearm or weapon by a convicted felon. (He was also charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.) The pants Valdez was wearing in a photo taken at the time of his arrest were the same as worn by the Speedway robber.

APD officers inspected Valdez's father's truck, which had some damage to the front end. Valdez's father said the truck had not been driven since the day his son was arrested. Inside, APD found shoes just like the ones worn by the Speedway robber.

Department of Corrections records indicate Valdez was

sentenced to prison for three years on the Charlotte weapons charge, but was brought to DeSoto by court order.

Valdez was arrested in DeSoto County on charges of armed robbery with a firearm and possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon. He is being held in the jail on \$69,000 bond.

Previously, Valdez was sent to prison in 2014 on charges of false imprisonment, giving false ownership information to a pawnbroker and grand theft between \$300 and \$5,000. The first two charges were out of DeSoto County and the last from Hardee. He was released on Nov. 8, 2017 after serving up to a four-year, three-month prison sentence.

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.

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

- John Michelle Worlow, 31, 90 block of Columbia Road, Venice. Charges: failure of defendant on bail to appear on felony and two underlying charges. Bond: none.
- Ryan Craig Snyder, 20, 70 block of Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West. Charges: two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and two counts battery. Bond: \$23,000.
- Gabrielle Kate Goyette, 20, 15400 block of Olive Circle, Punta Gorda. Charge: battery. Bond: \$2,500.
- Corey Lee Kelly, 44, 16500 block of Cape Horn Blvd., Punta Gorda. Charge: violation of condition of pretrial release. Bond: none.
- James Stephen McGlone Jr., 34, 20300 block of Peachland Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charges: two counts of failure of defendant on bail to appear on misdemeanor and four underlying charges. Bond: none.

- Charles Patrick Jean, 18, 1100 block of Yorkshire St., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery. Bond: \$3,000.
- Roy Franklin Mizell, 34, homeless of Port Charlotte. Charges: failure to appear and underlying charge. Bond: \$5,000.
- Charles Haviilah Yonaka, 77, 800 block of Kenwood Terrace, Port Charlotte. Charges: DUI 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle and DUI damage to property or person of another. Bond: \$3,000.
- Joseph Edward Nicolosi, 41, 12100 block of Chamberlain Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charge: DUI. Bond: none (supervised release).
- Dustin Richard Rogers, 32, 21500 block of Kenyon Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: driving

- while license suspended 3rd or subsequent offense. Bond: \$5,000.
- Nicole Elizabeth Harmon, 20, 3300 block of Mayflower Terrace, North Port. Charges: underlying charge and failure to appear. Bond: \$5,000.
- Patrick Alan Judy, 50, 2500 block of South San Mateo Drive, North Port. Charge: violation of condition of pretrial release. Bond: \$2,500.
- Paul Robert Marshall, 44, of Fort Myers. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia, and DUI. Bond: \$10,000.
- Scott Mitchell Ligocki, 58, 6300 block of Hera St., Englewood. Charges: criminal mischief under \$200 damage and trespassing

occupied structure or conveyance. Bond: \$3,500.

- Tina Kay Hanlon, 51, 5000 block of Nuremberg Drive, Punta Gorda. Charge: driving while license suspended 3rd or subsequent offense. Bond: \$6,000.
- Charles Junior Jenkins, 44, 2200 block of Bremen Court, Punta Gorda. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$2,000.
- Todd Arthur Brusati, 50, 1400 block of Kolenda St., Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$2,500.
- Timothy Thomas Proctor, 46, 21200 block of Coulton Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: driving without license revoked habitual offender, possession of cocaine, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$14,000.

The Florida Highway Patrol reported the following arrest:

- Yimi Comin Sivori, 43, of Tampa. Charge: knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond: \$1,000.

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

- Harry Boyt, 75, 200 block of Shoner Street, North Port. Charge: DUI. Bond: \$500.
- Michael Farrington, 43, 5600 block of Varet Road, Venice. Charges: contempt of court, driving while license suspended. Bond: \$300.

The North Port Police Department reported the following arrest:

- Phillip Barker, 60, 3600 block of North Cranberry Boulevard, North Port. Charge: moving traffic violation, driving while license suspended. Bond: \$1,500.

The Venice Police Department reported the following arrest:

- Adrian King, 27, 500 block of Peach Street, Venice. Charges: probation violation, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: none.

— Compiled by Anne Easker and Tom Harmenting

OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE

Wilner Cherisme

Wilner Cherisme, 73, of Port Charlotte, Florida passed away Thursday,



April 18, 2019 at Tidewell Hospice in Port Charlotte.

Wilner was born to Joseph and Derina Cherisme on Aug. 20, 1945 in Haiti.

Wilner was a wonderful man who loved life to the fullest. He will be missed dearly by all who loved and knew him.

Survivors include his daughter, Suzette Cherisme of Miami, Florida; his three sisters, Amelina J. Morisseau of Port Charlotte, Yovanne St. Charles and Palila Toussaint both of Miami, Florida; three brothers, Charles M. Cherisme of Boston, Massachusetts, Edwidge Cherisme of Port Charlotte and Berthau Cherisme of Tampa, Florida; his niece, Kelty Leconte of Port Charlotte and several other nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Friday, April 26, 2019 at Roberson Funeral Home Port Charlotte Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at San Antonio Catholic Church, 24445 Rampart Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Entombment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Gardens in Port Charlotte.

Friends may visit online at www.robersonfh.com to extend condolences to the family. Arrangements are by Roberson Funeral Home Port Charlotte Chapel.

Mildred Louise Geeham

Mildred Louise Geeham, 94, of Port Charlotte, Florida died on Sunday, April 21, 2109 at Signature Healthcare of Port Charlotte.

Arrangements by Roberson Funeral Home & Crematory Port Charlotte Chapel.

ENGLEWOOD

Elizabeth Joers Roberts

Elizabeth Joers "Tina" Roberts, 76, of Placida passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lemon Bay Funeral Home, 2 Buchans Landing Englewood, FL.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Prison offering \$1,000 hiring bonuses

Staffing at Charlotte Correctional Institution at 10 percent vacancy rate

By **ANNE EASKER**
STAFF WRITER

Charlotte Correctional Institution is now offering \$1,000 hiring bonuses for new correctional officers. The prison, located on Oil Well Road south of Punta Gorda, now has 58 vacancies.

Institutions with more than a 10 percent vacancy rate are eligible to offer the bonus, according to Deputy Press Secretary Paul Walker.

Walker said Charlotte CI has not traditionally had difficulty filling positions like some other facilities throughout the state, but new positions

are being added, making it eligible for the bonus.

Lately, correctional officers there have been working mandatory overtime, though Walker noted staff often volunteer for overtime, which enables the institution to avoid requiring the extra hours.

The starting base salary for correctional officers is \$33,500, which was last increased from \$30,926 in 2017. The department states with health insurance and retirement benefits, the total compensation is \$56,000.

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Florida Department of Corrections

When you begin a career as a Correctional Officer with the Florida Department of Corrections, you earn more than just a salary, the benefits stack up.

\$56K
in total compensation, including major benefits and valuable retirement.

- Life Insurance: \$55
- Social Security: \$2,563
- High-Risk Retirement: \$7,795
- Health Insurance: \$12,135
- Base Salary: \$33,500

GRAPHIC PROVIDED

Base salary starts at \$33,500.

coverage is available immediately, no waiting period is necessary," Walker said. "Benefits also include special risk retirement, tuition waiver for college costs and paid training including the basic recruit

academy, required annual training and special training opportunities and seminars throughout the year. Promotions also allow for additional pay increases."

The prison on Oil Well Road south of Punta

Gorda has a capacity of 1,291 male adult inmates.

More information on openings and benefits can be found at <http://fldcjobs.com/index.html>.

Email: anne.easker@yoursun.com

'Field of Dreams' at new field tonight

STAFF REPORT

NORTH PORT — The city of North Port and CoolToday Park have several events set up for the rest of the week and weekend.

At 6:30 p.m. tonight, the first Movie Night at the Ballpark takes place with the showing of "Field of Dreams" at CoolToday Park. The Academy award winning movie is consistently ranked among the best baseball films ever made. It stars Kevin Costner as an Iowa farmer who builds a baseball diamond among his corn crops and, mystically, the

1919 Chicago White Sox arrive to play on it.

The Movie Nights will take place the second and fourth Thursdays at the ballpark and is presented by Venice Pier Group.

On Saturday, Tree Fair 2019 takes place in North Port.

It is set from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at North Port Community Education Center, 4940 Pan American Blvd.

People for Trees has been sponsoring the tree festivals since 1999.

People for Trees is a nonprofit native tree advocacy group led by Alice White of North Port.

The day will include a Fairy Garden led by "Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver "who will also provide the musical entertainment. Children are invited to wear their best fairy attire," according to a news release.

The Fairy Garden entertainment begins at 11 a.m.

Also included is the annual Fairy House exhibit/contest.

Several prizes will be awarded, including a \$50 cash prize for "Best of Show." Categories include: adult entry (ages 19 and older); teen entry (ages 13-18) and child entry (12 and

under.) For more information, contact White 941-468-2486; email treelady12001@yahoo.com or visit www.peoplefortrees.com.

Less based on entertainment or education and more on need, North Port is hosting Take Back Day with North Port Police accepting unused medication from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday at the North Port Police Department. Syringes can be dropped off at North Port Fire Rescue Departments.

The Police Department is at 4980 City Hall Blvd., North Port.

WORDS OF COMFORT

"What the heart has once owned and had, it shall never lose."

— Henry Ward Beecher



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VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Larry Taylor gave himself to community

If you knew Larry Taylor, you might have wondered how he had time to run a funeral home. It seems the affable owner of Larry Taylor Funeral Home in Punta Gorda spent much of his time organizing charitable events for everything from Little League to Kiwanis.

Taylor, 57, passed away Monday, succumbing to the effects of a massive heart attack a couple of days earlier. The condolences on Facebook alone tell you how important he was to his community.

In a *Sun* story by Daniel Sutphin on Tuesday, Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke summed up Taylor's life when she said "he was the epitome of giving back."

Taylor was so driven to help his community, and such a fighter, it was difficult for his friends to accept he wasn't able to overcome his fight to come back from the heart attack that felled him at work. Reports were that he was recovering when he "took a turn for the worse" and died at a local hospital.

His passing is a huge loss not only for his family and friends but several charitable causes that he championed.

Taylor was a leader in the Punta Gorda Kiwanis. He was involved in the Shoes for Kids program and then started a Socks for Kids and Undie Sunday programs. The goal was to make sure kids who needed help had clean socks and underwear.

He umpired baseball games at all levels all over the state for years and organized a Christmas@East program to bring a happier holiday to 250 or more kids at East Elementary.

Stepping up to help those in the community who need a lift is not something everyone can or will do. Taylor was happy to lend a hand. He will be missed.

An improved state of 'Graces'

For six decades, three naked "dancing ladies" have greeted travelers on U.S. 41 at the edge of North Port. They pointed — literally — to the fountain of youthful vitality not far down Ortiz Boulevard: the Warm Mineral Springs Spa.

The "Three Graces" sculpture was commissioned by Sam Herron Jr., the man who bought the Springs property and first built a spa there. In 1957, Herron hired Nokomis artist Sophie Johnstone, who, according to local historian Bill Goetz, "first formed the 'Graces' in clay and then had them cast out of gold anodized aluminum at a foundry in Sarasota."

The "Graces" came south the following year and were placed in a 20-foot-diameter concrete-and-stone fountain, where they danced in a trickle of water and invited passersby to visit Herron's attraction: Sirens beckoning all to a good, refreshing soaking.

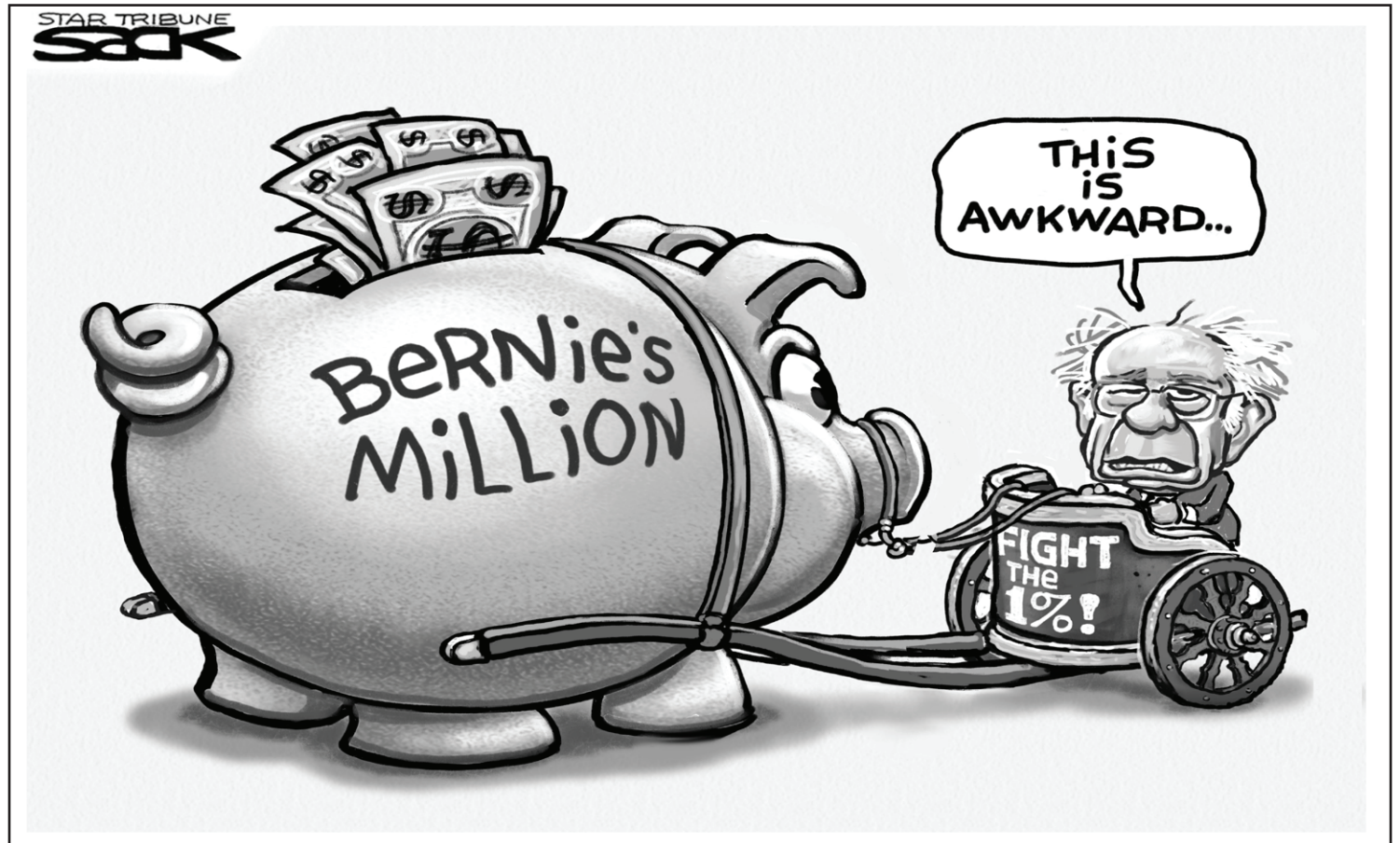
The Warm Mineral Springs Spa has seen its ups and downs since then. The ladies too. For years, "Three Graces" have danced in a flat, dry bowl. Last week, water finally returned.

Thankfully. The water flow properly restores what may be South Sarasota County's most significant public work of art. An icon. A landmark.

Meanwhile, the city has petitioned for National Register of Historic Places recognition for the spa's cyclorama and spa buildings, designed by famed Sarasota School of Architecture architect Jack West. Our endorsement here.

This proposal deserves public support. We hope you'll take a moment to write a letter of support and send it to: Alissa Lotane, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, Fla., 32399.

We need to recognize our history and honor the buildings, and artwork, that make this place distinctive.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Message should be: unconditional love

Editor:

I have been a United Methodist my entire life. I was baptized, confirmed, enjoyed my young adult years in MYE, was married and raised my family in what is now known as a Reconciling Congregation in New England.

A Special Session of the General Conference was held in St. Louis to determine how the United Methodist Church was going to move forward with the issue of human sexuality. Those eligible delegates to vote were made up of a group of global representatives.

The vote was 438-384 to keep the "Traditional Plan." This Traditional Plan keeps the current language in the Discipline that states, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

The United Methodist Church's motto has been, "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." With this current vote, the UMC is actually saying to the world that their doors will continue to be closed to the LGBTQ United Methodists.

I am no longer proud to call myself a United Methodist. John Wesley preached, "Do no harm," and offered God's grace to all persons. Love, grace, acceptance and inclusion should be available and granted to all persons who knock on God's door. Resistance has erupted in many UM churches since this General Conference vote, but the circle needs to be drawn larger to become more inclusive, and the Traditional Plan needs to go away. Unconditional love and acceptance is the answer.

Nancy Turner
Punta Gorda

Hedonist left threatens the faithful

Editor:

Multiple presidential candidates now clamor for people of religious faith to be sidelined from business and from political life. Senators have recently challenged judicial nominees on the basis of their Catholicism. Jews have been questioned about their loyalty to the United States because of their

sympathy for Israel.

Contemporary "civil rights advocates" advocate a drastic Constitutional change which would mean that any business could be required by government to produce whatever message a potential customer demands. This would apply to all, from bakers to creative graphics to publishers. The businessperson becomes a puppet in the hands of a customer. What country would this be if Ben Franklin were forced to print apologia for King George III?

Mayor Buttegieg likewise calls Vice President Pence a "Pharisee" because he stands for traditional marriage under President Trump. Wrong! Vice President Pence practices and enjoy the traditional marriage that he teaches. Mayor Buttegieg goes further and slanders God by stating that God has made him homosexual instead of taking responsibility for his own same-sex choices.

There is a concerted effort by the hedonist left to make political and economic participation in public life by people of faith impossible, jeopardizing many faiths, including Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox and Biblical Christians. There is a critical distinction missed: A businessperson should not discriminate against customers but must be able to retain control free from any customer and from government control over the messages he or she produces and endorses. Religious and nonprofit bodies must have that same freedom.

Thomas Logie
North Port

Shelter for people, not special interests

Editor:

My recent e-mails to the *Sun* and county commissioners about a Hurricane Shelter at Babcock Ranch were not responded to, no surprise.

I suspect there is much more to this story than the obvious concerns like two lane roads that flood, a hazardous intersection and the remote location from Port Charlotte than the voters are aware of.

As a duty to the public that would be affected, the *Sun* should do an investigation into the matter. The commissioners need to be responsive to their constituents in a similar

fashion and hold open meetings for public input, and if required have approval for any county hurricane shelter placed on the ballot.

I challenge the *Sun* and the commissioners to come up with a hurricane shelter plan that works for the people, not just for special interests.

Mike Reinhard
Port Charlotte

No age limit on gun purchases

Editor:

Since most of the people who favor the Second Amendment state they are allowed "arms," ie., guns with no limit on how many or what kind they own, please show me where in this amendment, which of course you say was written by the best minds of the times, is there an age limit on buying guns.

There is none. The Second Amendment states no age restrictions.

James Fisher
Punta Gorda

No easy solution to Fruitland issue

Editor:

Fruitland Avenue is in Englewood East, Charlotte County. It is located on the southwest corner of its boundaries. It is about 1 mile in length with residential homes on both sides. It also has 11 streets just off to the north side of Fruitland, 10 which are also residential.

The west end of Fruitland connects to the Avenue of Americas by a dirt path and now Winchester Boulevard. A traffic light is being considered. The Avenue of the Americas connects to San Casa Drive. It has many businesses which use the Fruitland road as a shortcut to Englewood, Rotonda, etc. avoiding the traffic and extra time. It has been that way since I moved to Englewood, 28 years ago.

Even the maps I have do not show this connection. The latest AAA map does now show any connection.

The road traffic has increased. Reported in the news, traffic counts are as high as 32,000 cars in 2018 and 2,700 in September of 2018. The street is used by Charlotte County vehicles, law enforcement, school transportation, public works

and residents. What is the solution?

Can it be widened? It is 20 feet wide now. Maybe we can put in sidewalks — the county owns 50 feet of right-of-way and it would be safer for school children who must walk to school by the existing road. The county is maybe lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, providing it can be enforced.

Finally, if it gets bad, maybe it can be for residents only — the taxpayers.

Bruce Pomeroy
Englewood

Top shelter priority: An open SR 31

Editor:

In the recent weeks, there has been quite a bit of discussion regarding the proposed hurricane shelter at the Babcock Ranch community. Being a lifelong resident of Charlotte County and having worked for the Charlotte County property appraiser over 20 years as a cartographer, I have a fairly strong knowledge of the lands involved in this amazing project.

Notwithstanding who ultimately pays for the proposed shelter, I do find it interesting that as the developers tout the proposed location as one of the highest elevations in Charlotte County, everyone seems to be forgetting that during the rainy (hurricane) season last year and many years before State Road 31 has been closed due to flooding, creating unsafe driving conditions. Closed.

One might question why the improvement and widening of this only access road to Babcock Ranch wasn't part of the initial project's planning.

A wise man once said, believe in the five P's: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

Maybe we should give consideration to the improvement of the only access road to the new community before we build a shelter we may or may not be able to get to when we would need it most. As good stewards of the land and understanding the impacts this massive project will have on both Charlotte and Lee counties, the road project should be a priority first and foremost.

Monte Matarese
Port Charlotte

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Democrats entertain an impeachment fantasy

The collusion fantasy has officially given way to the impeachment fantasy. The passionate investment of the left in the Mueller investigation had much to do with shock and disbelief at Donald Trump's victory in 2016 and the hope of early deliverance — the special-counsel probe as delectable revenge and *deus ex machina*.

The expectation that Robert Mueller would blow Trump out of the White House with proof of collusion with Russia has, not surprisingly, come up empty. No worries. If Volume I of the Mueller report, on Russia, didn't pan out, there's always Volume II, on alleged obstruction.

When you are desperate to, in the memorable words of Democratic freshman congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, "impeach the motherf-----," any



National Review

Rich LOWRY

rationale will do.

If House Democrats impeach Trump, though, they will be sorely disappointed. They will wake up the day afterward and, after all the drama and wall-to-wall coverage, he'll still be president of the United States, tweeting per usual.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has bizarrely become the backstop of reason in Democratic politics, is reluctant to go down this path. The question is whether she will get swamped by her base, just as the Republican House leadership did in 1998.

Impeachment has a long history in Anglo

America. The British statesman Edmund Burke called it "the great guardian of the purity of the Constitution," and Cass Sunstein notes in his book on impeachment that the U.S. Constitution probably wouldn't have gotten ratified without a provision for it.

Yet it is widely misunderstood. Pelosi said in 2017 that the president can only be impeached for breaking the law, a claim that Trump also tweeted on Monday. This may be an understanding convenient for both of them, but it is incorrect.

"High crimes and misdemeanors" don't have to be technically legal in nature. Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist 65 that grounds for impeachment are "the abuse or violation of some public trust. They are of a nature which may with peculiar propriety be

denominated POLITICAL, as they relate chiefly to injuries done immediately to the society itself."

So it doesn't matter that Mueller pulled up short of accusing Trump of a crime. More notable is how Trump's machinations came to nothing.

He unsuccessfully tried to crimp an investigation that found no underlying offense, while his White House officially cooperated with the probe. We only know in such detail the episodes Mueller catalogs because the White House coughed up so much material and so many witnesses, up to and including the White House counsel.

What Trump is guilty of — shambolic, unfocused and ultimately ineffectual scheming — is closer to the term that the founders considered for the impeachment clause, "maladministration,"

before rejecting it as too loose and vague.

Impeachment would be a symbolic mark against Trump, but at what cost? Impeachment won't magnify the president's alleged offenses, but will make them smaller as the argument devolves into a microscopic examination of his words and actions (and nonactions).

It would be the most forlorn impeachment ever. Andrew Johnson came close to getting removed. Richard Nixon quit before he got removed. Even with Bill Clinton, there was a moment when it seemed possible some Senate Democrats might flip against him.

With Trump, there is no chance of him being removed by the Republican-held Senate, which would probably hold a perfunctory, minimal trial, underlining the absurdity of the effort. Trump's approval

ratings wouldn't rocket skyward like Bill Clinton's. But Democrats would suffer the opportunity cost of distracting attention from substantive issues people actually care about, and put their relatively moderate members in an awkward spot.

Then there's timing. We're about 18 months before an election where voters can pronounce on Trump's presidency directly, without assistance from House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler.

In the end, there's only one way to take back what Democrats believe was stolen from them in 2016. That's to win the 2020 election, which will require some deftness, not perpetual grievance and enraged wishfulness.

Rich Lowry can be reached via e-mail: comments.lowry@nationalreview.com.

House leaders should lay groundwork for impeachment

Politics is an odd profession. Usually it involves the posturing inherent to partisanship and the self-abasement of endless fundraising. But occasionally it entails the most solemn duties of self-government — decisions that echo across the decades.

Members of the House of Representatives now face this kind of resonant choice.

The Mueller report details a criminal plot by a hostile foreign government to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election in Donald Trump's favor by encouraging racial and social division and releasing stolen emails. When Trump and his team learned about a major element of this operation — the part involving hacked emails — they did not take this information to the FBI. Instead, they publicly and privately welcomed Russian efforts. While this did not rise legally to



Washington Post

Michael GERSON

the level of a conspiracy, the report shows that Trump and members of his campaign team were willing — actually, eager — to cooperate with Russian attempts to subvert a presidential election.

The Mueller report also reveals that Trump repeatedly ordered subordinates to lie about their ties to the Russians and to interfere with the investigation of those contacts. After making a strong case that the president obstructed justice, the report refuses to assign criminal responsibility. But it is careful to say: "If we had confidence after a thorough investigation of the facts that the president clearly did not commit obstruction

of justice, we would so state."

In the face of all this, the president has both dismissed the report as a partisan hit job and claimed to be completely vindicated by it. Both are lies. But Trump has successfully enlisted the attorney general of the United States to provide cover for those deceptions, which has given the president clear advantages while emptying William Barr's store of professional reputation.

So how have the institutions of our public life responded to this attack on the integrity of the electoral process? They have engaged in a great chain of punting.

The Mueller report places primary responsibility on Congress to deal with issues such as this. And the leadership of the House has put primary emphasis on the role of voters in the 2020 election to deliver a public repudiation to the president. Everyone in

government conveniently escapes direct duties.

This attitude is rooted in political realism. The president could probably polarize an impeachment battle in ways favorable to his re-election by convincing his supporters that an actual coup was underway. Trump was clearly prepared in the 2016 election to claim that any unfavorable outcome was the result of voter fraud. He would have no problem arguing that any unfavorable outcome on impeachment would constitute a putsch. No matter the cost to American democracy.

Recognizing this reality should also depress us. If true, this constitutes a concession that the designated authorities of our federal government have lost the ability to play their proper role in balancing abuses of power by the president. In this case, political realism is also institutional surrender. Or at least the admission of impotence. The failure of the

House of Representatives to play its proper role would effectively be an invitation to foreign governments to meddle in future American elections. If these outside forces succeed — getting the outcome they desire — there are not likely to be any consequences from the government they helped install.

The failure of American institutions to prevent electoral subversion sends a dramatically destructive moral message. Trump lawyer and spokesman Rudy Giuliani has claimed that "there's nothing wrong with taking information from Russians." When challenged about the unethical nature of getting help from nations that wish our country harm, he answered, "We're going to get into morality?" So far, Trump and his team have successfully avoided a moral reckoning.

But the main reason this surrender is so damaging relates to our

form of constitutional government. America's founders feared outside influence in American elections for the most practical of reasons: because open, democratic electoral systems are particularly vulnerable to the manipulation of outside forces. And the failure to punish such intrusion undermines democratic legitimacy.

It is indeed likely that elected Republicans would fail to defend constitutional values if tested by an impeachment vote. But they should be tested nonetheless. The honor of the presidency now depends on the actions of Congress. Beginning with a thorough series of coordinated hearings, House leaders should lay the groundwork for impeachment — and at least delay the surrender of our institutions to cynicism.

Michael Gerson's email address is michaelgerson@washpost.com.

For mid-ground voters, Democrats can't lean far left

The battle by Democrats over how far they can lean to the left without scaring off millions of middle-ground voters came to Florida recently.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi named U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist of St. Petersburg regional vice chair for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's operations in the South. The Tampa Bay Times reported it was a move to keep Democrats focused on a message of "so-called kitchen table issues."

While that was going on, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota took her presidential campaign to the Sunshine State. Klobuchar is moderate, especially when compared to liberal Democratic firebrands like U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and others screaming against better logic about impeachment for President Donald Trump.

Klobuchar stressed in a meeting with health leaders in Miami and House Democrats in Tallahassee that, "If all we're focusing on is our own side, then we can't win."

That's a subtle but unmistakable rebuke of some of the more incendiary comments by other Democratic candidates



Florida Politics.com

Joe HENDERSON

as the 2020 race heats up. Klobuchar, a former prosecutor, gained a following after the way she grilled U.S. Supreme Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearings.

She was tough but respectful, pointed but not bombastic. It was a signature moment in her political career. Klobuchar came across as reasoned, fair, but someone who would not put up with much B.S.

She often has been cited as the "most electable" Democrat, which means little at this early stage. She also is well behind in early polls, hovering in the low single digits. More shrill voices are dominating the room now.

That brings us back to Charlie Crist. Pelosi designated him to be a key lieutenant because Crist represents centrist politics. That's where a majority of voters live, and it's where elections are won or lost.

Democrats took back the U.S. House last November because enough of them

convinced voters they had the best vision for the nation. Some of those wins were in districts that voted for Donald Trump, and the Democratic strategy in 2020 is to build on that approach.

Rather than fall into the trap of attacking Trump and demanding impeachment, Pelosi is steering Democrats toward those "kitchen-table issues" that can make a difference.

One reason Trump won is that he convinced enough voters in swing states that Democrats no longer understood or cared about them. As a key operative in the South, Crist can craft a moderate message that could resonate in 2020.

As the Times reported,

Crist has the game plan down pat.

When asked how Dems can win next year, he answered: "Do what we did in this last fall election. The slogan was 'For the people,' and the people heard it loud and clear. That means things like working for middle America. That means getting healthcare cost down, reducing the price of prescription drugs, making sure we protect Social Security and Medicare, fight for our veterans."

That was another reason for Klobuchar's visit. She wanted to let people know she understands the important issues in Florida — the environment, health care,

tourism and, of course, hurricanes.

It's a big country, and each state has its issues. The winning candidate will be the one that convinces enough people he/she understands their needs and has a plan to address them. Democrats can't do that by leaning too far left.

I mean, get real Democrats. Most people

have already made up their mind about President Trump. The trick is to get them to believe you offer something better.

Joe Henderson has had a 45-year career in newspapers, including the last nearly 42 years at *The Tampa Tribune*, where he covered sports, politics and city government. The column moved on FloridaPolitics.com.

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Garbage dumping spills into North Port

Residents urged to report illegal dumping to the city

STAFF REPORT

NORTH PORT — City officials are urging residents to keep a look out for people illegally dumping trash in rural North Port.

“Solid Waste recently had to spend an entire day picking up debris on the east side of town,” North Port officials stated in a social media post recently.

North Port said it was about “20 tons of bulk garbage and 70 tires.” Officials are asking people to call police if they witness anyone committing the crime.

“The majority of the dumping is happening in undeveloped areas, where there aren’t many homes,” the city stated. “It may even be from people/businesses in surrounding counties. But it still costs our taxpayers.”



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CITY OF NORTH PORT

Workers with North Port Solid Waste Division spent an entire day picking up trash and debris that had been illegally dumped recently.



Some of the 20 tons of bulk garbage recently picked up by North Port Solid Waste in rural parts of the city included boards, tires and scrap metal.

North Port Commission moves ahead on ponds land

By TOM HARMENING
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — The City Commission voted Tuesday to move ahead with the purchase of residential lots along Price Boulevard.

North Port needs to purchase the property along the roadway to build retention ponds for the road’s planned widening.

Planners have identified 16 lots needed for the construction of the retention ponds.

To date, the city has acquired six of the parcels.

The road-widening project is set to begin this fall.

The vote Tuesday night authorized the city’s attorneys to approach the remaining property holders and attempt to negotiate a “fair and reasonable” price for the properties.

The city also may offer alternative lots for exchange. The vote was 4-1, with Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell dissenting.

