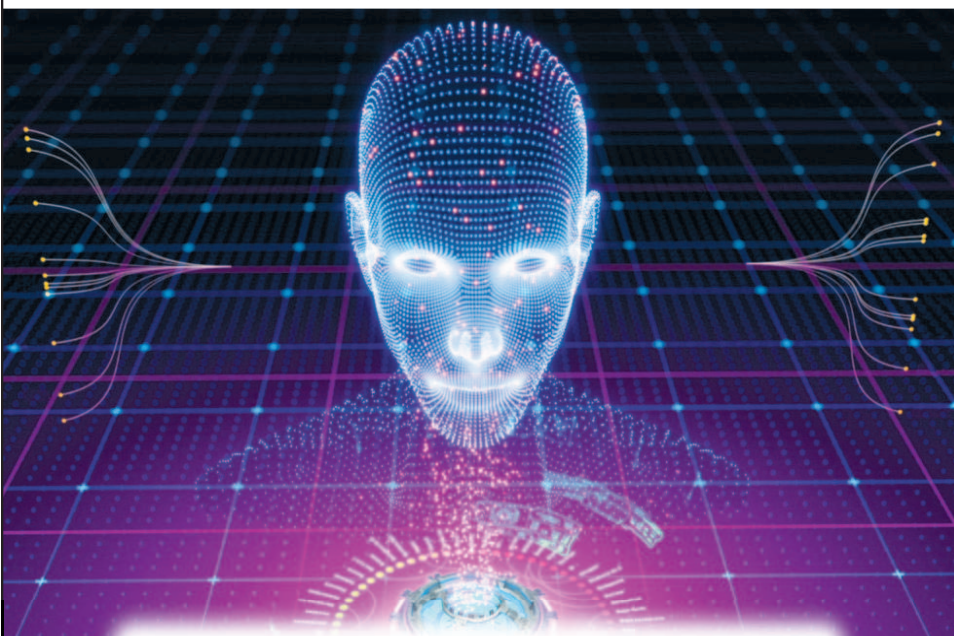


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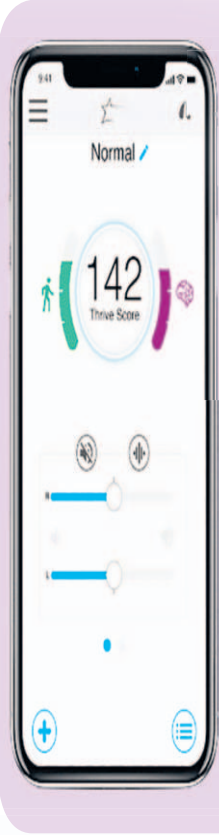
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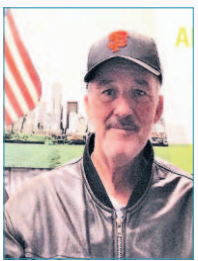
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Albert Marcantonio

"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."



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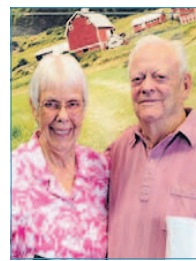
Carolyn Roberts

"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."



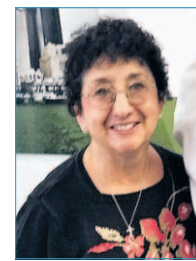
Douglas Willis

"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."



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"We have never had hearing tests like the specialist at Audibel gave us. We now hear sounds we never heard before."



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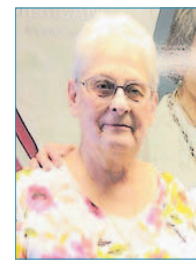
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"The personnel are so friendly and helpful. I would recommend Audibel to anyone looking for a rewarding experience – easy, affordable and hassle FREE."



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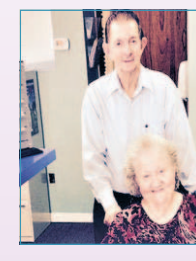
Brent Tharp

"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."



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Evelyn Straughn

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SUPER BOWL LIII: PATRIOTS VS. RAMS

The New England Patriots attempt to win their sixth Super Bowl. However, the Los Angeles Rams hope to counter with their diverse offensive attack. See Sports for game details



Monday, February 4, 2019

Vol. 127 | Issue No. 35

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AN EDITION OF THE SUN

North Port Orange Hammock owners, county, at impasse

Commission seeks to use property as environmental preserve

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

SARASOTA — Disheartened was how Sarasota County Commissioner Alan Maio sounded.

At Tuesday's commission meeting, Maio told his fellow commissioners that negotiations with the owners of the Orange Hammock Ranch in North Port have reached a stalemate.

"Our latest offer...was neither rejected or accepted by the seller," Maio said, adding that two more rounds of appraisals on the property had been conducted.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District — commonly known as Swiftmud — has taken the lead in the negotiations, committing \$9 million toward the potential purchase. Sarasota County has also committed \$9 million, and the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority another \$2 million.

The agencies have been pursuing the purchase of the 5,700-acre property for over two years now, hoping to preserve the ranch which would then create an environmental preserve from the Myakka River to the Peace River.

"The District and the owner of Orange Hammock Ranch negotiated in good faith for the District's purchase of the property," Susanna Martinez Tarokh, a Swiftmud spokesperson, wrote in an email asking for a comment. "In the end, the District's offer of \$19.5 (million) did not meet the owners' expectations."

Reportedly, the sellers were seeking \$20 million for the property.

"Whatever help any organization can give us in convincing

PROPERTY | 5



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Should cops use more drones?

Drone bill aims to increase public safety

By ANNE EASKER
STAFF WRITER



SUN FILE PHOTO

The Dragonfly Commander drone cost \$40,000 and helps Sarasota County Sheriff's Office fight crime above ground.

A new bill in the Florida House of Representatives would expand the permitted use of drones by law enforcement agencies allowed across the state.

House Bill 75, filed by Rep. Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, would allow law enforcement to use drones to assist in crowd control or traffic management, to facilitate the collection of evidence at a crime scene or traffic crash,

and to assess damage due to a flood, wildlife, or natural disaster or for land management.

The Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) is urging its members to support the bill, which it states would allow for more "efficient and effective deployment and use of emergency personnel."

Locally, the North Port Police Department is looking into purchasing a \$3,000 drone, ideally using grant money. The agency would focus its use on critical incidents,

though it could also be used for crime scene footage and disaster recovery, according to NPPD Spokesperson Josh Taylor.

In 2013, the Florida Legislature passed comprehensive drone legislation, which states law enforcement agencies may not use a drone to gather evidence or other information. But according to the FSA, "situations have arose over the last five years that necessitate another

DRONES | 5

Fighting hazards here and abroad



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Even though Fernanda (center with her baby) wasn't on the local church's list to receive groceries and other supplies, Briggs and his team pooled some of their money together to stock her up. Two days before they met Fernanda, her husband, Merlin, was in a motorcycle accident that led to him being in a coma. Fernanda has three children. She gets help from Jacob and Debbie Briggs (left), Ashlynn (back left, Ft. Ogden Baptist Church) Ray Briggs (back middle), Kayla (back right, Ft. Ogden Baptist Church) and Jorge (right, team leader for Child Beyond International— Guatemala).

Punta Gorda fire chief joins mission for clean air in Guatemalan homes

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

In a place where so many have so little, Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs sprang into action to help.

After all, that's what he does at home when residents facing emergencies need assistance.

But in Guatemala, hazards to health and safety are what many live with everyday. It's hard to believe until you see it, Briggs said.

At first glance, the living conditions alone could be considered a cry for help for the people of Guatemala City — dirt floors, shacks, indoor campfires and live electrical wires spliced and spread throughout the shanty-crammed communities.

At the end of 2018, Briggs, his family and a team of volunteers from his church, First Baptist Church of Fort Ogden in Arcadia, got a first-hand look at life for the masses in Guatemala City. They spent a week in the area performing various projects for the locals.

"The majority of the people there, they live in shanties made of corrugated steel for walls and a roof and maybe some curtains for a little separation," Briggs said. "Multi-generational families were

living in each shanty and, for food, they end up cooking on a campfire that sits in the house, essentially."

The 2018 mission — Briggs' second trip to Guatemala — lasted seven days, including travel time. His first mission at the end of 2017 took him to Antigua, where he worked in the medical clinics. After seeing the families' living conditions, he recalled how chronic respiratory and eye irritation issues were rampant.

"So, I'm thinking part of the reason for that is they are breathing in all this smoke all their lives," said Briggs, a paramedic and registered nurse.

For the latest 2018 outreach mission, his team was tasked with multiple projects. But the biggest effort focused on building wood-burning stoves for the neighborhood with exhaust piping designed to help people breath cleaner air in their homes.

The Stove Mission

"We didn't invent the stove mission," Briggs said. "There are other places that have done it, but it was one that seemed to make a lot of sense to me."

For around \$200 (U.S.) apiece, they could buy the materials needed, some of which were pre-made, according to



A single mother in Guatemala City who received one of the five stoves Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs and his team built. "We finished this one after dark using the flashlights on our phones. She was very appreciative," said Briggs. Materials used to build one of these stoves cost about \$200.

Briggs. A local Lutheran Church had already put together many of the materials required for the team and determined where they needed to go.

For each stove, they leveled out the dirt floor of the shanty and set a foundation of concrete blocks upon which they fixed the other pieces, as well as a stove top. Each stove had a small crevice to put the firewood with a vertical pipe attached to filter the smoke from the fire to outside of the shanty.

The consumption of wood in the neighborhoods was also an issue.

"One particular community we were approaching, I was thinking someone is

"I think to a community that often feels very hopeless, we were able to really bring a sense of hope to them."

— Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs

MISSION | 4

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Slow down for tortoises

Gulf Cove's Foresman Boulevard deadly for gophers

By STEVE REILLY STAFF WRITER

GULF COVE — Drivers speeding along Foresman Boulevard are taking a heavy toll on gopher tortoises.

"Slow down and pay attention," said Dorothy Carter, a Gulf Cove resident living along the stretch of Foresman between David Boulevard and Holton Terrace in the Gulf Cove subdivision between Port Charlotte and Englewood.

The speed limit is posted at 40 mph, but Carter said cars and trucks travel much faster when they speed by her home.

"I find it to be outrageous that drivers continue to race down my part of the street," she said. In 2018, Charlotte County Sheriff's deputies issued 75 warnings or speeding tickets on Foresman Boulevard, records show.

Last month, two gopher tortoises within feet of Carter's home died after being run over within minutes of each other.

"I noticed that something had been hit in front of my house," Carter recalled. She went over to look and saw that it was a gopher tortoise that had been cut in half.

"I spoke to it and the tortoise popped its head out and tried to walk (on its front legs)" she said. "I then called the (Charlotte County Sheriff's Office) and they transferred me to (Animal Control) and I told them of the situation.

"About 15 minutes later, when I was standing in the doorway of my house, I heard a loud crack and saw an old man in a tan truck speed by," Carter said. "I went and looked and he had run over another gopher tortoise and killed it right next to the other one."

Florida lists gopher tortoises as a threatened species. In her neighborhood, Carter has become an advocate for the tortoises, even being known by some of her neighbors as "the Turtle Lady." That wasn't always the case.

Originally from Massachusetts and with no knowledge of the burrowing tortoises, in 2011, Carter visited the site where her home was being built. A tortoise emerging from its burrow startled her.

"It scared the heck out of me," she said. "I jumped back into my car. I had to drive back because I forgot my cane."

But since that first meeting, Carter has identified at least five burrows surrounding her house and suspects there are far more along that stretch of Foresman. The tortoises, she said, have grown accustomed to her presence. She also convinced the county to post big yellow and black traffic warning signs along Foresman warning drivers about the presence of tortoises.

Not all drivers are heeding the warning.



SUN PHOTO BY STEVE REILLY

This gopher tortoise is taking a real risk crossing a stretch of Foresman Boulevard in Gulf Cove where tortoises are regularly killed by motorists.

Florida gophers

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, gopher tortoises prefer high, dry sandy habitats, such as coastal grasslands and dunes, and a variety of disturbed habitats, such as pastures. The tortoises can be found in all 67 Florida counties.

The tortoises feed on low-growing plants like grasses. They also eat prickly pear cactus and seasonal fruits. Carter mows her lawn short since she learned the tortoises like to feed on it.

The tortoises live more than 60 years with the females reaching sexual maturity between 10 and 20 years of age. The breeding season is generally between March and October. The females lay an average of five to nine eggs.

The tortoises, their eggs and their burrows are protected. The

burrows themselves can be 15 feet long and 6.5 feet deep.

In Charlotte County, before a vacant lot owner can develop a property with burrows, the property owner must provide the county a site and protection plan. Development must maintain a 25-foot circumference from any burrows. If the 25-foot protective buffer cannot be maintained, then the property owner must acquire a relocation permit from the state wildlife commission.

Florida can charge people with third-degree felonies — punishable up to five years in prison and/or a maximum \$5,000 fine — for intentionally killing, injuring, harassing or taking a gopher tortoise, or deliberately destroying tortoise eggs or their burrows.

To learn more about gopher tortoises, visit myfwc.com Email: reilly@sun-herald.com

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\$13,292 Plus tax and fees.*



2018 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT
Stock# 7703H
\$20,597 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA FIT LX
Stock# 7707H
\$13,987 Plus tax and fees.*



2015 TOYOTA SIENNA LTD Premium, Stock# 50381A
\$21,225 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA CIVIC LX
Stock# 51249A
\$14,028 Plus tax and fees.*



2018 HONDA CIVIC Si
Stock# 51303A
\$21,949 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE
Stock# 7704H
\$14,096 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 DODGE CHARGER R/T
Stock# 15222B
\$22,344 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA CIVIC LX
Stock# 51176A
\$14,487 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA ODYSSEY SE
Stock# 51080A
\$23,125 Plus tax and fees.*



2014 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE
Stock# 7631HA
\$14,879 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 FORD F-250SD XL
Stock# 15139A
\$23,942 Plus tax and fees.*



2016 HONDA ACCORD EX
Stock# 15269B
\$15,990 Plus tax and fees.*



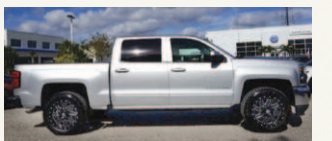
2017 HONDA PILOT EX-L
Stock# 49954A
\$30,021 Plus tax and fees.*



2017 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
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2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT
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Ray Briggs and Bill Heitman, a cabinet maker, building a play kitchen for kids at the orphanage their mission team stayed at during their trip to Guatemala City.

MISSION

FROM PAGE 1

burning garbage ... burning plastic," Briggs said. "As you get closer, you realize they are cooking on plastic because wood is so tough to come by. It doesn't seem like it should be but if everybody is burning wood, it is tough to come by. With the stoves, they're still burning wood but it will reduce the families consumption of wood up to 70 percent for the year."

They were able to complete five stoves for five separate families which will also help other families in the area because multiple families will use the same stove.

Now, what to do about food?

The Food Outreach Mission

"When we showed up, it's like you're a rock star."

You've never had so many people wanting to hug and kiss you on the cheek, according to Briggs.

With financial support of a previous mission group, Briggs and his team were tasked with distributing food and other groceries for almost 200 people at a sanctuary in the city.

"We were blessed with this project," Briggs said. "We got there and a prior group had put the funds in place to do a food outreach to provide some groceries to the community. The amount of money that we spent was (approximately) \$1,250 (US). Think about your grocery bill, or mine or whatever, so for \$1,250 we were able to purchase enough groceries for 75 families for a week."

And it wasn't just a bag

of rice for each family. While there was rice involved, they were also able to purchase beans and snacks for kids. "Hot chocolate — there was some fun stuff in there too."

The team went to a small market in the area and picked up all the different groceries and proceeded to bag them all up with a selection of the items in each bag. They also brought over a variety of basic school supplies from the states — paper, pencils, crayons, etc. — and distributed them at the food distribution center. As each family received a bag of food, if they had a child that was in school, they got a bag of school supplies. If they were not in school then they got a bag of "fun stuff" such as toys, kazoos, balls or backpacks."

Another church in the area had already done a lot of the leg work as far as organizing those families who would receive the supplies. Each family was given an index card with the church's stamp on it and a number.

"I believe the goal was a 'Do the greatest good for the greatest number of people' concept ... the bigger families, etc.," Briggs said.

For the most part, if you didn't have a card, then there wasn't much they could do for you.

Meet Fernanda

"We met Fernanda when we were handing out groceries," Briggs said.

Fernanda had come to the back of the room because she wasn't able to get a card for food. She had a 3-month-old baby in her arms, along with family and her two other children following behind her.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Part of the mission involving Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs (back toward middle) and others was to build stoves for the local Guatemalan families. Many families cooked on a campfire inside their shanties without a way to filter out the smoke. Pictured are Briggs, his kids and a Guatemalan mother (right) with her children (center, standing and sitting across front) who received one of the five stoves. Also pictured is Taylor Briggs (outside left), Morgan Briggs (right behind single mother), Sophia (back right, Ft. Ogdon Baptist) and Jacob Briggs (back outside right).

"She looks like she's 17 years old, if you want to know the truth," Briggs said.

"She comes in and she kind of lingers around for awhile but the food is all gone. She comes up and asks to talk to our team leader."

Fernanda's husband, who rides a motorcycle as many people do in the region, had been hit by a bus two days prior to their meeting.

Although she hadn't even been able to see him yet, she did know that he was on a breathing tube, and was in a coma with injuries to his face.

"We asked 'what do you need, what can we do to help,'" Briggs said. "All she asked for was prayer. Not money. Not food or anything. So, obviously we all prayed for her, her husband and healing."

Despite that experience, Briggs said he and the team resolved to find a way to help Fernanda.

The next day they were back in the community to build another stove. Their team leader was able to track down where Fernanda lived. They gathered together what money they could, stocked up on supplies and went to Fernanda's house to help her.

"We bought a bunch of children's clothes, diapers, food and other things and we were able to bless her those and money," Briggs

said. "So it was very cool; it was just an amazing experience."

The Orphanage Mission and More

"Every kid at the orphanage is damaged goods," Briggs said. "They're all court appointed when they get there and every one of them has a terrible story. It will just squeeze your heart."

Briggs and his mission group were stationed out of an orphanage in Guatemala City. There are over 500,000 orphans in Guatemala, according to statistics provided by All God's Children International. One child is abandoned in Guatemala City every four days.

"We did some projects at the orphanage that they needed," Briggs said. "We did some building projects ... built some cabinets. We also painted and did some repairs to the orphanage itself and interacted with the children. Working in the orphanage ... that'll break your heart."

Due to a lack of financial support, safe work and daycare services, many families in Guatemala can't care for their children, according to All God's Children. This lack of support leaves over 50 percent of children under the age of 5 chronically malnourished. Additionally, Briggs'



Being the Punta Gorda Fire Chief, Ray Briggs had access to a lot of promotional "swag" from the fire department. As part of their grocery distribution project, they also gave out plastic fire hats and bags to some of the children. Pictured here are two of those children, daughters of a single mom in Guatemala City.

group was able to provide 100 pairs of reading glasses to the local clinics to be distributed during other outreach opportunities in the area. They also brought approximately 80 pounds of medication and supplies to be dispersed through local missionaries.

"When it comes to the missions, you're not fixing much," said Briggs. "You're there for a day and so

we're not fixing much for the long-term, but what were able to deliver was a sense of hope. I think to a community that often feels very hopeless, we were able to really bring a sense of hope to them."

Briggs is already planning the details to return to Guatemala at the end of this year. When asked if he was returning, Briggs said, "Absolutely."

Email: Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com



The many bags of groceries that the mission team distributed at a local sanctuary in Guatemala City. For approximately \$1,250 (U.S.), they were able to purchase enough groceries for 75 families for a week."

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs and members of the Ft. Ogdon First Baptist Church are currently planning to make another trip at the end of the year.

"Once we identify the exact mission we will know the types of supplies we will be bringing — medical versus building projects — so physical donations will change depending on the mission type," Briggs said.

If you want to learn more about the mission or how to donate, contact Briggs by email at rbriggs@pgorda.us.

"Anyone who would like to help with physical or monetary donations should contact me and I will forward information out as it becomes available," Briggs said.

They were able to fund the 2018 trip through the efforts and donations of the Ft. Ogdon First Baptist Church, as well as friends and family of the team.

"We were all responsible for raising our own funds," Briggs said.

Many Punta Gorda city employees also donated as well as several members of the community, including Harborwalk Scoops and Bites at Laisley Municipal Marina.



"When we showed up, it's like you're a rock star. You've never had so many people wanting to hug and kiss you on the cheek," Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Briggs said. Families receive groceries in Guatemala City during one of Briggs' mission trips.

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Two letters made difference in veteran's life

Ruybal was sent to Vietnam after dropping out of college

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sun Correspondent Don Moore filed this story in August. Moore is recovering from a recent ailment.

Robert Ruybal was finishing up his senior year at the University of Colorado in 1968 when he bombed the last semester.

"I dropped out of college on Jan. 1, 1968, and soon after, I got a greeting letter from President Lyndon Johnson. I was drafted," the North Port resident explained 50 years later.

"I took my first airplane ride from Denver to Fort Bliss, Texas, where I went to basic training. Sgt. Blue, a sharp-looking drill sergeant, taught us how to soldier. When I first joined the Army they told me if I took an extra year I could choose my position in the service, my MOS. I decided to take administration. I figured that beat carrying a rifle.

"So I went to typing school. I was the platoon leader during typing school. Then I went to leadership school at Fort Benjamin Harrison," Ruybal said. "I had been



PHOTO PROVIDED

After dropping out of college, Bob Ruybal was drafted and sent to Vietnam.



SUN PHOTO BY DON MOORE

Bob Ruybal, a North Port resident, displays his Bronze Star. He is 71.



in the Army exactly a year when I received orders to go to Vietnam.

"I went to Oakland, California, and there I got on a plane and flew to Vietnam. I was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Long Binh. I was a clerk typist in the division's headquarters company. My job for the year was to type orders for overseas reassignment. I would send guys back home to the U.S. or reassign them somewhere else. We also typed KIA, MIA and WIA letters home to their families.

"I moved to Bien Hoa with the 101st. The whole six months I was there we were rocketed by the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) every night," Ruybal recalled. "The enemy was trying to mortar the runway at our base so our jets couldn't take off.

"Our base camp at Bien Hoa was surrounded by a perimeter fence guarded day and night. Every three days we'd pull guard duty.

"The NVA two-man mortar teams would sneak in at night and try and get as close to the fence as possible. They would always fire three mortar rounds at the runway and then try to escape the area," Ruybal said.

"As soon as that first mortar round went off, we'd triangulate their position and call in the helicopter gun-ships. Two

of our gun-ships would be in the air in 60 seconds. One would come in from the right and the other from the left. If those gun-ships dropped on the NVA mortar team they were dead.

"This happened every night I was in Vietnam. We learned very quickly when that first mortar came in to pancake onto the ground," he said. "No matter how tired you were, whether you had been drinking or smoking or whatever, you pancaked onto the ground. That was our way of life over there.

"There were times when those enemy mortars would come in our hooch and pepper it with shrapnel. All my clothes in my foot-locker were ripped up because it was hit by shrapnel.

"One morning at 6 a.m. we had just lined up for revelry when an enemy mortar round came in. It probably hit 20 feet away from where we were," Ruybal said. "We hit the ground and I was on the bottom of the pile. Seven of our guys were wounded. The most seriously injured were the guys who were taking showers. We were lucky nobody was killed.

"After six months in Bien Hoa, I realized we were never going to win this war. All the Vietnamese wanted was to raise their rice. It didn't matter to them if their government was a democracy or a Communist-run government. They just wanted to raise their rice.

"When we had time off a couple of us would catch a ride with a convoy going to Saigon," he said. "I never liked going to Saigon because of the sniper attacks by Vietcong guerrillas.

"Our whole division moved from Bien Hoa to Hue Phu Bai which was 30 miles from the Demilitarized Zone. It was the original capital of Vietnam and a beautiful city," he said. "Once I transferred to Hue I never left the base. I was there for our Hamburger Hill campaign.

"General of the Army Westmoreland told our general commanding the 101st to take this inconsequential hill held by the NVA that we eventually called Hamburger Hill. We destroyed it and took it away from the NVA.

"In doing so, think we



PHOTO PROVIDED

Taking some time off in Saigon, Bob Ruybal liked to explore but he wasn't sold on the city because of sniper attacks.

lost 70 killed and more than 400 of our guys were wounded. It was our job as typists in headquarters company to type all the KIA, MIA, and WIA letters home to the families," Ruybal said. "It was horrible. We worked 24 hours a day for two weeks typing.

"By this time I was in charge of the group doing the typing. They wanted to make me a sergeant, but I told them I wanted no part of being a sergeant because I would have to leave my guys. If I became a sergeant I would have to go live with the lifers. I didn't want to live with the lifers, I wanted to stay with my guys.

"The guys in my hooch were incredible. Problem was when you lived with somebody for year and they got wounded or killed, something clicked in your head. You wanted to kill all the Vietnamese.

"When my tour was over and I left Vietnam I was supposed to spend my last year in Germany. By then I had a girlfriend and I wanted to get back to her in California. So I rewrote my orders and sent some other guy to Germany and I went to San Francisco and the Presidio.

"I remember leaving Vietnam. We flew out of Danang on a commercial jet. We were taking incoming mortar fire," he said. "Once we cleared the area and were out

over the South China Sea, everyone in that whole jet let out a roar.

"We landed back in the States in Seattle, Washington. The biggest shock to me was going from a war zone 24 hours a day and flying back to the U.S. where things were going on normally like nothing had ever happened and there was no war.

"While in Vietnam, I received this letter from an 18-year-old young lady who lived in San Jose, California. She wrote me a letter that began, 'Hi, my name is Karen. You don't know me, but I'm the daughter of a friend of your aunt's.' And today that girl is sitting right here in my living room.

"I had no idea who she was, but I wrote her right back. For the whole next year we wrote letters to each other. When I got home a beautiful young lady drove all the way from her home in San Jose to my home in Denver to see me.

"I spent the next year working as a typist at the Presidio army base. Three days before getting out of the service I had

a weekend off. So we got married on a Saturday and I was back at base at work on Monday. On Tuesday I was busted out of the service.

"I took the G.I. Bill and went back to the University of Colorado where I completed my last year of college. It took me four years because I had other commitments like a job and a wife. I thought I would be an English teacher, but when I found out how little they made I decided to go into sales. For the last 50 years, I've been a salesman and enjoyed every minute of it.

"During my 71 years I've received two letters that made a difference in my life. The first one was 'Greetings' from President Johnson when I went to war. The second one was from Karen, my wife, when she was 18 and I was a member of the 101st in Vietnam.

"I'd go back to Vietnam again if, when I came home, I could meet her. She's made all the difference in my life."

The Ruybals have three daughters: Janna, Andrea, and Jordan.

MORE INFORMATION

Don Moore's stories are submitted to the Library of Congress and are available online through its official website.

Visit www.donmoorewartales.com for more than 900 stories of veterans who grew up or moved to Southwest Florida.

If you or someone you know is a veteran with a story to share, contact Don Moore at donmoore39@gmail.com or 941-426-2120.

PROPERTY FROM PAGE 1

the owners to sell to us is welcomed," Maio said, concluding his comments about the status of the negotiations.

The water authority, which is in the planning stages of constructing a third reservoir on the adjoining RV Griffin Reserve owned by Swiftmud, had hoped to use the Orange Hammock property for mitigation activities in connection with its project.

"Not much else to say," wrote Patrick Lehman, executive director of the authority, in an email in response to Maio's characterization of the negotiations.

Two years ago, the county and Swiftmud offered \$18 million to buy the property, but the owners countered with \$22 million. The difference in figures led county staff to seek updated appraisals before resuming negotiations.

While not offering any money toward the purchase, North Port City commissioners did affirm their commitment to the purchase following a joint meeting with the county in 2017.

Located in the northeastern corner of the city and formerly known as the Isles of Athena when North Port annexed it in 2000, the property was identified by the county almost 20 years ago as an environmentally sensitive piece of property. According to a county staff report, the environmental value of the property lies in "its habitat and hydrological value, wildlife corridor connection, and floodplain protection."

Since that time, the property has gone through several changes of ownership, but has remained undeveloped, largely due to the environment nature of the land as identified by the county report.

Email: jondaltonwr@gmail.com

DRONES FROM PAGE 1

look at laws related to drones and how they can be used to create efficiencies and enhance public safety."

Taylor said drones would help officers to get a different view, which could be particularly helpful in dangerous situations.

"Let's say you have a standoff situation, and you can't see into the backyard, or you can't see certain angles that would put officers in jeopardy if they moved into that position," he said. "It's just another tool to get a different look at what's going on without putting someone in danger."

The FSA states the bill would "allow law enforcement to use drones to gain an important aerial advantage when dealing with hostage situations, barricaded subjects, wildfires or other disasters, or even during crowd control and traffic management."

For crime scene footage, Taylor said drones would much less expensive than using a helicopter for the same purpose.

"In the past we've used the Sheriff's Office helicopter to come out and help us get some aerials of a crime scene, and we're paying hundreds and hundreds of dollars for fuel," he said.

For private property, law enforcement are required to obtain a search warrant in order to use a drone, but the bill would allow the use of drones to gather crime scene footage on public property.

"Using drones in this limited, defined manner would expedite and enhance crime scene processing, preserving the scene for future review, investigation, and prosecution," the FSA states in a fact sheet.

Taylor stressed the fact that the agency's use of drones would be a privacy concern for residents.

"These would not be used to spy on anyone,"

he said. "As far as stealth and flying around monitoring, that's not a thing... It's not anywhere near something that would be just sent up to peruse around town."

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, which did not respond to an email requesting comment for this article, last year unveiled its \$40,000 Dragonfly commander drone, which a department spokesperson said in September would be used primarily for search and rescue and to assist in traffic control at large events.

Punta Gorda Police Lt. Dylan Renz said PGPD is interested in drones but is only in the beginning

stages of exploring the idea.

"We're kind of in the process of deciding the pros and cons of using one and where it might fit, but we haven't gotten any farther than that," he said. "We haven't decided whether we want to use one and what we would use it for."

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office owns a drone used by its videographer, but the agency has not looked into the use of drones beyond that, according to spokesperson Katie Heck.

The bill is on the Criminal Justice Subcommittee's Tuesday agenda.

Email: anne.easker@yoursun.com

OBITUARIES

There were no deaths reported Sunday.



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VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Finally, some good news on Lost Lagoon

OUR POSITION: Charlotte County now has a plan for the Lost Lagoon downtown/water park development and that is reassuring.

More than a year ago, Charlotte County commissioners signed a contract with developers who wanted to put in a downtown and water park on a large Murdock Village plot. It was an exciting time, coming on the heels of Private Equity Group's down payment on the other half of long-dormant Murdock Village with plans for housing and commercial construction.

The idea of a water park grabbed the interest of tourism and economic development leaders and the attention of young families whose kids are always asking, "What's there to do in Charlotte County?"

Very little, if anything happened for the next several months as the developers struggled to meet deadlines to submit plans. There was a lot of anxiety over how serious and how well-funded the Lost Lagoon planners were.

When they met a deadline last week and submitted what appears to be a well-thought-out plan — and one that fits Murdock Village to a T — everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

While it's much too early to break out the swim wear and plan a trip to the water park — which will be one of the last pieces of the development — we sure feel better about the future of that portion of Murdock Village.

Developers are calling it Arredondo Pointe, named after a historic region in Orlando where the developer is based, according to a story in the *Sun* by Betsy Calvert. The first phase of the project will basically be the downtown area that Charlotte County lacks, unless you count the quaint, four-block commercial district in Punta Gorda.

The details of the 20-page proposal outline four districts in the plot, including 45 acres for the water park. The plan calls for 2 million square feet of commercial space and up to seven hotels.

Developers are looking for a wide-open downtown area that is conducive to walking and not so much to vehicle traffic. Their plans include phrases like: "attractive places for people to gather;" and places to "have community events." Roundabouts, instead of intersections, will slow traffic. There are other ideas in the plan such as pool parking for businesses.