“I am opposed to the government overreaching on a person’s personal property rights,” she

said. “Just because we can do it doesn’t mean we should do it.”

McDowell said the acquisition of privately owned lots by the city could be avoided “if we, the city, just learned to plan ahead.”

In other action, the commissioners tabled a proposal to replat lots in the Park of Commerce for the construction of a Dollar Tree retail store after no one representing the developers was on hand.

The panel also voted to join the American Flood Coalition.



SUN FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN COFFEY

North Port engineers have been working on a plan to widen Price Boulevard, which has caused a mixed reaction from residents.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Everything deserves a second chance

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

Bayshore Live Oak Park playground closure

The playground at Bayshore Live Oak Park, 23157 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte, will be closed for

repair and resurfacing on May 6 through May 14. For more information, contact Brenda Sisk, aquatic coordinator, at 941-833-3824 or Brenda.Sisk@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Active Shooter Preparedness presentation

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office is hosting a presentation on Active Shooter Preparedness. Learn about responding to threats and active violence from experienced law enforcement. Topics will include: time and mental mindset; situational awareness; objectives of the active killer; contact with law enforcement and run, hide, fight. The presentation is open to the public and scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on June 11, at the Charlotte Technical College, 18150 Murdock Circle, Port

Charlotte. To RSVP, email Communityaffairs@ccsolf.net.

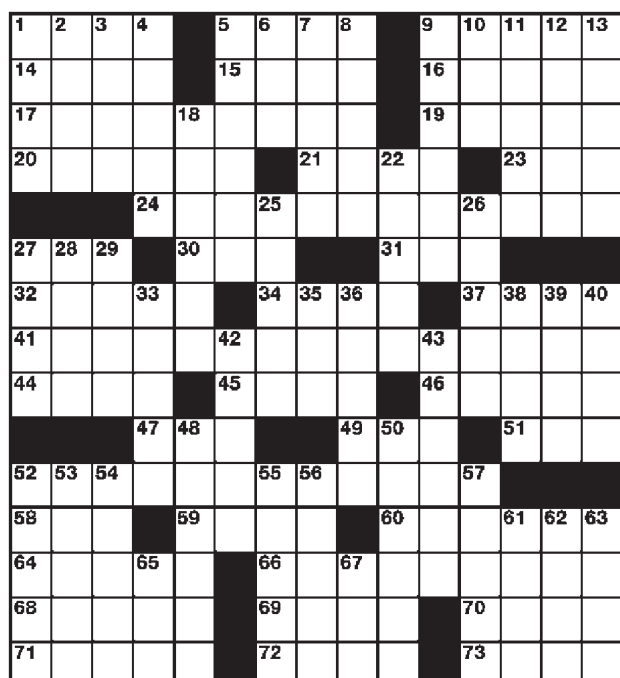
NARFE meeting scheduled

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 2194, Peace River, will meet for the final time before summer break on May 7, at the Elks Lodge 2606, 25538 Shore Drive, Punta Gorda. Lunch can be ordered from the menu at 11 a.m. with a presentation at noon. This month’s program will feature Elizabeth Barton, who will discuss: Jacobson State Veterans Home: Serving Our Vets.” Attendees are encouraged to bring items to support our Veterans. This meeting is open to all Active and Retired Federal Employees, Survivor Annuitants and their guests. For more information, call 571-259-4280.

Newsday Crossword

SENSATIONAL by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kid with
 - 5 Braggart-like
 - 9 Motor pool vehicles
 - 14 Predatory dolphin
 - 15 Box of six-packs
 - 16 Eye-bending pictures
 - 17 “Wait a sec, listen . . . !”
 - 19 French composer
 - 20 William the Conqueror, e.g.
 - 21 Help to do wrong
 - 23 Blizzard aftermath
 - 24 “Bye (ha-ha)!”
 - 27 Cartoon brawl shout
 - 30 Busy FL airport
 - 31 Ensure, with “up”
 - 32 Enter ___ (say “Guilty,” maybe)
 - 34 Frozen dessert chain
 - 37 Oaxaca water
 - 41 “Can we discuss this?”
 - 44 Marble for sculpting
 - 45 Edit out
 - 46 Cliffside nest
 - 47 Have to remit
 - 49 Mountain bike, for short
 - 51 *Financial Times* Inc.
 - 52 “Doesn’t that prove it?”
 - 58 QB triumphs
 - 59 Merchandise advisory
 - 60 Christie of mysteries
 - 64 Indian silk state
 - 66 “Try some . . .”
 - 68 Domain
- DOWN**
- 1 Name of six Declaration signers
 - 2 Sandwich with cocoa
 - 3 *Lion King* villain
 - 4 Detracts from
 - 5 Act opener
 - 6 Chinese currency portrait
 - 7 Customary
 - 8 Manage to do okay
 - 9 Bump and shove
 - 10 UV index monitor
 - 11 Take a financial loss
 - 12 Shopper’s consideration
 - 13 Go straight and take turns
 - 18 Monkey or mongoose
 - 22 Class to coast through
 - 25 Hanukkah pancake
 - 26 Fully conscious
 - 27 Clumsy ones
 - 28 Audi rival in Germany
 - 29 Tiny biter
 - 33 Macaroni shape
 - 35 Animation collectible
 - 36 Non-starting squad
 - 38 Part of GSUSA
 - 39 Multi-thing entity
 - 40 Stored before selling
 - 42 Invention inspirations
 - 43 Medical washing
 - 48 Hex
 - 50 Italian opera house
 - 52 Planetarium projections
 - 53 Ford of the ‘50s
 - 54 Thoreau piece
 - 55 Library search field
 - 56 Ancestor of Moses
 - 57 From birth
 - 61 Green-curry cuisine
 - 62 Engage
 - 63 . . . *Lost Ark* crawlers
 - 65 Nothing but
 - 67 Abstain from, with “out”



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/25/19

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

Answer to previous puzzle

SCRAP	TRES	MOSS
AMISH	BARE	OATH
MONKEY	SUIT	OHIO
END	NAPLES	SURE
MOM	IRE	
KALAMATA	NETTED	
AHEM	HISS	PROVO
ROOM	ADHOC	ATOZ
AMNOT	YEAH	CAKE
TEETH	SPECKLED	
HEN	ELS	
CHIC	ASSISI	MAA
AURA	MOUSE	CLICK
SLAV	EDEN	HENRI
TUNE	LAIST	EATEN

4/25/19

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Color in a darkroom
 - 6 “May I say something?”
 - 10 Flat for an artist
 - 14 Lake named for a tribe
 - 15 Folk hero Crockett
 - 16 Song for one
 - 17 Olympics infrastructure project
 - 18 One not found on a violin
 - 19 Communist icon
 - 20 Former U.N. leader Annan
 - 21 “Dude, nice triatomic molecule!”
 - 23 “Dude, nice metered text!”
 - 25 Free bakery treat?
 - 26 Letters after T?
 - 27 Get a lode of this
 - 28 Muddy home
 - 30 Scabbers, in the Pottverse
 - 31 Nonprofit URL ending
 - 32 Like
 - 33 Producer of cones and needles
 - 34 “Dude, nice root vegetable!”
 - 37 Oompa-Loompa creator
 - 39 Tear
 - 40 Conan’s network
 - 41 Novelist Umberto
 - 42 Cyclops organ
 - 43 Animal that sounds like a musical note
 - 44 Sports bar fixtures
 - 47 Open, as oysters
 - 49 “Dude, nice riding crop!”
 - 51 “Dude, nice buzzer collection!”
 - 54 Aid in battling blazes
 - 55 Yoda trainee
 - 56 Many millennia
 - 57 “Sesame Street” woman for 44 years
 - 58 Broiling spot
 - 59 Crumb carriers
 - 60 Yoga pose similar to a push-up
 - 61 “Sesame Street” Muppet
 - 62 Mexican coin
 - 63 Bad spells
- DOWN**
- 1 Salt dispenser
 - 2 Where Andorra is
 - 3 In or out, at times
 - 4 Jefferson Memorial column type
 - 5 Gasteyer of “Lady Dynamite”
 - 6 Like some subscription-based sites
 - 7 Word from Arabic for “sacred, inviolable place”
 - 8 Party times, often
 - 9 Bit of folklore
 - 10 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Music winner Kendrick
 - 11 “Messiah,” e.g.
 - 12 Relief pitcher, in baseball lingo
 - 13 IRS table column
 - 21 Fake
 - 22 Method
 - 24 Opening on a sweater?
 - 28 ___-mo replay
 - 29 Parlor pictures
 - 31 Hermes, in the Pottverse
 - 32 Handy program
 - 33 NBA stats
 - 34 Place to pull over
 - 35 Rare NFL result
 - 36 Genesis casualty
 - 37 Office position
 - 38 Accomplish
 - 42 ___ out a living
 - 43 Playground retort
 - 44 Insect midsection
 - 45 Redness-removing brand
 - 46 Appeals (to)
 - 48 Director Eastwood
 - 49 They’re beside the point
 - 50 Pod member
 - 52 Bring in
 - 53 Study, with “up”
 - 57 Indy 500 stat

By Andrew Linzer

4/25/19

Wednesday’s Puzzle Solved

C	H	E	S	T	S	S	A	C	L	E	T	S	
R	E	W	O	R	K	A	N	A	E	D	I	E	
A	R	A	B	I	A	K	G	B	A	G	E	N	
B	A	N	E	T	R	I	L	L	I	O	N	T	
					R	H	E	A	E	E	L	S	
A	B	A	S	E	B	E	R	G	E	A	R	S	
R	E	V	D	I	A	L	R	O	T	G	U	T	
U	T	E	D	A	T	E	B	A	R	A	N	O	
B	E	D	L	A	M	G	Y	M	S	V	I	P	
A	L	A	I	L	A	Y	S	O	M	E	N	S	
					T	H	E	M	E	E	N	Y	
H	E	P	T	A	G	O	N	A	L	H	A	L	O
A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	A	L	E	G	U	P
G	A	Z	E	N	E	E	T	O	R	E	A	T	
S	M	O	G	D	S	T	E	X	O	D	U	S	

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Students show off their school garden on Earth Day

Special needs students in Maureen Cerbone's class at L.A. Ainger Middle School have a new and improved garden this year.

They celebrated Earth Day by teaching students in the school all about what's grown in the garden.

They grow spinach, green beans, sunflowers, lavender and other plants and vegetables. The students also have a compost area in the garden. They partnered up with Keep Charlotte Beautiful this school year to help with the garden.



SUN PHOTOS BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

Friends Cheyanne Burton, 12, Meghan Lutz, 12, Ilana Guzowski, 12, Jaiden Nazzaro, 12, check out the sweet smelling plants.



From left: Grayce Callahan, 11, Cerenity Quiza, 11, Ross McGee, 12, check out the fresh corn during Earth Day at L.A. Ainger Middle School.



Cerenity Quiza, 12, checks out a cactus. She said she loves them.



Students try out the green beans grown by Yaniel Cruz, 14, and his classmates in Marueen Cerbone's class.

Five vehicles spray-painted at shopping plazas

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office searching for culprit

By ANNE EASKER
STAFF WRITER

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is searching for the person or people responsible for spray-painting five vehicles in different Port Charlotte shopping plazas.

Deputies began receiving reports Saturday morning of several vehicles sprayed with an orange chalk-type paint. The vehicles were located at 3280 Tamiami Trail, 4265 Tamiami Trail, and 4300 Kings Highway.

Two victims were employees in the plaza where Resale and West Marine are located, and two were customers at Ollie's Bargain Outlet. None of the victims saw the person who spray-painted their vehicle. Two estimated the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

The cars at three different shopping plazas in Port Charlotte were spray-painted orange Saturday morning.

damage at \$1,000.

Anyone with information on who may be responsible can send a Facebook message to the

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, submit a tip on the agency's mobile app, or call 941-639-0013.

Email: anne.easker@yoursun.com

Get spruced up this Arbor Day

Program will teach tree care, some trees to be given out for free

By LIZ HARDAWAY
STAFF WRITER

What starts as a simple seed can turn into a source of clean air, cool shade on a hot summer day, or a home for a squirrel.

And Friday is the day to honor these multi-talented plants. April 26 is Arbor Day, and the annual Arbor Day Expo, hosted by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services Charlotte County extension office, has something green for everyone.

"Trees are very important to the community and the environment," said Holly Bates, the extension program manager for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services.

From premier plant vendors to demonstrations teaching a novice gardener how to care for a red maple, the event has everything to celebrate these woody perennials.

Have a sick plant?

Get to the root of the problem. A Master Gardener plant clinic will be open during the event to address all your plant problems and questions.

Bates also encourages people to go to their office during business hours, where advisers offer information on how



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Arbor Day Expo in 2010.

to start any project, from a raised-bed vegetable garden to introducing butterfly plants to a landscape.

Don't have a tree?

You can get one! A free tree will be given to each of those who attend a short demonstration on tree planting and care while supplies last.

The demonstration will be held every half hour starting at 10 a.m., and participants have the option of watching a live demonstration outside, or watching a video in an air-conditioned room. Both demonstrations will last roughly 10 minutes, Bates said.

Tree options include red maples, sweet gums and flash pines. There are

225 trees in all to give out and most are about 4-feet tall.

Not a tree person?

Many plant vendors will be there with a variety of plants, including tropical fruit and ornamental plants.

Email: Liz.Hardaway@yoursun.com

ARBOR DAY EXPO 2019

When: Friday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: Charlotte County Extension Office, 25550 Harbor View Rd., Port Charlotte 33950
Price: Free
To register online, go to <https://2019adexpo.eventbrite.com>.
For more information call 941-764-4340.

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SUN PHOTO BY BETTY STAUGLER

They're not the most technologically advanced running trails, but they'll do.

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R V Griffin Reserve, located off Kings Highway in DeSoto County, is a great place to explore. The Reserve



Betty STAUGLER
COLUMNIST

boasts 6,000 acres and 21 miles of trails. This property was purchased by the Southwest Florida Water Management District in 1992. Nearly 2,500 acres is open to the public from

sunrise to sunset year-round. The remaining land houses on-site drinking water reservoirs for the Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority, which manages the entire property.

The reserve consists of pine flatwoods, freshwater marshes and wet prairies, with forested wetlands and oak hammocks dotted within. The public access portion of the reserve is a working cattle ranch, so visitors should expect to see cows and be prepared to open and close gates.

Also, since much of the area is pasture, you should also be prepared for tough running. Seriously, when you run here, your quads are probably going to scream at you for a couple days. But it's a great workout and it's a lot of fun.

When you arrive at the reserve, there's quite a bit of parking in an open grassy field. Be sure to check out the kiosk where maps are usually available (look in the mailbox). Word to the wise: The mailbox maps are much better than the one on the website, so if you find one onsite, take a picture of it and store it on your phone for future reference. Also located in the parking area is a porta-potty and at least one picnic table.

To access the trails, you have to take a marl road for about a mile to the first gate. The road has a public walk through gate at the entrance and a drive-through gate for staff, contractors and members of the Charlotte Sport Modelers Society, who lease land for flying remote controlled aircraft on the property. If you visit on the weekend, you will likely see CSMS members driving in and their planes in the air.

Your first gate into the preserve from the parking area is about a mile down the road from the parking area. Another gate is about a half-mile farther. Once inside, you will find the trails well marked with posts and number markers.

Although my running buddy Debbie and I often run on the southern side of the property (it tends to be drier), on our last visit, we ventured over to the north side. The south side was nice and shady, and we found only one small soggy spot on a section of trail 12. This spot was actually a little unexpected as it looked dry

BETTY | 8B

LIFE ON TWO WHEELS

Don't do this on a bike

No one disputes that the number of bicycle riders is growing. Recreational, sports, touring, and commuting riders are all on the upswing.



Court NEDERVELD
COLUMNIST

Statista.com reports almost 25 percent of people age 30 to 49 rode a bike last year, while PeopleForBikes.com says 19 percent of people over 55 and 34 percent of all people over the age of two rode a bike.

Even in Charlotte County, despite efforts to direct riders to recreational use only, we see more people commuting to their jobs, appointments or gatherings. If you don't ride, it is certain that you know someone that does.

Another sign of changing times is that Arkansas is now the fourth state in the country that allows people on bicycles to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights like stop signs. The new law, Act 650, was signed by Gov. Hutchinson April 2. While I'm confident this trend will continue, I'll also make a small wager on which state

will be last (if at all).

One final proof that cycling is growing: This column. Fifteen years ago when I started riding, to even imagine that a newspaper would provide a column geared to the cycling community would have been out of the realm of possibility. Subscribers are the key. If 25 percent of the local population rides a bicycle, why not offer them some reason to get the paper?

The very ontology of a newspaper is to provoke thought, reflection and learning by sharing of ideas. This past week an idea for a column was forwarded to

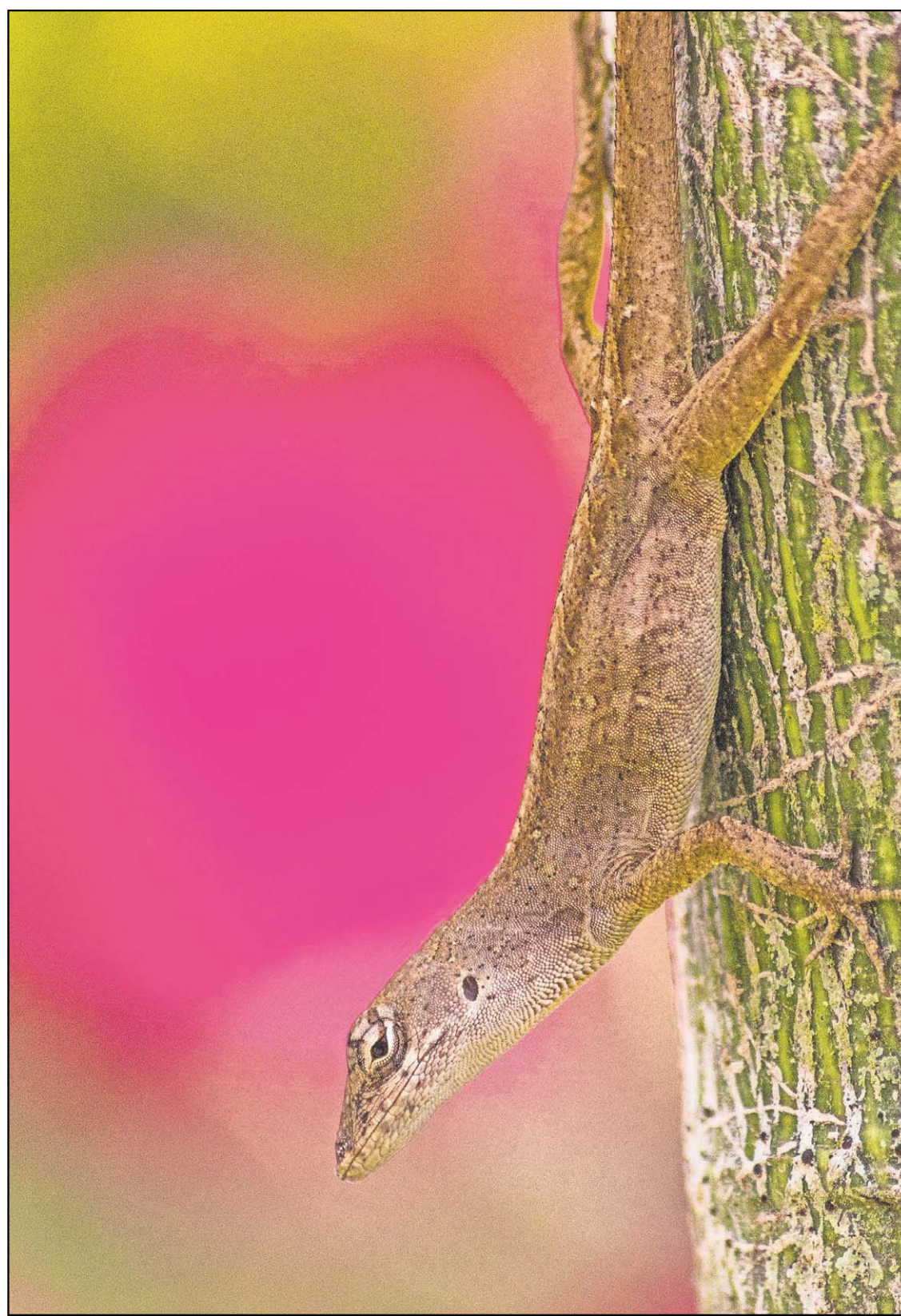
me, and I believe it has merit. The idea was that this column should educate cyclists on what not to do on a bicycle. Cut this column out and paste it above your cycling gear so it acts as a reminder each time you head out on two wheels.

Please don't sing

Many riders use ear buds, have Bluetooth speakers in their helmets, or just strap a radio on the bike and listen to great tunes to pass the time while pedaling to the next stop. But unfortunately most riders can't carry a tune,

COURT | 8B

A day in the sun



SUN PHOTO BY CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

A female Caribbean brown anole basks on the trunk of a silk floss tree in a Port Charlotte yard. Blooming bougainvillea in the background provide a burst of color.

DAY TRIPPER

Scared of ghosts?

Take a tour of haunted Venice

A Mel Meter, K-II Meter, thermal imager, and digital voice recorder are some of the tools of the trade paranormal investigator Tracey Rieker uses. She, along with the founders of Venice Florida Tours, Ronnie and Tiffany Fernandez, led a ghost walking tour



Jennifer A. HUBER
COLUMNIST

of downtown Venice during a gorgeous spring evening. It seems like an odd time of year to learn about hauntings and spirits, but it is a spook-tacular experience.

The brief history of the

walking tour company began when the Fernandezes relocated to Venice from Texas. Their first walking tour of downtown Venice, with an emphasis in history, was in June 2016. Last fall Tracey, who recently moved back to the area after spending time in Colorado, was a tour guest. Before moving to Colorado, she lived in Southwest Florida and the house she rented inspired her interest in paranormal investigation.

Since then, she has spent about 10 years as a paranormal investigator. After taking a historical walking tour with the Fernandez couple, the three agreed since there are

JENNIFER | 8B



PHOTO BY JENNIFER A. HUBER/SOLOTRAVELGIRL.COM

Paranormal investigator Tracey Rieker holds up a Mel-Meter, which shows — well, it must show something.

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SUN PHOTOS BY MONICA AMAYA

A choir of Imagine School-North Port provided music for the recent event — including performances of “Roar” by Katy Perry and “Blackbird” by The Beatles.

Imagine an Evening of Arts

North Port charter school hosts event for its students, parents

An Evening of the Arts at Imagine School North Port showcased the students talent.

The event took place Thursday at the Elementary School campus cafeteria.

Visual Arts from K-12 students were line the hallways in a gallery style showing, and music was performed during the evening.



“Uma Thurman” and “You’ve Got a Friend in Me” were performed by the Upper Campus Jazz Band during a recent event marking the arts of Imagine School-North Port.



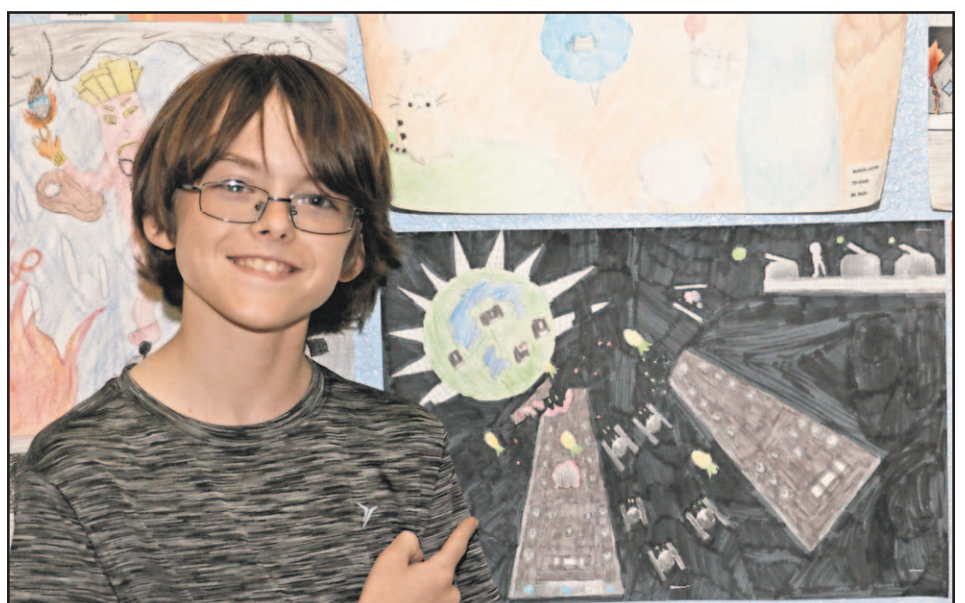
Imagine School-North Port eighth-grader Takyra Sampson points to her piece of art, called “Lady in a Kimono.”



Imagine School-North Port fourth-grader Bela Almarode shows off the acrylic piece she did for the recent Evening of the Arts held at the facility.



Rachael Kelso, a sophomore at Imagine School North Port, had her art chosen to be displayed by the school for the originality of her artwork.



Imagine School-North Port seventh-grader James Stoppiellow shows off a piece he completed with marker and colored pencils.



Parkland shooter entitled to inheritance

Public defender asks to withdraw from case

By **TONYA ALANEZ** and **MEGAN O'MATZ**
SUN SENTINEL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Broward County public defender's office has asked to withdraw from confessed Parkland shooter Nikolas Cruz's death penalty case, court records show.

The teen is entitled to half of a nearly \$865,000 life insurance policy as of April 23, the court filing shows.

Gordon Weekes, assistant public defender, said, "We have to withdraw."

The move will throw the criminal case off track. The judge had hoped to begin trial in January.

Weekes said the public defender's office just got new information that Cruz and his

brother are to share in the life insurance policy, presumably for their mother, who died unexpectedly of a flu-like illness in November 2017.

The court will have to determine who his new counsel will be, Weekes said.

The public defender's office is appointed in cases in which people are indigent. Someone with \$400,000 is not indigent.

"I'm sure it will require some time for counsel to get up to speed, but I want to be 100% clear — this delay should not be attributed to the defense or to Nikolas Cruz. He was unaware of this money. We were unaware of this," Weekes said.

It's unclear when or how Cruz, 20, who is locked up in the Broward jail, will get the money.

Weekes said the public defender's office is prohibited from helping him.

Cruz had previously said he wanted any money he was due to go to the victims, Weekes noted.

Weekes said his office will share certain material with the new defense attorney, but it will be up to the new lawyers to determine their strategy for Cruz's defense.

Cruz has pleaded not guilty to the murders of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High on Valentine's Day 2018.

Cruz had offered to plead guilty to the crimes if the state attorney's office would take the death penalty off the table and instead agree to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Prosecutors have declined to do that.

Weekes said there are over 1 million documents in the case and 4 million pieces of paper, in addition to other digital evidence that needs to be put together and transferred to a new lawyer.

It's unclear who Cruz could hire to represent him in a death penalty case for a mere \$400,000.

"The problem becomes how is he going to facilitate retaining counsel," Weekes said. "He has no family members here and he has no outside individuals to help him in that. We cannot help him to identify new counsel or make decisions on what to do with his monies. We're informing the court, we believe he's no longer indigent and as a result we cannot continue our representation."



TNS FILE PHOTO

The public defenders representing Parkland school suspect Nikolas Cruz have made an unexpected request to withdraw from the case, saying the man will soon receive nearly a half million dollars from his late mother's life insurance policy.

Motorist who hit people held on 8 counts attempted murder

Army veteran appeared to deliberately drive car into people

By **JULIET WILLIAMS**, **JOCELYN GECKER** and **JANIE HAR**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNNYVALE, Calif. — A California man who authorities said drove his car through a crosswalk in a quiet Silicon Valley suburb, hitting seven people and injuring eight, is being held in jail on eight counts of attempted murder.

Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety Chief Phan Ngo said Wednesday that four people remain hospitalized with major injuries, including a 13-year-old Sunnyvale resident who is in critical condition. Six people were taken to area hospitals.

Ngo said there is no evidence linking Isaiah Joel Peoples, a 34-year-old Army veteran, to known terrorist organizations but that the crash appeared deliberate. Peoples was arrested after Tuesday's crash.

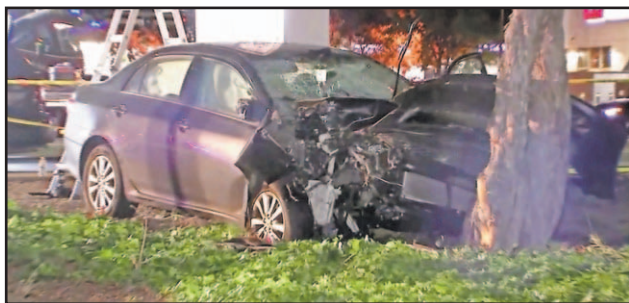
"Peoples did not slow down prior to the collision and appeared to accelerate as he moved into the crosswalk," he said, adding they do not have a motive.

The youngest victim was a 9-year-old boy who was treated and released with minor injuries. A 15-year-old boy was treated and released by paramedics. The 13-year-old is a girl, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety Capt. Jim Choi has said.

Peoples' mother, Leevell Peoples of Sacramento, California, said Wednesday that she couldn't imagine any situation in which her mild-mannered son would deliberately crash into innocent people, other than something related to the PTSD she said he experienced after serving as an Army sharpshooter in Iraq.

"Unless the car malfunctioned, he would not have done that. He's like the perfect, model citizen," she said.

CAR | 8



AP PHOTO

This image from video shows the scene of a car crash where several pedestrians were struck and injured in Sunnyvale, Calif. The FBI says it's assisting California officials in the investigation of a motorist who appeared to deliberately plow into the group of people.



AP FILE PHOTO

Boy Scouts salute as they recite the Pledge of Allegiance during the Boy Scout Jamboree in Bowling Green, Va.

Boy Scouts could be hit with more sex abuse claims

Lawyers recruiting clients for new wave of lawsuits

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK — The lawyers' ads on the internet aggressively seeking clients to file sexual abuse lawsuits give a taste of what lies ahead this year for the Boy Scouts of America: potentially the most fateful chapter in its 109-year history.

Sexual abuse settlements have already strained the Boy Scouts' finances to the point where the organization is exploring "all available options," including Chapter 11 bankruptcy. But now the financial threats have intensified.

The reason: States have been moving in recent months to adjust their statute-of-limitations laws so that victims of long-ago sexual abuse can sue for damages. New York state has passed a law that will allow such lawsuits starting

in August. A similar bill in New Jersey has reached the governor's desk. Bills also are pending in Pennsylvania and California.

In New York and elsewhere, lawyers are hard at work recruiting clients to sue the Boy Scouts, alleging they were molested as youths by scoutmasters or other volunteers.

Plaintiffs' lawyers "recognize that this is a very unique and lucrative opportunity," said attorney Karen Bitar of the Seyfarth Shaw law firm. She formerly handled sex-crime cases as a prosecutor in Brooklyn before going into private practice defending institutions accused of employing alleged sex abusers.

Attorney Tim Kosnoff, a veteran of major sexual abuse lawsuits against the Roman Catholic Church, said Tuesday that he and his team have signed up 186

clients from dozens of states in just the past few weeks who want to be part of litigation against the Boy Scouts. Kosnoff said 166 of them identified alleged abusers who have not been named in any of the Boy Scout files made public in past years.

Boy Scouts spokeswoman Effie Delimarkos said the organization continues to evaluate its financial situation, and she defended its current abuse-prevention policies. The organization serves more than 2.2 million youths.

A bankruptcy by the Boy Scouts could be unprecedented in its complexity, potentially involving plaintiffs in virtually every state, according to several lawyers. It would be national in scope, unlike the various Catholic Church bankruptcy cases in the U.S., which

SCOUTS | 8

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Florida House passes bill allowing ex-felon voting rights

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Legislation to restore voting rights to convicted felons except murderers and felony sex offenders has passed the Florida House.

The Republican-dominated House voted 71-45 Wednesday for the bill that would implement a constitutional amendment approved by voters last November. The main issue is whether legislation is needed at all, and whether the bill sets up unnecessary hurdles for ex-felons such as requiring that all fines and restitution be paid.

Republican Rep. Jamie Grant of Tampa, the main sponsor, said completion of a sentence includes probation and any financial obligations ordered by a judge. Opponents said those requirements would bar many former felons and violate the spirit of the constitutional amendment.

The bill now goes to the Senate where a similar measure is pending.

Florida passes bill aimed at cutting post-hurricane lawsuits

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A bill aimed at reducing property insurance-related lawsuits that spiked after recent hurricanes is going to Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The Senate passed the bill Wednesday on a 25-14 vote. It makes changes to a law that allows policy holders to sign over their insurance benefits to contractors.

Bill supporters say contractors swooped into areas hit after Hurricane Michael last year and Hurricane Irma in 2017 and convinced homeowners to sign assignment of benefits agreements with the promise that they'd work with the insurance company to get payment for repairs. But supporters say the number of lawsuits related to the assignment of benefits has jumped from just a few hundred a decade ago to more than 18,000 last year.

Florida lawmakers begin final talks on state budget

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida lawmakers have begun their final round of negotiations on a roughly \$90 billion state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

A House-Senate conference committee held its first meeting Tuesday on the only bill the Legislature must pass during the 60-day session that is scheduled to end May 3.

The top two negotiators, Republican Sen. Rob Bradley and GOP Rep. Travis Cummings, say general agreement has been reached for total spending levels in areas ranging from education to health care to transportation. But numerous details on exactly where the money goes still must be worked out.

Subcommittees will meet to iron out those details over the next few days, with items on which agreement is elusive moving up to Bradley and Cummings by Thursday.

Florida House passes GOP immigration 'sanctuary' ban bill

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida House passed a high-profile Republican bill Wednesday requiring local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities and banning so-called "sanctuary city" policies that shield immigrants who are arrested.

After hours of debate over two days, the GOP-led House voted 69-47 largely along party lines for the measure, sending it over to the Senate where a similar bill is pending.

Florida doesn't currently have any formal "sanctuary cities" like those in other states. The bill sponsored by GOP Rep. Cord Byrd of Jacksonville Beach would ban those policies and require local authorities to honor detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that can lead to a person's deportation.

In addition to mandating cooperation with federal

authorities, the bill would permit local officials who allow sanctuary city policies to be suspended or removed from office, and permit fines up to \$5,000 a day for violations.

Similar legislation passed the House last year, but the Senate version did not get a floor vote. This year the measure appears to have enough momentum for final passage in both chambers.

Florida House sends firefighter cancer aid bill to governor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida House has sent Gov. Ron DeSantis a bill providing new benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer.

The bill unanimously passed Wednesday would provide firefighters with benefits including full cost of treatment, a \$25,000 payout, disability pay and death benefits for beneficiaries. The Senate passed it Tuesday.

The bill would treat cancer and cancer deaths like on-the-job injuries and deaths. It is a top priority for Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, the state's fire marshal.

The bill failed for years. Republican Sen. Anitere Flores said some version of it has been filed since 2003. It almost died this year because the House wasn't going to take it up, but last week Speaker Jose Oliva acknowledged pressure to pass it and allowed it to be considered.

DeSantis signs death warrant for serial killer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has signed a death warrant for serial killer Bobby Joe Long.

The warrant signed late Tuesday sets Long's execution for May 23 at Florida State Prison. It was the first death warrant DeSantis signed since becoming governor in January.

Long has been on death row nearly 34 years. The 65-year-old received the death penalty for the May 1984 death of 22-year-old Michelle Denise Simms, a former beauty contestant from California. He was arrested later that year in the

kidnapping of a 17-year-old girl who managed to convince him to let her go. She gave police information that led to his arrest.

He eventually pleaded guilty to killing eight other women in the Tampa area and claimed to have raped 40 women in three states.

Twist of fate: Officer helps catch teen who assaulted him

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Authorities say a shooting reunited a Florida police officer and a teenager who had previously assaulted him.

Sarasota Police say two teens, ages 16 and 15, were arrested for trying to rob another teen Tuesday when they accidentally fired a gun and wounded a third teen. Police spokeswoman Genevieve Judge said the unidentified officer helped the 15-year-old victim who had been shot in the arm and also helped detain the suspect.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune reports the teen was involved in assaulting the officer in an off-duty incident in February.

The victim was taken to the hospital by helicopter and is expected to survive. The two teens were charged with robbery and additional charges may be coming.

Judge mistakenly frees inmate headed to federal prison

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — Authorities say a man who was sentenced to 23 years in federal prison for armed carjacking is back in custody after being accidentally released from prison.

Brevard County Sheriff's spokesman Tod Goodyear tells the Orlando Sentinel that 29-year-old Cedrick Gant turned himself over to U.S. Marshals in Orlando on Monday afternoon. He was sentenced in February after pleading guilty to carjacking.

Records show Gant was transferred from the Lake County Jail to the Brevard County Jail last week to face sentencing on a violation of probation charge in a separate

case. A judge credited him for time served and released him.

Deputy fired for kicking inmate in trouble for feeding bird

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — A Florida deputy has been fired and charged with battery after a video allegedly shows him kicking an inmate who was doing push-ups as punishment.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri says 31-year-old inmate Mario Christo got in trouble for feeding a bird a cookie during trash duty and was ordered to do push-ups. The sheriff said Deputy James Moran cursed and ordered the inmate to "drop" and do 50 push-ups. The video shows Christo doing more than 20 before he is kicked in the side by Deputy Moran.

The incident happened in January. The sheriff called the deputy's behavior "outside the bounds," saying "we don't treat people this way."

The Orlando Sentinel reports Christos was serving a sentence for disorderly conduct. He made the complaint after being released this month.

Moran was terminated and charged Tuesday with battery.

Landslide win for lesbian former police chief as Tampa mayor

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tampa's openly gay former police chief has been elected mayor in a landslide victory.

Voters elected 59-year-old Jane Castor in a runoff against 76-year-old retired banker and philanthropist David Stratz.

Castor said her victory with more than 73% of the 53,144 votes cast on Tuesday sends "a resounding message that Tampa is a positive community."

Castor is Tampa's first openly gay mayor-elect. She had come within 2 percentage points of winning the March 5 general election.



CASTOR

Kim arrives by train in Russia for his Putin summit

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (AP) — North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin have high hopes for their first one-on-one meeting Thursday in far-eastern Russia, which comes amid deadlocked global diplomacy over the North Korean leader's nuclear program.

Kim is looking for a win after his failed second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, and Putin for a chance to raise Moscow's clout in the region and gain more leverage with Washington.

Kim arrived Wednesday aboard an armored train and told Russia's state-owned Rossiya-24 he was hoping for a "successful and useful" visit and would like to discuss with Putin the "settlement of the situation in the Korean Peninsula" as well as bilateral ties with Russia.

It was Kim's first visit to Russia as North Korean leader; his late father, Kim Jong Il, visited Russia in 2011. The North Korean leader evoked his father's "great love for Russia" and said that he intends to strengthen ties between the two countries.

"I have heard a lot about your country and have long dreamt of visiting it," Kim was quoted as saying at his first stop, Russia's Khasan train station, near the border with North Korea. "It's been seven years since I took the helm, and I've only just managed to visit."

He then traveled on to the Russian Pacific port city of Vladivostok, the site of the summit, where he was greeted by a military orchestra as he stepped out



AP PHOTO

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un talks with Russian officials upon his arrival at the border station of Khasan, Primorsky Krai region, Russia, Wednesday.

of his khaki-green armored train. Dressed in a black coat and clutching a black fedora, he then got into his personal limousine, which travels with him, and drove away.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, told Russian media the Putin-Kim summit would focus on North Korea's nuclear program, noting that Russia will seek to "consolidate the positive trends" stemming from Trump's meetings with Kim.

In February, Kim's second summit with Trump in Hanoi ended without any agreement because of disputes over U.S.-led sanctions. There have since been no publicly known high-level contacts between the U.S. and North Korea, although both sides say they are still open to a third summit.

Kim wants the U.S. to ease the sanctions to reciprocate for some partial disarmament steps he took last year. But the U.S. maintains the sanctions will stay in place until North Korea makes more significant

denuclearization moves.

Some experts say Kim could try to bolster his country's ties with Russia and China. Others say it's not clear how big of a role Russia can play in efforts to restart the nuclear negotiations. Still, the summit could allow Putin to try to increase his influence in regional politics and the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program.

"Kim wants to show that he's cooperating with Russia too, rather than looking to only the U.S. and China. But I think it's not easy for Russia and China to provide North Korea with practical assistance that leads to the inflow of dollars," said Chon Hyun-joon, a former senior researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul.

North Korea has increasingly expressed frustration at the deadlocked negotiations. Last week, North Korea tested a new weapon and demanded that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo be removed from the nuclear talks.



AP PHOTO

Central American migrants ride atop a freight train during their journey toward the US-Mexico border, in Ixtepec, Oaxaca State, Mexico, Tuesday. With dozens of police and immigration checkpoints dotting the highways, many migrants now view the train as a safer, albeit still risky, way to reach the U.S. border.

In Mexico, migrants turn to 'The Beast' after highway raids

IXTEPEC, Mexico (AP) — The train known as "The Beast" is once again rumbling through the night loaded with people headed toward the U.S. border after a raid on a migrant caravan threatened to end the practice of massive highway marches through Mexico.

A long freight train loaded with about 300 to 400 migrants pulled out of the southern city of Ixtepec on Tuesday. They sat atop rattling boxcars and clung precariously to ladders alongside the clanking couplings. Most were young men, along with a few dozen women and children. Mothers clambered up the railings clutching their infants.

The train known in Spanish as "La Bestia," which runs from the southern border state of Chiapas into neighboring Oaxaca and north into Gulf coast state Veracruz, carried migrants north for decades, despite its notorious dangers: People

died or lost limbs falling from the train. Mexican authorities started raiding the trains to pull migrants off in mid-2014 and the number of Central Americans aboard the train fell to a smattering.

But about a week ago, a longtime migrant rights activist, the Rev. Alejandro Solalinde, noticed a change: Large numbers of migrants started getting off the train in Ixtepec, the Oaxaca town where his Brothers on the Road shelter is located.

Many had waited weeks for Mexican visas that never materialized, and simply decided to head north without papers. Others were part of a 3,000-person migrant caravan that was broken up in a raid Monday by federal police and immigration agents on a highway east of Ixtepec.

With dozens of police and immigration checkpoints dotting the highways, many migrants now view the train as a

safer, albeit still risky, way to reach the U.S. border.

"They're riding the train again, that's a fact," said Solalinde, who shelter now houses about 300 train-riding migrants. "It's going to go back to the way it was, the (Mexican) government doesn't want them to be seen. If the migrants move quietly like a stream of little ants, they'll allow them to, but they are not going to allow them to move through Mexico publicly or massively" as they did with the large caravans that began in October. In fact, Solalinde predicts "they're not going to allow caravans anymore."

In Florida's raid, federal police and agents detained 371 people, wrestling men, women and children into patrol trucks and vans and hauling them off, presumably to begin deportation proceedings. Many other migrants abandoned the road and fled into the surrounding countryside.

Trump threatens more troops to border after Mexico incident

Mexican soldiers confronted U.S. personnel

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump renewed his threat Wednesday to send more troops to the U.S.-Mexico border following an incident in which Mexican soldiers confronted U.S. personnel. Mexico blamed the incident on confusion, and said it was not looking for confrontation with the U.S.

In morning tweets, Trump said, “Mexico’s Soldiers recently pulled guns on our National Guard Soldiers,” claiming, without evidence, that it was done “probably as a diversionary tactic for drug smugglers on the Border.”

“Better not happen again!” he added. “We are now sending ARMED SOLDIERS to the Border. Mexico is not doing nearly enough in apprehending & returning!”

Trump last year dispatched U.S. troops to the border to assist border personnel in response to several caravans of Central American migrants traveling through Mexico in hopes of reaching the U.S. Many are already armed.

Earlier this month, two U.S. soldiers in a remote area of Texas were confronted by Mexican soldiers who thought the Americans had crossed into Mexico.

The Mexican troops reportedly removed a weapon from one of the American soldiers. U.S. Northern Command, which manages military support for Customs and Border Protection, said the Americans were in a CBP vehicle in a remote area of U.S. territory south of the border wall but north of the actual border.

“After a brief discussion between the soldiers from the two nations, the Mexican military members departed the area,” Northern Command said in a statement about the encounter.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised to investigate the incident at a Wednesday news conference.

“We are not going to fight with the government of the United States,” he said. “The most important thing is that we want a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation for development.”

Mexico’s foreign relations department characterized the incident as “routine” confusion in an area where the line separating the two countries is unclear.

While not every U.S. service member deployed to the border is armed, many — including those performing the “mobile surveillance camera” mission, like the two confronted by the Mexican soldiers — are armed for self-protection.

US stock indexes finish slightly lower a day after record

By ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

U.S. stocks closed slightly lower Wednesday as the market gave back some of its gains a day after the S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit record highs.

Energy stocks led the modest slide as crude oil prices fell after a three-day rally. Communications companies also helped pull the market lower, offsetting gains in real estate and other sectors. Bond prices rose as traders took a more defensive approach.

Stocks wavered between small gains and losses through much of the day as investors continued to wade through a steady flow of corporate earnings. Analysts have been expecting a contraction in first-quarter corporate profits, but the results so far have been mostly solid.

That trend continued Wednesday with strong reports from e-commerce company eBay, industrial giant Caterpillar and health insurer Anthem.

“The pace of earnings beats is at a very nice level, certainly exceeding diminished expectations,” said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager for Private Wealth Management at U.S. Bank. “The strength of the dollar has been, perhaps, a little bit of a weight on markets today.”

The S&P 500 index fell 6.43 points, or 0.2%, to 2,927.25. The benchmark index closed at a record high on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 59.34 points, or 0.2%, to 26,597.05. The Nasdaq composite lost 18.81 points, or 0.2%, to 8,102.01. The index was also coming off a record high close.

Small-company stocks fared better than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index picked up 3.04 points, or 0.2%, to 1,588.13.

Despite the overall decline in the major indexes, slightly more stocks rose than fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Major European stock indexes finished mostly lower.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10 year Treasury note fell to 2.52% from 2.57% late Tuesday.

The U.S. stock market mounted a strong recovery this year after finishing 2018 in a steep slump fueled by fears of recession, an escalating trade war between the U.S. and China, and concern the Federal Reserve was moving too aggressively to raise interest rates.

Those worries have been mostly quelled this year amid greater confidence in the economy and reassurances that the Fed is unlikely to raise interest rates this year.

Illinois boy found buried in grave; parents charged with murder

5-year-old who lived amid dog feces discovered buried wrapped in plastic

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (AP) — Authorities searching for a missing 5-year-old Illinois boy who had lived in deplorable conditions dug up his body Wednesday and charged his parents with murder, sadly declaring that the youngster would “no longer have to suffer.”

The body, believed to be that of Andrew “AJ” Freund, was covered in plastic and buried in a shallow grave in a rural area of Woodstock in McHenry County, Crystal Lake police Chief James Black said.

Black said investigators went to the site after they interviewed the boy’s parents overnight and presented them with cellphone evidence. Woodstock is about 50 miles northwest of Chicago and a few miles from the family’s home in Crystal Lake.

“This is not the outcome that we want to talk about ... but it is the unfortunate result,” said Jeffrey Sallet, who runs the FBI in northern Illinois.

The parents, Andrew Freund Sr. and JoAnn Cunningham, each face charges of first-degree murder and other crimes. An email seeking comment was sent to Cunningham’s lawyer. It wasn’t immediately known



AP PHOTO

Police say Andrew “AJ” Freund’s parents reported him missing when they woke up Thursday and couldn’t find him in their home.

if Freund has a lawyer.

The couple reported AJ missing last Thursday, telling officers they had last seen him at bedtime the previous night. Freund told a dispatcher that they’d checked “closets, the basement, the garage, everywhere,” but investigators quickly knocked down the possibility of a kidnapping.

Speaking to reporters, Black had a message for AJ’s relatives: “It is my hope that you may have some solace in knowing that AJ is no longer suffering and his killers have been brought to justice.”

Crystal Lake police had visited the house over the years, according to records released by the department. One report described the home as littered with dog feces and urine, including a child’s bedroom where the “smell of feces was overwhelming.” Another report said the house was “cluttered, dirty and in disrepair,” and sometimes without electricity.

Boeing’s troubled jet is costing \$1B to fix so far

That doesn’t cover costs associated with accidents

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Boeing is already estimating a \$1 billion increase in costs related to its troubled 737 Max and has pulled its forecast of 2019 earnings because of uncertainty surrounding the jetliner, which remains grounded after two crashes that killed 346 people.

The \$1 billion figure is a conservative starting point. It covers increased production costs over the next few years but does not include the company’s spending to fix software implicated in the crashes, additional pilot training, payments to airlines for grounded jets, or compensation for families of the dead passengers.

The estimate was disclosed Wednesday in a presentation for investors as Boeing released first-quarter financial results, which missed Wall Street expectations.

While lacking many details, the disclosures gave the clearest picture yet of the financial damage that the accidents are causing to the aerospace giant.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg repeated that the company is making progress on updating key

flight-control software in the Max with the goal of convincing regulators to let the plane fly again.

Chicago-based Boeing Co. said its previously issued full-year guidance didn’t account for 737 Max impacts. It plans to issue new guidance at a future date.

The company also said it is suspending stock buybacks. Boeing spent \$2.3 billion in the first quarter to buy its own stock, which is designed to make remaining shares more valuable.

Investors and consumers have been scrutinizing Boeing since Max jets crashed in October and March. The accidents have damaged the company’s reputation for safety, caused the worldwide grounding of about 370 Max jets, and raised questions about the U.S. government’s approval of the plane in 2017.

In January, Boeing projected full-year adjusted earnings of about \$20 a share. After the company’s announcement that it was cutting production of the Max, however, analysts had dropped their forecast all the way to \$16.40 on average, according to FactSet.

On a conference call, Muilenburg defended the company after an analyst asked how Boeing got in

this spot. The CEO disputed the notion that Boeing engineers and federal regulators may not have fully understood how pilots would interact with new anti-stall software called MCAS.

“There was no surprise or gap or unknown here, or something that somehow slipped through a certification process,” Muilenburg said.

“We also know there are areas where we can improve,” he added, explaining why Boeing is now upgrading MCAS with changes that will limit the software’s ability to automatically force the plane’s nose down powerfully in some circumstances.

Executives gave no update on a timetable for regulatory approval of the software fix and pilot-training program. The company has completed test flights, and the next crucial step is a certification flight with Federal Aviation Administration representatives on board.

Preliminary reports indicate that faulty sensor readings triggered MCAS and pushed the nose down in both the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet off the coast of Indonesia and the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max.

Former Chris Christie deputy chief Bridget Kelly gets 13 months in prison for Bridgegate scheme

By DUSTIN RACIOPPI

THE RECORD (HACKENSACK, N.J.)

NEWARK, N.J. — The woman who wrote the infamous “time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee” email that launched the so-called Bridgegate revenge scheme must serve 13 months in prison, a judge ordered Wednesday.

Bridget Anne Kelly, a former deputy chief of staff to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton, who presided over the 2016 trial in which Kelly was found guilty of conspiracy, wire fraud and civil rights violations. It was the second time Kelly was sentenced in federal court, and came after years of appeals.

Kelly could report to prison in July, but she is appealing her conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to have her conviction overturned.

In brief remarks after the trial, Kelly said that while her legal fate is now in the hands of the nine Supreme Court justices, her moral fight will continue by telling “the truth” about her former boss, who she said “was powerful enough to approve this act” of closing two lanes to the bridge in Fort Lee. Prosecutors said the lane reductions were done to punish the town’s mayor for not endorsing Christie’s re-election.

“Mr. Christie, you are a bully and the days of you calling me a liar and destroying my life are over,”

Kelly said, reading from prepared remarks. “The truth will be heard — and for the former governor, the truth will be inescapable, regardless of lucrative television deals or even future campaigns. I plan to make sure of that.”

Christie was not charged or found to have had knowledge of the traffic scheme. A spokeswoman for Christie did not immediately respond to a message seeking a reaction to Kelly’s comments.

But Wigenton made it clear at sentencing that no matter how Kelly was described — as a “functionary” by Christie in his book or as a high-ranking official by prosecutors — she was convicted of crimes that warrant prison time.

“People spent hours, for days, trying to get to work, kids trying to get to school all because of this,” Wigenton said. Then, playing off the subtitle of Christie’s book, “Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics,” Wigenton said, “I guess that’s the power of in-your-face politics. It wasn’t acceptable then. It isn’t acceptable today.”

An appeals court threw out the civil rights violations against Kelly and her co-defendant, Bill Baroni, last November. Kelly had originally been sentenced by Wigenton to 18 months, but following the appellate ruling she cut five months off the sentence Wednesday.

Baroni gave up his appeals and

reported to prison earlier this month. The former deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was accused of working with Kelly and David Wildstein, then a top agency official, to realign traffic at the George Washington Bridge in 2013 as political payback against the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee, Mark Sokolich.

It was Kelly who wrote the “time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee” email that prosecutors said set the revenge plot in motion. But she and Baroni said during the 2016 trial that they were duped by Wildstein, who pleaded guilty and is currently writing about New Jersey politics while serving probation.

Michael Critchley, an attorney for Kelly, invoked Wildstein’s name several times during the re-sentencing, lumping him into a group he referred to as the “Boys of Bridgegate.” Those men, which included Christie, were able to walk away from the scandal with light or no punishment.

He referred to Wildstein returning to running a website about New Jersey politics, which he did before he was hired at the Port Authority, as a reason why Kelly should be treated with leniency.

“The fate of David Wildstein turned out fine. He’s living large,” Critchley said. Later, he added, “When you compare Bridget Kelly with the Boys of Bridgegate, the disparities are still great.”

Woman killed when she falls into meat grinder at work

MUNCY, Pa. (AP) — Authorities say a woman was killed when she fell into a meat grinder at a processing plant in northern Pennsylvania.

It’s not clear what caused the accident at the Economy Locker Storage Company in Muncy.

The Lycoming County coroner’s office says 35-year-old Jill Greninger apparently fell around 11:30 a.m. Monday. Her body was found by a co-worker who heard strange noises coming from the commercial machine.

Authorities say Greninger may have been standing on a set of wheeled stairs prior to the fatal accident.

Company officials have not responded to media requests for comment.

The death is being investigated by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

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

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

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

Market indicators: DOW 26,597.05 -59.34, NASDAQ 8,102.01 -18.81, S&P 500 2,927.25 -6.43, 10-YR T-NOTE 2.52% -0.05, 30-YR T-BOND 2.94% -0.04, CRUDE OIL \$65.89 -0.41, GOLD \$1,275.50 +6.20, EURO \$1.1143 -0.0072

Money&Markets

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

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



Stocks Recap table with columns: NYSE, NASD, Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, Advanced, Declined, New Highs, New Lows.



Table of stock listings with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD.

Table of stock listings with columns: S-T-U, TUP, S&T Bcp, SiteCtr, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: ED, ConEd, STZ, Constella, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: DHT, DHT Hdgs, DNP, DNP Selct, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: GNC, GNC, GWP, GW Pharm, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: JPM, JPMorgCh, JACO, JacobsEng, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: KIM, Kimco, KMI, Kimco, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: KRC, KRC, KRC, KRC, etc.

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Table of stock listings with columns: MFA, MFA Fnd, MTG, MGIC Inv, etc.

Table of stock listings with columns: VFC, VF Corp, VICE, VICI Prn, etc.

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Interest rates section with a graph and text: 'The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.52% on Wednesday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.'

Table of interest rates: TREASURIES, BONDS, PRIME RATE, FED FUNDS.

Foreign Exchange section with text: 'The dollar strengthened versus the Japanese yen, the euro and the British pound. The U.S. currency also gained on the Canadian dollar and the Mexican peso.'

Table of foreign exchange rates: MAJORS, EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST, ASIA/PACIFIC.

Commodities section with text: 'U.S. crude oil prices slipped 0.6% while natural gas prices gained 0.3%. Gold, silver and copper prices all rose.'

Table of commodity prices: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE.

Advice to a 7-year-old interested in becoming a doctor

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 7-year-old grandson has a question: "How can I be a science doctor like you? Thank you, Colton Fancher from Florida" — C.F.

DEAR COLTON: Being a doctor is great — I wouldn't change it for any other job — but it isn't right for everyone. It's also a hard road that takes years of dedication.

The first part is the desire, and it sounds like you have that already.

You mention science, and science is the cornerstone of medical doctors' work. Clinical doctors like me (those who see patients) use science, but generally, we don't create science. Research doctors create science, and a few people have chosen to be both clinical doctors and scientists — but only a very, very few are good at both.

Still, learning your science is something you can start now. But that doesn't just mean working hard in science classes at school. I'd



Dr. Roach

suggest you get some books from your library about science and see what part of science you like. As you get older, you can participate in science clubs and fairs. Colleges, and eventually medical schools, like to see your interest in science. Participating outside of school is a powerful way of both showing your interest and helping you find out what you like.

All doctors have to be good communicators, so that means being a good writer and speaker. This

is also a skill that takes practice. My English teachers inspired a love in me for reading and writing that continues. One of my high school English teachers reads my column (Hi, Shannon!), a fact of which I am proud.

Clinician doctors in particular should be good with people. That means being a good listener, showing respect and taking the time to really getting to know people. One of the best parts of being a doctor is getting to know many people and hearing them talk honestly about parts of themselves that they don't usually talk much about.

Do you like sports? Because being a good member of a team is increasingly important for doctors. You want to excel, of course, but you want to help your teammates excel as well. The dean of the medical school I went to, Joseph Ceithaml, was well-known for admitting those students who participated in team sports.

Medical schools also want to see people who are well-rounded, and that means acquiring other skills and passions outside of school and science. Playing a musical instrument, making art of whatever kind you like, and finding other ways to express yourself creatively all are important in becoming a well-rounded person. Reading for fun can lead you into many different worlds and inspire passions, and you will learn a great deal about people from reading histories, biographies and novels.

You might wonder where you find the time for all of this. It takes dedication, but it also means you make the most out of every day. Find worthwhile things to do. Academics, sure, as well as the other things I mentioned, but also develop close friendships. Try new things. And don't waste too much time with things that you don't enjoy and won't help you achieve your goal.

Teen loses motivation as peers progress by cheating

DEAR ABBY: My son attends an excellent public high school and has done very well.

My concern is Brent routinely reports blatant and widespread cheating throughout the school.

The school turns a blind eye to the cheating and provides only nominal punishment in cases too blatant to ignore. Brent has become disenchanted and cynical about the administration and maintaining his integrity. What advice can I give my son when all around there are examples of cheaters coming out on top? — Not A Cheater

DEAR NOT A CHEATER: The best advice you can give Brent would be to hang onto his integrity, resist the temptation to become bogged down in what others are doing, and study hard because — sooner or later — excellence and ethics are recognized.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Stella," and I have been married 52 years. We have a daughter, "Candy," who we adopted at 3 weeks old. Long story short, she graduated from high school, got married, then divorced, married again and has two



Dear Abby

daughters she has never raised.

We have taken our daughter to psychologists since she was 14 or 15, paid for educational opportunities she didn't complete and bought her several cars. She got into drugs and wound up in prison. Once out of prison, Stella and I sent her to three rehabilitation facilities. She walked away from the last two.

I am ready to stop trying to help her, but Stella, whom I love dearly, doesn't seem to be able to stop. Any thoughts or comments? — Over It In Oklahoma

DEAR OVER IT: Because this is causing discord in your marriage, you and your wife should discuss this with a marriage and family therapist who may be able to help Stella recognize that she has done enough for the daughter she so clearly loves.

Time to junk expired drugs

Dear Readers: Do you have OLD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS in your home? National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 27, 2019. Studies have shown that the family medicine cabinet can contribute to addiction.

Friends and family members can obtain these drugs if they are not properly disposed of.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is an opportunity to dispose of unused and old medicine. The drugs are collected year-round, but having a dedicated day?

This brings more attention to the issue.



Hints from Heloise

Visit takebackday.dea.gov to find a collection site in your neighborhood, and for complete instructions.

— Heloise
P.S. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (www.dea.gov) has collected almost 11 million pounds of unused prescription drugs since 2010!

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



SOLUTION: Another time, another place

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VUGAA

M HOUR

KRYAEB

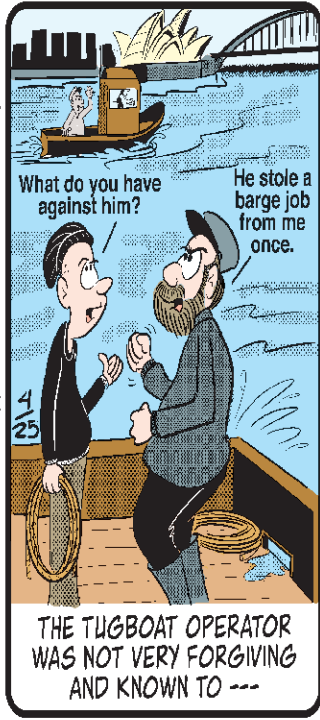
GORDAN

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: INEPT WITTY MELLOW LATELY
Answer: Who is going to be the magazine's next "Person of the Year"? — TIME WILL TELL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 classic shaving cream brand (8)	_____
2 regimented group (5)	_____
3 agreed (8)	_____
4 Robert L. Stevenson novel (9)	_____
5 sneaky (7)	_____
6 animal on old nickel (5)	_____
7 in a teary way (7)	_____

TI	BA	SOL	FU	TED
DN	VE	SEN	MIS	COR
SON	PS	RTI	RBA	PED
AS	LY	AP	KI	BI

Wednesday's Answers: 1. UNSWEETENED 2. BLUSTERED 3. TINTIN 4. PIVOTING 5. PAWNS 6. BEVERLY 7. SOFT

Challenger

DIRECTIONS: Fill each square with a number, one through nine. Horizontal squares should add to the totals on right. Vertical squares should add to the totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

4-25

				9
	2			5
			8	13
		6		13
4				13
				11
10	8	12	14	11

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Yesterday's Challenger Answers

3	3	2	1	9
3	2	1	3	9
3	1	3	2	9
3	3	1	2	9
12	9	7	8	10

MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"Who's been wearing my sweater?"