Open areas are key. "Convention suburban buffers and landscaping are incompatible with walkable mixed-use development because they are intended to separate rather than integrate uses," the plan says.

The idea of a downtown area — close to county government, the mall, and not far from Charlotte Sports Park — is exciting.

Charlotte County's interim Economic Development Director Dave Gammon was all but salivating over the plan.

"If they can do anything like that, I think it's going to be fabulous," he told the *Sun*.

There are still a number of steps that must be taken. This is far from a done deal.

But, the submission of the plan means special zoning that is needed can be looked at and agreed on between the developers and the county. There are other deadlines coming up that require even more details from the developer — including where the required eight acres for wildlife habitat and 31 acres of open space are planned.

Still, we now have good reason to believe this development will happen.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tear down walls, not build them

Editor:

Kudos to the woman from Rotonda who quoted Robert Frost. How beautifully put!

We who have had the good fortune of growing up in the United States have no comprehension of what a wall can represent. I prefer the Statue of Liberty to represent the true meaning of this "great" country and I would rather tear down walls, not erect more.

And to the woman who complained about feeding and offering medical care to aliens: Isn't that what Christianity is all about? Wouldn't it be wonderful if no one needed help to survive? (In a perfect world.)

Until then, how about thanking God for the blessings you've been given and strive to make it a better world.

Cynthia Sergen
North Port

Don't mess up a second chance

Editor:

Just a few thoughts on our southern border. The last four presidents have acknowledged this as a major problem that needs to be corrected, yet here we are still kicking this can down the road.

The cost of securing our border is chump change compared to what it's costing us every year. I have seen figures as high as \$100 billion a year and counting. It affects every citizen in this great country. School systems are overwhelmed, welfare and medical facilities not to mention police departments cannot handle the influx of illegals.

Let me make it clear, I have nothing against people coming to the United States in search of a better life. Do it the legal way, just like my ancestors did many years ago. We will welcome you with open arms. This problem needs to be corrected now, not later. Politicians from both parties have to put politics aside and protect the American people. It's your job. You

work for us and we should come first.

The American people are getting less attention and news coverage than the illegals. Let's take care of our own first and foremost. There's enough blame to go around on this issue on both sides of the isle.

It's funny how we lock our doors at night to protect our loved ones but politicians can't secure our country's borders. We have just a few weeks to get this right. I don't want our federal employees to be in the middle again.

You don't get a do-over very often. Don't screw this up on your second chance. Step up and do the right thing. Secure the southern border now.

Charles Pope
Port Charlotte

People should stay in 'birth country'

Editor:

Where is the wall between us and Canada? It doesn't exist, because we are a law-abiding society and recognize their sovereignty. We respect their border and vice versa.

Then why should we allow homeless aliens to enter our country illegally and demand our benefits?

It is ridiculous to me that this is happening. A person with even a portion of a brain should realize how insane this is. The people who support this crime and offer sanctuary should be charged with treason.

They should stay in their birth country and work to improve their lot. If they truly do want to become citizens here, come in the front door after legalities as a friend — not as a thief in the night.

Dolores Van Slambrouck
Englewood

A poor site for a hotel

Editor:

Mr. Streuding requested a zoning change from residential to commercial for three lots fronting on Burlington Avenue in

Englewood. These back up to three lots he owns on the South Access Road for State Road 776, which are zoned commercial.

Not granting this request will not violate his property rights, as it will not change them.

He wants to construct a 76-nit hotel on these six lots. I don't see how he could fit 76 cars and a hotel on these lots, let alone an office and parking for staff, dumpsters and all that goes with a hotel.

These lots corner on Strawberry Street, which provides the primary access to them. However, getting back on to S.R. 776, from Strawberry, no left turn is allowed, and it would be dangerous to allow one. This means a problem for anyone wanting to go west, to the beach, Walmart, Englewood center, etc.

I would invite anyone not opposing the zoning change to drive there and pull off onto the access road and see the problem.

Please don't suggest a traffic light. Strawberry is only one-quarter mile west of the light at Spinnaker Boulevard and three-quarters mile east of the light at Sunnybrook. In the 2½ miles from Sunnybrook Boulevard west, past Strawberry, to San Casa Boulevard there are already six traffic lights.

The access problems are the reason these lots are empty. This is not a good location for a hotel.

Don Ferguson
Englewood

Letter: Trump is strong on social issues

Editor:

I am 76 years old and I voted for Mr. Trump because I was very tired of the direction our country was going. I knew that he wasn't a saint, nor did he claim to be.

He told us of the much-needed changes that he was going to make and I (we) thought, why not give an outsider a chance, what can it hurt? Our country is strong enough to survive four years of Donald Trump.

Most of us who voted for him think that he was doing just fine but we all know of the lack of support he

has received. Conservative judges? Absolutely, since the 1970s the courts have made it legal to abort human babies and life, or being alive is the greatest gift there is.

How about same-sex marriage? The Holy Scriptures clearly condemn both actions while our courts have made it illegal to pray in most public schools and to portray the Ten Commandments of our creator.

Jeff Stine
Punta Gorda

Lucky to find this designer

Editor:

We are currently in the process of remodeling our bathroom using Jennifer Dubbaneh from Calista Design. She has been with us every step of the way.

Besides the beautiful design work, she has always been available whenever we had questions about the project and has been the perfect intermediary between us and the contractors. Her knowledge and positive attitude make her an exceptional person to work with.

We were overjoyed to see the article about her in the *Sun*. It is well-deserved and we feel fortunate to have found her.

Michael, Linda Hantman
Punta Gorda

Immigrants contribute to society, economy

Editor:

The USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) does not grant a work permit or any other means for people to work in this country while their immigration cases are processed. They are unable to get a Social Security number and face deportation.

While this happens at the USCIS, undocumented immigrants who are working in this country are allowed to have an ITIN number (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number), which allows them to file tax returns. Currently, there are millions of immigrants in the U.S. with this kind of number. ITIN-holders pay federal and state taxes, as well as Social Security and Medicare, which they will never be able to collect, even if they become legal residents. Keep in mind that in some cases, depending on their categories, their residency process may take up to 25 years to be completed.

Once they receive their legal resident status (green card) they can apply to get a Social Security number. While their records with the IRS will be merged into one file, remember, they won't be able to collect any funds they were filing under an ITIN number.

So, think again if you believe that all illegal immigrants in the U.S. are only a burden to this country. Research the ITIN number and see how they are being unfairly used. Besides, people with the ITIN numbers, have been able to open bank accounts, make home loans and contribute substantially to our great U.S. melting pot, a U.S. that has always been great.

Laura Barth
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.

The banality of evil, dehumanization of society

C.S. Lewis was only partly right when he wrote: *The greatest evil ... is conceived and ordered (moved, seconded, carried and minuted) in clean, carpeted, warmed and well-lighted offices, by quiet men with white collars and cut fingernails and smooth-shaven cheeks who do not need to raise their voice.*



Washington Post
Kathleen PARKER

— and the birth of a baby girl.

What a weird, wicked world we live in.

Last Monday in Virginia, Kathy Tran testified on behalf of a bill that would have simplified the process for having a late-term abortion. Currently, Virginia law requires three doctors' approval for such a procedure. The bill, which was subsequently tabled, would've required only one's. This was hardly the stuff of "infanticide," a word that began tumbling from the lips of certain critics, but Gov. Ralph Northam wasn't helpful. During a radio interview, he spoke of making distressed newborns "comfortable" while the family decides whether

to resuscitate.

Just maybe we're not very good at talking about the unspeakable.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and other blue states are busy hammering out their own legal concoctions, likely concerned that *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned by the now-predominantly conservative Supreme Court. I leave others to argue the validity of those concerns, but my sources in the pro-life movement, including several legal scholars, think upending the decision is unlikely given that, in 1992, the court not only reinforced *Roe* but actually made the ruling stronger.

Regardless, the pro-choice movement has been preparing for such a frontal assault on the few abortion restrictions left to states. In 1973, when *Roe* was issued, a baby's viability was set at 24-28 weeks. Today, thanks to technology and our finer understanding

of human development, viability occurs around 22 weeks.

In New York City, where about two in five pregnancies are terminated, there will no longer be any presumption of humanity for the baby at any stage of pregnancy, which goes far beyond abortion jurisprudence. Most Americans are fully against such extreme approaches to abortion. One survey puts the share who support abortion during the third trimester at just 13 percent.

Like many if not most Americans, I have been reasonably at ease with President Clinton's 1996 call for making abortion "safe, legal and rare," but had hoped we'd seriously pursue that goal through better information and limit abortion to the first trimester. But the pro-choice side has resisted many attempts to educate. Activists have opposed laws requiring that pregnant women have the option

of viewing a sonogram before their abortion. They've also thwarted attempts to make adoption resources available at abortion clinics.

What are they afraid of? That someone may change her mind?

My own thinking about abortion was partly formed by having almost witnessed a "back-alley abortion" when a college friend sought an abortion in 1970 in Spain. We walked into a room with a white linoleum table over which, not kidding, a single lightbulb hung. We bolted, called home for money, and put her on a plane to London for a legal abortion.

No one wants women to be subjected to such last resorts. But nor should we be celebrating laws that ignore the humanity of an unborn child. While there are only four doctors in the U.S. that perform third-trimester abortions and, obviously, "no one gets an abortion on the delivery table," as New

York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg put it, the codification of late-term abortion should be discomfiting.

It is obvious, meanwhile, that these pro-abortion legislators' new efforts are aimed at undoing, one by one, the state-level "victories" of their pro-life counterparts — even, apparently, if it means putting women's lives at greater risk by allowing non-doctors to perform abortions.

But more concerning than a possible increase in late-term abortions (now at fewer than 2 percent of all pregnancy terminations) is the clinical way we've come to view and discuss human life.

When we use language to disguise reality — whether the developing human baby is a "clump of cells," a "fetus," or even, a "product of termination" — we move ever-closer to the dehumanization of us all.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Trump Remorse? Take these books and shelve them

It's a new literary genre — books by former staff members and aides who now want to dish about the awfulness of Donald Trump or his White House. Last month, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie debuted the latest book in that field, "Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics."

Christie thus joins Omarosa Manigault Newman, whose "Unhinged: An Insider's Account of the Trump White House," came out in August, and Cliff Sims, whose "Team of Vipers: My 500 Extraordinary Days in the Trump White House" also was released last month. Granted, Trump Remorse is just a



Miami Herald
Leonard PITTS

literary trickle now. But given the extraordinary rate at which the man burns through personnel, it's reasonable to think the trickle may soon become a flood.

Indeed, who knows that John Kelly is not huddling with a literary agent at this very moment or that Jeff Sessions is not holed up somewhere, tapping his frustrations out on a keyboard? Not that you'd find me lining up for their books. Nor will I read Christie's, Sims' or Manigault Newman's.

Why provide an audience for their rationalizations, explanations, defenses and excuses? Even as guilty pleasure it feels like a waste.

After all, the only thing these authors really have to offer is the gratification that comes of hearing some true believer finally admit what you already knew. And with Christie, you barely even get that. To judge from media coverage, his book concentrates its fire on the circus Trump surrounds himself with, while the ringmaster himself escapes relatively unscathed.

But even if Christie had gone at him hammer and tongs, even if Sessions, Kelly, Kellyanne Conway, Jared Kushner, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and

every other Trump whisperer in Trumplandia were to finally admit the emperor is dancing a buck and wing in his birthday suit, what should or would that mean to the rest of us, mired in the midst of this slow-rolling national disaster? At this stage of the game, how much satisfaction is there in being able to say, "I told you so"?

About as much as there is in buying a fire extinguisher after the house burns down.

Point being, there is no element of Trump's awfulness — not the racism, not the sexism, not the narcissism, not the lying, not the incompetence, not the bullying, not the corruption and not the deep and dismaying

stupidity — that was not knowable, that was not as obvious as a neon sign in a mineshaft, before he was elected. So what's changed? What do these people suddenly see now that they couldn't then?

Speaking up then might have mattered, might have changed something. But they were silent, implicitly vouching for this man and his team. Now they're writing books in order to ... what? Rehabilitate image? Unburden conscience? Make some coin?

Not that the reason matters to me. Spending money — or time — on some book of Trump Remorse would only add vicious insult to crippling injury.

Give me Bob Woodward's "Fear: Trump in the White House."

Give me David Cay Johnston's "It's Even Worse Than You Think: What The Trump Administration is Doing to America."

Give me April Ryan's "Under Fire: Reporting From the Front Lines of the Trump White House."

But spare me some self-serving mea culpa from a Trump drone who claims to have just now figured out what the rest of us have known since Day One.

They can take their books and shelve them
Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald. Readers may contact him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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Punta Gorda man in critical condition after 5-car pile-up

A Punta Gorda man is in critical condition after causing a five-car crash on Veterans Boulevard Saturday afternoon.

Charles Caputo, 45, was airlifted to Lee Memorial Hospital, according to a Florida Highway Patrol press release. He was charged with careless driving. Alcohol was not involved, the report stated. Authorities had to shut down westbound Veterans for two-and-a-half hours to clear the roadway.

On Saturday at 3:42 p.m., Caputo was driving his 1985 Oldsmobile Delta 88 westbound in the outside lane of Veterans approaching a red light at the intersection of Atwater Street. Four vehicles were stopped in the lane. As he approached the other vehicles from behind, Caputo failed to stop, colliding with the back of a 2017 Chevy Silverado driven by James Looke, 76.

The collision caused a chain reaction with the other four vehicles. Looke suffered minor injuries but refused medical care. John Sullivan, 58, of New York, driving a 2018 Jeep Cherokee stopped in front of Looke, had to be transported to Englewood Community Hospital with minor injuries. Of the other nine victims, no other injuries were reported.

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

- Joseph Jay Andrade, 54, 110 block of Sunrise Drive, Rotonda West. Charges: DUI and failure to stop vehicle as order by law enforcement officer. Bond: \$3,000.
- Carlos Lonell Woodson, 52, 1200 block of Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda. Charges: failure to appear and an underlying charge. Bond: \$5,000.
- Jesse Woodson Brown, 26, 110 block of Tropicana Drive, Punta Gorda.

The Sun reports arrests in Charlotte County daily. The Clerk's Office provided the following information regarding dispositions and sentences.

The following cases were dropped/abandoned (no file):

- Francis W. Smallwood Jr., 40, 200 block of Spring Drive, Rotonda. Charge: battery.
- Graft L. Hobart, 26, 21300 block of Gertrude Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: petty theft.
- Melissa A. Hauss Helveston, 50, Cape Coral. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Jeffrey S. Crutcher, 40, Dade City. Charges: possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.
- Jami M. Parker, 29, Orlando Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery.
- Nicholas A. Millenior, 28, 2400 block of Vankeuren Drive, Port Charlotte. Charge: battery.
- Raul C. Colon Ocasio, 27, 5200 block of Easter Terrace, North Port. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Stephen S. Torchia Jr., 43, 3300 block of Brooklyn Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: loitering or prowling.
- Daniel S. Pullen, 34, 27400 block of Las Lomas Drive, Punta Gorda. Charge: battery.
- Taylor R. Lease, 21, Fairway Drive, Rotonda. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Matthew J. Hoerl, 29, 1400 block of Dorian St., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery.
- Bruce A. Davis, 54, Mattawan, Michigan. Charges: two Fish Wildlife Conservation violations regarding redfish size.
- Adelaide G. Schrowang, 20, 6800 block of Placida Road, Englewood. Charge: battery.
- Philip J. Redoutey, 26, 2700 block of 10th St., Englewood. Charge:

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.



SUN PHOTO BY LIZ HARDAWAY

The bed of the pickup truck in front flipped, causing debris and bins to fly everywhere. Two firetrucks and two ambulances were on scene, along with a multitude of CCSO vehicles.

Charge: 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle. Bond: \$2,000.