Cryptoquip

4-25

FVQS HGWBC RGW HQBB SVK
GUKJVKQC ZGMKR MKKCKC SG
ZQTMSQTM Q ZGUTME
OSQTIJFQR? KOHQBQSTME
HGOSO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN LAUREL CAME UP WITH A SCHEME TO FLIMFLAM HIS COMEDY PARTNER, IT WAS A FOOL-HARDY PLAN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals O

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

2÷		1-	8+
24X			
2-		3	
	3-		2

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CHALLENGING

60X		3÷		1
3÷		9+		11+
11+	12+	2÷		1
			5	1-
2÷		5-		20X
	4	1-		11+

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RULES

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

6X	2÷	3	3
3-	3+		
2	1	24X	4
7+			
4	3	1	2

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SPORTS SLEUTH

— PLAY: SPORTS

TUROLIERBEYVSQN
KHTRIPLEEVBYWTR
OLRJGEBWYIWUREP
NKUIGDBOZSXVSVQ
KGNFOFMPTNKGIE
CCNAAYOEZEEUQSW
USIIQPHTNFMWPNL
JHNRSFCEUFLADEM
CAGYTSSTXVORRCFU
SQPNMKAJHTFDEEC
BZYXVUMPPELBUODH

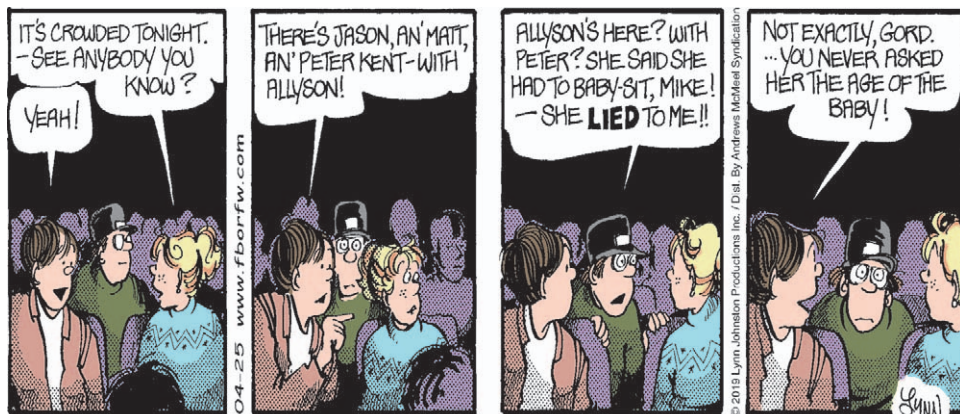
Wednesday's unlisted clue: SUIT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Thursday's unlisted clue hint: THREE OUTS IN ONE PLAY

Defensive	He came to	Out of	Squeeze
Double	Match	Passing	Trap
Draw	Medal	Power	Trick
Fair	Offensive	Running	

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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



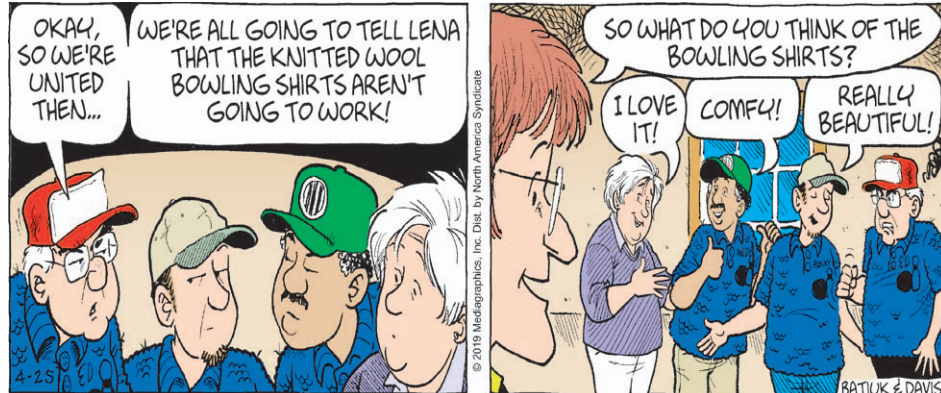
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



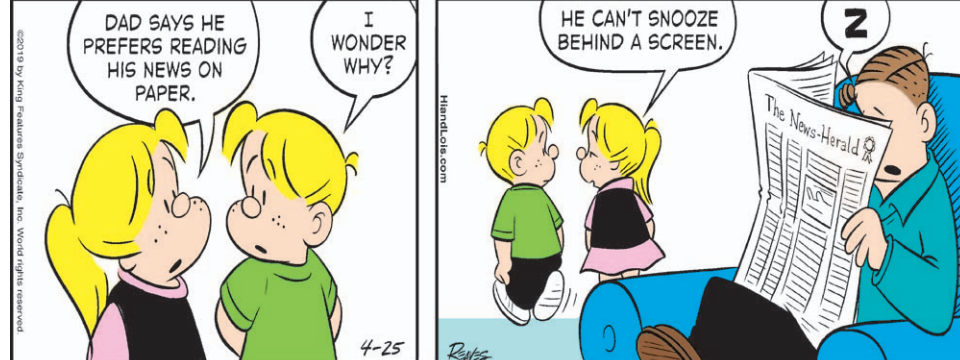
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



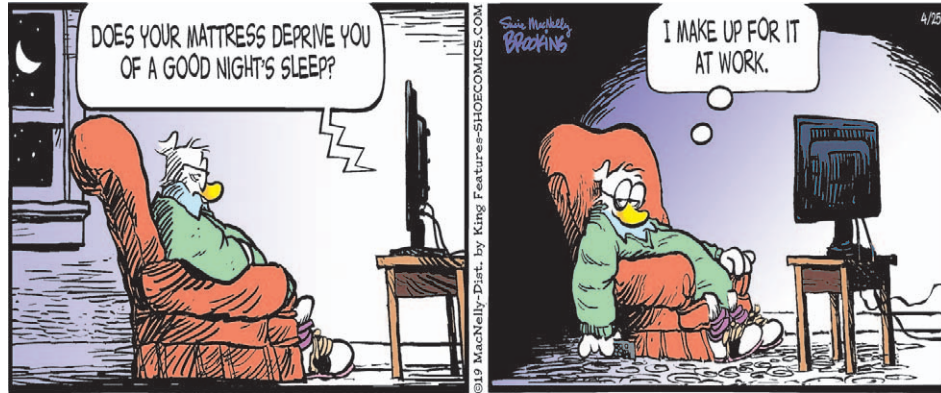
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



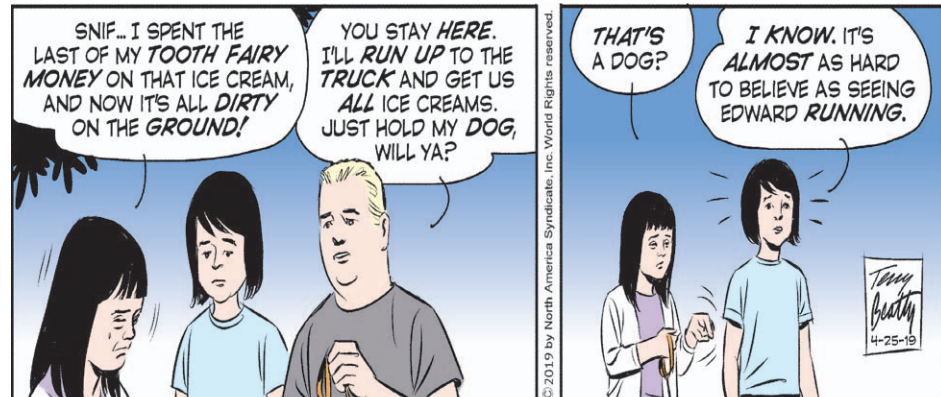
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



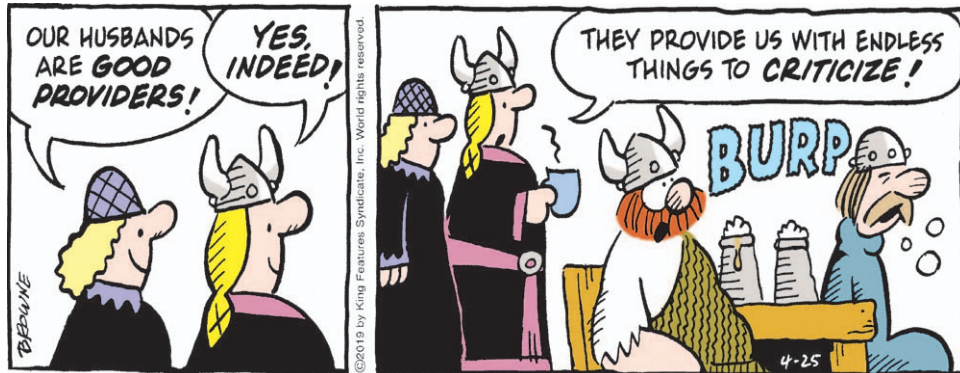
BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



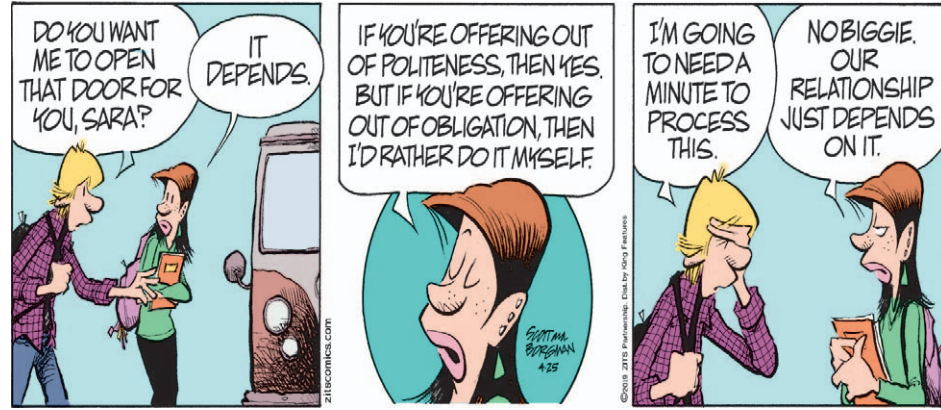
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



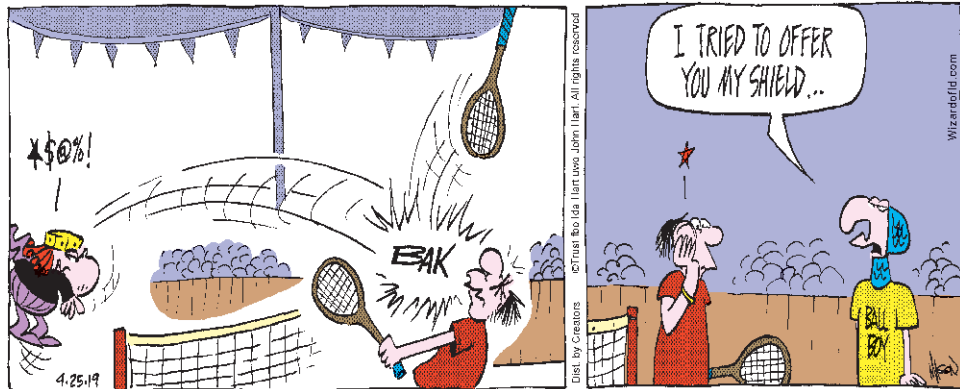
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



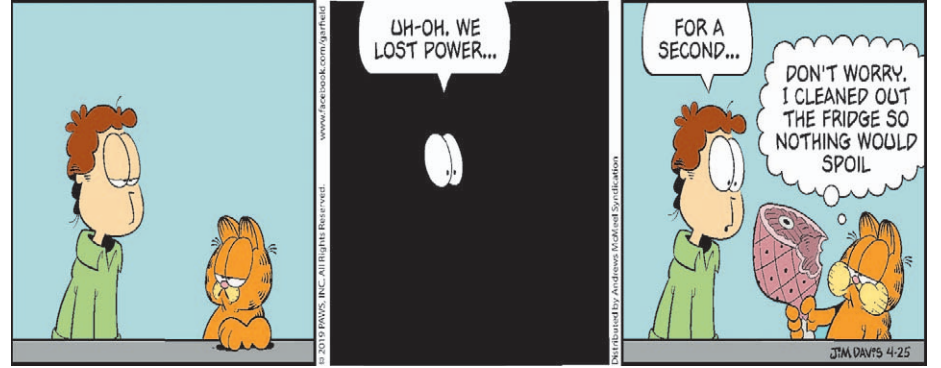
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



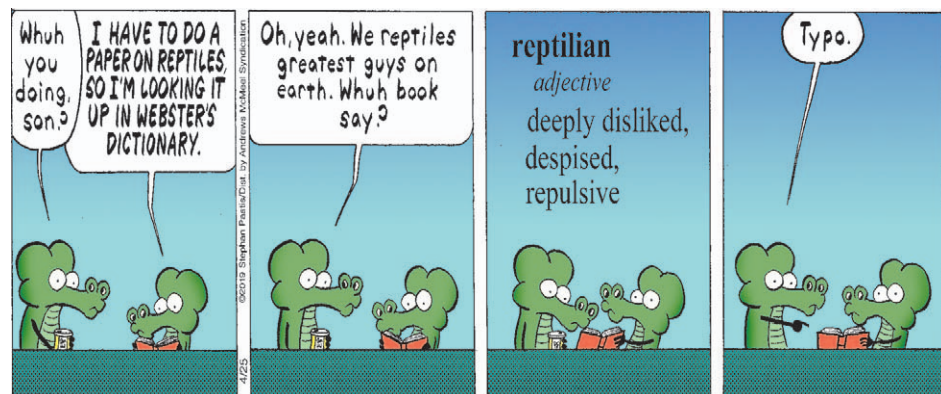
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



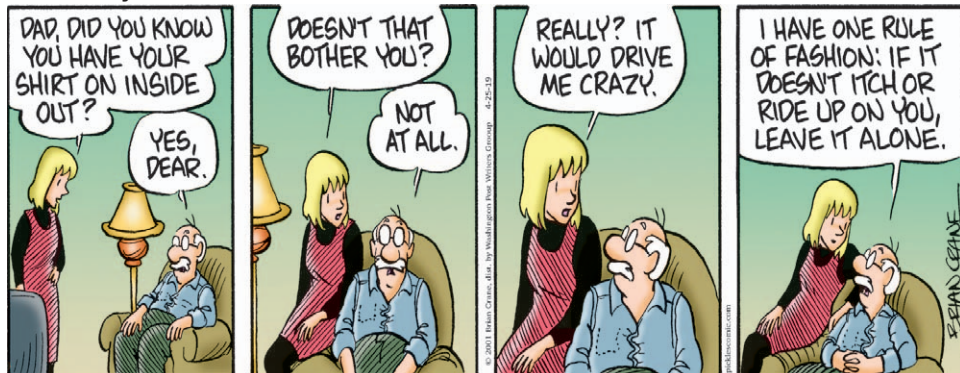
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



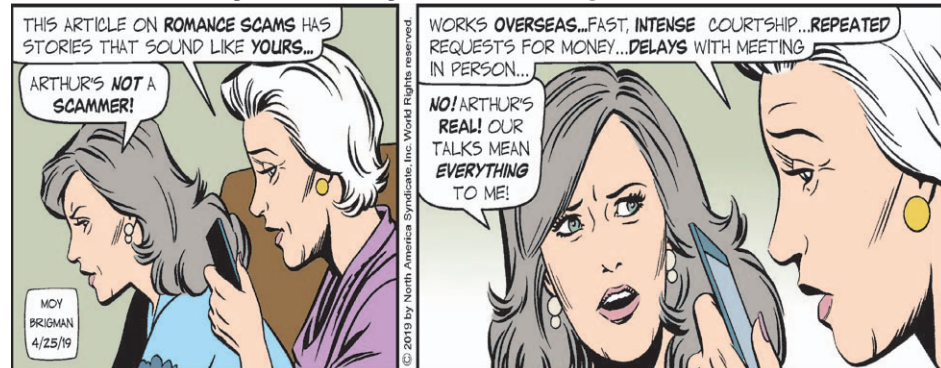
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



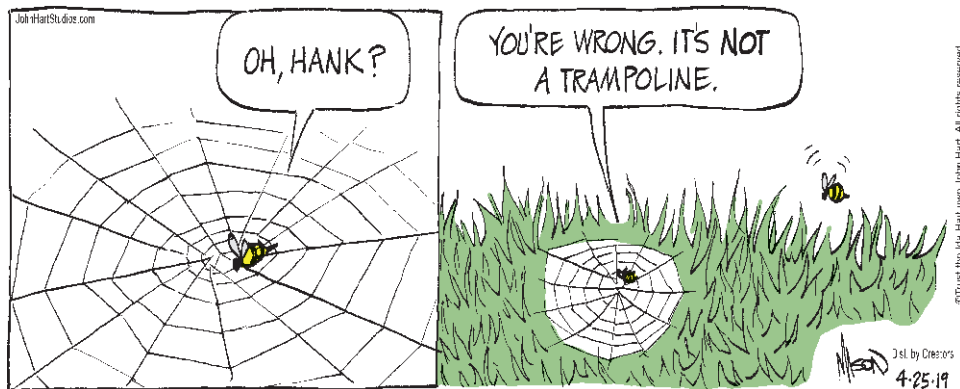
PICKLES By Brian Crane



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



DILBERT By Scott Adams





Rallying the troops

Thornton pulls San Jose players together after major penalty to win Game 7 in overtime against Vegas, following Game 6 double-overtime win. See the story on page 3.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

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■ **MLB: Royals 10, Rays 2**

Snell has short stint in return from broken toe

Tampa Bay ace pulled in 4th inning after first start since suffering fracture April 14

By **MARK DITTLER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PETERSBURG — Blake Snell was frustrated with his performance, but at least his toe came through OK.

The Tampa Bay ace Blake Snell lasted one out into the fourth inning in his return from a broken right fourth toe as the Rays lost 10-2 to the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday.

"It's fine," Snell said of his toe. "Happy to get back out there. It was a game where I felt just different. I felt good but it was weird. I spiked some fastballs and I never do that."

The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner, who hurt the toe attempting to move a decorative display in his bathroom on April 14, allowed three runs, five hits and two walks and struck out three

during a 65-pitch outing.

"Probably the only good thing to come out of this game was that Blake got to 65 pitches, so he should be pretty close to full-go his next time," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "From a health standpoint he was a 100-percent fine."

The left-hander (2-2) had given up one run and nine hits over 19 innings in three starts before the injury.

Adalberto Mondesi hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, Billy Hamilton had two hits and two RBIs and Jakob Junis gave up one run and four hits in five innings for the Royals, who stopped a five-game losing streak.

Junis (2-2) bruised his right hand on Yandy Diaz's drive that resulted in an inning-ending double-play in the fifth.

His hand was swollen

but tests showed no fracture.

"Just a little nerve in there that's pinching," Junis said.

Snell, signed to a \$50 million, five year contract on March 21, said Tuesday that he still had some discomfort in the toe when he walks, but not when throwing off a mound.

The Rays decided that Snell was ready to return despite throwing just an 18-pitch bullpen session Saturday and eight pitches off a mound Monday.

Snell was replaced by Ryan Yarbrough with a runner on third and one out in the fourth.

"I knew they were a selective team but they were aggressive to start and then went back to selective," Snell said. "I threw a lot of good pitches that, they just almost looked like they knew what was coming."



AP PHOTO

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Blake Snell hands the ball to manager Kevin Cash as he is taken out of the game against the Kansas City Royals during the fourth inning Wednesday, in St. Petersburg.

■ **HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: IMG Academy 14, Charlotte 2**

Tarpons give too many openings to Ascenders

State's top team, loaded with college and pro prospects, go on offensive tear

By **BRUCE ROBINS**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

PUNTA GORDA — Facing the number one ranked high school team in the state of Florida proved to be a daunting task for Charlotte as the Tarpons dropped a 14-2 decision to IMG Academy Wednesday night.

The Ascenders, loaded with top college and pro prospects, scored in every inning, taking advantage of every opening the Tarpons gave them.

Charlotte coach Lavell Cudjo spent several minutes talking to his team afterwards and said he was disappointed with the Tarpons effort.

"You've still got to compete," Cudjo said. "I don't care what the score is, but you don't be defeated before the game even starts. You look up stats, you see all the radar guns in the stands, compete. They may not be here to see you, but if you go out



SUN PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER G BLAKE

TARPONS | 6 Charlotte's Kevin Conway waits for the throw from catcher Aaron Martins to tag out IMG Academy's Rece Hinds during Wednesday's game at Charlotte High School.

■ **NFL**

Arians sees six 'generational' players in draft

Tampa Bay expected to take defensive player with fifth pick tonight, unlikely to trade down

By **RICK STROUD**
TAMPA BAY TIMES

TAMPA — It comes down to math. Bucs coach Bruce Arians says there are six "generational" players in the NFL draft, and his team picks fifth overall. So, in summation, he says he's not inclined to trade down.

"There would have to be some hellacious picks," Arians said. "There's five guys on the board I love. You'd have to throw the bank and open the vault for (general manager) Jason (Licht) to move down. I'm not saying that we wouldn't. Just looking at the guys that are there, there's really six guys that are once-in-a-generation type players. I'm feeling great about this draft."

It's not hard to speculate which six players Arians considers "generational" talents. Most likely they include several defensive players: Ohio State defensive end Nick Bosa, Alabama defensive tackle Quinnen Williams, Kentucky edge rusher Josh Allen, Houston defensive lineman Ed Oliver, Louisiana State linebacker Devin White and perhaps either Michigan linebacker Devin Bush, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray or Mississippi State edge rusher Montez Sweat.

"His tape is great," Arians said of Murray. "The only thing I will say is a negative is he's a one-year player. One-year players have scared me in the past. He is dynamic, and I wouldn't

want to chase him around."

The Bucs' biggest needs are on defense. With the team seemingly ready to move on from defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, defensive tackle would appear to be a big need. But the Bucs also lost middle linebacker Kwon Alexander to the 49ers in free agency. While the Bucs have no shortage of edge rushers with Jason Pierre-Paul, Carl Nassib, Shaq Barrett and Noah Spence, Arians said you need to draft the best available player regardless of position.

"No. Listen. You can't draft for need," Arians said. "If you draft for need, you get fired. You take the best player. If you've got two players, now you've got three of them. Just take the best player available. Now if you've

got four players right there together and one of them is a need? That's a home run."

Besides, Arians argues, it's too easy for teams to double-team the best pass rusher. "You need two because they can game-plan one guy," Arians said. "... You'd like to have two, and I think JPP is that type of guy. Vita (Vea) can be some pressure in the middle. We've got a couple of young guys who have the ability to play opposite and be disruptive. And I know our linebackers are going to be blitzing up the middle a lot and they're going to be chasing him out to them a lot of times. You want guys who can beat the tackles but also run them down when they get outside."

Arians said it has been easy working with Licht since they went through a draft together with the Arizona Cardinals.

"It's been very easy for both of us because we've done it together before," Arians said. "We were ready three weeks ago. We've been going over and over and over it. Jason and I have massaged that thing so many times it's got fingerprints all over it."

Of course, as the draft nears, Arians says, it's hard to believe anything they hear or read.

"I'm never convinced about anything about the draft," he said. "That's the best thing about it. Everybody lies so good. That's the best thing. You start telling the truth and it's, 'Oh he's lying. He's lying!'"

Florida Lottery

PICK 2 table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24N, Apr. 24D, Apr. 23N, Apr. 23D, Apr. 22N, Apr. 22D, D-Day, N-Night

PICK 3 table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24N, Apr. 24D, Apr. 23N, Apr. 23D, Apr. 22N, Apr. 22D, D-Day, N-Night

PICK 4 table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24N, Apr. 24D, Apr. 23N, Apr. 23D, Apr. 22N, Apr. 22D, D-Day, N-Night

PICK 5 table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24N, Apr. 24D, Apr. 23N, Apr. 23D, Apr. 22N, Apr. 22D, D-Day, N-Night

FANTASY 5 table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24, Apr. 23, Apr. 22, PAYOFF FOR APR. 23, 1 5-digit winners, 279 4-digit winners, 8,175 3-digit winners

CASH FOR LIFE table with dates and numbers: Apr. 22, Cash Ball

JACKPOT TRIPLE PLAY table with dates and numbers: Apr. 23, Apr. 19, Apr. 16, PAYOFF FOR APR. 23, 0 6-of-6, 44 5-of-6, 1,861 4-of-6, 29,367 3-of-6, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$1,400,000

LOTTO table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24, Apr. 17, Apr. 13, PAYOFF FOR APR. 20, 0 6-digit winners, 20 5-digit winners, 1,428 4-digit winners, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$2.5 million

POWERBALL table with dates and numbers: Apr. 24, Powerball, Apr. 20, Powerball, PAYOFF FOR APR. 20, 0 5-5 + PB, 0 5-5, 3 4-5 + PB, 38 4-5, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$150 million

MEGA MILLIONS table with dates and numbers: Apr. 23, Mega Ball, Apr. 19, Mega Ball, PAYOFF FOR APR. 23, 0 5 of 5 + MB, 0 5 of 5, 2 4 of 5 + MB, 29 4 of 5, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$212 million

MEGA MILLIONS table with dates and numbers: Apr. 23, Mega Ball, Apr. 19, Mega Ball, PAYOFF FOR APR. 23, 0 5 of 5 + MB, 0 5 of 5, 2 4 of 5 + MB, 29 4 of 5, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$212 million

MEGA MILLIONS table with dates and numbers: Apr. 23, Mega Ball, Apr. 19, Mega Ball, PAYOFF FOR APR. 23, 0 5 of 5 + MB, 0 5 of 5, 2 4 of 5 + MB, 29 4 of 5, ESTIMATED JACKPOT \$212 million

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NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS: Eastern Conference Round 2

Bruins, Blue Jackets clash in first playoff matchup

Boston holds home-ice advantage throughout Stanley Cup playoffs

By JIMMY GOLEN AP SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins have home-ice advantage through a potential trip to the Stanley Cup Final, and they have the Columbus Blue Jackets to thank for it.

They'll get a chance to show their gratitude in the TD Garden on Thursday night.

The Bruins host Columbus in Game 1 of the second round — the first postseason matchup between the Original Six franchise and the 2000 expansion team that has advanced in the playoffs for the first time in its history.

The Blue Jackets got there by ousting the Tampa Bay Lightning in four games, the first time a Presidents Trophy winner has been swept in the first round.

"I thought Tampa was lights out and solid," Boston coach Bruce Cassidy said after the Bruins beat Toronto 5-1 in Game 7 of the first-round series. "So, clearly, we've got our hands full."

With the Lightning and the Calgary Flames both going out in the first round, the Bruins have the best remaining record in the playoffs. They will open at home for Games 1 and 2 on Thursday and Saturday; more importantly, they will host a potential seventh game if the series lasts that long.

The home-ice advantage served them well in Game 7 against Toronto on Tuesday night.

"The fans were obviously very excited,

very loud, gave us, extra energy," defenseman Zdeno Chara said. "We were obviously feeding off that."

The Columbus fans also are getting the hang of this playoff thing. With a long gap since clinching their first-round win on April 16, they hosted a full scrimmage Monday and opened it to the public.

More than 5,500 people attended.

"They're playing really well and probably one of the hottest teams in the league right now after taking down Tampa," said Bruins forward Sean Kuraly, who grew up outside of Columbus and went to college at Miami of Ohio. "You can see from 5,000 fans at practice it's a heck of an atmosphere there, and they're playing really well."

Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella said the team used the scrimmage to try to stay sharp. But it's hard to focus on an opponent without knowing who it is, and they didn't find out for a week.

"We tried to do it the right way," he said. "I think once they know there's a team and there's a date, I think that helps the player. Now they know it. I don't know what to expect. I think we're prepared."

Here are some other things to look for from the best-of-seven series:

INJURED LIST

Despite having just one day to rest for the next series, the Bruins reported that everyone is healthy



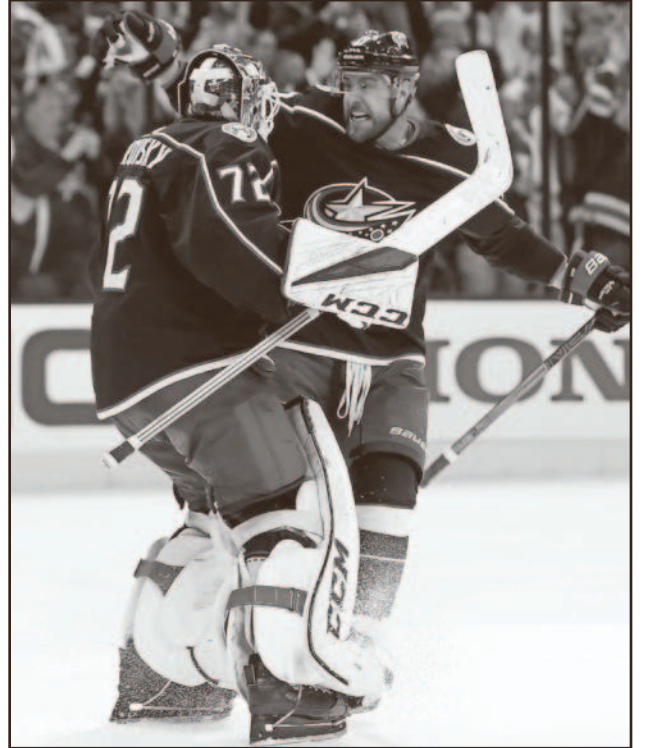
Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand, left, tries unsuccessfully to shoot past Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Frederik Andersen during the second period of Game 7, Tuesday, in Boston.

except Kevan Miller.

The defenseman "won't start the series," general manager Don Sweeney said Wednesday, because of a right knee injury that has kept him out since April 4. Miller played in 39 games this season while struggling with injuries, totaling seven assists.

"He's obviously had a setback from that injury, and we're probably week-to-week there in terms of evaluating," Sweeney said. "We missed Kevan. He's a big part of our hockey club. Other guys have stepped up."

Columbus has had some injury problems on defense, with Markus Nutivaara missing two games after the hit to the head that led to a one-game suspension against Tampa's Nikita Kucherov.



Columbus Blue Jackets' goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky (left) and center Brandon Dubinsky celebrate their sweep over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 4, in Columbus, Ohio.

NBA

Nets have tough choice on Russell Point guard's breakout season doesn't guarantee return

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — D'Angelo Russell was an All-Star and the Brooklyn Nets became a playoff team. Neither looked likely four months ago.

So it was a surprisingly successful season, though there's plenty for the Nets to build on — including a decision on whether Russell will have a role.

Nets players were proud of their accomplishments but realistic about the future Wednesday, a day after they were routed by Philadelphia in Game 5 of their return to the postseason.

Changes are necessary if the Nets want to contend with a team like Philadelphia. So players heading into free agency can't be certain of their futures in Brooklyn. Not even Russell, the former No. 2 pick with the Lakers, who had a breakout season.

"Hell yeah, I definitely want to be here," he said. "But I also know it's a business too, so I'm not going to play that role like I don't know what could possibly happen."

Early in the season, Caris LeVert was the Nets' best player and Russell sometimes sat on the bench in the fourth quarter. But with the Nets at 8-18 in December and LeVert sidelined with a dislocated right foot, Russell began to find his form. Brooklyn surged, eventually finishing sixth in the East at 42-40 after missing the postseason the last three years.

Keep the young core of Russell, LeVert, Spencer Dinwiddie and Jarrett Allen, and the Nets can probably keep contending for spots toward the lower half of the



Brooklyn Nets point guard D'Angelo Russell had a breakout season as an All-Star this season but the team could shop elsewhere now that Russell is a free agent.

East. But they might not get much farther without adding one of the superstars who'll be available this summer in free agency.

"We're a young, talented group, but you've also got to bring in a really, really talented player or players," veteran forward DeMarre

Carroll said.

Some of those potential game-changers, such as Kyrie Irving and Kemba Walker, play guard Russell's position. The point guard would be a restricted free agent, allowing the Nets to match any offer for him.

SPORTS ON TV

Table listing sports events: COLLEGE BASEBALL (7 p.m., SEC - Texas A&M at Ole Miss), WOMEN'S COLLEGE LACROSSE (4:30 p.m., BTN - Northwestern at Ohio State), GOLF (6:30 a.m., European Tour Golf; 10:30 a.m., European Tour Golf; 3:30 p.m., PGA Tour Golf; 6:30 p.m., LPGA Tour Golf), MLB (2 p.m., LA Dodgers at Chicago Cubs), NBA (7 p.m., Detroit at Boston), NFL (8 p.m., Denver at San Antonio), NHL (7 p.m., Stanley Cup Playoff), 9:30 p.m., Stanley Cup Playoff.

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■ NHL

Sharks rally after Pavelski's injury, major penalty

San Jose erased three-goal deficit in Game 7, pulled off double-overtime win in Game 6

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP SPORTS WRITER

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Joe Thornton gathered his teammates at the bench as a bloodied Joe Pavelski was taken off the ice after being knocked out on a hit and implored them to avenge their captain's injury by scoring three goals on the ensuing major penalty to erase a three-goal deficit.

The San Jose Sharks did Thornton one better and scored four, setting the stage for a remarkable comeback.

The Sharks erased a 3-1 series deficit, a three-goal hole in the third period and bounced back after allowing a tying goal in the final minute of regulation to beat the Vegas Golden Knights 5-4 in overtime in Game 7 of their first-round series Tuesday night.

"The leadership is the best I've ever been around," coach Peter DeBoer said. "Joe goes down. Joe Thornton immediately is talking to the guys, 'Let's get three goals here on this power play.' He actually said that and we got four. Very fortunate as a coach to be around people like that. You don't have to say a lot. They're driving the bus."

That leadership core that has been maligned over the years has led the Sharks into the second round against Colorado, with Game 1 in San Jose on Friday night.

To get there, the Sharks completed the first comeback from 3-1 down in a series in franchise history with help from 58 saves from Martin Jones and the first double-overtime short-handed goal ever by Tomas Hertl to win Game 6 on the road.

That pales in comparison to what the Sharks had to overcome Tuesday when they trailed 3-0 with 10:47 to play and Pavelski was lying on the ice after a cross-check from Cody Eakin and bump from Paul Stastny led to an awkward fall. The referees called a major penalty.

"It almost made you cry, because we love him so much," said Thornton, who held a towel to Pavelski's bleeding head as he helped him to the dressing room. "You never want to see a teammate get hurt like that. It was a tough break for him."

The Sharks rallied around their fallen leader to become the second team in playoff history to score four times on one major power play to take the lead.

It still didn't come easy as they allowed the tying goal to Jonathan Marchessault with 47 seconds to play in regulation before fourth-liner Barclay Goodrow provided the game-winner 18:19 into overtime, making San Jose just the second team ever to overcome a three-goal deficit in the third period to win a Game 7.



San Jose Sharks right wing Barclay Goodrow (top, right) celebrates scoring the winning goal in overtime of Game 7 with center Joe Thornton (top, left) against the Vegas Golden Knights, in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday. Center Joe Pavelski, bottom center, is helped off the ice during Game 7, after getting cross-checked. A major penalty was called on the play, leading to San Jose's rally.

AP PHOTOS

■ NFL

Steelers extend Roethlisberger through 2021

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP SPORTS WRITER

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers have reiterated repeatedly during an eventful offseason that quarterback Ben Roethlisberger remains the team's unquestioned leader. They have handed him a new deal to prove it.

The Steelers and the two-time Super Bowl winner agreed to terms on a contract extension Wednesday that will keep Roethlisberger in Pittsburgh through the 2021 season. Roethlisberger had been set to enter the final year of a contract he signed in 2015. Financial terms were not disclosed, but Roethlisberger figures to get a significant pay bump over the \$12 million he was due (with a \$23 million cap

hit) in 2019.

"It has always been a goal to play my entire career in Pittsburgh," Roethlisberger said in a statement. "This is home for me and my family, and we love this city. I am as excited to be a Steeler in Year 16 as I was when they drafted me. They will get my absolute best."

The deal gives Pittsburgh some stability going forward after the high-profile departures of wide receiver Antonio Brown and running back Le'Veon Bell.

Roethlisberger, who turned 36 last month, is coming off the finest statistical season of his 15-year career. His 5,129 yards passing led the NFL and his 34 touchdown passes broke his own franchise mark. Yet his once-solid relationship with Brown appeared to deteriorate during a late slide that

culminated in a 9-6-1 finish, a swoon that caused the Steelers to miss the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

Brown sat out a crucial Week 17 game against Cincinnati and in the aftermath lashed out on social media, blaming Roethlisberger for having an "owner mentality."

Roethlisberger flirted with retirement after the 2016 season but has found a renewed sense of energy in his mid-30s. Having an offensive line that has kept him upright has certainly helped. Roethlisberger has been sacked an average of 20½ times over the last four years — compared with an average of 42 times per season between 2006-13 — due in part to stellar play in front of him and an approach predicated on getting the ball out faster

while shying away from the "Ben being Ben" stuff that led to a mix of big plays and big mistakes earlier in his career.

The announcement of the extension came on the 15th anniversary of the Steelers making Roethlisberger the seventh overall pick in the 2004 draft. After taking over the starting job in Week 2 of the 2004 season following an injury to veteran Tommy Maddox, Roethlisberger has led the Steelers to three Super Bowls, along with seven AFC North titles and 10 total playoff berths.

Roethlisberger will lead an offense in the midst of a generational shift at other skill positions. JuJu Smith-Schuster replaces Brown as Pittsburgh's top receiver and the running back combination of James

Conner and Jaylen Samuels combined to put up numbers in 2018 similar to Bell's at his peak. There is stability, however, along the offensive line. Four of five starters return and there are plenty of potential in-house replacements for right tackle Marcus Gilbert, who was traded to Arizona in March.

Pittsburgh has toyed with finding Roethlisberger's eventual successor, drafting Josh Dobbs in the fourth round in 2017 and Mason Rudolph in the third round last year. Dobbs won the backup job last summer over Rudolph and veteran Landry Jones, who was cut on the eve of the 2018 season. Having them in place means the Steelers are likely to avoid drafting a quarterback with one of their 10 selections in the draft that starts Thursday.

■ TENNIS

Nadal rallies at Barcelona Open

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal recovered from a slow start to defeat Leonard Mayer 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 and advance to the third round of the Barcelona Open on Wednesday.

The second-ranked Nadal was coming off defeat to Fabio Fognini in the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Open.

An 11-time champion in Barcelona, Nadal will next play fellow Spaniard David Ferrer. The 37-year-old Ferrer, who is playing in Barcelona for the last time, defeated 15th-seeded Lucas Pouille 6-3, 6-1 in his second-round match.

The top-seeded Nadal squandered three set

points in the first set, including two in the tie-breaker after exchanging breaks late in the set. He rebounded quickly by breaking Mayer's serve in the first game of the second set, then cruised to victory against the 63rd-ranked Argentine.

"It wasn't the best start. Not the best feelings out there this afternoon, but I found a way to keep going and to win the match. Today that's the main thing," Nadal said. "(Mayer) competes well against everybody but probably today (the problem) was not that he competed very well against me. I was not competing that well."

■ MLB

González, Brewers agree to deal

Yankees released former All-Star from minor-league contract

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — A person familiar with the negotiations tells The Associated Press that pitcher Gio González and the Milwaukee Brewers have agreed to a one-year contract guaranteeing the 33-year-old left-hander \$2 million.

González was 10-11 with a 4.21 ERA last season for Washington and Milwaukee, which acquired him on Aug. 31.

He was 3-0 in five starts for the Brewers down the stretch.

He can earn an additional \$2 million in performance bonuses

bases on a system of two points for each pitching appearance of three or more innings and one for each of less than three innings. He would get \$333,333 each for 25, 30, 35 and 40 points, and \$333,334 apiece for 45 and 50.

González was 2-1 with a 6.00 ERA in three starts and 15 innings with the Yankees' Triple-A team at Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Under the terms of his deal with New York, he exercised his right Saturday to ask the Yankees to put him on the big league roster or release him within 48 hours, and New York released him on Monday.



AP PHOTO

The Milwaukee Brewers signed pitcher Gio Gonzalez after he exercised his right to be released from a minor league contract with the Yankees. Gonzalez was 3-0 with the Brewers down the stretch last year after being traded from the Nationals.

MLB ROUNDUP



AP PHOTO

Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr., considered the top prospect in baseball, will make his major league debut Friday.

Blue Jays promote Vladimir Guerrero Jr.

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays will promote top prospect Vladimir Guerrero Jr. before Friday's game against the Oakland Athletics.

Manager Charlie Montoyo announced the move after Toronto lost to San Francisco 4-0 on Wednesday.

"Hopefully he becomes what everybody thinks he can become," Montoyo said of Guerrero, the son

of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero.

Guerrero went 2 for 5 with a home run for Triple-A Buffalo on Wednesday. It marked the first time he had played three consecutive games at Buffalo. Guerrero missed the start of the season after an oblique injury in spring training.

Guerrero hit .367 with three homers and eight RBIs in eight games at Triple-A.

INDIANS 6, MARLINS 2

Jose Ramirez homered and drove in four runs, Jake Bauers' eighth-inning single scored the go-ahead run and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Miami Marlins 6-2 on Wednesday.

Martin Prado's two-out homer for Miami tied the game in the top of the eighth, but the Indians responded by scoring four times to snap a three-game losing streak.

Ramirez hit a two-out homer in the first and had an RBI single in the third. His eighth-inning double added two runs and capped Cleveland's big inning.

Cleveland led 2-1 heading into the eighth, but Prado homered off Nick Wittgren.

Cleveland starter Jefry Rodriguez allowed one run in seven innings.

CARDINALS 5, BREWERS 2

Adam Wainwright allowed one run in six innings for his 150th career victory, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Marcell Ozuna and Yadier Molina homered for the Cardinals as part of a four-run fourth.

Paul Goldschmidt got the rally started with a single, extending his hitting streak to 11 games.

A'S 6, RANGERS 5

With an impressive diving catch and the first game-ending hit of his career, Chad Pinder is making a strong case for more playing time.

Pinder's two-out RBI single in the ninth inning lifted the Athletics to a 6-5 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

Stephen Piscotty singled with one out off Chris Martin (1-1) and then stole second base. After Khris Davis flew out, Pinder looped a soft hit into right field. Piscotty slid into home plate to beat a wide throw home from Nomar Mazara

GIANTS 4, BLUE JAYS 0

Drew Pomeranz and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, Pablo Sandoval homered for the second straight game, and the Giants beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-0 Wednesday.

Buster Posey, Brandon Belt and Evan Longoria all hit RBI doubles for the Giants, who went 4-4 on a three-city road swing despite a season-worst four-game losing streak in the middle of the trip.

ROCKIES 9, NATIONALS 5

Daniel Murphy returned after missing 20 games with a fractured left index finger, Raimel Tapia had two doubles and drove in three runs to back a solid outing from German Marquez, and Colorado beat the Washington Nationals 9-5 on Wednesday.

Charlie Blackmon homered and Trevor Story extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a double and a triple. Nolan Arenado had three RBIs, David Dahl had three hits and Wade Davis picked up his third save. The Rockies have won eight of their last 10 and went 5-2 on their homestand.

Murphy singled in his first at-bat and then drew a walk after Story tripled and scored on Tapia's three-run double in Colorado's four-run third inning.

PADRES 1, MARINERS 0

Padres rookie Chris Paddack got out of a bases-loaded jam and went on to retire his final 19 batters, shutting down baseball's highest-scoring offense and outdueling Felix Hernandez in a brilliant performance for his first major league win, 1-0 on Wednesday.

He held Seattle to one hit in seven innings, combining with relievers Trey Wingenter and Kirby Yates on a two-hitter.

Ian Kinsler homered off Hernandez (1-2) and the Padres

swept the two-game series.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PIRATES 2

Ketel Marte homered twice and Arizona won at Pittsburgh for the ninth straight time.

Marte extended Arizona's lead to 5-1 with a solo shot in the fifth inning and drove a three-run shot, his sixth homer this season, into the left-field bleachers in the eighth.

Merrill Kelly (2-2) gave up two runs on six hits in seven innings, walking two and striking out five.

Jordan Lyles (2-1) lasted five innings, allowing five runs, four earned, on eight hits.

BRAVES 3, REDS 1

Ozzie Albies homered on the game's first pitch and Ronald Acuna Jr. scored from first base on Yasiel Puig's fifth-inning error, helping Atlanta beat Cincinnati.

Acuna scored easily when Puig misplayed Nick Markakis's line drive single to right, allowing it to skip under his glove and roll to the wall for a two-base error.

Mike Soroka (1-1) tied his career high with seven strikeouts while allowing five hits and one run with three walks in 5 2/3 innings.

A.J. Minter pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Tanner Roark (1-1) got through five innings, allowing six hits and two runs.

ORIOLES 4, WHITE SOX 3

Stevie Wilkerson hit his first major league homer, John Means pitched five effective innings on his birthday and Baltimore beat Chicago.

Wilkerson's second-chance solo shot off Ervin Santana (0-2) put the Orioles up 4-1 in the fourth. A Means (3-2) marked his 26th birthday with a career-high six strikeouts. The lefty allowed one run and four hits.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Royals 10, Tampa Bay 100, Kansas City 011, Tampa Bay 100, Kansas City 011, Tampa Bay 100.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Texas, Oakland, San Francisco, Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Miami, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Houston, San Francisco, Toronto, Oakland, Tampa Bay, Cleveland, Toronto, Oakland, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Seattle, San Diego, San Diego, Seattle, San Diego, Seattle, San Diego.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Arizona, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Arizona, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Arizona.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Kansas City, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Texas, Oakland, San Francisco, Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Miami, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Washington, Oakland, San Francisco, Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Miami, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Milwaukee, Cardinals, Cardinals, Milwaukee, Cardinals, Cardinals, Milwaukee.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Arizona, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Arizona, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Arizona.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Chicago, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Miami, Cleveland, Cleveland, Miami, Cleveland, Cleveland, Miami.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes San Francisco, Oakland, San Francisco, Oakland, San Francisco, Oakland, San Francisco.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Miami, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

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Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Miami, Kansas City, Tampa Bay.

Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Milwaukee, Cardinals, Cardinals, Milwaukee, Cardinals, Cardinals, Milwaukee.

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Table with 10 columns: Team, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Includes Chicago, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Cincinnati.

■ BUCS

Tampa Bay picks up Hargreaves' fifth-year option

Former Wharton High and Gators star has played only 10 games the last two seasons

By TAMPA BAY TIMES

TAMPA — Cornerback Vernon Hargreaves has one career interception and played in only 10 games in the past two seasons due to injuries.

But the former Wharton High and Florida Gators star apparently has shown enough promise to warrant the Bucs' decision Wednesday to pick up the fifth-year club option on Hargreaves' rookie contract worth \$9-million in 2020.

The 12th overall pick of the Bucs in the 2016 NFL draft, Hargreaves started

all 16 games as a rookie and got better in the second half of the season. He finished with 76 tackles, one forced fumble, nine passes defended and one interception but was the only cornerback in the NFL that year to allow more than 1,000-yards receiving.

A hamstring injury limited him to only nine games in 2017. Last year, he got off to a decent start in the season opener by forcing a fumble that was returned for a touchdown by Justin Evans in a 48-40 win at New Orleans in Week 1.

Unfortunately, Hargreaves suffered a season-ending shoulder injury in the game and was placed on injured reserve.

The \$9-million salary for 2020 is guaranteed only against injury. The team announced they were exercising the fifth-year option Wednesday night, just over a week before the May 3 deadline.

It's the third season in a row the Bucs have exercised the club option for the fifth year on one of its first-round draft picks. Receiver Mike Evans subsequently signed a

contract extension after the team did it in 2017. Last year, the Bucs picked up the \$20.9-million option on Jameis Winston's contract for 2019.

With Brent Grimes playing his last season with the Bucs in 2018, Hargreaves returns as the team's most experienced defensive back.

Second round picks Carlton Davis and M.J. Stewart started as rookies last season.

Having split time at cornerback and in the slot as a fifth defensive back, Hargreaves is expected to remain outside

this season, according to coach Bruce Arians.

Hargreaves underwent surgery on his left shoulder last Sept. 21.

"It actually made me better. I've seen a lot, done a lot and been through a lot of things," Hargreaves said at the start of off-season workouts.

"And the guys in the locker room, they look at me as a guy who has kind of been through it now, as that vet. Even though I haven't played in two years, they still look at me like I got those years under my belt. Just

because they've seen what I've been through. They've seen the behind the scenes and what everybody else is saying."

Arians has said he believes Hargreaves will thrive in the man-to-man scheme under new defensive coordinator Todd Bowles.

"I don't know why coach Arians feels that way about me, but I love it. He doesn't know me. He doesn't have to say anything about me. But I love it. That's the confidence that I need. That's that confidence we need as a secondary."

TARPONS

FROM PAGE 1

and put forth you're best effort, you never know. I told them always compete, that's what we do here, and you know what, I got some peoples attention tonight. They rolled in here, you pitched strikes, they hit it, you've got to tip your hat, that's baseball.'

Charlotte starter Cade Reich surrendered hits to the first two IMG hitters, then walked three batters in a row to force in another run and leave the bases loaded with none out. But Reich settled down and struck out the next two Ascenders and got Tucker Mitchell on a line out to short to escape further damage.

But the Ascenders added five more runs in the second on four singles in a row, a hit batter and a walk to chase Reich from the mound.

Bryce Hayse came in to relieve and get the Tarpons out of the inning with a 7-0 deficit.

Charlotte got a run back in the bottom of the second as Aaron Martins led off with a walk and went to second on a passed ball.

Hal Turner singled to send courtesy runner Tyler McQueen to third, where he scored where he scored on Jonah Bourque's fielders choice.

Will Bartlett hit a two-out home run off of Kyle Machado in the top of the third to make it 8-1, but the Tarpons answered again with a run in the bottom of the frame.

Kevin Conway singled, went to second on a wild pitch, and came home on a double by Martins.

IMG scored five more times in the fourth inning, which featured a bizarre two-run sacrifice fly and got one more tally in the fifth before the game was stopped because of the ten run mercy rule.

Ascenders pitcher Kendall Williams, a Vanderbilt commit, gave up five hits and struck out nine in his five innings of work.

Cudjo said the Tarpons played two closer games with IMG last season, making the result more disappointing Wednesday night.

"They know the caliber of team Charlotte High puts together," Cudjo said.

"Tonight we just didn't do that. They came in and swung the bats well, We threw strikes and they hit them. I try to make my schedule as hard as I can. Other top teams know we're going to usually compete. We just didn't compete tonight."

IMG ACADEMY 14, CHARLOTTE 2

IMG 25151 — 14 2 0

Charlotte 01100 — 2 5 3

WP — Kendall Williams. LP — Cade Reich. Leding hitters: Will Bartlett (IMG) 3-3, HR, 3 runs, 3 RBIs; Trey Yunder. (IMG) 2-4, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Josh Rivera (IMG) 2-2, 2B, run, 3 RBIs; Aaron Martins (C) 1-2, 2B, RBI.



SUN PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER G BLAKE

Charlotte's Kyle Machado bats in the fourth inning of Wednesday night's baseball game against IMG Academy. He also pitched in the game.



Charlotte's Cade Reich throws the first pitch Wednesday. Reich had the tough task of throwing against Florida's top-ranked baseball program.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Multiple columns for NYSE and NYSE-1000s. Includes various stock tickers and their corresponding financial data.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including DHT Hldgs, DNP, DPW, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including Div&Inco, DivReddy, DocuSec rs, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including Elk HIOpfd, Elkh LoVi n, ElkFCM of, etc.

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Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity, etc.

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Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including GugTotRet, GugUtil, GugSCGth, GugTech, etc.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Main table containing NYSE stock data with columns for Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, and %Chg. Includes a large section for 'J' stocks and a section for 'K' stocks.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like LM IntLoV, LM EM LoV, LeggPlat, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like MorgS pFG, MorgSt pK, MS Asia, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like NuMtgOp2, NuvMultim, NuvMul, etc.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes sections for NYSE and -R-.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks like SRC Flow n, STMicro, SABESP, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks like StateSt pfd, StaSciP, SteelSt pE, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks like TransEntx, TransUn n, Trnsalt p, etc.

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- V -

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Includes sections for -B-, -C-, and -D-.

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like ONCY, ONTXW, ONCS, STKS, TURN, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like PurplIn n, Puyi Inc, PAXS, QADB, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like SierOnc g n, SierraWr, SIFY, SigTech, etc.

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Money Market Funds

Table with 16 columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

Tax Exempt

Table with 16 columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists tax-exempt money market funds.

Toronto stocks

Table with 20 columns: Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Lists Toronto stock market data for various companies.

Treasury bonds

Table with 20 columns: Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld. Lists Treasury bond market data.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables. Table with 5 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Includes a detailed guide on interpreting mutual fund data and a list of various mutual funds.

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Top 20 Mutual Funds

By Year-to-Date Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

By Total Net Assets

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

By 4-Week Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

Continued from previous page

Continuation of the 'By Year-to-Date Percent Return' table.

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AC Alternatives

Table listing AC Alternatives funds.

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ALPS

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Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Continued on next page

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Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Contains multiple columns of mutual fund data.

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Mutual Funds

Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Contains multiple fund listings such as HYC, HY2, HYInstl, etc.

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Mutual Funds

Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and then repeated for a second set of funds. Includes categories like The Investment House, Third Avenue, and various thematic and sector funds.

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April 25, 2019

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Produced & printed by
Sun Coast Media Group

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ON THE COVER

WaterLine photo by Capt. Josh Olive

The old fish shacks in Pine Island Sound are a landmark that every Southwest Florida boater and fisherman should recognize. If you don't, then you ought to spend more time exploring!



Fewer in the cooler

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

What part of fishing is most satisfying? Is it seeking out the fish and tricking them into taking a hook? Is it bending the rod and listening to the drag scream? Is it the moment when you put your hand on a fish and claim victory? Maybe it's just being out on the water and soaking in the whole experience.

Let's hope it's those things, anyway — because if your favorite part is slinging fish in the cooler and taking them home for dinner, inshore fishing may be a lot less fun for a while.

People ask me all sorts of fishing questions, but without a doubt the most frequently asked over the past couple months has been when redfish and snook are going to open again. My stock answer has been that we'll have to wait until FWC makes that call. While that's still true, now they've given us an idea of which way it might go.

The FWC has a research arm called the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). The FWRI has been conducting monthly sampling of many of our local fish populations for years, and that sampling has continued during the recent closure of snook and redfish. Since they've been at it for so long, they have a pretty good idea of historical abundance. Here's what they have to say about redfish, snook and trout:

REDFISH

Adults form large spawning aggregations in coastal habitats near passes in the fall. During previous red tide events, fewer spawning aggregations occurred in impacted areas than typically occur when red tide is not present. Redfish are less resilient to red tide-related impacts than other inshore species.

Juvenile abundance in both Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor was already low prior to this red tide event as a result of two closely spaced years of poor recruitment. It remains below the long-term average in each of these estuaries. Juvenile abundance in Charlotte Harbor is the lowest average abundance on record and shows a four-year declining trend.

SNOOK

These fish live in both rivers and estuaries and migrate to inlets and barrier islands to spawn. Snook can tolerate a wide range of salinities and have been known to take refuge from red tide in low salinity habitats where red tide is less likely to occur. Because of these unique reproductive characteristics and life history traits, snook can be moderately resilient to red tide-related impacts.

Monitoring data from June 2018 through February 2019 indicate that adult snook



Photo provided

Very soon, trout this size could be permanently off limits in Southwest Florida.

abundance and juvenile recruitment across the region is higher than or comparable to long-term averages in Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor.

TROUT

Impacts from red tide in 2005 reduced the spawning stock of seatrout in Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, but those populations rebounded within three to four years. Because of they are relatively short-lived and quick to mature, seatrout are reproductively resilient to red tide-related impacts.

In Charlotte Harbor, data from June 2018 through February 2019 shows the lowest recorded abundance of both adults and juveniles, following three years of poor recruitment.

If you've been tuned into our inshore fishing community, none of this should shock you. Redfish numbers have been a major concern for several years, and the trout bite has been lousy since summer's red tide kills. I know a lot of people were very worried about snook, as there were many dead on the beaches, but the catching has been pretty good.

When these kinds of decisions need to be made, FWC support staff — the behind-the-scenes conservation and management employees — generally present a recommendation. In this case, their suggestion is to keep reds and snook closed for a year via executive order, and also to add trout to that closure. If that's what the commissioners decide to do (and it is their call, regardless of staff recommendations), the issue would be revisited in early 2020.

Another issue for those who like to eat trout: As a separate issue, the FWC is also considering changes to seatrout rules. For Southwest Florida, the potential plan is to drop the bag limit to three fish, eliminate the provision to keep one over the slot size of 15 to 20 inches, and also drop the bag limit for guides on trips to zero.

None of this would really matter in the short term if trout are to be closed entirely, but it might make a big difference when the season does eventually reopen.

So, if you were on the FWC commission, what would you do? I know what I would want to see. To me, the closure on redfish and trout makes good conservation sense. Most of us can agree that we're not catching them like we should be. But keeping snook closed makes no sense now that we know they came through the red tide OK and there are enough juveniles around.

I like the idea of guides not keeping trout, but I don't think it goes far enough. I'd rather see a zero bag for guides on any fish that has a bag limit — no sheepshead, no mackerel, no nuthin'. Why? Because they're not keeping fish for themselves; they're keeping fish for clients. It effectively allows some people to go over the bag limit. Worse, when guides are busy and running two trips a day, they often keep double limits (breaking the law) to keep clients happy. Let's keep them honest.

One final piece I'd like to see: We're very concerned about monitoring our gamefish, but how closely are we looking at their food supply? I want to see more sampling of the mullet, the pinfish, the whitebait. If there's a lot of food but few gamefish, we know we're taking too many big fish. But if the forage populations are shrinking at the same rate as the gamefish, then changing limits and closing seasons doesn't solve the base problem.

If you'd like to go to the meeting, the public is always welcome to speak to the commission about these issues. It's a long drive, though. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. May 1 and 2 (the above-mentioned items are on the schedule for the first day) at the Florida Public Safety Institute (85 Academy Drive, Havana, Fla.). For the full agenda, go to <http://bit.ly/2URoP6w>.

Contact Capt. Josh Olive at 941-276-9657 or Publisher@WaterLineWeekly.com.

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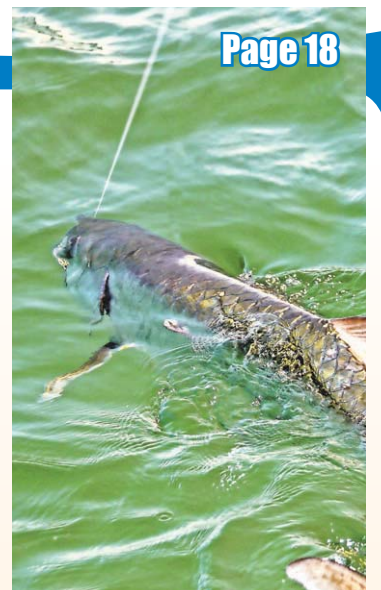
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ANGLING 201 CAPT. KARL BUTIGIAN

Time to play with big boys

Winter is over, and as summer takes hold in Southwest Florida, it's getting to be the season for tangling with tarpon and sharks.



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Reader Photos



Now that he's almost 4 years old, Dante is better at holding fish on his own.



Herb Hoxsey caught his sheephead on a shrimp in Sarasota Bay.

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Tony L. with awesome 24.5 monster porgy, caught 35 miles west of Stump Pass with DJB Charters.



Canadian pickleball player Armand Despres took some time off the courts to go early season tarpon fishing in Charlotte Harbor.

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An overlooked gamefish

Photo provided

The teeth of a barracuda are very dangerous, and these fish should never be handled without great caution.



THE FISH COACH • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Barracuda are incredible fish that deserve more respect

For most reef anglers, barracuda are a pain to be avoided. They rank right up there with sharks and Goliath grouper as fish we love to hate because they steal “our” fish that we’re trying to reel in. But if more people tried to hook them instead of just cussing at them, they might discover that cudas are way cooler than they thought.

As gamefish, barracuda are among the fastest fish you’ll hook into on our coast. Their speed is right up there with king mackerel. Plus, they have a really neat trick that kings don’t: They jump. The most impressive leaps I’ve seen on the water have not been tarpon or spinner sharks. Impressive as they are, neither can cover 30 feet in a single bound, then repeat it three more times in a row.

Few fish with excellent game qualities are equally renowned on the table. Mako sharks and wahoo, perhaps. You aren’t likely to catch either here. But barracuda are absolutely delicious, with firm white meat that is as mild as they themselves are ferocious. Cudas get a bum rap over ciguatera poisoning, but that’s actually very rare in our area.

Getting a barracuda to strike is easy. Just try reeling a snapper up past them. Getting one to take a hook is a little more challenging. I’ve got several suggestions for you to try.

The easiest way is usually with live bait. A chunky blue runner makes great bait. So does a hand-size grunt. Some anglers use a small lane snapper, but watch it: Using reef fish as bait is illegal in federal waters, and in state waters they have to be keeper size, kept whole and counted against your bag limit.

The primary method with live bait is simple free-lining. Cast the bait out and set the rod in a holder, then let your bait swim around and do its thing. Often the bait will swim toward the best cover around: The boat. This can work in your favor, since cudas like to hang around the boat as well. Sometimes we keep the bait close to the boat on purpose.

With the rod in the holder, make sure the drag is set very light. A hard-hitting barracuda can break the rod on the strike, or sometimes pull it overboard. Even if the rod is fine, the force of impact can rip the hooks right out of the fish. You need a shock absorber. Let the drag do its job.

Another method with bait is to imitate a fish being caught. For this, you need a fairly heavy weight — let’s say 6 to 10 ounces. Drop the bait over the side and let it hit the bottom. Wait about 30 seconds, then reel it back up. On reefs where cudas are used to attacking fish as they’re reeled up, this technique can be devastatingly effective.

Barracudas are not stupid fish, and they’ve learned to avoid hooks when stealing fish off lines. Usually they’ll go for the back half, slicing that off and leaving the head behind. They’ll do the same with baits, so you have to outsmart them.

A stinger rig — a second hook in the tail

section of the bait, attached to the eye of the first hook with wire — does the job well. The stinger can be a single hook or a treble. The wire should be brown so it’s not as noticeable. You should also use a short wire leader on the first hook. Six inches is plenty.

Some anglers like to troll with live baits, but if I’m going to troll I’ll switch over to artificial lures. Spoons are OK here, and so are lipped plugs (the shinier the better). But nothing beats a cuda tube. These lures look stupid: Just a length of brightly colored surgical tubing covering a piece of wire, with a hook at the back and a swivel on the front. For some reason, barracudas just love them.

A barracuda will often follow a fish, waiting for some sign of weakness. If it swims steady and strong, it may be ignored. But if its pace varies, that might indicate something’s wrong with it and it could be easier to catch. When you’re trolling for cudas, vary your speed. Throttle up, throttle down, even occasionally stop. Think of it as a twitch-pause retrieve, only you’re doing it with the boat instead of the reel.

Once you’ve hooked it and fought it, you have a decision to make: Is the fish going in the cooler or swimming free? Many people believe barracuda all have ciguatera toxins, or that they’re only good for shark bait. Neither of these is true.

While it’s true that some cudas have been implicated in ciguatera, more cases are caused by large snapper and grouper. Ciguatera originates in the algae that live inside hard corals. When reef-dwelling species like parrotfish munch on coral, the toxin from the algae collects in their bodies. Predators that eat these fish also end up with toxins in their bodies. If we eat these fish, we can get sick.

But the only fish that are likely to build up dangerous levels of the poison are ones that have lived on hard coral reefs for a long time. Our reefs are mostly soft coral. To find hard coral reefs, you need to go to the Keys or the Caribbean.

Now, some of the cudas you find here might have migrated from those areas, so it’s plausible to find a local barracuda with some ciguatera toxins. So to minimize the risk, I set a maximum size limit of 36 inches on the fish I keep for the table. Even if it’s lived its whole life on the reef, a cuda that size has probably not had time to build up dangerous levels of ciguatera.

As for the argument that they’re just not good to eat, try the barracuda challenge: Fillet a cuda and cook it alongside your favorite reef fish. Be sure to cut both fillets into chunks so you can’t tell them apart by sight. Now, serve them both as grouper fingers. The challenge: Find someone who doesn’t like the barracuda better.

The only real downside to barracuda is their very dangerous business end. If you’re bringing a barracuda home, the safest method for handling is with a gaff. Sling

the fish aboard and right into the fishbox. When it comes out at the end of the day, use extreme caution — even a dead barracuda can slice you up good.

If the fish is to be released, I don’t bother with photos. A nice long hook remover is the way to go, or you can cut the line. Keep a good safe distance between your hands and that mouthful of razors, and you’ll be A-OK.

The number of cudas on both our near-shore and offshore reefs has been pretty good for the last month or so, and it’s time to get out there and enjoy one of our most

overlooked gamefish. Just remember that safety comes first — but if you do manage to get bit, send me the photos.

As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on how and where to fish in Southwest Florida. Whether you’re a complete beginner or just looking to refine your techniques, he can help you get past the frustration and start catching more fish. Lessons can be held on your boat, on local piers or even in your backyard. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.

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An imperfect science

AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN

Shutterstock photo

Wanna make a bet that some forecaster was calling for blue skies and light winds?

We can guess, but no one knows just what the weather will do

As I write these words, it's early in the day. The sky is getting lighter and brighter, but the sun has not yet peeked above the horizon. Looking out the window, I can view a big enough body of water to see that there is not the slightest bit of wind and that the surface is as smooth and motionless as a sheet of ice.

But will it stay that way? Or, as often happens, will the wind come up as the sun climbs in the sky? How windy will it get today? Enough of a cooling breeze to make things comfortable, or so much wind that the whitecaps are blown off the wave tops? These are questions that are undoubtedly being pondered by a bunch of outdoorsmen this morning. And they're important questions, because the weather plays a huge part in fishing and boating.

We've got some tools at our disposal that can help us find answers to our weather questions. For example, a check of NOAA's marine weather forecast should be a part of everybody's pre-trip ritual. In the old days, this was done by tuning a VHF radio to a nearby weather station. I've spent untold hundreds of hours intently listening to WWG59 out of Venice, "The Voice Of The National Weather Service."

Few boaters listen to these broadcasts any more. More people, myself included, are checking forecasts from their computers or their mobile devices nowadays. The coastal marine forecast from Bonita Beach to Englewood and out 20 nautical miles can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2GCiumL>. There are other versions for north or south or further offshore.

As boaters are painfully aware, weather forecasting is not perfect. I have no statistics to back this up, but it seems like this past winter that there were more than the normal number of days when the wind blew more than we expected — sometimes way more. More information is usually better than less, so I like to also look at the NOAA general forecast for our area by visiting <http://bit.ly/2ZsKWig>.

There have been quite a few days during the last few months when these two forecasts have not been in good agreement. Sometimes they'll disagree to a modest extent about the forecast wind speed. When this happens, it seems like the general forecast almost always calls for higher winds than the marine forecast.

But on occasion, they are completely at odds with each other about when the wind will come up, the direction from which it will blow, and how hard. This puts us in a head-scratching dilemma when trying to plan boating activities.