- Leeann Marie Chiasson, 32, 700 block of Agabedis Ave., Punta Gorda. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, driving with a suspended license and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$8,000.
- Stephen Payne Judd, II, 43, 700 block of Gulf Breeze Ave., Punta Gorda. Charge: driving with a suspended license. Bond: \$5,000.
- Lucas Kraft Langenfeld, 41, of Punta Gorda. Charges: three counts of underlying charges and failure of defendant on bail to appear. Bond: \$20,000.
- Matthew Terrell Rowe, 27, 122200 block of Kirk Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: tampering with a witness, false imprisonment of a person against their will and felony battery or domestic battery by strangulation. Bond: \$18,000.
- Zebediah Colin Fairbanks, 40, 20000 block of Helm Way, Port Charlotte. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: none.
- Israel Mercado-Valentin, 53, 2000 block of Lakeview Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery by intentional touch or strike. Bond: \$2,000.
- Dustin Bailey Lindsay, 21, 2000 block of Lakeview Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery by intentional touch or strike. Bond: \$2,000.
- Daniel Lyn Fuller, 37, 4300 block

of Eaglet Road, Port Charlotte. Charge: petty theft. Bond: \$4,000.

- Shantell Cleo Sparks, 24, 700 block of Sharon Circle, Port Charlotte. Charge: failure to redeliver hired vehicle. Bond: none.
- Sara Lynn Banka, 23, 21400 block of Kenelm Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: two counts of scheme to defraud obtaining property communication. Bond: none.
- Osmani Duenas Diaz, 45, of Orlando. Charge: knowingly driving with a suspended or revoked license. Bond: \$500.
- Nathan Joshua Ndedge, 36, 300 block of Shore Drive, Nokomis. Charges: possession or use of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. Bond: none.
- Rafael Rios Ebra, 25, 1100 block of Sheldon Ave., Lehigh Acres. Charges: reckless driving and prohibited use of flashing or rotating blue lights. Bond: \$3,500.
- Daniel Frederick Hill, 37, 10000 block of Alifla St., Gibsonton. Charges: possession of marijuana and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$4,000.
- Robert Burrill Blume, 28, homeless of Englewood. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, carrying a concealed weapon without a license, introduction of contraband into a county detention facility and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$8,500.

— Compiled by Daniel Sutphin



Everyday the Sun reports any arrests in Charlotte County. Then, we track those cases through the 20th Judicial Court System and report the outcomes here.

- Anthony P. Schmidt, 52, 5000 block of N. Beach St., Englewood. Charges: two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- Buck L. Wooley, 48, homeless in Port Charlotte. Charge: aggravated battery using a deadly weapon.
- Randy R. Twombly, 37, 7100 block of Adderly Road, Englewood. Charge: battery.
- Michelle L. Wright, 52, 22200 block of Montrose Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: criminal mischief.

The following cases were nolle prosequi:

- Daniel Parabak, 63, 22100 block of Oneida Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: burglary with an assault or battery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- Zachary T. Cote, 20, 3200 block of Moravia Ave., North Port. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Alexander J. Almanzar, 22, Fort Myers. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Steven W. Kinter, 31, 4100 block of Conway Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charges: battery and criminal mischief.
- Christopher A. Hardwick, 59, 800 block of Mench Terris NW, Port Charlotte. Charge: willful stalking.
- Sean J. Doyle, 37, 13500 block of Martha Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Latoya C. Riley, 37, 21300 block of

Argyle Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- Jack R. Pittman, 49, 15500 block of Maple Tree Drive, Punta Gorda. Charge: failure to register as a convicted felon.
- Dana L. Oppman, 28, 1600 block of Yellow Pine Court, Punta Gorda. Charge: battery.
- Anastasia E. Fragiadakis, 36, 22200 block of Albany Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery.

The following defendants entered a pre-trial diversion program:

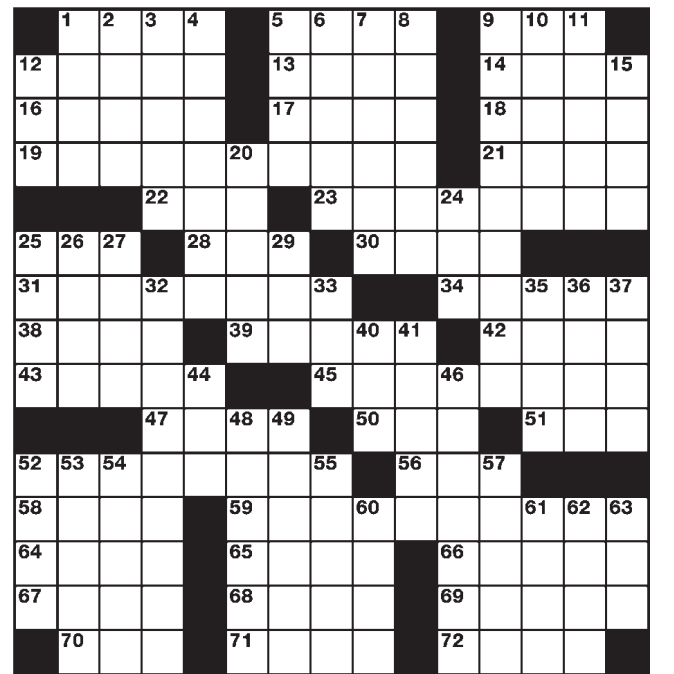
- Zane M. A. Slavin, 22, 18400 block of Van Nuys Circle, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Quinton J. Sutton McCool, 19, 1400 block of Kenesaw St., Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. A charge of possessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana was dropped. Sentence: credit time served. Outstanding fees: \$417.
- Nelson R. Gray Jr., 57, 21800 block of Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: six

CASE CLOSED | 10

Newsday Crossword

STAKE A CLAIM by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 24-hr. bank conveniences
 - 5 Con game
 - 9 Petroleum production measure: Abbr.
 - 12 ONE WAY sign shape
 - 13 Female choir voice
 - 14 Actor Alda
 - 16 Actress Witherspoon
 - 17 Explorer Ponce de ___
 - 18 Actress Winslet or Mulgrew
 - 19 Hold firm against opposition
 - 21 Canyon sound
 - 22 Arch city in Mo.
 - 23 Get up again
 - 25 "Halt, ___ goes there?"
 - 28 Wide shoe with
 - 30 In ___ (well-coordinated)
 - 31 Acorn producers
 - 34 Insects that sting
 - 38 Former Italian coin
 - 39 Previous
 - 42 On an even ___ (well-balanced)
 - 43 Tiny bit of snow
 - 45 Casino wheel-and-ball game
 - 47 Stately sources of shade
 - 50 Game of Thrones cable channel
 - 51 Use needle and thread
 - 52 Talk freely
 - 56 Cubes that cool drinks
 - 58 Word-of-mouth
- DOWN**
- 1 Region
 - 2 Difficult journey
 - 3 Ten Commandments recipient
 - 4 Turtleneck, for instance
 - 5 Shaker contents
 - 6 Fully understood
 - 7 Makes amends
 - 8 Workweek start for many
 - 9 Use the oven to prepare dessert
 - 10 Color of a crow
 - 11 Wood-shaping machine
 - 12 Shirtsleeve insert
 - 15 Gas in store window signs
 - 20 Visit dreamland
 - 24 Point opposite ESE
 - 25 Howling wild canine
 - 26 Precipitation in pellets
 - 27 Cajun veggie
 - 29 Occupational suffix for auction
 - 32 See what there is to see
 - 33 "Dear ___ or Madam . . ."
 - 35 Full collections
 - 36 Sampras of tennis
 - 37 Whole bunch
 - 40 ___ and aah
 - 41 Toy cube inventor
 - 44 Antlered animal
 - 46 Venues
 - 48 Crowded around
 - 49 Without doubt
 - 52 Fly alone
 - 53 Plain talk
 - 54 National bird
 - 55 Saying few words
 - 57 Wear away
 - 60 Improves, as wine
 - 61 Advocate strongly
 - 62 Onionlike veggie
 - 63 Conclude



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Look for a third crossword in The News Wire section.



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

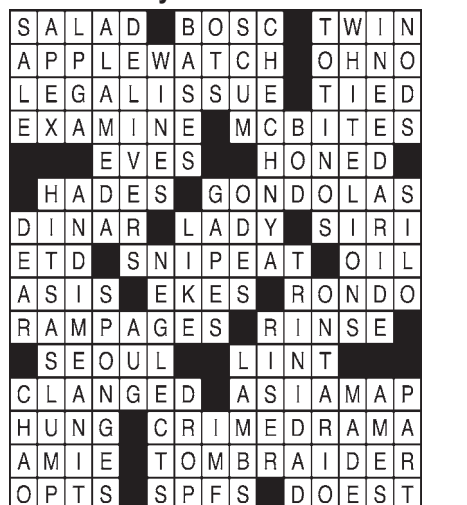
- 1 Gather in a pile
- 6 City transport
- 9 Assume the role of
- 14 Dashed in the direction of
- 15 Fireplace remnants
- 16 Baseball's home
- 17 Military decoration
- 18 China : cha :: U.S. : ___
- 19 Resistance member
- 20 Misdeed exculpation
- 23 Garden product word
- 26 Lyricist Gershwin
- 27 Ages and ages
- 28 Word after photo or black
- 29 Done tidily and without stress
- 33 Skillful
- 34 Early riser?
- 35 Wyatt of the Old West
- 39 Bedouin abode
- 40 Takes out the sloop
- 42 Classic cookie
- 43 Mediocre
- 44 Suffix with alp
- 45 Models for some Adam and Eve art
- 46 Precisely
- 50 Texter's "I believe"
- 53 Louis XIV, par exemple
- 54 Badminton partition
- 55 Originally called
- 56 Exercise mantra
- 60 Minotaur's island
- 61 Overtime cause, in sports
- 62 Seashore
- 66 Brother of Moses
- 67 Right-angled pipe shape
- 68 Came to a conclusion
- 69 Slope
- 70 Prefix with -lexic
- 71 Gives medicine to

DOWN

- 1 Pitcher's asset
- 2 West of "My Little Chickadee"
- 3 Plus
- 4 Ollie's partner
- 5 Single singer
- 6 WWII Philippine battleground
- 7 Manipulative sort
- 8 Causing disgrace
- 9 Cooks' protective wear
- 10 Sheet music symbol
- 11 Forbidden
- 12 Consumed eagerly
- 13 Disposes of on eBay
- 21 60-min. periods
- 22 Subjects, usually, in grammar class
- 23 Bitty biters
- 24 Show with horses and bulls
- 25 Warning signs
- 30 Model Kate married to Justin Verlander
- 31 Willow twig
- 32 South Korea's capital
- 36 Elizabeth of cosmetics
- 37 Creator of yummy "pieces"
- 38 Entourage
- 40 Do what he says or you lose
- 41 Made sacred, as with oil
- 45 Observed
- 47 "Murder on the Express"
- 48 Marx co-author
- 49 Cultural funding org.
- 50 Machu Picchu builders
- 51 Point of a fable
- 52 Wagner work
- 57 Huge amount, as of homework
- 58 Slick, like a garage floor
- 59 Forbidden thing, and what each of four long answers is?
- 63 Spots on television
- 64 Understand
- 65 NFL scores

By Winston Emmons 2/4/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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CASE CLOSED FROM PAGE 8

months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$883.50.

- Jerry A. Lawrence, 36, 17900 block of Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: six months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$885.
- Katie A. Hughes, 23, 26100 block of Madras Court, Punta Gorda. Charge: worthless checks. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$415.
- David A. Martin, 38, Culpepper, Virginia. Charges: possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: none.
- Makenzi Jo Maze, 27, 100 block of Annapolis Lane, Rotonda. Charges: fraud uttering false bank bill note and

grand theft. Sentence: 48 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$732.73.

The following defendants were adjudicated guilty:

- Mona A. Pelkey, 56, 5600 block of SW Brahma Ave., Arcadia. Charge: grand theft. Sentence: 36 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$665. additional charges of trafficking in stolen property and fraudulent use of a credit card were dropped or not prosecuted.
- Armando Ramirez, 41, Palmetto, Florida. Charge: selling cocaine. Sentence: five years of probation. Outstanding fees: \$715.
- Alejandro M. Servin, 19, South Manatee Avenue, Arcadia. Charges: two counts of grand theft auto, two counts of grand theft, six counts of petty theft and six counts of burglary. Sentence: 36 months in prison and 24 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$2,160.
- Tracey E. Kruse, 37, homeless. Charge: trespassing. Sentence: 10 days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$407.

- Jacob A. K. Jones, 34, North Fort Myers. Charge: trespassing. Sentence: three days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$407.
- Kathleen R. Hitt, 43, 21400 block of Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: eight months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$988.
- Darren J. Rodriguez, 53, 1100 block of Pendleton Ave., Englewood. Charge: disturbing the peace. Sentence: 60 days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$407.
- Christopher Rossip, 35, 17800 block of Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. A charge of possessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana was not prosecuted. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$1,142.50.
- Michael O. Wulping, 57, homeless in Englewood. Charges: driving while license is suspended and leaving the scene of a crash involving damage. Sentence: 90 days in jail. Outstanding

fees: \$303.

- Damien J. Mosser, 41, 3300 block of Pine Tree St., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: credit time served. Outstanding fees: \$865.
- William G. Van Polanen Petel, 57, 14500 block of Lillian Circle, Port Charlotte. Charge: driving while license is suspended or revoked. Sentence: six months in jail. Outstanding fees: \$470.
- Brandon G. Schwager, 41, 25500 block of Heritage Lake Blvd., Punta Gorda. Charge: possession of drug paraphernalia. Two charges of possessing a controlled substance were dropped or not prosecuted. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$628.18.
- Christine A. Miller, 38, 12400 block of S.W. Lexington Place, Arcadia. Charges: driving while license is suspended or revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: 30 days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$622.
- Barry R. Yemma, 41, 200 block of Swift St., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest without

violence. Charges of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and loitering were dropped or not prosecuted. Sentence: 11 months in jail. Outstanding fees: \$722.

- Santino M. Peralta, 26, 300 block of Lasayette Drive NE, Port Charlotte. Charges: selling marijuana, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: seven months in jail. Outstanding fees: \$902.
- Joshua A. Marceron, 37, 2000 block of Arkansas Ave., Englewood. Charges: DUI and resisting arrest without violence. A charge of fleeing or attempting to elude police was not prosecuted. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$978.
- Verona M. Wyndham, 35, 12300 block of Deepwoods Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: disturbing the peace. Sentence: credit time served. Outstanding fees: \$507.
- Anna Maria Villareal, 47, 10100 block of Kimberly Ave., Englewood. Charges: possession of drug paraphernalia, petty theft and resisting arrest without violence. Adjudication was withheld on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. An additional possession

of a controlled substance charge was not prosecuted and a charge of possessing not more than 20 grams of marijuana was dropped. Sentence: credit for time served and 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$865.

- Robert J. Parise, 28, 4600 block of Westwood Drive, Punta Gorda. Charges: DUI-third violation within 10 years and driving while license is suspended or revoked. Sentence: 31 days in jail and 24 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$3,003.
- Omar J. Molina Ortiz, 20, Fort Myers. Charges: possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Sentence: 60 days in jail. Outstanding fees: \$865.
- Benjamin J. Phillips Sr., 53, 100 block of Martin Drive, Port Charlotte. Charge: grand theft. Sentence: 12 months of probation. Outstanding fees: \$880.90.
- Julio C. Pazos, 52, Dania Beach, Florida. Charge: driving without a valid license. Sentence: credit time served. Outstanding fees: \$320.
- Stuart C. Rucker, 50, 7200 block of Beardsley St., Englewood. Charge: littering 15 pounds to 500 pounds. Sentence: credit time served. Outstanding fees: \$407.

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Common core no more

Local education officials sound off on controversial issue

By **BRIANNA KWASNIK**
STAFF WRITER

Florida students soon might not have to worry about studying to pass standardized testing.

On Thursday, Gov. Ron DeSantis announced his plan to issue an executive order that would eliminate Common Core in Florida schools.

Common Core is a set of standards that every K-12 grade student should know at the end of each grade, in order to be prepared for college or the workforce.