When all else fails, you can look out the window to see what the weather is actually doing. If the trees are whipping and palm

fronds are flying, then you've got a pretty good clue that a forecast of 10 knots might be off the mark. But the internet allows us to open our figurative window to a much larger world than our backyard.

For example, there is a weather station installed on the Venice fishing pier, and you can look at current and past conditions at the pier by visiting <http://bit.ly/2GAwzBd>. This can be valuable if you're headed offshore (though it seems like the weather station at the pier under-reports winds from the northeast or the east for some reason).

By the way, hourly wind readings from the last 24 hours are displayed here and that information can be very helpful. The wind may be calm when you look at the site at daybreak, but if the wind blew all through the night prior, that's a clue things will be rough offshore.

There is also a weather reporting station on Marker 4 in the Peace River at Punta Gorda, courtesy of the Punta Gorda Boater's Alliance. You can see what the wind is doing at the mouth of the river by visiting <http://bit.ly/2KVOUNq>. It takes a little clicking around on the site and it's a bit clunky, but you can look at past data by going to the "Downloads" feature. This allows you to see how the wind blew overnight and to see if it's building or dropping.

But back to offshore. There are floating weather buoys out in the Gulf to our west and north. A couple of them have been offline for more than a year, but there are still two functioning buoys that you can see online.

These are especially useful in the winter when we are trying to predict the timing of the arrival of cold fronts. The fronts reach those buoys before they reach us here in Southwest Florida, and the progress of the fronts can be tracked by watching for the winds to shift at the offshore buoys. So I look at <http://bit.ly/2ZtK9xx> and <http://bit.ly/2vevpEY> when I'm trying to decide whether it's a good idea to head offshore in advance of an approaching front.

But still, weather forecasting is far from an exact science and probably never will be perfect. As long as there are boats, there will probably be boaters who will unexpectedly find themselves crashing and banging their way back to port.

Let's go fishing!

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



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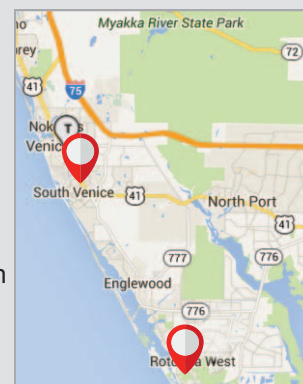


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Protect our waters: Dolphins



SLACK TIDES NEWS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

BLUE CRABS INVADE SPAIN



Iconic to the Jersey Shore, the blue crab evokes fond memories of spreading out newspapers, cracking shells, and scraping away for bits of succulent meat. But for some Europeans, the crab is a pugnacious, out-of-control "invasive voracious alien species, with no known predators," destroying fishing nets and killing other prized sea critters, according to a recent article published by a network of universities in Spain. The universities are based in Valencia, on Spain's southeastern coast off the Mediterranean Sea. The crabs started appearing in the Ebro Delta in 2012 and have expanded into the sea, rivers, and wetlands. University of Alicante Marine Research Centre scientist Carmen Barberá said the crab is spreading faster than researchers and officials can react. A collaboration of scientists and officials is underway to figure out how to control the crustacean. Joan Balagué, head of the fisherman's association in Sant Carles de la Ràpita on the Ebro Delta, told the Guardian that blue crabs are now often the only catch. "It devours everything, and the catch of local crabs and cockles has fallen as a result," Balagué said. Researchers say one of the biggest potential ways to control the crabs is to, well, start eating them. "It has become another resource and there's a market for it so it's profitable for fishermen," Balagué told the Guardian. "As fishermen we have to adapt and make the most of what we can get."

CAMO LIKE AN OCTOPUS



If scientist Roger Hanlon seems a little obsessed with octopuses, it's because he's been studying them for the past decade — and he thinks they could hold a key to advancements in fashion, cosmetics, and even medicine. For years, Hanlon and his team of researchers at the University of Chicago's Marine Biological Laboratory have been studying the unique capabilities of

cephalopods, or marine animals like octopuses, squids and cuttlefish. Last week, Hanlon presented his findings at the TED 2019 conference in Vancouver, Canada, where he argued that the skin of these animals might one day teach us how to make camouflage clothes or cosmetics that change color based on the lighting in a room. Though some cosmetic companies are aware that the technology exists, Hanlon said it could take about a decade before octopus-inspired makeup hits the market.

GREAT WHITE LEADS TO FINE

A Southern California angler who caught and killed a great white shark on Jan. 5 was sentenced April 19 to three years probation and fined \$250. Bodi Dee Roberts, 21, also was banned from Oceanside Pier in north San Diego County. Roberts caught the juvenile shark from the pier and was confronted by bystanders as he left with the carcass, according to 10 News San Diego. California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers eventually confronted Roberts and seized the shark. Great white sharks are protected by state and federal regulations off California. According to the CDFW, "It is illegal to catch, pursue, hunt, capture or kill a white shark, which includes intentionally attracting white sharks with bait or other methods." According to the Tracking Sharks blog, a witness said the 6-foot shark was initially identified by Roberts as a mako shark, and that it was gaffed and pulled onto the pier by several people. Catching mako sharks is legal. Roberts was charged with one misdemeanor count of the unlawful catch of a protected species. He could have been fined up to \$1,000.

BASS FISHING HEROES

(AP) — Two young anglers competing in a high school fishing tournament rescued two other competitors whose boat was sinking on a lake in northwest Alabama. Sardis High School 10th graders Garrett Howington and Issac Darden are being called heroes for their actions during an Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association tournament at Pickwick Lake. Howington and Darden were fishing on Saturday when they heard another fishing team calling for help. They tell the TimesDaily of Florence that the back of the other boat was filling up with water. They got close to the sinking boat and helped two students and an adult from Arab High School to safety. No one was injured. Kevin Walls, the coach of the fishing team Arab High School, says a boat malfunction caused the vessel to sink.

INVASIVE ROUNDUP

In an effort to reduce the number of invasive species in our waterways, there will be an invasive fish roundup next weekend. The free three-day competition is happening April 26-28. Weigh-ins will happen from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at Bass Pro Shops at Gulf Coast Town Center. It's designed for teams with one to four anglers per team in both youth and adult categories. Prizes will be awarded in both categories for heaviest invasive fish and highest total net

weight of invasive fish caught. Additionally, a grand slam prize will be awarded in both categories for the greatest diversity of invasive species caught. Prizes include chartered fishing trips, rods and reels, tackle boxes and lures, and more. Lures and tackle will also be awarded to the first 50 youth participants. Fishing during the competition is permitted in all legal freshwater fishing areas in Southwest Florida, including Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. All fish will be donated to feed wildlife patients at Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) and animals at the Naples Zoo and Shy Wolf Sanctuary. For more information and to register, go to <http://bit.ly/2XBQZiT>.

SWORDFISH RECORD FALLS



Bill and Debbie Lussier booked a swordfish trip with Islamorada fishing captain Nick Stanczyk a few months ago but had to postpone it because the wind was blowing too hard that day. They rescheduled it for March 31, and it turned out to be one for the books. Bill Lussier ended up reeling in a 757.8-pound swordfish, which broke the previous Florida record set in May 7, 1978. That's when Stephen Stanford reeled in a 612-pound broadbill off Key Largo, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Lussier, from Cape Coral, fought the fish for eight hours. The mammoth fish dragged Stanczyk's boat, the Broad Minded, 20 miles. "Every morning I left my house to go fishing saying, 'today could be the day.' Today was the day," Stanczyk wrote. "None of us were giving up!" After finally gaffing the fish around 4:20 p.m., Stanczyk knew it was the biggest one he's boated. But it wasn't until the party returned to Bud 'N' Mary's and pulled the fish onto the scale that he realized it was a record-breaker. "When we hoisted her up, the digital scale read 757.8 pounds! It was the one we were after," he said. Stanczyk cut it up into large steaks at the marina and gave the Lussiers a big cooler-full for them and their family and friends. Stanczyk gave a lot of the meat to his family and friends as well, but he also made a nice meal for his wife and baby daughter. "It was the best fish I've ever eaten," he said. "I don't know if it was the boost of mercury, the sweet taste of victory, or what, but it was good. Damn good."

YOU'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH

Who is the shark community's favorite film actress? Dorsal Day.

WHY IT MATTERS

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HOW WE HARM IT

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MAKING BETTER CHOICES

Watching dolphins is great, and they'll often come to you, allowing for close-up views and photos. Follow these tips to keep it safe:

- Dolphins are wild animals, and they have very sharp teeth. Hand-feeding them often results in ER-worthy injuries. Keep your hands in the boat.
- While their begging behavior can be cute and hard to resist, dolphins are efficient hunters and very capable of feeding themselves. Feeding them makes them dependent on handouts.
- If dolphins are trying to eat the fish you're reeling in or grabbing the ones you release, stop fishing and move. Continuing to fish in that spot will just result in the dolphins becoming more likely to steal from you and other fishermen in the future. Move at least a half-mile.
- Want dolphins to play in your wake? Throw the biggest one you can. A large plowing wake, like what you get at a speed almost but not quite fast enough to get on plane, is ideal.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD STEWARD AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR WATERS HEALTHIER — WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART!



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A good flush

WaterLine file photo
Purging storms make for rough days on the water, but we need the flush if we're going to have decent summer fishing.

A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD

Between the full moon and storm winds, our waters got a serious flush last weekend. This will move whatever fish we have out into the open waters. Backcountry waters have already been heated up and algae is dying, so fish moved out of the woods. It's time to see how our snook are doing — let's see how many show up around the passes.

The dead algae is a mess now. It's broken loose and drifting all over our inland waterways and heading for the Gulf beaches with these big tides. I pray it's not as bad as Fort Myers Beach endured. Maybe the storm's waves will break it up and move it away. It was getting to be a problem around Lemon Bay last week. The stinky black masses are hard to fish around as they tangle up with our fishing lines.

Area waters have warmed up to near 80 degrees and our spring migrations are past their peak. I'm optimistically hopeful we'll see more mackerel and kings, but God only knows. It's definitely time for silver kings to take over. We have had sporadic action and the word is out so the wannabees have appeared. Social media helps you stay up on movements, but it's also a curse as every

chucklehead comes out of the woodwork to chase the action.

I am looking forward to seeing how our fishing season comes together this year. Last year we endured red tide and an enormous amount of bad PR, so it's up in the air as to how business will be this summer. Everyone I talk to says bookings are way slower than normal. Tarpon fishing is a big part of our economy and we need a good season.

If we have any trout, this is when they are going to appear. It's been scary slow so far, but I'm hoping. I've seen no silver trout at all either. Whiting are missing, pompano have been just a tease here and there. We need some mackerel to feed our guests. We did see more ladyfish last week and a few bluefish. Baitfish have been abundant, just lots of small stuff. Glass minnows are abundant and provide food for any fish we have.

I have no idea what to expect for our fishery now. I've always been presently surprised by fish recovering after red tide kills. This one has me praying for fish soon. We are seeing a few pinfish and catfish already. These are good indicator species. They die off fast, so them bouncing back can

indicate new hope. We are catching some flounder offshore already; these also are usually hammered by fish kills.

I'm worried about how much damage all those shrimp boats did to our natural hard bottom. I like eating shrimp and I've enjoyed the shark fishing by these rigs. Their bycatch chummed up plenty of shark action. But they killed millions of pass crabs and other fish food. It's going to be interesting to see how our pass crab population is this summer on spring tides. Many of the crabs had eggs. This year we had a serious number of boats working our waters. Will that make a difference this summer? I hope the Whidden's shrimp boat is still catching.

Snapper could be our salvation. June will see the opening of red snapper and gag grouper season, and these should be great for deep water fishing. Mangrove snapper can show up in the Pass and around oyster bars inside. Lane snapper have been harder to find so far in state waters. Yellowtails and a few mutton snapper are more abundant recently, though hogfish are not showing up this year here. It's a new world, and eventually time will spell it out for us all.

It's an uncomfortable feeling for me to be guessing about so many aspects of our fisheries. For many years I was usually able to anticipate what to target and when — but not anymore. Everything is anyone's guess. I'm just glad our waters have cleaned up and we have hope.

One last point to ponder, please. With many species closures and size restrictions, catch and release is important to our future fisheries. How we handle fish is important for survival. The less we handle release fish, the better. We shouldn't be removing bigger breeder fish from water for trophy shots! Lean over and keep the fish in water.

Let's challenge each other to improve our techniques, raise the bar and set higher stewardship standards. We are the examples others follow, so show them the best methods and protect our future fishing. Thank you all.

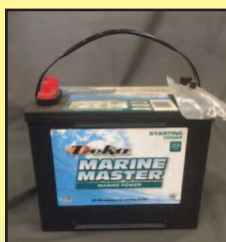
Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.



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Sarasota
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(4/18 report) The **redfish** and **snook** bite has been very steady, with the reds more abundant than anyone expected (although the best bite has been north and south of Sarasota Bay for now). Juvenile **tarpon** have been in the ICW, and we're waiting for the big ones to show up. A few crabs are moving out on the big tides. In fresh water, we're getting a lot of **bass** on live worms and some on plastic frogs.

GULF & OFFSHORE

The **kingfish** bite is solid within 5 miles of shore. We're also seeing lots of **Spanish mackerel**, but **sheepshead** are down to about nothing. **Permit** are on the nearshore wrecks eating crabs. **Mangrove snapper** reports are still good as well.

BEST BET

Trout action has been great around Palma Sola and Vamo. The biggest ones are hitting live bait, but we're also catching on soft plastics too.

MALCOLM

COOKS SPORTLAND
Venice
941-493-0025

(4/18 report) The water should be clearing after this last front, and more fish will be moving out to the beaches. The backcountry has been clear all along, and a lot of our **snook** and **redfish** have moved back into those areas. **Trout** action should also be picking up. In the fresh water, **bass** are still working on the spawn. Look for them feeding around steep banks and chasing minnows. **Catfish** are good around moving water.

No reports this week — way too windy.

Hit the ICW for a mixed bag. From the Circus Bridge to the Manasota Bridge there should be lots of activity.

JIM

FISHERMAN'S EDGE
Grove City
941-697-7595

(4/18 report) There has been a good **trout** bite along the ICW from Placida to the north end of Pine Island Sound on soft plastic jerkbaits. **Pompano** are scattered from the beaches into the backcountry. **Spanish mackerel** are riding the tides into the lower Harbor. **Tarpon** have been in and out of Boca Grande Pass, but also in the Harbor and Pine Island Sound. The Lemon Bay docks are still holding some **sheepshead**.

Good numbers of **kingfish** are coming from just a couple miles off the beaches. **Porgies** and **grunts** are on the nearshore reefs, and we're also seeing some **lane snapper** a little deeper. **Permit** have been fairly numerous on the wrecks. Out at 100 feet, there are **red grouper**, but few really big ones.

Snook are hot around the mangroves and out toward the beaches, though there are few in the surf yet. Fish soft plastics or live bait.

JEFF

CAPT. TED'S TACKLE
Port Charlotte
941-627-6800

Tarpon have moved back into the Pass in very fishable numbers. The **snook** bite has been good, with lots of fish on the move and heading generally toward the ICW and beaches. The flats of the west wall are producing a mixed bag of **trout**, **redfish** and snook. Canal action is slowing down as the water heats up, though there are plenty of **catfish**. **Sheepshead** are on deeper oysters.

Those who have been out report lots of **snapper** on the reefs, along with some **tuna** and **kingfish** around bait. **Sharks** are everywhere from the reefs to the beaches.

Fish in and around the passes for migrating fish (both coming and going) eager to eat before the spawn or move on.

ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S
Charlotte Harbor
941-625-3888

The east and west sides have loads of **snook** and a few **redfish**. The bite in Bull and Turtle bays is good also. Plan to move around a bit to find fish. Some **cobia** and smaller **sharks** are outside the east wall bar and around Cape Haze. A lot of **tarpon** moved into the Pass on Tuesday. **Pompano** and **whiting** are on the beaches, with more fish north than south.

Larger **sharks** have showed up just off the beaches. **Tripletail** are still around, but the traps are disappearing soon. **Cobia** and **permit** are on the wrecks. At 20 to 30 miles, we're seeing some good **lane** and **mangrove snapper**, plus some monster **yellowtail** to 5 pounds.

Spanish mackerel are scattered all over the Harbor, but the best fishing is out toward the passes. Troll spoons and look for birds.

CAMERON

RIO VILLA
BAIT & TACKLE
Punta Gorda
941-639-7166

(4/18 report) **Spanish mackerel** have been caught trolling spoons around bait pods in the Harbor and outside the bars in 6 feet of water. Some **bluefish** are mixed in. Catch-and-release **snook** action is good on live whitebait in the canal mouths. **Largemouth bass** around the spillways of Port Charlotte are eating live shiners and Rat-L-Traps. If you're throwing a small enough lure, **tilapia** will also hit it.

No reports.

Look for **tarpon**, anywhere from the holes to the I-75 bridges. Slow troll a live ladyfish or silver mullet, let the rod holder do the work. Keep a rod rigged in case a **cobia** swims by.

CAPT. JOHNNY

D&D MATLACHA
BAIT & TACKLE
Matlacha
239-282-9122

Sharks are all over, including some big bull sharks cruising in the backcountry. Smaller **tarpon** have been in the canals, taking pinfish or small baitfish flies early in the day. Schools of **jacks** are around the bridges and canals mouths and up as far as Two Pines. **Trout** have been improving, with some guides reporting 50-fish days. Deeper grass has been key. A few **cobia** have been hooked at the Matlacha Bridge.

The **red grouper** bite has been good for those who could get past the winds. Snapper have been tough in close, but they're good deeper.

Snook of all sizes are hungry and available. Fish in the 40-inch class are taking cutbait under the trees, and little ones are hitting whitebait.

JACK

BAIT N WAIT
Fort Myers Beach
239-466-8737

(4/18 report) **Snook** have been under the Hurricane Bridge and a few **tarpon** are under the Sanibel Causeway. The red seaweed has cleared up.

No reports.

Sharks have been all over from the ICW to the beaches, making fishing tough (unless of course you like catching sharks).

THE FISH COACH'S TIP OF THE WEEK: There's been a lot of interest in beach fishing for the past couple weeks. I have good news and bad news about that. The bad news is that beach fishing is a shadow of what it used to be, mostly due to beach renourishment projects that dump offshore silt on top of tidal zone communities. The good news is there are still some killer spots. How can you tell the difference? Look for life. Beaches that have abundant sand fleas and coquinas in the surf are much more likely to produce pompano, whiting, black drum and other fish. The best places are where renourishment doesn't happen. My favorite beach to fish is Cayo Costa, which is as close to a natural beach as you can find these days. The southern third (farthest away from drifting silt coming off renourishment projects to the north) is the most productive. Silly jigs and small bucktails tipped with shrimp will produce fish. — *As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on fishing techniques. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.*

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ANGLING 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ



Gear up to chase silver

WaterLine file photo by Capt. Josh Olive

Tarpon are massively powerful fish, and your tackle had better be up to the challenge.

If you want to catch tarpon, now is the time to get the right tackle

Tarpon are starting to show up about now. Really, they have been here for about six weeks, but most people didn't expect them and haven't been fishing them. Fishing for them is amazing and frustrating in equal parts. The silver king is high on almost every fisherman's bucket list. It was number one on mine for years, and tarpon are still my favorite.

They fight so hard and jump so high it's breathtaking. They not only will fight to the death but will flat-out wreck your tackle. You really need very good gear if you want to take these fish on. Your hooks must be sharp and your knots must be tight, or you will lose before the fight even starts.

I'd like to talk about basic tarpon tackle. With a lot of fish, you can go economical on the rod and reel to fit a budget. Sure, you can drop \$500 on a snook rod — or you can get a decent setup for under \$100.

But with tarpon, that's a bit tougher. Cheap gear might land you one or two fish, but it definitely won't last against these tackle-busters. You need a rod that can take a lot of abuse yet also be sensitive and cast well, and a reel with well-made gears, a smooth strong drag, and lots of line capacity (250 to 300 yards of 50-pound braid).

For line, braid is preferred for a couple of reasons. Castability is first. Being able to maximize your throwing distance will increase your chances of hooking fish. Ten feet of extra distance is huge in tarpon fishing. The other reason is braid doesn't have the memory or stretch of mono, so you don't have to replace your line after one or two fish.

Line capacity is important. A tarpon can peel off 100 yards of line in the time it takes to say it. If it is out 100 yards and turns past a crab trap or boat and breaks you off, a high-capacity reel means you still have enough line to keep fishing. How many of us carry extra line to respool or have an extra rod and reel to keep fishing?

There are some great reels out there. I lean toward the ones that have been tried and tested. The Penn Spinfisher 6500 is probably the most popular. It's a bit heavy but almost bulletproof. On the lighter side, we have the Penn Clash 6000 and Shimano Saragosa 8000 or 10000. On the lower end of the price scale are the Penn Battle 6000, Daiwa BG 6000, and Fin-Nor Lethal 60. These reels have been used for years and proven to be very good. There are others, but these are the most popular in our area.

A rod of 7.5 to 8 feet is ideal for maximizing your casting distance. The Star Stellar Lite 15-25 and 15-30 are the best sellers for us. The Shimano Teramar X80XH and X80XXH are close behind. Star came out with new models this year that look promising:

The Sequence 8-foot 20-50 and 15-40. The locally-made Reaper rods are amazing also. All of these rods do a great job for casting live bait or artificials.

If you want a great multitasking setup, match a Penn Spinfisher Live Liner reel with a Billfisher 7-foot 17-40 or Star Aerial 15-30. This setup is a bit heavy for casting or holding all day, but the dual-drag reel and heavy rod add a lot of versatility. Inshore, it's great for tarpon, cobia and medium-sized sharks. Offshore, you can use it trolling for kings and gag grouper, or bottom fishing for grouper and amberjack.

For leader, you need a minimum of 60-pound test. For early-season fish, 80-pound is better. The fish are stronger in the cooler water, so battles are often longer and heavier line is better for abrasion resistance. Fluorocarbon leader will definitely get you more bites. The water is at its clearest of the year for the next six to eight weeks until the rainy season really starts. Hi-Seas is my personal favorite brand, but there are a lot of other good brands too.

There is no such thing as an unbreakable or unbendable hook, especially with the immense pressure a tarpon will put on them. Owner's 7/0 SSW needle point J-hook has been used for a long time. So have the Owner Mutu circle 7/0 and VMC 8/0 circle. The Trokar TK3 in 7/0 and 8/0 has been extremely popular the last couple of years. It is more expensive and can be hard to find sometimes.

I know the first hook I mentioned was a J-hook but all the others were circle hooks. Don't frown at me. The most popular circle hooks are offset models. which means they are not much different in practical terms than a J-hook. Inline or tournament circle hooks are very different.

Other terminal tackle you will need includes splitshot sinkers, floats (bobbers) and swivels. Check these items before you head out. More than one tarpon trip has been ruined for lack of a cheap styrofoam float.

As far as lures go, the DOA trolling model Bait Buster is the top dog. It has a stronger hook and is heavier than the other versions of the Bait Buster. You can troll with these, but we usually cast and retrieve them. Storm WildEye swimbaits in the 6-inch size are a close second. These two lures are rigged and ready when you buy them. Other lures in the soft plastic category need to be rigged with hooks.

My favorite hard baits are the Rapala X-Raps in the single-hook version. With any other hard lures, I swap the factory treble hooks out for single inline hooks. Tarpon often break off, and I don't want to leave the

fish with a bunch of hooks that can pin its mouth shut. It would be a sad end for such a regal fish to starve because I was too lazy to change the hooks.

If you're interested in tarpon fishing, this information just barely scratches the surface. Stop by the shop and we can talk in depth if you want. Or maybe you're better off not knowing — tarpon fishing is addictive, and

there are already a lot of us overdue for our next fix.

Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle, located at 4425-D Tamiami Trail in Charlotte Harbor and at 14531 N. Cleveland Ave. in North Fort Myers. Call 941-625-3888 for more information about the shop or for local fishing info, or visit them online at FishinFranks.com.

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Reader Photos



Stefan Marsh and his son Christopher teamed up on this snook in the Placida backcountry.



Joe Sheaffer caught and released this 32-inch Gasparilla Sound redfish.



2-year-old Grace Conk and her grandfather with her first catch ever while visiting from New Jersey.



Matthew Shappell with a red grouper caught aboard the Best Catch.



James Santarsiero spotted these dolphins in the wake of his houseboat while Capt. Austin Kopp drove it to Bradenton.



Kimberly Ingbreton 19.25-inch red was the longest entered in the recent South Gulf Cove Women's Fishing Tournament.

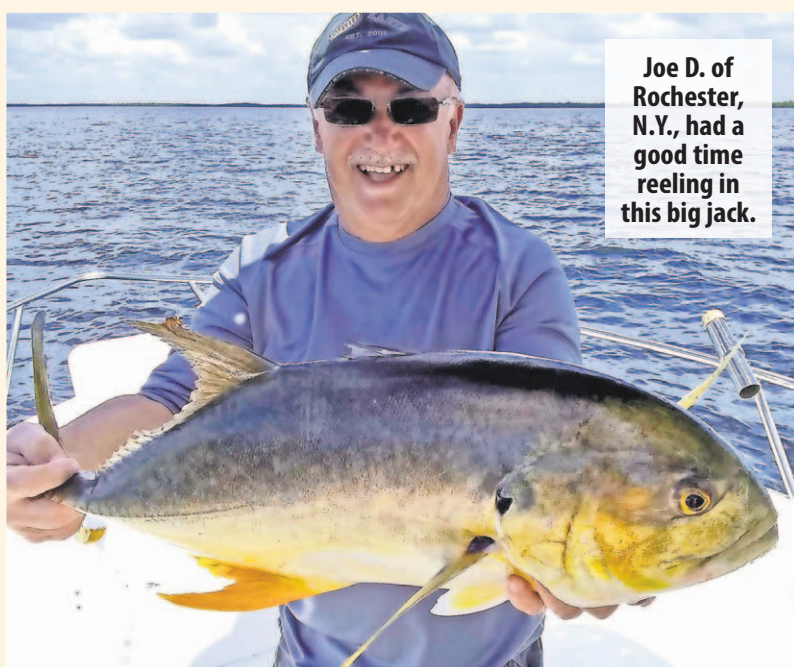


Jani from Columbus, Ohio, caught this 28-inch red grouper 22 miles off Stump Pass.



Al Bolan and his grandson Nolen Kassins caught a nice pair of grouper fishing with Richard Madison.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!
Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead will not be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.



Joe D. of Rochester, N.Y., had a good time reeling in this big jack.



Bob Miller caught this fun little tunny at the Boxcars with Chuck Lueck.



Joshua Ruh caught his very first snook with Capt Matt Glass.

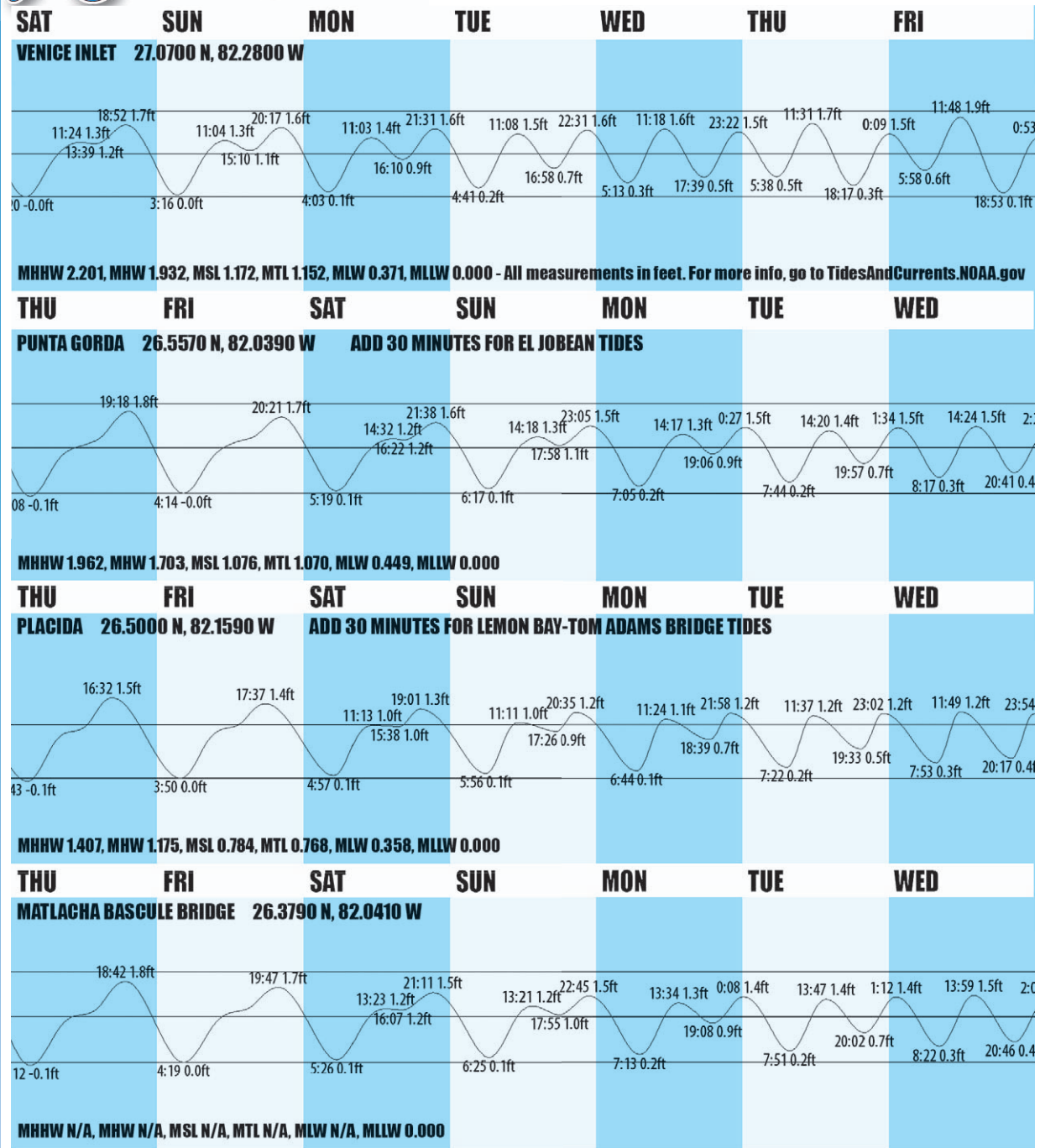


7-year-old Joshua Cermak came all the way from Michigan to catch and release his first gag grouper while fishing with Grampa Bubba.



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THE WORLD**

WaterLine TIDE CHARTS



VENICE INLET		PUNTA GORDA		PLACIDA		MATLACHA	
Saturday	Low Tide 2:20 -0.0 High Tide 11:24 1.3 Low Tide 13:39 1.2 High Tide 18:52 1.7	Thursday	Low Tide 3:08 -0.1 High Tide 19:18 1.8	Thursday	Low Tide 2:43 -0.1 High Tide 16:32 1.5	Thursday	Low Tide 3:12 -0.1 High Tide 18:42 1.8
Sunday	Low Tide 3:16 0.0 High Tide 11:04 1.3 Low Tide 15:10 1.1 High Tide 20:17 1.6	Friday	Low Tide 4:14 -0.0 High Tide 20:21 1.7	Friday	Low Tide 3:50 0.0 High Tide 17:37 1.4	Friday	Low Tide 4:19 0.0 High Tide 19:47 1.7
Monday	Low Tide 4:03 0.1 High Tide 11:03 1.4 Low Tide 16:10 0.9 High Tide 21:31 1.6	Saturday	Low Tide 5:19 0.1 High Tide 14:32 1.2 Low Tide 16:22 1.2 High Tide 21:38 1.6	Saturday	Low Tide 4:57 0.1 High Tide 11:13 1.0 Low Tide 15:38 1.0 High Tide 19:01 1.3	Saturday	Low Tide 5:26 0.1 High Tide 13:23 1.2 Low Tide 16:07 1.2 High Tide 21:11 1.5
Tuesday	Low Tide 4:41 0.2 High Tide 11:08 1.5 Low Tide 16:58 0.7 High Tide 22:31 1.6	Sunday	Low Tide 6:17 0.1 High Tide 14:18 1.3 Low Tide 17:58 1.1 High Tide 23:05 1.5	Sunday	Low Tide 5:56 0.1 High Tide 11:11 1.0 Low Tide 17:26 0.9 High Tide 20:35 1.2	Sunday	Low Tide 6:25 0.1 High Tide 13:21 1.2 Low Tide 17:55 1.0 High Tide 22:45 1.5
Wednesday	Low Tide 5:13 0.3 High Tide 11:18 1.6 Low Tide 17:39 0.5 High Tide 23:22 1.5	Monday	Low Tide 7:05 0.2 High Tide 14:17 1.3 Low Tide 19:06 0.9	Monday	Low Tide 6:44 0.1 High Tide 11:24 1.1 Low Tide 18:39 0.7 High Tide 21:58 1.2	Monday	Low Tide 7:13 0.2 High Tide 13:34 1.3 Low Tide 19:08 0.9
Thursday	Low Tide 5:38 0.5 High Tide 11:31 1.7 Low Tide 18:17 0.3	Tuesday	High Tide 0:27 1.5 Low Tide 7:44 0.2 High Tide 14:20 1.4 Low Tide 19:57 0.7	Tuesday	Low Tide 7:22 0.2 High Tide 11:37 1.2 Low Tide 19:33 0.5 High Tide 23:02 1.2	Tuesday	High Tide 0:08 1.4 Low Tide 7:51 0.2 High Tide 13:47 1.4 Low Tide 20:02 0.7
Friday	High Tide 0:09 1.5 Low Tide 5:58 0.6 High Tide 11:48 1.9 Low Tide 18:53 0.1	Wednesday	High Tide 1:34 1.5 Low Tide 8:17 0.3 High Tide 14:24 1.5 Low Tide 20:41 0.4	Wednesday	Low Tide 7:53 0.3 High Tide 11:49 1.2 Low Tide 20:17 0.4 High Tide 23:54 1.2	Wednesday	High Tide 1:12 1.4 Low Tide 8:22 0.3 High Tide 13:59 1.5 Low Tide 20:46 0.4

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KAYAK FISHING • KIMBALL & LES BEERY

Bait fishing from a kayak



Photo by Les Beery
Kimball shows off a lovely largemouth bass. Note the bait bucket setup behind her seat.

We mostly fish with soft plastic lures, but there are times when having a couple of dozen live shrimp on board (or shiners and minnows for freshwater fishing) can make the difference between fishing and catching.

Baitfish and live shrimp require aeration to keep them alive and frisky. There are kayaks with homemade circulating baitwells big enough for whitebait or pinfish behind the seat, but these take up a lot of room and space is a limited commodity. We use the same yellow-and-white shrimp buckets anglers have used for years and are readily available at any bait and tackle store. Secured behind the seat in the cargo well and equipped with a battery-powered air pump, it will do the job.

You do need to be somewhat agile to be able to reach behind you to retrieve a shrimp. The spring-loaded door closes automatically after each bait grab. One important detail: Make sure the pump doesn't touch the kayak. The vibrations from the pump are amplified by the hollow boat, and the noise will cause your shallow-water targets to leave the area. Hang it from a bungee cord or something to keep it from touching the kayak hull.

If you don't have a pump or the pump battery dies while you're out fishing, you can hang the bucket over the side on a rope or stringer to aerate and exchange the water. If you end up trolling the bait bucket over the side, it will tend to bump into the kayak, spooking wary flats fish. It also gets in the way when paddling or landing a fish. Shrimp react poorly to tainted water or rapid changes in temperature. In other words, they die. This is why it's usually better to use a pump.

On trips where we want live shrimp but don't want to carry a bait bucket, there's an innovative alternative: Shrimp will live for hours in a cold wet towel. We use this method exclusively when walking the beach, but it also works great in a kayak. Just before you launch, soak a small towel with water from your bait bucket and wring it out. Now put a dozen or two shrimp on the towel. Sounds simple but the shrimp won't cooperate.

So, quickly spread out the shrimp on the towel, fold in the edges and roll it up. Then wrap a plastic ice cube blanket around the towel holding the shrimp. Put this assemblage into a large plastic zipper bag, then put the bag in a separate small cooler or in with your cold beverages. With the bag upright, you can reach in between the towel layers to pick

out one shrimp at a time. Shrimp carried this way are a bit lethargic at first but get frisky when they warm up.

This towel trick is also a good idea for bringing along a few shrimp for tipping a plastic-rigged jig to add a scent trail. We tip jigs in sandy or cloudy water. Some folks use sections of frozen shrimp for this, but we think fresh shrimp smell better to fish.

The most common mistake anglers make when tipping a jig is using too large a chunk. One section of a medium shrimp tail is about right. Cutting the shrimp sections with a knife or scissors works better than pinching a piece off. Push the point of the hook in one side of the shell and out the other for holding power. Of course, if your game plan changes to bottom fishing, you can remove the plastic and hook a whole shrimp on the jig. Either way, it never hurts to have a few fresh shrimp along.

Here's an idea for using baitfish. On some trips, we find ourselves standing on a shallow beach with baitfish all around our feet, so we carry a small castnet in a minnow bait bucket with an air pump that will fit into a hatch or storage area. A quick toss of the net will catch a few for the bucket and the air pump will keep them alive for a while.

Don't forget to toss out live bait under a cork during your lunch break. While doing that we've been pleasantly interrupted by hungry snook. Bait is in the shallows to avoid the predators lurking off shore. If you waded out a bit and deliver something tasty to these predators with a long cast, you can make their day (and they can make yours).

Kimball, though she is an expert with artificials, is more likely than Les to bring along some live bait, and she consistently catches more fish. Les, being slightly more devoted to artificials (and a wee bit lazy) will toss soft baits all day until Kimball starts catching fish on bait. About then, he gladly takes advantage of any extra bait she brought along and turns into an enthusiastic bait fisherman. Hey — if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Kimball and Les Beery, authors of the waterproof "Angler's Guide to Shore Fishing" and "Angler's Guide to Kayak Fishing Southwest Florida," contribute these columns to promote the excellent fishing available in Southwest Florida. Their books are available at most tackle shops in the area or at AnglerPocketGuides.com as a download or waterproof hard copy.



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LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST: 1-Bayshore Piers, 2-Lashley Pier, 3-Ponce de Leon Park Pier, 4-The Skating Rink, 5-Alligator Creek Reef (Charlotte Harbor Reef), 6-Matlacha Bridge, 7-Sanibel Lighthouse Pier, 8-Jug Creek, 9-The Phosphate Docks, 10-Danger Reef, 11-Gallagher Cut, 12-The Tailing Flats, 13-Placida Pier / Placida Trestles, 14-Ski Alley (western cut), Rag Alley (eastern cut), 15-Tom Adams Bridge/Ainger Pier, 16-El Jobean Pier, 17-Snook Haven, 18-Venice Municipal Pier, 19-Venice Jetties.

Want to learn more local fishing spots? Tune in to Radio WaterLine on KIX Country 92.9 FM every Saturday from 7 to 9 a.m. for Spot Check! This week's spot will be **Mohawk Reef.**



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To build or not to build?



THE RV LIFESTYLE • GREG BARTZ

Shutterstock photo

Your RV can take you to many amazing places — but let's be honest, it's going to spend most of the time parked in storage.

About a month ago I was on the verge of building a standalone garage in our backyard to hold the boat and the RV — something simple to keep the sun and elements from beating on our toys. Now, I may be having second thoughts about it.

When I first decided to have something like this built, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted. I looked for a while to get a few ideas of what we might need. I even found someone and got a price on a bigger garage (since we're planning to one day upgrade to a bigger RV). Then I priced out getting one side of the garage walled from top to bottom so the sun couldn't get to the boat. But after all that, I'm rethinking what I want to do.

My biggest concern was the boat. Most boat owners know that the gelcoat can get ruined just by being in the sun. The RV was showing some color fading, mostly on the decal package on the box, which I was less than happy with. But while I was making

plans, I was forgetting that we already have a two-car garage. It's currently filled with a riding lawnmower, a workbench, cabinets and golf clubs.

With some rearranging, I came up with a plan that would allow the boat to be stored in the garage, and a lean-to could be built on the side of the house so we could keep the RV in the location it is now. I like it on the side of the house because it's safe there from potential tree damage during heavy winds.

So my plan may have changed. At the very least, I want to get a price on what it would cost to have things converted before I erect a big new building in the backyard.

The biggest drawback to adding that new garage would be that it would take up a large portion of the backyard. Well, it would give me less grass to mow — but that's a topic for another day. And, I am not 100 percent sure that the garage would look good in the backyard completely

segregated from the house. It's just hard for me to visualize.

We have a builder coming out to give us a ballpark number as to what it would cost to stretch out the garage about five feet, get the roof over that extension covered, and have a garage door installed. I figured it was at least worth getting a quote before we decided to rebuild the backyard and put a structure up back there that is quite large (24 by 63 feet). If the price is reasonable, then we just may go ahead and have the garage rebuilt slightly so we can keep all the structure intact.

It's funny how you can get completely sold on one idea, and then you decide to look for a better way to do it. I couldn't simply be happy with a nice big new garage. I had to go off and see if there is a better, more economical way to do this that may be more pleasing to the eye.

Really, one of the biggest concerns I

had was resale value. If we decide to move (maybe even move into the RV after we retire), would anyone be willing to buy the house with a big building tucked in the backyard? I guess that's a question that I may never have to answer if we decide to stay put and just keep our toys with us. But you never know. If we do eventually sell, I think a bigger attached garage increases the value of the house a lot more than an outbuilding.

So for now, we stand pat until we get a price. But it won't be long now before the RV finds itself a permanent home on the property. Where that is remains to be seen — but we will know soon enough.

Greg Bartz is a tournament bass fisherman based in Lakeland. Greg fishes lakes throughout Florida's Heartland and enjoys RV travel around the Southeast with his wife and tournament partner, Missy. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@SummitHoldings.com.

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The big boys of summer



ANGLING 201 • CAPT. KARL BUTIGIAN



WaterLine file photo
 With winter behind us, it's time to start playing with some larger fish.

The calendar says spring, but we all know that once Easter is behind us, it's summer in Southwest Florida. With the heat we see big fish like sharks and tarpon moving in. This can be a fun time to fish, but you're going to need to beef up your gear.

I usually use the same gear for tarpon and sharks (unless we're going for really big sharks; then I will go even bigger). The rods I use are 8-foot Reapers. I have two weight classes: The 15-40 I use for casting crabs on the beach and for casting DOA Bait Busters or other lures.

When I'm using ladyfish for bait or deep-dropping in the Pass, I break out the 20-50 class rods. These rods have more beef for pulling, but you'll wear yourself out casting with them. On both setups, I use 65- or 80-pound test braid and 60- to 80-pound leader.

We are still early in the year, and the tarpon that are here are moving around a lot. I'll start out looking in the Harbor around our three 20-foot holes. Once I find them there, I like to use ladyfish. I put them on a float, usually about 4 to 6 feet under it. Then I drift or use my trolling motor to drag my lady fish around the area very slowly.

This time of year it's hard to find the fish without a side-scan fish finder. The water's not hot enough yet. When the water gets hotter, they will start rolling a lot more to gulp air because the oxygen levels are a lot lower.

Now if I can't find them in the deep holes, I'll drive the boat out to Boca Grande Pass to see if they are there. If I find them in the Pass, my favorite method is to drop down some crabs. You're going to have to experiment to find the right size depending on how fast the current is.

Later in the year they'll move out to the beaches, and then most of the time I'll be free-lining crabs or putting them under floats. How far under the floats changes depending on the water depth. The beach fishing can be a lot of fun because they tend to jump more when they are in shallower water. Just remember to bow to the king.

The shark fishing has been good and is only going to get better. I generally do my shark fishing closer to the Pass as I tend to find a lot more sharks out that way. I think it's the saltier water. Many fishermen will anchor and chum to catch sharks. I put out chum blocks, but I don't because the anchor line is one more thing the shark can break you off on. Instead, I drift and use my trolling motor if I feel the need to move.

My favorite shark bait is bonita. I also use ladyfish and mullet, but the bonita stinks (in a good way) and works very well for me. I don't put the whole fish on; just chunks cut from the side.

Remember that you'll need steel leader so the sharks won't bite through your line. If I'm using braid, I will tie in a piece of mono before my steel leader for a shock absorber. One more thing: Don't try using your redfish and snook pliers to take a hook out of a shark's mouth. It's not smart. I like my hands intact, and I'll bet you guys do too.

Capt. Karl Butigian lives, breathes and eats Florida fishing. He owns and operates KB Back Country Charters (KBBackCountryChartersFishing.com) on the waters of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. To book a trip or for info, call him at 941-565-7325.

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CAMARONES ACAPULQUEÑOS

- 1 pound raw shrimp in shell
- 4 tbsp butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup parsley, finely chopped
- 3 medium tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 3 tbsp tomato paste
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/3 cup brandy
- 2 cups steamed rice

**A clip-n-save seafood
 recipe provided by**



Peel and devein shrimp and set aside. Put the shrimp shells in a small saucepan with 2 cups water. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Strain; discard shells. Measure the liquid. There should be 1 cup. If necessary, reduce it over brisk heat or make up the quantity with water. Set liquid aside. Heat the butter in a skillet and add the garlic and parsley. Sauté for 2 minutes, taking care not to let the garlic burn. Add the tomatoes and simmer until the mixture is thick, about 10 minutes. Add the shrimp stock and tomato paste; stir to mix. Season with salt and pepper and add brandy. Bring to a simmer, add the shrimp, cover, and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Serve on a bed of steamed rice. Serves 4.

— Recipe adapted from All-Fish-Seafood-Recipes.com

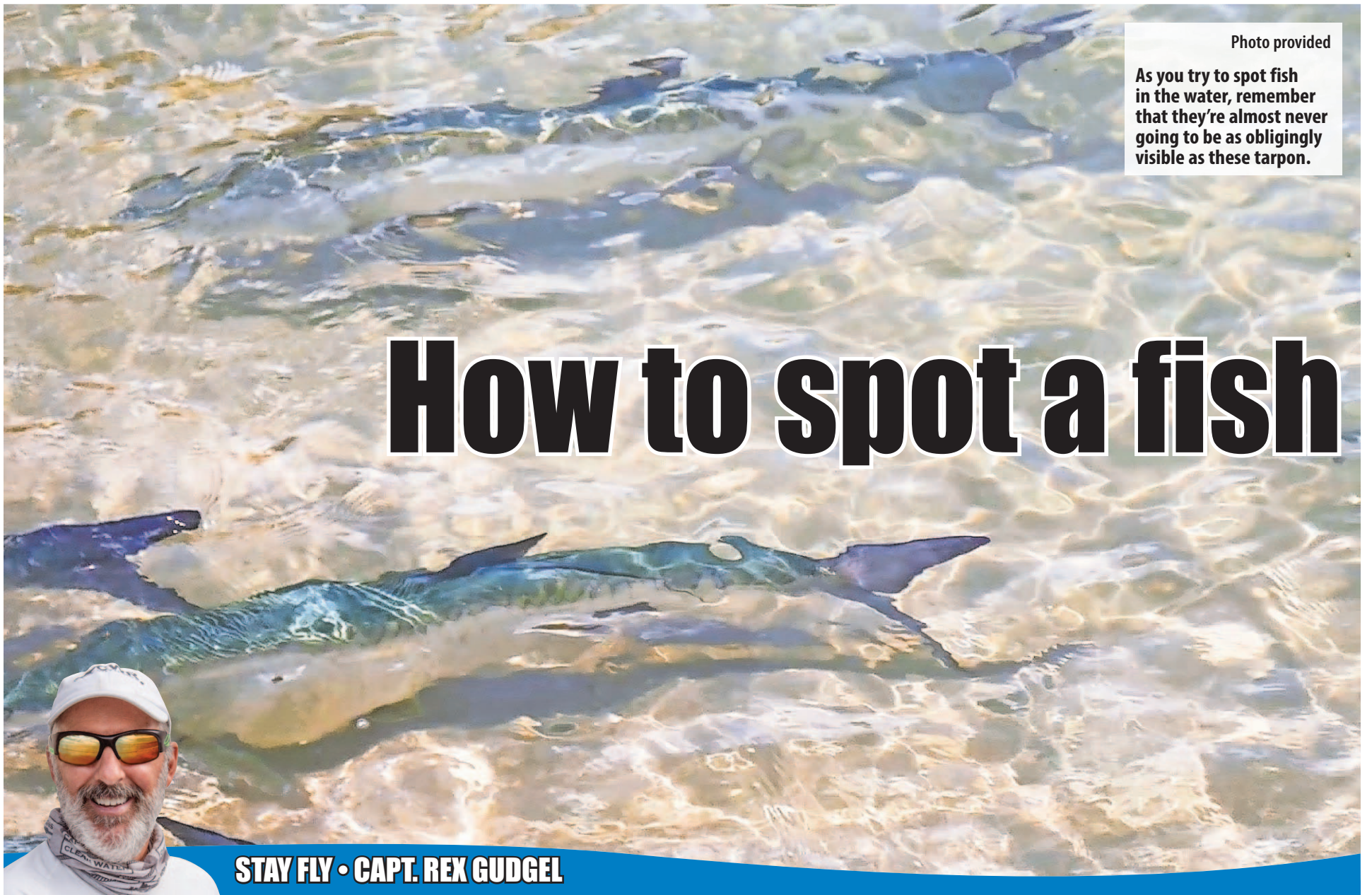


Photo provided
As you try to spot fish in the water, remember that they're almost never going to be as obligingly visible as these tarpon.

How to spot a fish

STAY FLY • CAPT. REX GUDGEL

I think the ultimate experience in the fly fishing game is stalking a fish, seeing it, making a good cast, moving the fly properly and then having all of those steps come together as the fish eats the fly. Bravo! Fish on!

But if just one of those steps falters, the chance of catching that fish drops dramatically. Yes, we have all had that "suicide fish" experience where the cast lands ten feet behind the target — and instead of spooking, the fish turns around, comes all the way back and eats the fly. I love crazy fish, and being lucky rather than good is a blessing!

However, we all must admit that this scenario 99 percent of the time turns into one of those "shoulda, coulda, woulda" head-hangin', lip-bitin' episodes. Ask a hardcore fly angler if he'd rather catch a dozen fish blind-casting or a couple sight-fishing, and you'll probably hear a consistent chorus singing the praises of that skill-meets-patience-meets-focus thrillfest we call sight-fishing.

One of the things that I hear most as I am up on the poling platform pointing out fish is, "I don't see it." Well, if you're sight fishing and can't see the fish, it's going to be a long day for you and your guide. Spotting fish is a skill, and like casting or any other skill, it takes patience and practice to develop.

What will help you see fish better?

Let's look at some gear. We all know how critical a good pair of polarized sunglasses is to breaking the glare on the water and allowing you to see the bottom with more contrast. Along with protecting our eyes from errant fly casts or debris while running the boat, a good pair of well-fitting sunglasses is the first step into looking past the surface of the water into the fishes world below. I'm not trying to sell you any particular brand; there are many (Kaenon, Smith and Costa, to name a few).

Before you buy, make sure that they have a couple of key features. I like my shades to wrap around my face as much as possible, cutting down on the light that will cause side glare. Also make sure that the glasses have a good nonslip nose piece. The sweaty days of summer and tarpon season are just about upon us, and there is nothing worse than to be lining up on a silver king or queen and have your shades suddenly slide down to the end of your nose and threaten to fall your face completely.

Be sure your hat's bill has a dark underside. This will eliminate the light coming in from above and causing glare, plus it will help protect your nose and face from the sun's rays. One more glare-fighting tool to use is the buff. Put on your hat and shades, then pull your buff all the way up to the bottom of your glasses and up over your ears

and hat in back. This takes care of the light coming up from the bottom and the sides. These little tricks will help immensely with cutting the glare as you look into the water.

Aside from the fancy lenses, what else can you do to better see fish? Elevation helps. If you're on the bow of a flats boat, there is a good chance there's a casting platform (or cooler) for you to stand on. This changes the angle from your eyes to the water, reducing the reflections on the surface that inhibit your sight.

By the way, if you haven't stood and cast from a casting platform too often (or at all), make sure you practice before you go. Stand on a stool or cooler at home and cast. You will find it difficult and limiting at first.

Trying to keep the sun behind you as you fish is a good thing. This gives you the best light possible for sight fishing. Just remember that with the sun behind you, the fish can see and feel your shadow on the bottom. This will bring them to alert mode. With the sun behind you, you also create a stark silhouette for them to see.

When you are staring out over an expanse of water, look for something else besides fish. Look for wakes that a fish may cause by swimming close to the surface. Then look into the water and find the fish. Train yourself to see the fish. You may see a single shrimp or small baitfish jump by a mangrove

or on an open flat. They probably jumped for a reason other than joy . . . Mr. Predator is close by. Look for him in the water or cast to that spot and hook up!

After you have landed and are now releasing that fish, watch very carefully as you start putting it back in the water. This is one of the best training tools you have for finding and seeing fish. Look at its color against the bottom and surroundings. Look at its shape and shadow as it swims away. Study that fish and try to find it again after it swims out of sight. This can be an invaluable learning opportunity.

The next time you get up on the bow, you'll start to realize you're looking for more than just a fish in the water. You are looking for movement, shapes, shadows, subtle color changes. Once these things start happening for you and you are not just watching water any more, you will be able to spot and identify fish. At that point, all you'll have to do is figure out which end it eats from and cast to it.

Stay fly.

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

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Gambling with red snapper



Shutterstock photo

A Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawler returns to port in Biloxi, Mississippi.

BY CCA FLORIDA

With management of the red snapper private angling sector now officially in the hands of the Gulf states, it would be tempting to take a step back from this ever-contentious fishery and take a deep breath. But, given the discussions at the last Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting in Biloxi, that would be a mistake.

While the significance of the management shift can't be overstated, it is important for anglers to remember that federal managers are still inclined to do the bidding of commercial interests and that means there are still reasons to be concerned about the overall health of Gulf red snapper in the long term.

In all the acrimony over the years between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers who target red snapper, it is often overlooked that an almost invisible third party held the real key to the recovery of this prized sport fish. Despite shrinking seasons and tighter bag limits, no management action of any kind was having a positive impact on red snapper until the hurricane season of 2005.

That year, the Gulf was ravaged by storms, including Katrina and Rita, which ultimately reduced shrimping effort by more than 80 percent due to the destruction of most of the Gulf shrimp fleet. At roughly the same time, CCA had filed a lawsuit seeking to force NOAA to acknowledge the massive impact of shrimp trawl bycatch of juvenile red snapper,

and ultimately prevailed.

That victory resulted in a federal judge's order to NOAA to reduce mortality of juvenile red snapper in shrimp trawls by 74 percent. By judge or nature, the shrimp industry was finally identified as a significant harvester of red snapper and was forced to shoulder its share of the red snapper recovery.

With cheap shrimp imports flooding the U.S. and burdened by high fuel costs, the Gulf shrimp industry was slow to recover and the red snapper population started to boom. The steep upward trend in the snapper population launched right around 2006 and has been steadily climbing ever since. Harvest levels for both the commercial and recreational sectors have expanded significantly since then, although fundamental shortcomings in federal management have prevented anglers from taking full advantage of it. And all the while, reductions in shrimp trawl bycatch of juvenile red snapper have stayed well within the parameters set by the CCA lawsuit.

However, language in the judge's ruling in 2006 allowed the bycatch reductions to be rolled back as the red snapper population recovered and now the shrimp industry is working to push their harvest increases right to the limit. Led by a council member from Mississippi whose family business is shrimping, the Council approved a rollback of the bycatch reductions at its last meeting to just 60 percent, down from

the original 74 percent. And it could be rolled back even further.

The Council seems content to chip at the underpinnings of the red snapper population and hope for the best. Advice from scientific staff suggests that there will likely be no impact from more dead juvenile red snapper in shrimp trawls despite an expected increase in maximum additional effort of 5,797 days fished as a result of the rollback. They may be right, but there is absolutely no certainty.

At a time when the Council's primary buzz word is "accountability," it is entirely unclear how managers plan to keep the shrimp industry accountable. Whereas both the commercial and recreational sectors have hard poundage annual catch limits of red snapper and are not allowed to exceed those limits without paybacks the following year, the shrimp industry has no such hard limit.

Furthermore, only a minuscule fraction of the industry's trips have observer coverage, so managers really have no idea how much dead bycatch is going over the side. Without an annual catch limit or any way to verify what is being killed in the nets, the shrimp industry is perhaps the most unaccountable player in the entire Gulf red snapper fishery and it has just been cleared to ramp up effort.

All that is really known is that the one management action that can be directly tied to the remarkable recovery of Gulf

red snapper is being eroded, and the Gulf Council is apparently willing to gamble that it won't have unforeseen (yet entirely predictable) consequences. Since managers are flying blind with regard to when the shrimp industry may cross the line and kill so many juvenile red snapper that it crashes the stock, the first signs of a problem will likely once again be the subject of intense acrimony and finger-pointing between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. That is especially likely to be the case now that the commercial sector is managed by NOAA and private anglers are managed by the states.

We can only hope that if the red snapper population takes an "unexpected" downward turn in the next few years, this action will be remembered, and it won't take another lawsuit to identify the culprit. History has shown that a healthy red snapper population is tied directly to shrimping effort.

As bizarre as it seems, here at the conclusion of a bruising decade of Red Snapper Wars, the Gulf Council appears entirely willing to gamble all its past winnings and perhaps the future of the fishery on a very sketchy hand. The big problem is that if they're wrong, everyone sitting at the table loses.

The Coastal Conservation Association has been working to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them since 1977. To learn more, visit CCAFlorida.com.

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A visit with the burrowing owls



VABA photo
Yes, it looks like a Muppet — but this is a real live burrowing owl.

BIRDING IN PARADISE • ABBIE BANKS

Every year, the Venice Area Birding Association plans a trip to visit the burrowing owls of Cape Coral. For quite a few years, we combined this trip with a visit to Pine Island's Randall Research Center. But as the years went by, we observed fewer birds at that site.

This year, we decided to stop by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Alligator Creek Preserve. This site was established in 1987 and was leased to CHEC. The center is used for environmental education and recreational activities. There are approximately 4 miles of walking trails. We chose the yellow trail, which is about a mile long.

Our group of 11 gathered together at the entrance. The first pond did not have any bird activity, and neither did the second. I started to get concerned about the lack of birds and bird noise. We are always listening for bird song.

Soon we started sighting some black vultures overhead and hearing cardinals singing in the brush. We also sighted and heard several red-bellied woodpeckers. Mourning doves cooed at us as we hiked on through dense woodland. It is always more difficult to sight birds when the spring foliage blooms out on the trees.

We watched several ospreys as they flew over. One had a large fish in its talons. We later spotted an osprey nest located on top of a huge water tank.

It was apparent we were not going to see an abundance of birds this day. It was then that Celia reminded us that the Japanese take walks through the woods to enrich the soul and being.

This was a beautiful thought and reminded us that even a day with a low bird count can still be a very good day.

We heard and sighted several catbirds along the trail, and also heard some red-winged blackbirds and a Carolina wren. We got a quick look at a blue-gray gnatcatcher. We stopped still in our tracks so we could all have a chance to see a black-and-white warbler working the bark of a tree for insects right at the path edge.

A marsh of black needlerush did not have any sparrows popping up for us. However, Celia spotted a pileated in the snag of a tree far across the marsh. This is what we call having a good eye. She also noted that the needlerush foliage is used for basketry.

At the same site, Jean called a belted kingfisher. This was right after we were talking about whether they all had gone north yet. We do not have these birds in Florida over the summer. As we headed back, Brenda thought she heard a great crested flycatcher and soon it was spotted. The breast was a beautiful green color instead of yellow — quite unusual.

We were eager to get to the owls, but lunch came first. After all, even birders must know their priorities. Afterward, we went to an area where we knew the burrowing owls have created a community. It was sad to see several owl burrows were disturbed by construction.

On one lot we counted five burrows. They may not all have been in use. Just in that two-block area, we spotted at least a dozen owl burrows. The areas

are staked off with white pipes, and observers are not supposed to go beyond this line. The owls can become distressed and may abandon their eggs or nest. We are very careful not to intrude on their privacy. If they are unhappy, they will tell you with their distress call and flight.

Everyone loves these adorable creatures and we all want them protected. Lee County has issued building permits for several properties we observed and the owls at one property are no longer at that site. This is quite sad. The owls prefer being in communities with other burrowing owls.

In her burrow, an owl can lay anywhere from two to 12 eggs. The eggs are approximately 1.5 inches long. They are mostly monogamous, but who knows these days. They have a wide diet and that includes worms, dragonflies, lizards, turtles, rabbits, songbirds, waterfowl and snakes.

We all were happy to see these creatures that look like adorable Beanie Baby cousins. If you come upon a burrowing owl at his burrow, please just observe from a distance. This is their home and most likely there is a pair nesting with eggs and or babies. Give them their space and let them do their owl thing.

Abbie Banks is a member of the Venice Area Birding Association, a group of folks who want to enjoy the environment and nature without the cumbersome politics of an organized group. For more info on VABA or to be notified of upcoming birding trips, visit AbbiesWorld.org/references.html or email her at Amberina@aol.com.

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Reader Photos



Paul Stebing was fishing in a crowd when he caught and released this amberjack.



13-year-old Carter Wallace from Michigan with a Boca Grande sheepshead.

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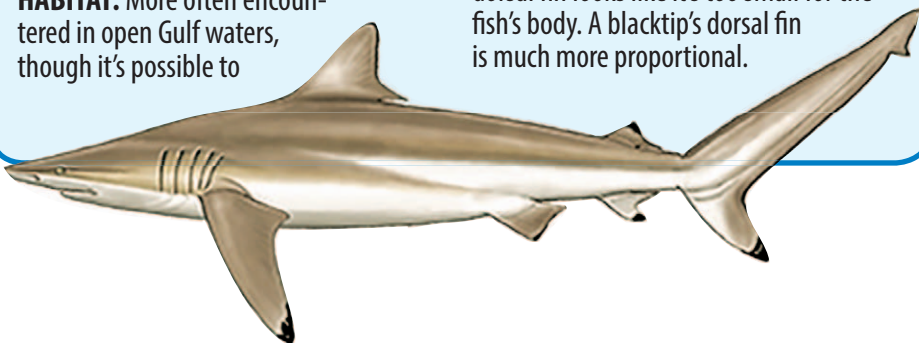


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FISH PROFILE • SPINNER SHARK

SIZE LIMIT: 54" min. (fork length)
BAG LIMIT: 1 per harvester up to a maximum of 2 per vessel in state waters; 1 per vessel per trip in federal waters. HMS permit required in federal waters; call 888-872-8862 or visit NMFSPermits.com.
SEASON: No closure.
LOCAL AVERAGE SIZE: 40 to 60 lb
FLORIDA RECORD: 190 lb, 0 oz
WORLD RECORD: 208 lb, 9 oz
FOOD VALUE: Good but not as mild as blacktip. Gut as soon as possible after capture, then ice well. Smaller fish can be filleted; larger ones are easier to cut into steaks. Remove skin before cooking.
HABITAT: More often encountered in open Gulf waters, though it's possible to

find them inshore, especially around schools of forage fish.
LEGAL METHODS: Hook and line only. No treble hooks allowed with natural bait. No snagging.
FISHING TIPS: A fast-swimming species that prefers hunting to scavenging. A free-lined or slow-trolled live bait (ladyfish, blue runner, Spanish mackerel, etc.) is a good choice.
NOTES: Not a common shark. Most "spinners" caught locally are blacktips. It is a myth that you can tell a spinner from a blacktip by whether it jumps — both species jump readily when hooked. Instead, look at the dorsal fin. A spinner's dorsal fin looks like it's too small for the fish's body. A blacktip's dorsal fin is much more proportional.



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2017 BOSTON WHALER 320 VANTAGE W/T MERC. 300 HP VERADOS (45 HRS) OPTIONS: BOW THRUSTER, DIVE DOOR, AFT SUNSHADE, WINDLASS, PREMIUM STEREO, FISHING PKG., RAYMARINE GPS-VHF & MORE \$294,627. CALL TOM 941-626-3741 OR TOM.HEALEY@MARINEMAX.COM



2015 SEA RAY 330 SUNDANCER W/T MERC. 350 MAGS AXIUS DRIVES ONLY 210 HOURS- EXC. CONDITION, AIR, GEN, RAYMARINE GPS- RADAR, VHF, CAMPER CANVAS, COCKPIT CVR. & MORE \$ 179,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



2017 SEA PRO 239 CC- W/ WHITE 300 MERC. VERADO 24 HOURS W/ WAR.- LIKE NEW CONDITION T-TOP, COLORED HULLSIDES, TRIM TABS, ENCLOSED HEAD, GPS, VHF, STEREO FRESH & SALT WATER WASH DOWN & MORE \$ 72,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM

Reader Photos



John Rich (at left) caught and released this 60-pound amberjack with DJB Charters 32 miles out of Stump Pass.