Here's what district employees had to say about the news:

Cara Reynolds, Charlotte County School Board Member: "I am pleased that Governor DeSantis has listened to parents and educators about their frustration with the Florida standards and overabundance of standardized testing our children are forced to endure. I agree with him that 'we want high quality education' for the students of Florida. We must prepare them for life outside the school walls, not getting them to pass an arbitrary test based on standards that are not developmentally

appropriate, especially for our youngest students. A child is much more than one test on one day, and a good school is much more than a letter grade."

Bridget Ziegler, Sarasota County School Board Member: "It created this climate and culture of



ZIEGLER

over-testing, for me as a parent, I want to make sure my children are in a learning environment where they love to learn... It's going to ensure they're going to create and foster a love of learning. That's why educators become educators. The more we can create that environment for them, the better it is for everything. I applaud Governor DeSantis for really listening to the constituents and the concerns of voters, especially those in education. He wasted no time in taking action...From conversations I've had with people in the county, and across the state, it seems it's not a partisan excitement, it's across the board."

Renee Wiley, President of Charlotte Florida

Education Association (teachers union): "This elimination of Common Core will require a replacement or revision of Florida Standards. This replacement should be crafted by those on the front-lines of education — teachers, educational school — and district-based leadership and families of the students being impacted...With the elimination of Common Core, required State Testing needs to be addressed. Educators need time to teach standards — not teach to a test. The amount of money that is paid to students to test our students is enormous...The change in educational standards should also apply to charter schools and private schools accepting Public Education Funds.

There needs to be an elimination of double standards. Holding Public Education to one set of rules and regulations and allowing other non-public schools to go about their business regardless of regulations is egregious, unfair, and potentially damaging to those students whose learning is not regulated and monitored.-Gov. Desantis' announcement is suspect at best. Is the true purpose to improve Public Education or is to dismantle it? His history of nonsupport for Public Education and the appointment of Mr. Corcoran leads me to believe that Public Education is in a fight for its life in Florida."

Email: brianna.kwasnik@yoursun.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

'There are so many wonderful things happening in our schools every day that the public doesn't know about,' Cara Reynolds says of her belief in the need for better communication within the Charlotte County School District.

Cigar shop's short move confuses customers

By **TOM HARMENING**
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — When the owners of North Port Cigars decided to relocate, they didn't move very far from their original location.

Just 405 feet, to be exact. But the move around the corner in the The Shoppes at Price Crossing center confused many customers.

"We were located on the Toledo Blade side of the center and decided we wanted to add a cigar lounge to our retail shop," store manager Shbaz Sharccg said. "In the process, we more than doubled our space, but somehow people lost track of us."

The store moved in September 2017 — more than a year ago.

Yet today: "We still get customers who walk in and ask if we are the same store that was around the corner," Sharccg said.

"Now, some may be returning snowbirds, but others...well, I can't figure out why they have trouble finding us."

He said the store's typical customers are men 45-50

years old.

A few women venture in to purchase cigarettes at the retail side of the business, "but very few smoke cigars."

The store features a large lounge with two flat screen televisions and a walk in humidor — where cigars are displayed in a climate controlled area.

"We have 500 brands in our humidor," he said. "It's the largest humidor between Naples and Tampa."

There are some rules that the shop strictly enforces, Sharccg said. "No one under 18 is allowed inside. Cigarette smoking and vaping are not allowed and only premium cigars purchased here are allowed to be smoked in the lounge."

The store has three employees and works closely with military and veterans groups.

Sharccg plans to build ties to both North Port and Port Charlotte golf courses to stage special cigar events and golf outings.

"We are planning to do a lot," he said. "Now, if more people would find us in our current location."

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Morning fog kicks off dry, sunny week in SWFL

Temperatures back to normal after chill

By DANIEL SUTPHIN
STAFF WRITER

in Southwest Florida. Despite some patchy fog this morning, the National Weather Service reports a drier week with mostly

sunny days, highs in the upper 70s, lower 80s and no major cold fronts in the foreseeable future. "This week looks like dry

conditions in the area with a slow, gradual warming trend in temperature," said NWS Meteorologist Tony Hurt. "No real weather hazards for the week and pretty fair conditions."

This morning, expect patches of fog before 8 a.m. The afternoon should be mostly sunny with a low around 59 degrees and a north, northwest wind of 3 to 6 mph.

Partly cloudy skies are in the forecast for this evening with a low around 56 degrees. A northwest wind around 5 mph is expected to move through the region turning light and

variable after midnight. Tuesday should be mostly sunny with a high near 79 degrees with a northeast wind of 3 to 5 mph.

A mostly clear night is expected for Tuesday night with a low around 56 degrees. A light and variable wind is expected, turning north northeast around 5 mph after midnight.

Come Wednesday, more sunny days are in the works with a high near 79 degrees and an east wind of 5 to 7 mph.

Wednesday night should be mostly clear with a low around 58 degrees. An east wind should move through

the area around 6 mph. NWS reports Thursday to be a sunny day with a high near 80 degrees. An east-southeast wind is expected to move through the region at 5 to 9 mph.

Thursday night should be mostly clear with a low around 60 degrees.

Friday's should be the hottest day for the week with a high of 81 degrees. It should be a sunny afternoon with a partly cloudy evening. The low should be around 62 degrees.

Saturday afternoon is expected to be mostly sunny with a high of 80 degrees.

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COURTESY PHOTO

A bowl of beef pot roast with vegetables is one of those comfort foods that many kitchens turn to in the cooler temperatures of the year.

Beloved beefy comfort foods

Because the weather is still cold, kitchens across North America stay heated up with warm, comforting and familiar dishes.



LEANNE ELY
DINNER DIVA

For me, nothing quite fits the comfort food bill like beef.

Beef is full of protein, B vitamins, iron, zinc and magnesium. Beef makes our muscles strong, and keeps our hormone levels

and our hearts healthy.

There is no such thing as a bad cut of beef, as far as I'm concerned. Whether it's ground, cubed into stewing beef or cut into steaks, there's no cut of beef that can't be transformed into something delicious. And this time of year, it's all about the comforting beef dishes for me.

The following are some of my favorite ways to warm up my family with beef:

Stew. Yummy beef stew is a bowl full of goodness. Making stew is a cinch. The slow cooker or dutch oven really does all the work. Start by browning your cubed beef (an optional step, but I love the extra layer of flavor browning brings to a dish), add veggies and seasonings, and cover in whatever liquid you like — I like bone broth, tomatoes and red wine. Stewing food means covering it in liquid and letting it simmer at low heat for a good long time. You can make it in the crockpot, on the stovetop or in the oven.

Soup. There are as many ways to make a pot of beef soup as there are spices in my pantry (trust me — there are dozens). Start with your beef broth (preferably your own homemade bone broth), and add ground beef, leftover roast beef, or whatever beef you want. Season it, and add your cubed veggies. Let it bubble away on the stove until you're ready to devour.

Roasted. There's something so comforting about a pot roast. The easiest way to prepare one is to let the crockpot do the work. Pop your roast and seasonings in there, along with your vegetables, and let it cook on low for 6–8 hours. Mmmm.

Chili. Ground beef cooked with onions, garlic, chili, cumin, salt, pepper (and whatever other spices you enjoy), beef broth, peppers, tomatoes, tomato paste, and kidney beans (if you aren't a Paleoista — Paleoistas can enjoy a fine pot of chili by simply skipping the beans), makes a delicious meal.

Cottage pie. If you have the right combination of leftovers in your refrigerator, you can put together a wonderful cottage pie. Cottage pie is the same thing as shepherd's pie, except shepherd's pie features lamb and cottage pie is made with beef. Fry your beef with some onions, garlic, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper and whatever other seasonings you love. When that's all cooked, put it in the bottom of a casserole dish and layer with leftover diced veggies, and top the whole works with leftover whipped potatoes — either sweet potatoes or yellow. Bake until the top is golden brown. Yum yum.

I always choose local grass-fed beef and I recommend you do the same if you have the option.

Leanne Ely is a *New York Times* bestselling author and the creator of *SavingDinner.com*, the original menu planning website, bringing families back to the dinner table for over 15 years.

Angie's table offers respite

Matthiessen helps people through United Way

By RUSTY PRAY
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Come to Angie's table. She's a pretty fair cook, you know. She can bake a little too. She says someday she and her husband, Brit, are going to open a bed and breakfast where she can really do it right.

Angie Matthiessen cooks, and bakes. She writes poetry. She's a wife, mother and caretaker for her mother-in-law.

"I make a pretty mean pizza," she said.

She is all of those things. But she also sets another kind of table, one that's a product of a different type of talent. This table features the set of social services offered by the United Way of Charlotte County, where she is executive director.

From rent assistance to reading, from tax help to terminating poverty, the United Way offers a table that places a variety of sustenance within reach of a wide cross-section of Charlotte County residents.

On its website, board president Harvey Goldberg calls it a backbone nonprofit. In 2018, it funded 29 agencies and six collaborative programs, investing \$1.6 million in the community.

Matthiessen, a Punta Gorda Isles resident, has served as the United Way's executive director for a little over a year, moving up after spending four years as its resource development manager before Carrie Blackwell Hussey moved to a county job. Matthiessen's background is in social work.

She and finance director Linda Dobson form the United Way's full-time staff. The part-time staff includes Dawn Forlini, Carrie Madden, Jen Coalwell, and Trish Doyle.

"It took every bit of 20 years of work to be able to contribute to the things I care about most," Matthiessen said. "If ever there was a perfect fit, it was this job for me. It just allowed me to utilize all my strengths to attend to the things I care about."



SUN PHOTO BY RUSTY PRAY

"If ever there was a perfect fit, it was this job for me," says Angie Matthiessen, executive director of the United Way of Charlotte County.

An active member of the First United Methodist Church of Punta Gorda with her husband, Angie cares about "people being given a chance. Everyone has hopes and dreams. I worked with teenage mothers. They were 11, and they would talk to me about their hopes and dreams of being a parent. I would talk to parents whose children were dying. They would talk to me about their hopes and dreams for their child."

Matthiessen worked for a children's hospital in Atlanta for several years, including as a social worker in pediatric oncology. Even after she moved to Florida, she worked for the hospital remotely. She left only when the contract funding her job ran out.

Matthiessen attended West Georgia, Georgia State and

the University of Georgia, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work.

Matthiessen is a Tallahassee girl, a beach bunny when young, who eventually made her way to Atlanta.

"A lot of my time was spent on the beach and in the water with my girlfriends," she said. "I've always enjoyed being around people. It's always been about people."

Matthiessen's father was a tax attorney and a community leader in Tallahassee; her grandfather, a judge. There's an elementary school named after him. Family was the focus for her mother.

Matthiessen wants her daughter, Leah Marie, 12, to feel pride in the accomplishments of those

two men while also feeling the residual warmth of her grandmother.

Matthiessen wants to carry on that legacy of love and success.

"I want my daughter to be really proud of the person I am," she said.

Over the years, Matthiessen has dealt with loss on more than a professional level. Her father died this time a year ago. Her mother died last May. Her brother was killed in an automobile accident when she was 12.

"I have had losses in my life that really led to who I am," she said. "So, I want to fix things. I want to make the world better."

She wants you to come to her table, sit, eat. She'll lend you an ear, maybe offer you a cupcake.

Ang can help.

Southwest Florida ecotourism pioneer publishes book

'There's a Captain in You,' anchored in Boca Grande and Placida history, inspires others to chart their own course

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Inspired by her daddy's example and the lessons she learned from him, Capt. Marian built a business whose foundation was firmly anchored in the love and respect of the environment, a desire to share with others and an urgency to preserve it for future generations. She introduced Charlotte County to the first kayak rentals which were the vessels for connecting visitors with another side of nature. Marian is promoting ecotourism before most people knew what it was. Fundamental to the success

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23rd Annual Florida Frontier Days
Punta Gorda History Park
501 Shreve St. Punta Gorda

of her business was her partnership with her native community of Boca Grande, a reciprocity of thanks and appreciation for what it had given her throughout her life. Capt. Marian and Grande Tours retired in the early 2010s. She spends her time between the Englewood area and North Georgia.

The public can connect with Capt. Marian through a series of scheduled book signings. Meet and greets and additional signing events will be added to her Facebook page, Facebook.com/TheresACaptainInYou. "There's a Captain in You" is available at local booksellers and Amazon.

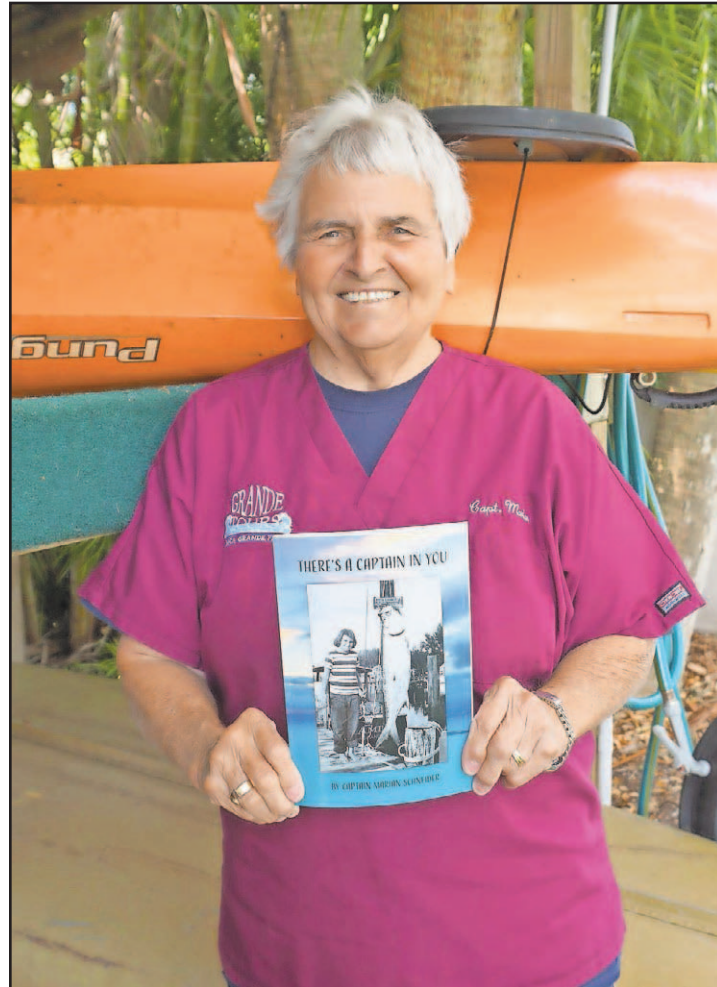


PHOTO PROVIDED

Capt. Marian Schneider

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Free Screening of "Hidden Figures" Film, Mon. Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m. Mid-County Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. True story of 3 brilliant female African-American mathematicians who made a major impact on NASA's space race in the 1960's. First of 4 free

Monday films for Black History Month series. Audience discussion follows. 941-613-3192
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Presented by Kerry Hunter, Trust Business Development Officer at Englewood Bank & Trust, and attorney Lori Wellbaum Emery. Reserve at any bank office or contact Kerry at 941-473-3629 or khunter@ebtfl.com.
Free Trust and Investment Seminars, Christine Hause, 10-11:30,

Charlotte State Bank & Trust North Port office, 4300 Aidan Lane: Out of State Wills, Trusts and POAs, Feb. 5, Straight Talk on Annuities, UITs, Mutual Funds, and REITs, Feb. 6, Will vs. Trust, Feb. 7. RSVP at the bank or via Ashley at 941-235-5110, rsvp@csbtfl.com.

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3132 TAX DEEDS

Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Lori Lagios-Tuck, Deputy Clerk PUBLISH: 02/04/2019, 02/11/2019, 02/18/2019, 02/25/2019

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1707 SEC. 197.512 F.S.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that 5T WEALTH PARTNERS LP the holder of the following certificate has filed the said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

3132 TAX DEEDS

Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Lori Lagios-Tuck, Deputy Clerk PUBLISH: 02/04/2019, 02/11/2019, 02/18/2019, 02/25/2019

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1710 SEC. 197.512 F.S.

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3132 TAX DEEDS

Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Lori Lagios-Tuck, Deputy Clerk PUBLISH: 02/04/2019, 02/11/2019, 02/18/2019, 02/25/2019

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1713 SEC. 197.512 F.S.

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3132 TAX DEEDS

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1716 SEC. 197.512 F.S. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that 5T WEALTH PARTNERS LP the holder of the following certificate has filed the said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1717 SEC. 197.512 F.S.

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3138 OTHER NOTICES

Charlotte County - Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization CALENDAR

The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) announces that a public comment period on proposed revisions to the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the accompanying Title VI Program will be available for public review until March 25, 2019.

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

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND CHAPTER 286.26 FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Title VI Coordinator Wendy W. Scott at (941) 883-3535 or by writing her at 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

For more information call: Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980 Tel: (941) 883-3535 www.ccmpto.com

FAIR SCHEDULE

- Gate Admission Adults \$7 Students \$5 5 and under free Parking \$5 Free Gate Admission Tuesday, Feb. 5 4-H/FFA Day Saturday Feb. 9: Free gate admission with 4H/FFA Card, pin, shirt Student Day Sunday, Feb. 10: Free gate admission: All students, school employees (with valid ID)

Ride Promotions

- Monday, Feb. 4: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. \$2 per ride; \$2 admission Tuesday, Feb. 5: 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Ride all Rides: 3 p.m.-10 p.m. \$15. Free admission Wednesday, Feb. 6: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Ride all Rides: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. \$15. Admission not included Thursday, Feb. 7: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Ride all Rides: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. \$15. Admission not included Friday, Feb. 8: 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Ride all Rides: 5 p.m.-1 a.m. \$20. Admission included Saturday, Feb. 9: noon-11 p.m. 4-H/FFA Day. Ride all Rides: noon-6 p.m. \$20. Admission not included. Ride all Rides: noon-closing \$30. Admission not included Sunday, Feb. 10: noon-6 p.m. Student day. Ride all rides: noon-6 p.m. \$15. Student free admission. Adults \$5

Fair Showtimes

- Monday, Feb. 4: Squak Amazing Birds: 5:30 p.m./8 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 6:30 p.m./8:30 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 5:45 p.m./7 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5: Squak Amazing Birds: 5:30 p.m./8 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 6:30 p.m./8:30 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 5:45 p.m./7:15 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 3:30 p.m./7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6: Squak Amazing Birds: 5:30 p.m./8 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 6:30 p.m./8:30 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 5:45 p.m./7 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7: Squak Amazing Birds: 5:30 p.m./8 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 6:30 p.m./8:30 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 5:45 p.m./7 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8: Squak Amazing Birds: 5:15 p.m. /7:30 p.m./9 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 6:30 p.m./9 p.m./10 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 5:30 p.m. /7 p.m./9:30 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 6:15 p.m. /7:30 p.m./9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9: Squak Amazing Birds: 12:30 p.m. /4:30 p.m./7:15 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 2:30 p.m. /5:30 p.m./9 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 3:30 p.m. /6:30 p.m./9:30 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 2 p.m./5 p.m./8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10: Squak Amazing Birds: 12:30 p.m./3 p.m. Lance Gifford Magic Show: 1:15 p.m./4 p.m. Aquatic Acrobatic Show: 2:30 p.m./5 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show: 2 p.m.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED 18-1712 SEC. 197.512 F.S. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that 5T WEALTH PARTNERS LP the holder of the following certificate has filed the said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

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Monday, February 4, 2019

'Glass' stays at No. 1, while 'Miss Bala' opens in third
See Page X



Come together: Super Bowl Sunday, the last stand of live TV



AP IMAGES

This screen grab from video provided by PepsiCo shows an image from the company's 2019 Super Bowl NFL football spot featuring Cardi B. Star power abounds in this year's Super Bowl ads.

Super Bowl stands strong in the age of streaming

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP NATIONAL WRITER

ATLANTA — Oh sure, there's plenty of evidence to support the soothsayers who are predicting the slow, inevitable death of live television.

And there's plenty of proof to bolster theories about the NFL's slipping popularity.

But when it comes to clicking away from Super Bowl Sunday — forget about it.

Whether streaming it digitally, firing up the cable box or heading to a friend's house for chips, dip and commercials, it's a good bet that cord cutters, antenna owners and everyone in between can be found right where they always are on this day — gathered in front of the TV set in massive numbers.

Exactly as they were 40 years ago. Exactly as they were

20 years ago.

Almost certainly as they'll be 10 years from now.

Fact is, despite today's rapidly fragmenting modern-day viewing audience, most people want to watch their sports live. The Super Bowl is the biggest event of the year. As such, it is, by almost any measure, the last bastion of nationwide communal TV-watching we partake in anymore.

Of the 10 highest-rated television programs in U.S. history, nine were Super Bowls and one was the finale of "M.A.S.H."

"It's an outlier because, unlike pretty much everything else, it's not an event we think of as being disrupted by streaming," said Vince Gennaro, who studies America's viewing habits as a dean at the NYU Preston Robert Tisch Institute for Global Sport.

Or disrupted by anything else.

And so, just as the increased choice brought about by cable couldn't do anything to deter Super Bowl viewing, neither, it seems, will streaming, cord cutting or the Roku-ization of the American public — not even among the younger audience. A survey last week of 2,800 football fans by PCMag and Sports Illustrated found that 33 percent of respondents in the 18-to-24 age group said they would stream the Super Bowl this year. Most, however, planned to stream it straight to their television sets.

The survey found some concern among streamers who experience delays in their stream as compared to the live broadcast. But for the most part, their experience will be the same as watching it on cable — commercials and all.

That's not to say the digitized nature of the

21st century won't change some things.

"The idea of a Super Bowl party, with everyone sitting on their phone tweeting, is going to change the way we experience that Super Bowl party," said Robert Thompson, the Syracuse pop-culture professor who will watch the game with pen and paper in hand, ready to take notes. "But it certainly doesn't threaten it."

What could threaten it?

Well, only two years ago, many Super Bowl stories (including this one by The Associated Press) warned of the potential beginning of the end of the NFL. The league was besieged by a concussion crisis, its own mishandling of domestic abuse cases, the still-fresh controversy over Colin Kaepernick's kneeling during the national anthem, along with a steady stream of lackluster games that played as big a part as any in explaining the league's diminishing ratings.

All the off-field issues still exist, with the added specter of a potential labor dispute two years down the road.

But the games were better this season, the ratings were up, and the season's most high-profile mishap wasn't related to player health or politics. Rather, it came on the field: the terrible no-call in the NFC title game.

Former CBS Sports president Neal Pilson was among the few who predicted ratings would rebound.



This undated image provided by Avocados From Mexico shows a scene from the company's 2019 Super Bowl NFL football spot featuring Kristin Chenoweth, left. Star power abounds in this year's Super Bowl ads.

Pentagon sending another 3,750 troops to Southwest border

Troops to put up another 150 miles of concertina wire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said Sunday it will send 3,750 more troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to put up another 150 miles of concertina wire and provide other support for Customs and Border Protection.

The additions will bring the total number of active-duty troops on the border to 4,350.

The announcement is in line with what Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan had said on Tuesday when he provided estimates for the next phase of a military mission that has grown in size and length. Critics have derided it as a political

ploy by the White House as President Donald Trump seeks billions to build a border wall.

Shanahan said on Tuesday that several thousand more troops would be sent mainly to install additional wire barriers and provide a large new system of mobile surveillance and monitoring of the border area. Sunday's announcement said the mobile surveillance mission would last through Sept. 30.

Members of Congress have questioned whether the border mission is distracting troops from their main work of

BORDER | 4



AP FILE PHOTO

In this Nov. 16, 2018, file photo, members of the U.S. military install multiple tiers of concertina wire along the banks of the Rio Grande near the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge at the U.S.-Mexico border, in Laredo, Texas.

Trump: NFL people thankful he signed criminal justice bill

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump claimed that "a lot of people" from the NFL have been calling and thanking him for signing legislation addressing concerns with the criminal justice system.

Trump also said during an interview broadcast Sunday that he and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell have set aside their differences over players kneeling during the national anthem.

Trump relentlessly criticized the practice as being disrespectful to the American flag and he faulted Goodell for not doing enough

to stop it. Players saw kneeling during the "Star-Spangled Banner" as a prime opportunity to heighten public awareness of how minorities are treated by the criminal justice system.

The president pivoted to the new criminal justice law when he was asked if he thought the players who knelt had a point, and whether he was sensitive to their concerns that most victims of police violence are black. Trump said the legislation was the product of years of effort dating to before he took office.

"And I got it done and I've been, you know, really, a lot of people

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Pope on historic trip after call for Yemen relief

First papal trip ever to the birthplace of Islam

By NICOLE WINFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Pope Francis landed Sunday in Abu Dhabi on the first-ever papal trip to the Arabian Peninsula, where he is seeking to turn a page in Christian-Muslim relations while also ministering to a unique, thriving Catholic community.

Francis earlier Sunday called for the urgent observation of a limited cease-fire in Yemen reached in December and for food and medicine to get to its people, who are suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

He made the appeal at the Vatican before boarding a plane to the United Arab Emirates, which has been Saudi Arabia's main ally in its war in Yemen — a way to avoid embarrassing his hosts with a public call while in the region. Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, greeted the pontiff with smiles along with Cabinet ministers and an honor guard when he landed in the Emirati capital.

"The people are exhausted by the long conflict and many children are hungry, but humanitarian aid isn't accessible," Francis said in his noontime Sunday blessing. "The cries of these children and their parents rise up" to God.

Francis traveled to Abu Dhabi to participate in a conference on interreligious dialogue sponsored by the Emirates-based Muslim Council of Elders, an initiative that seeks to counter religious fanaticism by promoting a moderate brand of Islam. It's the brainchild of Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam that trains clerics and scholars from around the world.

In a video message to the Emirates on the eve of his trip, Francis paid homage to his "friend and dear brother" el-Tayeb and praised his courage in calling the meeting to assert that "God unites and doesn't divide."

"I am pleased with this meeting offered by the Lord to write, on your dear land, a new page in the history of relations among religions and confirm that we are brothers despite our differences," Francis said.

In a statement Saturday, Al-Azhar described the upcoming meeting as "historic" and praised the "deeply fraternal relationship" between its imam and the pope, which it said even includes



AP POOL PHOTO

Pope Francis is welcomed by Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, upon his arrival at the Abu Dhabi airport, Sunday.

birthday greetings. El-Tayeb also met Francis at the airport.

Francis and el-Tayeb are to address the "Human Fraternity Meeting" Monday that has drawn not only Christian and Muslim representatives but hundreds of Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and other Christian faith leaders. It's all part of the Emirates' "Year of Tolerance" and its effort to show its openness to other faiths in a region otherwise known for severe restrictions on religions outside of Islam.

Francis' other main initiative in Abu Dhabi is a giant Mass on Tuesday in the city's main sports arena that is expected to draw some 135,000 people in what some have called the largest show of public Christian worship on the Arabian Peninsula. There, Francis will see firsthand a Catholic community that is big, diverse and dynamic, at a time when the wider Mideast has seen an exodus of Christians fleeing persecution at the hands of the Islamic State group and others.

Of the over 9 million people now living in the UAE, around 1 million are Emirati while the rest are foreigners drawn to the oil-rich federation to work in everything from white-collar finance to construction.

The Catholic Church believes there are some 1 million Catholics in the UAE. Most are Filipino and Indian, many of whom have left behind families for work and can face precarious labor conditions, which human rights groups regularly denounce.

Brandon Vaidyanathan, chair of the sociology department at Catholic University in

Washington, converted from Hinduism to Catholicism while living in Dubai, said the Emirates' religious tolerance is commendable given the trends of the region. He noted the "unprecedented" nature of the government's invitation to Francis, its donation of lands for churches and even a recent decision to rename a mosque "Mother Mary of Jesus."

Yet he pointed to the difference between freedom to worship and true religious freedom. Crosses, for example, can only be displayed inside churches, proselytizing for faiths other than Islam is banned and Muslims are forbidden from converting.

Francis will likely focus on issues of religious freedom and fraternity in his public remarks. Unlike all his other foreign trips, he will not deliver a political speech.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said the reason was to give greater emphasis to his speech to the interfaith conference. He dodged a question about whether Francis would raise Yemen's yearslong war in his private talks with the Emirates' ruler. The UAE is deeply involved in the Saudi-led war in the Arab world's poorest country, where tens of thousands have been killed and millions face food and medical shortages.

"I don't know if the Holy Father will confront it publicly or privately, but certainly on many occasions, even recently, he has underlined the need to search for peace in particular to guarantee the humanitarian rights of the population, especially children," Gisotti said.

Venezuela crisis resonates loudly in battleground Florida

VP Pence traveled to Miami to speak about the issue with local Venezuelans

By GARY FINEOUT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro clings to power, many of the loudest American voices urging on the Trump administration in its campaign to push Maduro out are concentrated in one place: Florida.

Florida has a large number of anti-Maduro Venezuelans and Cubans and is also likely to be a critical battleground state in the 2020 race for the White House. As a result, the crisis in the South American country is reverberating politically thousands of miles away in the U.S.

"Foreign policy is domestic policy in South Florida," said Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who lives in Weston, one of the Florida communities that have seen a Venezuelan influx.

Florida is home to an estimated 190,000 Venezuelans, many of whom arrived in the past decade as their homeland slid into economic and political crisis under Maduro and his predecessor, Hugo Chavez.

They have found common cause with Cuban-Americans, who see parallels between what has happened under the socialist government in Venezuela and what has gone on under communism in Cuba. Cuban-Americans — a potent voting bloc in Florida — are also angry about Venezuelan support for Cuba over the past two decades.

News about Venezuela is a near-constant in South Florida. Videos of Maduro feasting on a steak dinner prepared by a celebrity chef prompted a midday protest in September outside the chef's Miami restaurant. In 2017, a former member of Venezuela's government was loudly confronted by a group of exiles when he was spotted at a local restaurant.

Many Venezuelan exiles can be seen wearing baseball caps with the colors and stars of their homeland's flag. There are also many bumper stickers with messages such as "Pray for Venezuela." A lot of Uber

drivers will make small talk and tell you they were architects, pilots or even mayors back in Venezuela, blaming Maduro for the troubles that made them leave.

"If you live in Florida, you probably have met people or personally know people who have been impacted by it," said Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who has played a leading role in urging President Donald Trump to clamp down on Maduro.

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, contends that what's happening in Venezuela could destabilize the entire region, thereby affecting American interests.

Trump has not shied away from making friends with authoritarian leaders in other regions, but he has taken a hard-line stand against Maduro, calling him a dictator. The Trump administration has imposed sanctions against the regime and backed Venezuelan Congress leader Juan Guaido, who has proclaimed himself interim president.

What happens in Latin America looms large in Florida. Nearly 17 percent of its registered voters are Hispanic, a group that includes Puerto Ricans, Venezuelans, Cubans, Colombians and Nicaraguans. In a state that Trump won by 113,000 votes in 2016, the support of some of these voters can prove pivotal.

One administration official rejected any suggestion that politics is driving the president's stance, but acknowledged that Florida officials are powerful voices in Trump's ear on the subject and that those pushing on behalf of the Venezuelan opposition have highlighted to Trump the number of Venezuelan expatriates in the crucial state. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal conversations.

Vice President Mike Pence traveled Friday to a Miami suburb where he met with Venezuelan exiles and community leaders and assured them Washington was working toward a "peaceful transition" so that Guaido rises to power.

HEADLINES AROUND THE STATE

Study: Puerto Ricans had tougher time in Florida after storm

ORLANDO (AP) — A new study says Puerto Ricans who moved to Florida instead of remaining on the island may have had a more difficult time adjusting to their post-Hurricane Maria world.

The study by researchers at the University of Miami and Boston University says the post-hurricane adjustment appears to have been more psychologically taxing for Puerto Ricans who moved to Florida instead of staying, and for people in rural and suburban areas compared to urban dwellers.

The study was published late last year.

Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans moved to Florida after the Category 4 hurricane devastated the island in 2017, killing almost 3,000 people.

The researchers used an online survey to determine the effects of the storm on mental health using a sample of 213 Puerto Ricans.

UCF chair leaving post but will stay on board

ORLANDO (AP) — The chair of the board at the University

of Central Florida is stepping down from his post following criticism that funds designated for operations were used for construction.