Jim Grifo with a red grouper 30 miles out of Venice.

BOATERS' BARGAINS

TO LIST YOUR BOAT, CALL 941-429-3110



2018 CROWNLINE E24XS DECKBOAT W/ YAMAHA 250 HP V-MAX. (ONLY 46 HOURS) OPTIONS: 2 TONE GELCOAST, SPORTS ARCH, GARMAN GPS, STEREO, ENCLOSED HEAD, COCKPIT & BOW COVER - DETAILED & SERVICED \$ 81,750 CALL ROB 941-313-2184 OR ROB.BIRCHFIELD@MARINEMAX.COM



31.5' 2015 BOSTON WHALER 315 CONQUEST W/ WHITE MERCURY VERADO 4 STROKES & JOY STICK PILOTING. (215 HOURS) ONE OWNER, INSIDE STORED. OPTIONS: KOHLER GENSET, COCKPIT AIR, T-12" SIM-RAD GPS-RADAR- FF, CANVAS ENCLOSURE, UNDERWATER LIGHTS, & MORE.. \$264,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



2018 Sea Ray 350 Sundancer Coupe w/ T Merc. 6.2L axis drives only 59 hours- highly optioned: Generator, cockpit air, aft sunshade, Ext. swim platform, summer kitchen w/ grill, Simrad GPS- Radar-autopilot & more- \$ 349,550. Call Rob 941-313-2184 or rob.birchfield@marinemax.com



31' 2012 Sea Ray 310 Sundancer w/ T- Merc. 5.0 MPI's (180 hours) axis/ joy stick docking. Major B service & prof. detail 8/18- Options: Gen., air cond., windlass, Raymarine GPS- VFH, auto pilot, cockpit grill & fridge, cockpit cover & more.. turn key **SOLD call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com**



22' 2008 C-Dory Cruiser with Honda 90 HP, 250 Hours, Just fully serviced. Near new appearance with many extras, at about 1/2 the new cost. \$35,500 Call or text owner 941-268-1161



34' 2001 MAINSHIP PILOT Beautiful Emerald Green Hull, Green Canvas, 370 Diesel, 5KW Gen, 12" GPS, Auto Pilot, EXCELLENT Condition. \$99,900 941-697-2163



22' 2014 SEAFOX VIPER Bay Boat Yamaha 150. Sunbrella Bimini & covers. Hyd. jack plate & trim tabs, minn kota 24V trolling mtr. w/on charger, Garmin 7" touch screen, 2 live wells, raw water wash down & rod locker. Has spot for porta potty in CC. Motor has 100 hrs. with recent service. Perfect family & fishing boat. \$42,000 Call Dave @ 716-864-3674



34' 2005 MAINSHIP PILOT Rum-Runner II, 370 DIESEL, 5KW GEN, BOW THRUSTER, GPS PLOTTER, AUTO PILOT, EX COND. \$145,000 941-621-4721

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead will not be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.

LOCAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

SARASOTA POWER SQUADRON — 941-400-6467

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 9 a.m. May 4

VENICE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-408-8591

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27
America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. May 18
America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. June 22

PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-637-0766

America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27
Hurricane Preparations for Boaters..... 11:30 a.m. May 18
Using GPS..... 1 p.m. June 1
America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. June 3

CAPE CORAL POWER SQUADRON — 239-549-9754

America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. May 6
How To Use A Chart 9 a.m. June 1

— Provided by Ron Jones

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

PROGRAM	START DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
About Boating Safely	April 27	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
About Boating Safely	May 11	Cape Coral	724-681-2878
About Boating Safely	May 18	Fort Myers	734-626-0261
About Boating Safely	May 18	Sarasota	212-452-2473
About Boating Safely	May 25	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
About Boating Safely	June 8	Cape Coral	724-681-2878

— Provided by Dave Nielsen



24.5' 2011 Key West Bay Reef with 250HP Etec Great Condition, recently serviced. Great for fishing both off-shore and shallow water. Includes Minn Kota I-Pilot, Atlas 6" Jackplate, Simrad G09 with trans scan transducer, new stereo, Lenco Trim Tabs, poling platform, bimini top \$39,995 Call Joe at 941-629-9666



24' 2002 BAYLINER CIERA CLASSIC Do You Want to Fish, Island Hop, or Cruise? Do it All with This Versatile Boat. \$16,995. 330-466-8910



28' 2006 GLASTRON CUDDY CABIN, Sleeps 4, Windless Anchor, 5.7 Volvo Pinta Engine, All Fuel Injected, Volvo Dual Prop Outdrive. 197 Hours. 10,000 Lb Tandem Axel Aluminum Trailer. Very Good Condition! \$32,000. 239-691-4332



30.6' 2014 GRADY WHITE 306 CANYON center console w/ T Yamaha 300 hp (only 206 hours) under war. & custom trailer: One owner, very clean & well equipped options: T-top, twin Garmin 12" screens, VHF, stereo, windlass, bow filler cushions, enclosed head & more ..Reduced to \$158,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



34.5' 2015 BOSTON WHALER 345 CONQUEST W/ TRIPLE MERCURY 250 HP VERADOS- BOW THRUSTER, BAIT STATION WITH ELECTRIC GRILL, HELM AIR CONDITIONING, FULL STRATA-GLASS BRIDGE ENCLOSURE, GENERATOR & MUCH MORE \$ 279,900. CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



39' 2016 CONTENDER 39 CENTER CONSOLE W/ TRIP. YAMAHA 300's ONLY 109 HOURS- ONE OWNER EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAN & FAST. SHE IS CONTENDER'S FLAGSHIP A SERIOUS FISHERMAN'S DREAM. LOADED W/ OPTIONS: SEA KEEP GYRO, T-GARMAN 16" SCREENS, AUTO PILOT RADAR, TOO MANY TO LIST PRICED TO SELL \$ 369,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



49.7 2007 CRUISERS YACHTS 497 SEDAN BRIDGE- VOLVO DIESELS (575 HP-493 HOURS)- EXCELLENT CONDITION. THE 497 WAS ONE OF CRUISERS MOST POPULAR MODELS. SHE OFFERS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR LONGER CRUISES OR USE AS LIVE ABOARD. OPTIONS: BOW & STERN THRUSTER, DIESEL GEN, NEW VINYL ON BRIDGE/ COCKPIT & NEW CANVAS/ EISENGLASS, GPS- RADAR- AUTOPILOT & MUCH MORE. \$ 317,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM

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OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

If you have an event you want included in the Outdoor News Bulletin Board, email it to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com

ARBOR DAY EXPO

UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County will be holding their annual Arbor Day Expo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 26 at the Environmental Campus (25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte). This year's expo will have something for everyone, such as plant vendors, demonstrations providing tips on planting and pruning, and a Master Gardener plant clinic. There is no cost to come to the expo. There will be free trees given out to participants who take part in tree planting demo (choice of three different varieties, while supplies last). For more info, call 941.764.4340 or visit Charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu.

MAJOR CHANGES FOR VENICE PIER

The rehabilitation of the Venice Municipal Fishing Pier is scheduled to start May 13. The rehabilitation includes removal and replacement of all the deck and railing material with longer-lasting IPE wood, replacement of the pole lighting fixtures with sea turtle-friendly under-handrail lights, and related improvements. The pier rehabilitation will start with demolition seaward from the bait shop May 13. During the initial phase, public access will be limited to the southern half of the pier between the entrance and the bait shop. Once demolition is complete in the initial phase, the remainder of the pier will be closed completely until reconstruction is complete. Work will be conducted Monday through Saturday from approximately 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for an estimated 90 days. A public informational meeting will be held at 9 a.m. May 6 under the canopy on the south side of Sharky's restaurant (1600 S. Harbor Drive, Venice). All are welcome. For more info, contact city engineer Kathleen Weeden at 941-882-7409 or kweed@venicegov.com

HIGEL PARK RAMP CLOSING

The Higel Marine Park boat ramp and parking lot at 1330 Tarpon Center Drive, Venice, will be closed to the public from 12:01 a.m. April 27 until 4 p.m. April 29 for the Venice Mooring Field Underwater Cleanup event. The cleanup near the Venice Yacht Club is conducted by the Suncoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) with volunteer divers, snorkelers, kayakers and topside helpers. The Venice Police Marine Unit, Fire Department and Sea Tow also assist.

LEARN TO SAIL SUMMER CAMPS

Learn to Sail Inc. is now registering students for their summer classes at the Punta Gorda YMCA Bayfront Center (750 West Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda). There are separate sessions for elementary, middle and high school students. Classes are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The co-ed class sizes are limited to 12 students per week. Registration before May 15 is \$130 per weeklong session; after May 16, registration is \$165. All volunteers have undergone a background check and are SafeSport trained and certified, licensed and insured. See the full schedule, register for classes and pay online at <http://bit.ly/2VjL1pw>.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH AUDUBON

The Peace River Audubon Society will be holding an Earth Day hike at 8 a.m. April 27. This year's Earth Day theme is "Protect Our Species." Participants should meet at Deep Creek Preserve (10797 SW Peace River Street, Arcadia). Deep Creek Preserve is a 2,000-acre property managed by Southwest Florida Water Management District. Florida Naturalist Jamie Reynolds will be leading the group along easy wide trails of pine flatwoods, oak scrub and under ancient moss-draped oaks. Participants are encouraged to pack a lunch to enjoy in the picnic area under the large oaks following the hike. If a cooking fire is allowed, there will be hot dogs served at 4 p.m. Bring your chair, binoculars and stories to share as we celebrate Earth Day 2019. No cost; all are welcome. Call Nancy Turner at 941-627-9107 for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FISHING CLINIC

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

TREE FAIR 2019

People for Trees, a non-profit native tree advocacy group that has been sponsoring tree festivals since 1999, will host Tree Fair 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 at the North Port Community Education Center (4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port). Hundreds of 3-gallon native trees (approx. 6 to 8 feet tall) will be for sale for only \$15 each; Florida sweetgum, American elm, bald cypress, slash pine, southern red cedar, red maple, dahoon holly, pignut hickory. Alice White, chair

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

of People for Trees since its inception in 1997, will lead a number of informational "walk and talks" about the trees that will be for sale so attendees can choose just the right trees for their yards. Attendees can see the correct way to plant a tree at a demonstration plot. Arborists from Simply Trees will be doing tree-climbing demonstrations throughout the morning, from 10 to noon, and be available to answer questions about tree pruning, maintaining a healthy tree, etc. There will be a "Fairy Gathering" at 11 a.m. led by "Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver who will also provide the musical entertainment. For more info, contact Alice at 941-468-2486, treelady12001@yahoo.com or visit PeopleForTrees.com

TARPON PARTY

West Wall Outfitters (3846 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte) will host Tarpon Fest 2019 from noon to 6 p.m. April 28. You're invited to come kick off tarpon season with seminars, food and a number of vendors on hand to answer your questions. Yellowfin, Hell's Bay and Temple Fork Outfitters will be on site. For more info, call 941-875-9630.

EARTH DAY SUNDAY FESTIVAL

The sixth annual Englewood Earth Day Sunday Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 at Buchan's Community Park (1390 Old Englewood Road, Englewood). As in years past, the festival 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 gopher tortoise and Florida scrub jay; and a goat milking opportunity (by local goat rancher Nicole Kastor and her team of 4H volunteers). No cost; bring your kids and your arms — trees to hug will be provided. For more info, contact B. Shawn Clark, Assistant Englewood Earth Day Sunday Coordinator, at Clark@PlanetEnglewood.com or 941-404-4704.

CAPT. JOSH SPEAKS AT CG AUX MEETING

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

RADIO WATERLINE SEMINAR

The next event in the Radio WaterLine seminar series will be held May 1 at Jerry's Tiki Bar & Waterside Grill (15001 Gasparilla Road, Placida). Seminars are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month and are hosted by the boys from Radio WaterLine. Topics vary depending on how the fishing is going, but you're guaranteed to learn something useful — and if you have any questions you want answered, bring 'em with you. Come out at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy dinner and drinks with Capt. Josh Olive and Capt. Mike Myers (you buy your own); the talk gets started at 6:30 p.m. For more info, call Capt. Mike at 941-416-8047 or Capt. Josh at 941-276-9657.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MEETS

Flotilla 98 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets on the

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

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

CHARLOTTE HARBOR MULTIHULL ASSOCIATION: Members of this club for multihull owners, sailors or those who are interested in the exchange of ideas about equipping and sailing boats, share information about anchorages and cruising destinations, hold informal races and have raft-ups. No dues. The club meets at a local restaurant the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. For more info, call 941-876-6667.

COASTAL VENTURES CRUISE CLUB: This club, designed

first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950). Join them at their May 1 meeting and find out all that they do: Boating safety classes; Vessel safety checks; Safety and security patrols; Radio watchstander; Search & rescue; Disaster response; Pollution response & patrols; and much more. For more information about Flotilla 98, call 941-639-3811 or visit USCGAuxCharlotteHarbor.org.

WATER QUALITY MONITORS NEEDED

The health of Lemon Bay is important to us all. Each month volunteers monitor the water quality at sites from Alligator Creek in Venice to Bull Bay in Placida to see that it stays that way. On the first Monday of each month, trained volunteers travel to one of 16 sites to test the water for various parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, etc. This information is collected and stored in a database with the Florida DEP. Most sites are land-based and no boat is necessary. All that is needed is an interest in our waters and a commitment of 1 to 2 hours per month. A training session for those interested in assisting in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network will be conducted at 10 a.m. May 2 at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Call 941-475-0769 for more info.

LEARN ABOUT LEMURS WITH AUDUBON

Lemurs are now recognized as the mammal group most threatened with extinction. At the next meeting of the Venice Audubon Society, scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m. May 7 at the Venice Audubon Center on Annex Road (behind R.L. Anderson Admin. Bldg), Dr. Erik Patel and Dr. Alison Grand from the Lemur Conservation Foundation will discuss their organization's efforts to save lemurs through managed breeding in Florida and community-based conservations in Madagascar where Dr. Patel has been working since 2001. Free and open to the public; call 941-496-8984 or email info@veniceaudubon.org to learn more.

MOMS CRUISE FREE

King Fisher Fleet, headquartered at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda, invites all moms to cruise for free in honor of Mother's Day. We think mothers deserve more than just one day of celebration, so we are offering free cruises for moms all of Mother's Day weekend! Here's the schedule: Friday, May 10: 7 p.m. Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes | Saturday, May 11: 9 a.m. Cabbage Key, full day; 1 p.m. Harbor Tour, 90 minutes; 7 p.m. Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes | Sunday, May 12: 9 a.m. Cabbage Key, full day; 9 a.m. Cayo Costa, full day; 2 p.m. Harbor Tour, 90 minutes; 4 p.m. Harbor Tour, 90 minutes; 7 p.m. Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes. All moms cruise free on all of the above listed cruises with full-price paid accompanying ticket. Advance reservations are recommended. For more info about the special Mother's Day offer, call 941-639-0969.

PADDLE THE PEACE RIVER ROOKERIES

Paddle with the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club on May 24 down to the rookeries to see active nest-building and hatching, and then up side channels or the river to the Nav-A-Gator for lunch. Return via a different Peace River route. Free and the public is invited. Donations to the Sierra Club always gratefully accepted. Participants must provide

own watercraft and PFD, and be able to swim. Reservations required; call 941-637-8805.

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

PEACE RIVER PADDLING: Join a guided kayaking trip on the Peace River. Free if you bring your own kayak, or rent equipment for \$25 per person. Paddle with an experienced guide and explore remote areas of the Peace River. These trips are intended to be easy paddling for everyone to have fun, meet people with similar interests, and enjoy the outdoors. Trips are planned from 9 to 11 a.m. each Tuesday if weather permits. Meet at Nav-A-Gator 30 minutes prior to departure. Sign up by calling Steve Burroughs 813-857-4634. Trips are provided by KayakEcoTours.com.

own watercraft and PFD, and be able to swim. Reservations required; call 941-637-8805.

SAILING SUMMER CAMP

Hey, kids: Learn to sail or improve your skills on Lemon Bay this summer. Registration is now open for youths ages 10 to 17 at the Englewood SKY Family YMCA (701 Medical Blvd., Englewood). Camps provide supervised instruction in the fundamentals of sailing, boat handling, water safety, seamanship and environmental awareness. Instruction is provided by adult US Sailing certified instructors trained in CPR/First Aid. The ability to swim is required. There will be three weeklong sessions: June 10-14, June 24-28 and July 8-12. During each session, camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Cost for each session is \$150 per camper. Camps are held at the ESA Sailing Center (Indian Mound Park, 210 Winslow Ave., Englewood). For more info, contact Hugh Moore at 941-500-9622 or the Englewood Y at 941-475-1234. Sessions are limited to 22 campers each.

LEARN TO FISH CAMPS

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center will be once again offering week-long "Learn to Fish" camps for children ages 8 to 13 at Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Knot tying, fish identification, cast netting, rods and reels, and more will be delivered through games, practice and time surf fishing in Lemon Bay. These catch-and-release camps teach sustainable fishing practices in collaboration with the FWC protocol with the assistance of local fishing guides. There will be three weeklong sessions: June 10-14, June 24-28 and July 8-12. During each session, camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Cost for each session is \$150 per camper for non-CHEC members or \$135 for CHEC members. Pre- and post-care will be available for additional cost. For more info, call 941-475-0769 or email Bobbi@CHECflorida.org.

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is conducting free vessel safety checks in Englewood. They'll make sure the safety equipment mandated by federal and state regulations is onboard. If an inspected vessel is found to be safe, a "Seal of Safety" decal is awarded to the boat owner and affixed in a prominent location. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call Bill Shaw at 941-474-2705 or email ShawCo1@att.net. Visit Flotilla 87 at CoastGuardEnglewood.com for more info.

CHEC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Enjoy learning about and teaching others about nature? Looking for a fun and educational way to meet like minded people? Consider becoming a volunteer with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Cedar Point Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Office volunteers work shifts from 8:30 a.m. to noon or noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Volunteers can work one shift per week or just a shift a month. Volunteers are need as trail guides to lead guided nature walks through several local Charlotte Harbor properties. These are usually from 9 to 11 a.m. on various days of the week. If interested, a training session will be scheduled. You will learn some plants, animals and interpretive techniques to help you lead these "walks in the woods." Contact Bobbi Rodgers at 941-475-0769 or Bobbi@CHECflorida.org.

Do you have an event for the Outdoor News Bulletin Board? Send your event information to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. Deadline is two weeks before you want it to print!

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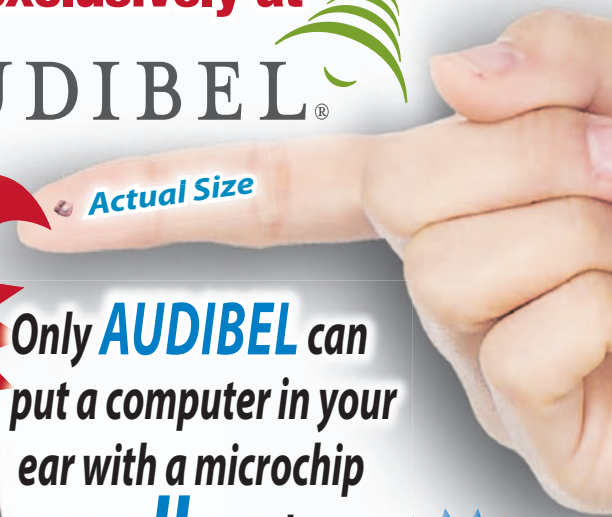
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No Interest Financing for 18 Months!



For the First Time Ever. The Most Advanced Hearing Aid Ever. Is Smaller Than Ever.

- Reduce listening effort in noisy environments
- Hear clearly on the phone
- Hear music and TV clearly
- Eliminates whistling and buzzing
- Fits comfortably in your ear



**The Best Of The Best Completely In Canal
Via® AI**

SAVE \$999
On Via® AI and DaVinci Hearing Aids with Audibel Patent Microchip with Artificial Intelligence

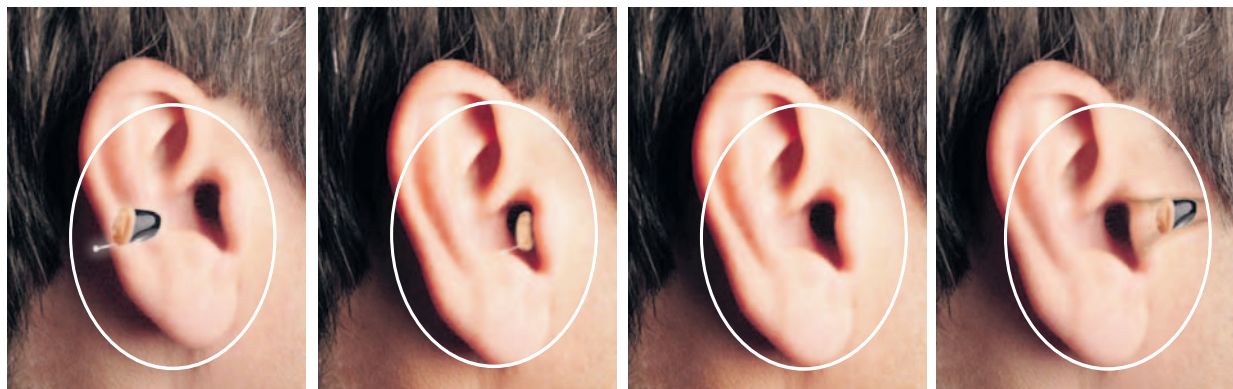
THE ONLY MAJOR HEARING-AID MANUFACTURER IN THE COUNTRY THAT'S
AMERICAN OWNED • AMERICAN OPERATED

AUDIBEL HEARING CENTERS

THIS PATENTED AMERICAN MADE

MIRACLE IN A MICROCHIP

on the just-released Via® AI hearing aid with microchip technology



Via® AI **ACTUALLY MIMICS THE NATURAL SOUND SELECTION OF THE HUMAN EAR.**

With multi-core processors – technology found only in the most advanced computers – sounds are analyzed and classified each millisecond, controlling noise and making speech clear.

IT IS THE MOST ADVANCED HEARING AID EVER MADE!

And it's so small the only thing people will notice is you can HEAR!

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL

AUDIBEL MICRO CHIP TECHNOLOGY

IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE

SMALLEST RECHARGEABLE HEARING AID MADE

with the **Longest lasting charge** giving you more than 30 hours of clear, uninterrupted listening on a single charge

All-in-one portable charger fits in your pocket or purse and does not need to be plugged in. Easy recharging when you're away.



All-in-one charging case provides 3 times portable charge



\$499 Each
Fits up to a 40db loss



Our newest wireless remote streaming technology!

50% OFF

Remote
Our new remote includes updated features so you can control memory and volume, mute your hearing aids and turn other special features on and off.

Our compact cellphone transmitter **Surflink® Mobile 2** is assistive listening device, media streamer, and hearing aid remote all rolled into one.

Remote Microphone +
Easily stream from a variety of audio sources. And thanks to Remote Microphone +, Via AI is the first hearing aid to feature Amazon Alexa connectivity.

TV
Stream audio from your TV or other electronic audio source directly to your Via AI hearing aids. It offers excellent sound quality, is easy to use and supports both analog and digital input sources.

This hearing aid fits entirely in the ear canal! It does not fill the outer ear or go over the ear.

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL

On all Audibel Hearing Aids! If you are unhappy for any reason, simply return the hearing aids and it will cost you

NOTHING!

What do patients think about Audibel Hearing Aids?



"I was fit with custom Audibel hearing aids. I survived polio at age 20 and was told I would not hear in my left ear. With my new Audibel hearing aids I hear better than ever. My family and I are very happy and thankful for Audibel."



"I am as happy as could be. I've been laughing, I've been talking, I've been listening, it's a miracle and I never expected it to be so good! I've been talking to people a lot more. It's opened up a whole new world! Audibel has made me a very happy person!"



"My new Audibel hearing system is the absolute best thing I have ever done for my hearing. I thank you so very much for your care and professionalism. I would recommend going to Audibel if you need hearing aids."

BATTERY SPECIAL!
ONLY **75¢**
Specific sizes not including Z powers (up to 4 packs)

NO INTEREST Financing FOR 18 MONTHS
Start Hearing Better Today!

Come in for a **FREE HEARING TEST**
• NO-COST
• NO-PRESSURE
• NO-OBLIGATION
Hearing Tests are always complimentary at Audibel!

FREE REPAIRS ALL MAKES ALL MODELS
Bring in your damaged hearing aid. If we can fix it in our lab, we will, at no charge!

PINELLAS

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35208 U.S. 19 N.
Alderman Plaza
Corner of Alderman Rd. & US 19
(727) 787-1866

Sunset Point & US 19
23988 US HWY 19 N.
SW Corner of
Sunset Point Rd. & US 19
(727) 441-3591

Ft. Harrison Ave.
820 S. Ft. Harrison Ave.
1/2 mile south of Court Street on
west side of Ft. Harrison Ave.
(727) 581-7472

St. Petersburg
1598 62nd Ave N.
SE corner of 16th St.
& 62nd Ave. N.
(727) 522-3692

Seminole
7501 Seminole Blvd.
1/2 Block North of Park Blvd.
next to SunTrust
(727) 391-6642

Largo Mall
10500 Ulmerton Rd. Ste. 740
Near Publix
facing Ulmerton Rd.
(727) 586-5553

S. Pasadena
1155 Pasadena Ave.
Next to Horse Jockey Pub
(727) 347-2938

PASCO

Zephyrhills
5741 Gall Blvd.
Across from
Magnuson Hotel
(813) 788-7833

Port Richey
9304 US Highway 19 N.
Directly across from
Gulfview Square Mall
(727) 848-4746

HERNANDO

Brooksville
13013 Cortez Blvd.
Western Way
Shopping Center
(352) 597-9689

Spring Hill
11186 Spring Hill Drive
Corner of Spring Hill Drive
& Mariner, next to Walgreens
(352) 200-2034

HILLSBOROUGH

Plant City
1408 W. Reynolds St. Ste B
NE corner of Alexander & Reynolds
(813) 754-4813

North Tampa
320 W. Fletcher Ave, Ste #103
1 block west of Fl. Ave.,
btw. Amscot & Dunkin Donuts
(813) 935-0824

Sun City Center
4850 Sun City Ctr. Blvd.
Next to Publix
King's Crossing Shopping Ctr.
(813) 634-8451

Britton Plaza
3820 S. Dale Mabry Hwy.
north of Publix
(813) 831-9442

Brandon
201 S. Kings Ave, Ste #2
next to Carson Optical
(813) 681-4046

CITRUS

Inverness
2036 Hwy 44 West
(352) 726-1916

Homosassa
5699 S. Suncoast Blvd.
(352) 621-8000

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Ellenton (941) 722-7200
Bradenton..... (941) 747-6966
Port Charlotte..... (941) 623-4918
North Sarasota (941) 355-3800
South Sarasota (941) 922-6028
Venice..... (941) 451-5070
N. Lakeland (863) 682-1965
S. Lakeland..... (863) 646-6663
Winter Haven (863) 297-8000

www.floridahearing.com

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 4:30pm



AMERICAN OWNED • AMERICAN OPERATED

AUDIBEL®

Center for Hearing Excellence

THE PATIENT JOURNEY PHILOSOPHY

- 1 Patients** are the most important people in our practice, whether we are caring for them in person or over the telephone.
- 2 Patients** do not depend on us. We depend on them.
- 3 Patients** are not an interruption of our work. They are the purpose for our work.
- 4 Patients** favor us with their patronage. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve them.
- 5 Patients** come to us for help and guidance. We are to provide it with patience and compassion.
- 6 Patients** will always be treated with dignity. They are human beings with needs, feelings, and emotions like our own.
- 7 Patients** are not people we argue with. They are people we listen to in order to understand their unique needs.
- 8 Patients** are people who bring us their needs. It is our job to identify and fill those needs.
- 9 Patients** are deserving of the most courteous and attentive experience we can give them.
- 10 Patients** are not just a part of our practice, they are a part of our family.

Is Audibel the right choice? Ask our patients.



Steve Peet

"When my wife ordered me to come to Audibel to get aids, I fought her at every turn. Finally, I gave in and lucky I did! The aids have been a godsend for me! They help me so much and I cannot go without them."



Felicia Vick-Mitchell

"Audibel's hard work, dedication and going above and beyond for me are indescribable, and I am and will forever be thankful."



Albert Marcantonio

"I am so completely satisfied with all aspects of my association with Audibel – beginning with the friendly service from the front desk, to the professionalism in the overwhelming examination equipment room."



Dorothy Kenesie

"My new Audibel hearing aids are beautiful and wonderful! I can hardly feel them and can't even see them. It's almost like my own natural hearing is back."



Eileen Wood

"I have been pleased with everything and the best of all is that I can hear and understand others, including the telephone."



Thomas Coughlin

"I had hearing aids for approximately 4-5 years. I had purchased these from Audibel and continued to go there for service. My experience has been OUTSTANDING."



Helen Morse

"I didn't realize how poorly I was hearing until I started wearing Audibel aids. I love them and they have made a big difference in my everyday life."



Bonnie Novak

"My hearing aids have brought about the most remarkable change to my life. Since I purchased them I feel more confident when I'm out in a crowd because I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything."



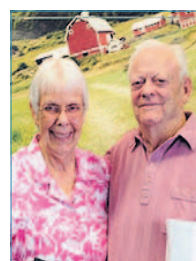
Carolyn Roberts

"I want to thank Audibel for giving me back my hearing. At age 81 I wasn't the easiest listener. The specialist was very patient bringing me through the process."



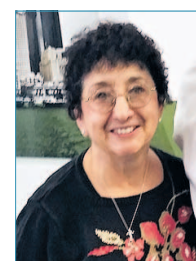
Douglas Willis

"I wish I would have come in a long time ago, but I kept putting it off – now I'm so glad to be able to understand and enjoy things around me. I can hear the birds sing and talk to my wife, grandkids, and kids."



Marjorie & Charles Johnson

"We have never had hearing tests like the specialist at Audibel gave us. We now hear sounds we never heard before."



Frances Ingallinera

"I have had hearing aids for about 40 years. For TV I relied on closed captioning. Since I have been wearing the new aids, I find myself listening to TV and not relying on the captioning."



Catherine Brownell

"They are small, comfortable, adjustable, and let me know when I need batteries. I would highly recommend Audibel."



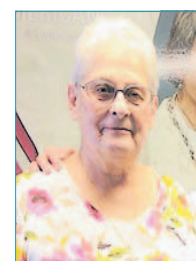
Terry Muse

"The personnel are so friendly and helpful. I would recommend Audibel to anyone looking for a rewarding experience – easy, affordable and hassle FREE."



Bobby Giggelman

"I am hearing sounds I haven't heard in years. I am able to enjoy being around people and hear complete conversations. You never know how much of life you miss when you can't hear."



Janice Clark

"Any problems incurred are handled with a friendly attitude and properly dealt with too. Complete satisfaction with the hearing aids and the expertise and kindness of my specialist."



James Hoyt

"I first began wearing Audibel hearing aids when I was a professor and traveled internationally to teach. Audibel provided me an international number and representatives in many nations to help me if I encountered issues while travelling and teaching abroad. I have found all staff members to be helpful and accommodating."



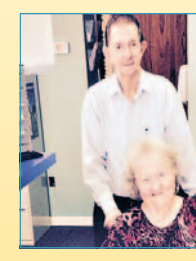
Brent Tharp

"Losing some of my hearing was devastating and depressing for me. I was plagued at an early age – running into my adulthood with chronic ear problems. I thought that was just how life was supposed to be. Until, I met the professional staff at Audibel!"



J. Michelle Cianfarra

"I lost a great deal of my hearing in a vehicle accident ten years ago. This new set of Audibel wireless, Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids have given me a better hearing experience with greater variety than I had with my last pair (which were not Audibel's). I feel refreshed since wearing my new Audibel hearing aids. I don't feel as if I'm relying on other means of communication as I was before. They have enhanced my living experience as I come in contact with others every day and can communicate better all because I hear so much better than I did before. The friendly staff are customer-service oriented and help me with my hearing challenges. Thank you for this experience."



Evelyn Straughn

"I am so glad I have Audibel Hearing Aids. I now know I have missed a lot by not hearing what goes on. I would recommend them to anyone and I'm very pleased with the ongoing help with any questions or concerns."

INSURANCES ACCEPTED • WALK-INS WELCOME • WAX-REMOVAL ASSISTANCE

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www.floridahearing.com

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