Marcos Marchena, who was chair of UCF's board, said last week he is stepping down from his leadership post but would remain on the board.

The Orlando Sentinel reports that Marchena said at a meeting with the board that oversees the state university system that he wanted to show the seriousness with which he regarded criticism about the university's misspending.

The Board of Governors last week demanded that UCF extend an independent investigation into the university's decision to use \$38 million in leftover operating money on the construction of a new academic building.

Marchena says he knew nothing about the university's misspending.

Girl, 12, calls 911 to report finding mother's body

ORLANDO (AP) — A 911 call reveals how a 12-year-old girl reported finding her mother dead in their Florida home.

The Orlando Sentinel reports 29-year-old Brooke

Jenkins-Pugh was killed Dec. 19 in her Orlando home.

In a 911 call released this week, Jenkins-Pugh's daughter told a dispatcher she and her three siblings were wondering why they had not been woken up for school when they found their mother in a pool of blood surrounded by bullet casings.

The children are between the ages of 2 and 13. They went into another room for safety, and the 12-year-old told the dispatcher she did not want to check if her mother was breathing.

Police said Jenkins-Pugh's husband, 29-year-old Nelsonza Pugh, left the home after shooting her. He's being held without bond on a charge of second-degree murder.

Police: 2-year-old Miami boy shot in the abdomen at home

MIAMI (AP) — Police say a 2-year-old Miami boy is in stable condition after being shot in the abdomen.

According to a Miami-Dade Police news release, a suburban hospital alerted authorities Thursday evening about a toddler suffering from a gunshot wound. A neighbor also called 911 about a man putting a toddler into a car and yelling about a shooting.

Police said the child's father had driven him to the hospital.

According to the statement, the father initially told investigators that someone in a white vehicle driving by his Miami home had opened fire. However, investigators determined the shooting had taken place inside the home, and no drive-by shooting had occurred.

Police did not release the child's name. No charges had been filed Friday morning.

Newspaper asks governor for help

MELBOURNE (AP) — A Florida newspaper is putting a rare editorial on its front page, imploring Florida's new governor to make a priority of cleaning up the nation's most biodiverse waterway.

Florida Today put its editorial on the front page of Sunday's paper under the headline "Gov. DeSantis: Help the Indian River Lagoon."

Since taking office last month, Gov. Ron DeSantis has pushed to increase spending on Everglades restoration and fight the causes of red tide and slimy algae.

The editorial says the problems in the Indian River Lagoon are as urgent as any other water

problem Florida is facing.

The newspaper also asks the governor to eliminate conflicts of interest involving members of the state's water management boards.

Coast Guard suspends search for small plane

PALM BEACH (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard says it has suspended a search for a downed small plane that disappeared with two people aboard about two dozen miles east of Florida.

The Coast Guard said Sunday that it had conducted aerial and maritime searches for 32 hours.

Other searches were being conducted by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

The single engine plane took off from Palm Beach County Park Airport on Friday.

The search for the Piper Saratoga aircraft began after the Federal Aviation Administration received notification that it had gone down 23 miles east of Palm Beach, Florida.

The aircraft is registered to Simmons Pet Properties. State business records show the company is managed by veterinarian Kenneth Simmons and his wife, Alice.

ANALYSIS

State of Union comes amid political peril

President pledges to use speech to call for unity

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Facing clear political peril, President Donald Trump will deliver his second State of the Union address at a moment when his bully pulpit is uncertain and his negotiating skills in question after a monthlong government shutdown that exposed fractures in his party and sent his poll numbers tumbling.

Trump hopes to use his Tuesday speech to reset his agenda and begin to gear up for his 2020 re-election campaign. But even as the president promises a theme of unity, his performance is likely to draw cheers from one side of the deeply divided Congress and stony silence from the other.

The split between Democrats and Republicans, each side dug in over Trump's long-sought border wall, reinforces questions about his ability to move both Congress and the electorate.

All this while Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., sits just behind him on the top tier of the House dais during the address, a looming reminder of his shutdown defeat and his struggles to adapt to a new, divided Washington.

The speech itself, an annual set piece that gives the president a grand stage to speak directly to a national audience of millions, could prove bittersweet for Trump. While the president, ever the showman, will relish the theatrics of the moment, his prime-time address to the nation comes a week later than originally planned after Pelosi forced a postponement while the government was closed.

Trump made his dealmaking abilities central to his presidency but he has been unable to move emboldened Democrats, firm in their resistance to paying for a border wall with Mexico. Without it, Trump has threatened to declare a



AP PHOTO

In this Jan. 30, 2018 file photo, President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to Congress. "Presidents have walked into that chamber in weakened positions before," said Jon Meacham, a presidential historian and author.

national emergency or shutter the government again. Both options are opposed by a growing number of Republicans, potentially leaving Trump weakened with his own party as several political dark clouds loom. Among them are the conclusion of the special counsel's Russia investigation and growing talk from the left about the possibility of impeachment.

"Presidents have walked into that chamber in weakened positions before," said Jon Meacham, a presidential historian and author, invoking Bill Clinton after Republicans swept the 1994 midterm elections. "But Trump does not have the usual base of support. Legislative Republicans fell in line with Trump because they were afraid of him and his supporters and if that support is eroding, the end will be quick."

Trump's allies, some of whom worry that his voice has been diminished, suggest he should use the speech to showcase his administration's record as well as repeat his call for the wall.

"He needs to highlight the successes he's had with the economy and trade and with conservative justices," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "And I think he needs to stare Democrats down and challenge them to defy him on

the need for border security."

As the Feb. 15 deadline that could lead the government to close again nears, the State of the Union provides the president with his best chance yet to sell the public on the need for the wall. Previous efforts at harnessing at the power of the office to make that case have failed.

A trip to the border didn't move the needle after Trump himself voiced private skepticism that it would work. An Oval Office address was widely panned, with the president himself being his harshest critic, complaining to aides that he looked "flat" and "lifeless." Round after round of polling suggests that Americans do not believe a wall is needed and don't feel it is a fight worth shutting down the government over.

White House aides have kept details of the speech under wraps, though Trump is expected to paint a picture of a country on the comeback while pushing new trade deals as well as proposals about drug pricing, health care and public works.

But there will be stark reminders throughout the House chamber that Trump's political reality has changed, now 21 months before he faces voters again.

Pelosi will be visible in nearly

every camera shot beamed to a national broadcast audience. Her presence is evidence of the newly empowered House Democrats. And it makes clear how she can use her political clout and her party can wield the power of the subpoena to thwart Trump's agenda and open investigations into his government and business.

"It's a dynamic created in the television age but it's also a demonstration for the country that the executive and legislative branches are separate but equal powers," said Jennifer Palmieri, former communications director for President Barack Obama and a top aide on Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

As for the president, he ignored the divisions in Washington as he pledged to use his speech to call for Americans to set aside their differences.

"I really think it's unification, I think it's industry, I think it's about the people you see here," Trump said Thursday while hosting a group of manufacturers at the White House. "I really think it's going to be a speech that is going to cover a lot of territory but part of it is going to be unity."

Jonathan Lemire has covered politics and the White House for The Associated Press since 2013.

Loss of newspapers contributes to political polarization

1,800 newspapers shut down since 2004

By DAVID BAUDER
AP MEDIA WRITER

NEW YORK — The steady loss of local newspapers and journalists across the country contributes to the nation's political polarization, a new study has found.

With fewer opportunities to find out about local politicians, citizens are more likely to turn to national sources like cable news and apply their feelings about national politics to people running for the town council or state legislature, according to research published in the Journal of Communication.

The result is much less "split ticket" voting, or people whose ballot includes votes for people of different parties. In 1992, 37 percent of states with Senate races elected a senator from a different party than the presidential candidate the state supported. In 2016, for the first time in a century, no state did that, the study found.

"The voting behavior was more polarized, less likely to include split ticket voting, if a newspaper had died in the community," said Johanna Dunaway, a communications professor at Texas A&M University, who conducted the research with colleagues from Colorado State and Louisiana State universities.

Researchers reached that conclusion by comparing voting data from 66 communities where newspapers have closed in the past two decades to 77 areas where local newspapers continue to operate, she said.

"We have this loss of engagement at the local level," she said.

The struggling news industry has seen some 1,800 newspapers shut down since 2004, the vast majority of them community weeklies, said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a University of North Carolina professor who studies the contraction. Many larger daily newspapers that have remained open have effectively become ghosts, with much smaller staffs that are unable to offer the breadth of coverage they once did. About 7,100 newspapers remain.

Researchers are only beginning to measure the public impact of such losses. Among the other findings is less voter participation among news-deprived citizens in "off-year" elections where local offices are decided, Abernathy said. Another study suggested a link to increased government spending in communities where "watchdog" journalists have disappeared, she said.

Dunaway said voters in communities without newspapers are more likely to be influenced by national labels — if they like Republicans like President Donald Trump, for example, that approval will probably extend to Republicans lower on the ballot.

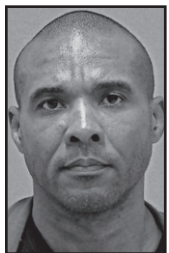
The diminished news sources also alter politicians' strategies, Dunaway said.

"They have to rely on party 'brand names' and are less about 'how I can do best for my district,'" she said.

MMA fighter wanted in killings captured after escaping van

CONROE, Texas (AP) — An MMA fighter suspected of killing two people, including an ex-girlfriend, was captured Sunday after escaping from a prisoner transport van in Texas, authorities said.

Cedric Marks was taken into custody after a nine-hour manhunt involving multiple law enforcement agencies, Conroe police Lt.



MARKS

Scott Spencer said in a tweet Sunday evening.

Marks escaped from the private prison transport van during a stop at a McDonald's in Conroe about 40 miles north of Houston, police Lt. Dorcy McGinnis said.

McGinnis said murder warrants were issued Sunday for Marks in last month's killings of an ex-girlfriend, Jenna Scott, and a friend of hers, Michael Swearingin, who disappeared Jan. 4 and were found buried in a shallow grave in Clearview, Oklahoma, on Jan. 15.

Marks was arrested in Michigan last month on a Bell County, Texas, charge alleging that on Aug. 21,

he broke into Scott's home in Temple. Authorities say he escaped while being transferred to Bell County to face that charge.

Scott requested a protective order against Marks last July, accusing him of choking her unconscious twice, Temple television station KCEN reported.

"Each time he allowed me to regain consciousness and then he choked me out again," Scott said in an affidavit.

The protective order request was denied. She also reported to police that Marks had broken into her home in August while her daughter, who was 9, was there. She said he took her cellphone to prevent her from calling 911.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office's initial tweet about Sunday's escape said Marks was facing three "pending murder charges," but it didn't immediately respond to requests for further information about those charges.

Police in Bloomington, Minnesota, say Marks remains a person of interest in the 2009 disappearance of April Pease, who was the mother of one of his children. The two were involved in a fierce custody

dispute in Washington state and Pease, who had a drug problem, went to live in a Bloomington women's shelter because she said she was afraid of Marks. Like Scott, Pease alleged that Marks had choked her unconscious on more than one occasion, according to a court custody investigator.

Pease went missing in March 2009 and Marks got custody of their son.

Two women were arrested in Michigan on charges related to Marks.

Maya Maxwell is charged with evidence tampering. According to an arrest affidavit, she told detectives that she drove Swearingin's vehicle to Austin in an attempt to hide it from investigators. It was found abandoned in the city Jan. 6.

Ginell McDonough, who is Marks' wife and the mother of two of his two children, is jailed on an obstruction of justice charge. She is accused of allowing Marks and Maxwell to stay in her home between Jan. 5 and Jan. 9.

Marks compiled a record of 31-28-0 during his professional MMA career, which began in 1999, according to mixedmartialarts.com. His last fight was in September.

Trump says release of Mueller report up to attorney general

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says it's "totally up to" his attorney general whether the public gets to read special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia report.

Trump was asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" whether he'd have a problem with a public release. He said: "I don't know. It depends. I have no idea what it's going to say."

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker said last week the probe is "close to being completed."

Democrats have pressured attorney general nominee William Barr to commit to releasing the final report in full. Barr has said he doesn't know "what will be releasable" or what Mueller's writing.

Barr has cited Justice Department regulations that say Mueller's report should be confidential. They require only that the report explain decisions to pursue or decline prosecutions.

Trump also said he has "not thought about" a pardon for Roger Stone, a confidant who is the sixth Trump aide charged in Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Stone has pleaded not guilty to felony charges of witness tampering, obstruction and false statements.

Trump said Stone "a character" and said "it looks like he's defending himself very well."



AP PHOTO
Former campaign adviser Robert Mueller, Roger Stone, leaves federal court in Washington, Friday.

Slow-moving GI system might be associated with virus

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 30-year-old son recently was diagnosed with gastroparesis. This occurred a few months after having a norovirus infection. Is there a cure? Are there medications to help? What can be done to reduce the symptoms of nausea and belching? — C.R.

ANSWER: Gastroparesis (from the Greek roots for "stomach paralysis") is when the stomach, and often the rest of the intestines, is impaired in its ability to move food forward through the gastrointestinal tract. The hallmark symptoms are abdominal distention and bloating, and a sense of feeling full, even to the point of nausea. The diagnosis is most often confirmed by a gastric emptying study, which measures the amount of time it takes for a radioactive meal to move through the GI tract.

Gastroparesis might be associated with other neurological diseases, such as multiple sclerosis; might be related to (usually long-standing) diabetes; might occur



Dr. Roach

after a viral illness; or could have no known cause (which is most likely). In your son's case, the recent norovirus infection is suggestive, as norovirus is one of the infections most commonly associated with gastroparesis. If so, his prognosis is good: Most cases will get better by themselves within a year.

Gastroparesis often is initially treated with diet and medications. Dietary advice is to eat smaller meals with low fat and very little insoluble fiber; alcohol, tobacco and carbonated beverages all are recommended against. A dietitian

nutritionist can be a very helpful consultant.

If diet alone is inadequate, medications to help speed up the GI tract are necessary. Metoclopramide is an effective treatment, but it should not be used for more than 12 weeks without a careful understanding of the long-term risks of taking this drug, especially the risk of movement disorders. Other treatments, such as domperidone in Canada (not easily available in the U.S.) or erythromycin can be helpful but have their own risks. Cisapride is very effective, but since it can cause a fatal type of arrhythmia, it is available only as a last resort through a program with the drug manufacturer.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 66-year-old woman in good physical condition. I take no medications. I was recently informed that I have a cataract, and that surgery would be a good improvement to my vision. I was told a physical and EKG would be necessary. My younger brother, who has high

blood pressure and stomach ulcers, was told neither a physical nor an EKG would be required. Why? — J.O.

ANSWER: Cataract surgery is a low-risk procedure, and does not require extensive preoperative evaluation.

An EKG is not necessary for most people. No blood testing is needed for most people. In fact, a study found that people undergoing cataract surgery who underwent routine testing had no benefit compared with those who received no preoperative testing.

However, it is appropriate to do a thorough history and physical examination prior to any surgery. High blood pressure should be under control. Someone with a respiratory infection with prominent cough should postpone: Coughing can complicate surgery and recovery. Some hospitals have regulations requiring preoperative testing. Although these are well-meaning, they make no sense, waste time and add expense.

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 Dr. who talked to animals (8)	_____
2 functions (8)	_____
3 bangles and cuffs (9)	_____
4 frosty tempests (10)	_____
5 arranging food on the dish (7)	_____
6 center of a plant stem (4)	_____
7 place to display valuables (8)	_____

IT	DOL	OP	CEL	TES
ERA	ETS	ING	TH	RMS
OWC	SH	TLE	SNO	PL
ASE	AT	PI	WSTO	BRA

Saturday's Answers: 1. KIMBERLEY 2. FALCON 3. GANING 4. TORPEDO 5. WARTS 6. SOWN 7. STOOGES

Daughter of addict frowns on her husband's drinking

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law was a drug addict for most of my wife's life. Because of this, my wife refuses to use any addictive substances, including alcohol. I enjoy having a beer or three occasionally. I never get drunk, just pleasantly tipsy. This happens maybe once a month.



Dear Abby

Every time I drink, she gets very judgmental, as if I'm some sort of alcoholic. I have tried talking to her about it when I'm not drinking. She claims she doesn't care if I drink occasionally. Then as soon as I do, she rolls her eyes at me, sighs if I get a second one and asks me why I'm drinking. I'm puzzled about why she acts this way. Please help!

— Just A Drink In The East

DEAR JUST A DRINK: She acts this way because she is the child of an addict, and seeing someone imbibe one — or three — drinks at one time makes her remember how her parent behaved while under the influence, which makes her uncomfortable. And frankly, I can't blame her. There are support groups for adult children of addicts that can be extremely helpful. I hope your wife looks into them for her

benefit and for the benefit of your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a cash gift from my mother. We are not close and rarely communicate. Being her daughter, I assume she loves, and likes, me. I cannot claim to share those feelings.

I am not in need of money. She likely needs the cash more than I do. Is there a way I can give it back to her without hurting her feelings? — Guilty New Yorker

DEAR GUILTY: Because you are afraid you will make an already fragile relationship even more delicate if you return the money, the prudent thing to do would be to thank her for it — perhaps in a note. Because accepting her gift makes you feel guilty, consider putting the money aside just in case at some point she may need it in the future.

Working more for less pay

Dear Readers: Today's SOUND OFF is about an unethical practice by employers:

"Dear Heloise: In 1995, I went to work as a desk clerk at a motel. Over the next five years, management kept adding more and more chores, until I was folding laundry, checking the pool chemicals, picking up the Christmas tree for the lobby, cleaning up the breakfast area, cleaning rooms the maids forgot to clean and even taking a co-worker to the emergency room at 2:00 a.m. All this with no increase in pay! It was blatantly unfair." — Ann W., Fort Wayne, Ind.

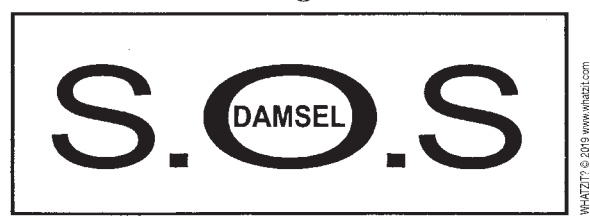


Hints from Heloise

Employers depend on loyal employees to fill gaps where additional help is needed. Unfortunately, they sometimes neglect to increase that employee's paycheck or offer some kind of reward for these additional tasks. That's how they lose a valued member of their staff. — Heloise

WHATZIT?

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



SOLUTION: Damsel in distress

JUMBLE

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

SUYBH
 O O O O

POGUR
 O O O O

RUYTTS
 O O O O

GRIEHH
 O O O O

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“O O O O O O O O O O”

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.

“O O O O O O O O O O”

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FAVOR TRUNK MISUSE WEALTH
 Answer: The deer gave birth and knew what to do thanks to her — MOTHER NATURE

KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

2÷		12X	3
12X	2		3+
	3-		
2-		2÷	

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CHALLENGING

2	5-		2÷	1-
5-	8+			40X
		4-	3-	3÷
1-	13+			3
		4	10+	9+
				6

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RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 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.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

12X	2÷	4	
3	1	2	4
4	3	1	2
1	2	4	3
2	4	3	1

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MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



“Because you'd eat it, that's why.”

Cryptoquip

2-4

F P I H W L P Z S U M X O U P I F
 D W X S L Z F B F W B S I T X W B X
 V W L T M M C P X O S F K O M
 C W K U H L R V S L D : T P X O
 F M X X M L R .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT SHOULD THEY NAME A CASUAL MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN AN EAST-CENTRAL TEXAS CITY? “WACO TACO.”
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H

WORD SLEUTH • LAST WORDS

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

Saturday's unlisted clue: POCKET

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
 Monday's unlisted clue hint: Heavy Material Stabilizing a Ship

Blasted	Duroplast	Lastly	Plastic
Blastoff	Elastic	Oblast	Sandblast
Blastoma	Lastex	Outlast	Scholastic
Clast	Lasting	Plaster	

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The calls to action coming from the commercial sector will be nonstop — a nuisance, really. You'll tune most of them out, but then one thing grabs your attention, and for good reason. This is a fit. Yes, this one will benefit you greatly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You take criticism without getting offended and apply it well. Do you have any idea how rare a quality this is? And it will get you noticed by people you can learn from.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Because you have a realistic self-perception, you will be able to determine which of your talents and skills to lean on now and also what you need to acquire to move to the next level.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're ready to take a project to the next level, but you have to get more people on board to make this happen. Jump into the social swirl and charm them. If you don't, someone else will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, which would you choose? The answer relates to something that, were you to give it focus and priority, would bring you joy.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even though your instinct is to put in more effort, becoming a more effective person today has more to do with being lighter, not taking things too personally, and just being generally cool about it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In the past, you've consulted others because you needed to hear that you'd succeed and things would go well. Today there's a voice inside, growing stronger and better at telling you such things on the regular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The Greeks worshipped the Charities, three goddesses known for charm, beauty, kindness and creativity. Consider invoking these lovely energies by banding with two other people to pursue such values.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't always want to be around people, though it doesn't mean you think ill of them. To choose your own company can be a preference of the moment, not necessarily a rejection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you are very disciplined in some regards,

the quality cannot extend to all parts of your life at once because discipline doesn't work that way. You'll choose where to exert yourself, and then you'll relax and restore your energy. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You put up with behavior from others that is less than desirable for a few different reasons, which may include the status dynamics of the relationships and your fear of being unkind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you really need to get down to work, even the slightest distraction is a terrible waste because it pulls you out of the moment, wasting time on both sides of said moment. Ward against distraction!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 4). You're a bright spirit shining into the heart of things, finding the threads to tie them together. You'll find nuggets of wisdom and beauty everywhere — in silliness, heaviness, low humor, high art, deeply intellectual subjects, clouds and marshmallow fluff. You'll attract all you need and more this year; believe it. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 2, 22 and 17.

Monday, February 4, 2019

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold

♠ K 10 6 5 ♡ K Q 8 6 4 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 3

Partner opens 1D and right-hand opponent overcalls 2C. What call would you make?

A - Should you make a negative double and then bid hearts later, it will sound like you are too weak to bid 2H now. You aren't. Bid 2H.

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 7 3 ♡ 5 3 ♦ J 10 7 5 4 ♣ K 10 2

Partner opens 1D and right-hand opponent overcalls 1H. What call would you make?

A - Bid 3D, pre-emptive. You would cue bid 2H with a good hand.

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K ♡ J 7 6 4 3 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 9 8 5 3

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - We like to be aggressive with 5-5 hands, but this hand is flawed with most of the values in the short suits. Pass.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 7 ♡ Q 10 8 5 ♦ A J 6 4 2 ♣ 2

SOUTH 1♦ WEST 2♣ NORTH Dbl* EAST 3♣

*Negative What call would you make?

A - If we were certain that partner held four hearts, we would jump to game. We're not, so bid only 3H.

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 8 7 4 2 ♡ Q 10 ♦ A 7 ♣ A 10 9 3 2

Partner opens 2H, weak, and right-hand opponent overcalls 3D. What call would you make?

A - When partner pre-empts in your shortest suit, stay out of the auction unless you hold a strong no trump or the equivalent. Pass.

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

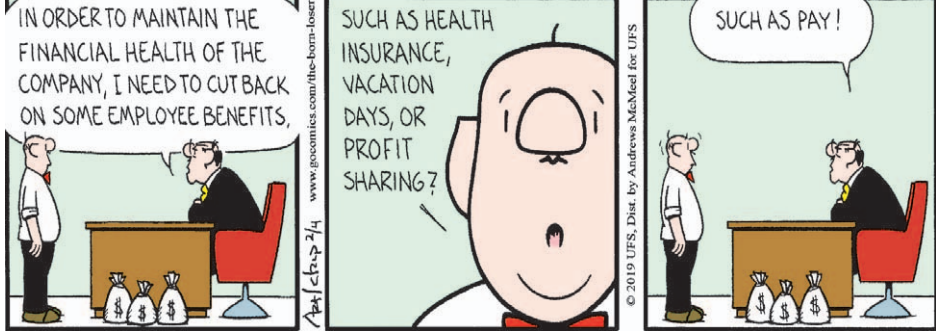
♠ 10 9 8 5 ♡ K 5 2 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ J 7 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST INT 2♥ ? What call would you make?

A - You have about half the deck, but there is no safe bid. On the plus side, you can contribute to the defense. Pass. It should be a good battle.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper. Please send your e-mail responses to tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

BORN LOSER By Art and Chip Sansom



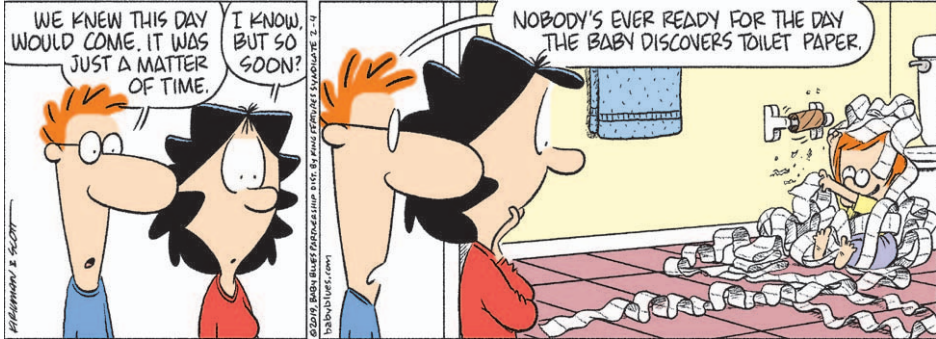
BLONDIE By Dean Young and John Marshall



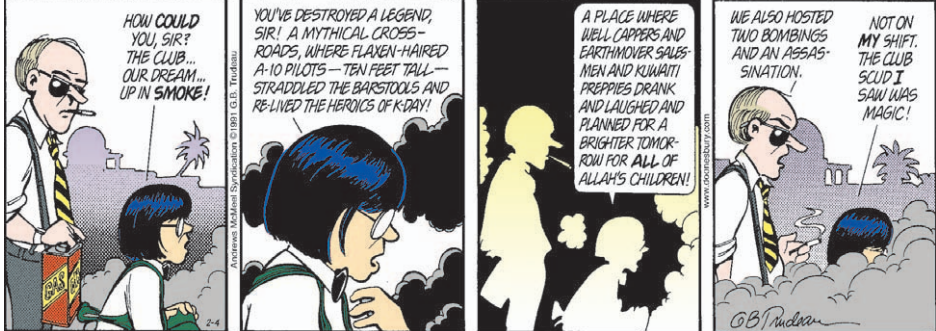
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



DOONSBURY By Garry Trudeau



TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Political campaign
5 Mend socks
9 Water, in Baja
13 Important decades
14 Type of arch
15 Splashes out
16 Free pass
17 Mongolian desert
18 Honks
19 Changes a bill
21 Had the same opinion (2 wds.)
23 Sidekick
24 Ancient
26 Make tracks
27 Plain as day
29 Planet courses
34 Method
38 Fish dish
39 Owl's comment
40 Petite
42 Trotsky's first name
43 Catnaps
45 "Jurassic Park" director
47 Drawing
49 Hangs around
50 Successful at-bat
52 Be mistaken
53 Lynx or panther

DOWN

- 1 Summary
2 Pleasant odor
3 Desert mount
4 Sports cable channel
5 Musers' vehicles
6 Past
7 Melodious — McEntire
8 Horse sound
9 Burn soother
10 Honorable
11 It's — you!
12 Part of NBA
15 Ranch animals
20 Went headlong
22 "Road movie" locale
25 Storage containers
27 Sonnet stanza
28 Stratagems

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED grid with words: WIGS, BARBS, RIFT, ABOUT, ALERT, AVER, DELI, NIXIE, VANE, EXPLODE, ALLENDE, LEAN, NEIL, TAVERN, OSAKA, OWED, NAPKIN, BUG, MAR, WARRENS, ADE, ESS, ASCEND, ATON, SHAGS, ODDEST, APPT, ALUM, GROSSLY, VEHICLE, LAP, ORSON, REAL, OGEE, DORIC, EDNA, MEND, SLIDE, SEEN

- 30 Tulips or daffodils
31 Palm reader's opener (2 wds.)
32 Odin's son
33 Tell all
34 Advanced degs.
35 Chess piece
36 Exude moisture
37 Ruling class
41 Scholar's possession
44 Downhiller's run
46 Orpheus' harp
48 Put out of sight
49 Pop quizzes
51 Crinkled fabric
54 Humiliate
55 Innsbruck locale
56 Organ valve
57 "Cope Book" aunt
58 Average grades
59 Late-night host
60 Pistol face-off
62 Remote
65 Monastic title

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 9, 3, 5, 8, 2, 8, 7, 4, 5, 9, 2, 8, 3, 6, 7, 4, 5, 6, 7, 4, 5, 3, 2, 8, 8, 5, 4, 8, 3, 9, 9, 1, 4

Rating: BRONZE

Solution to 2/2/19

9x9 solution grid for the sudoku puzzle

WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- 1. Apple tablet pop-up commercial (1)
2. Court Sitting Bull's people (1)
3. Steamed up Minnesota's NHL team (1)
4. At no time ingenious (2)
5. Wool alternative acquired (2)
6. Schoolyard meanie's wheel-rope devices (2)
7. Strongly advocating spending lavishly (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

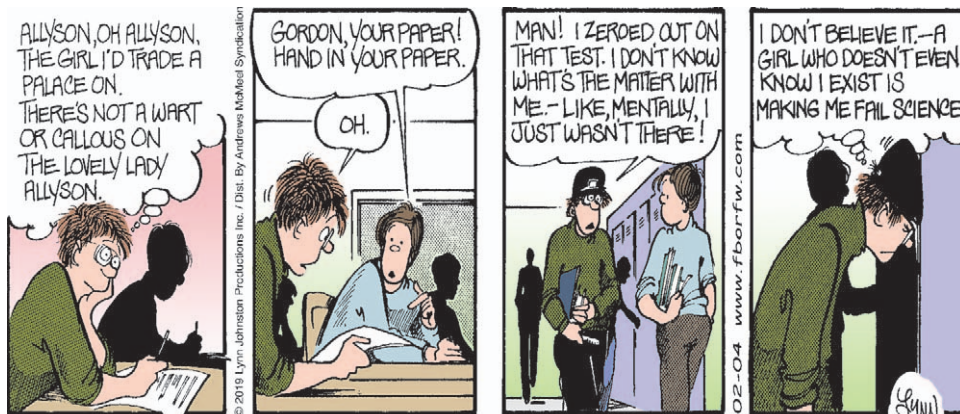
© 2019 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

1. PAD AD 2. WOO SIOUX 3. RILED WILD 4. NEVER CLEAR 5. COTTON GOTTEN 6. BULLYS PULLERS 7. URGING SPURGING ANSWERS

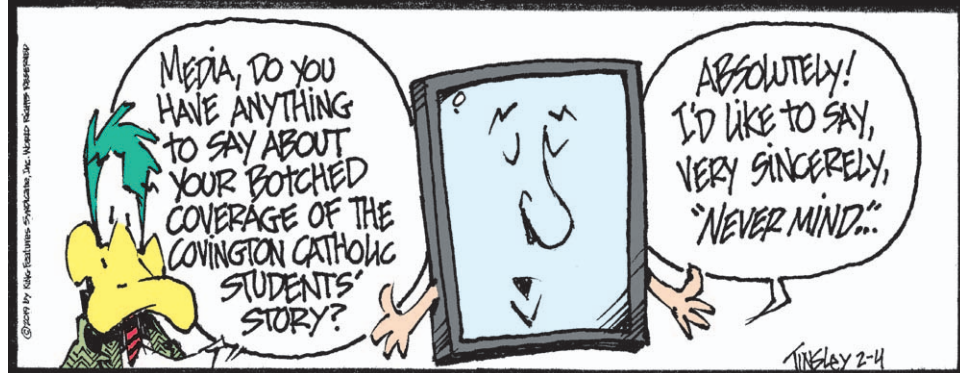
Large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers pre-filled

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

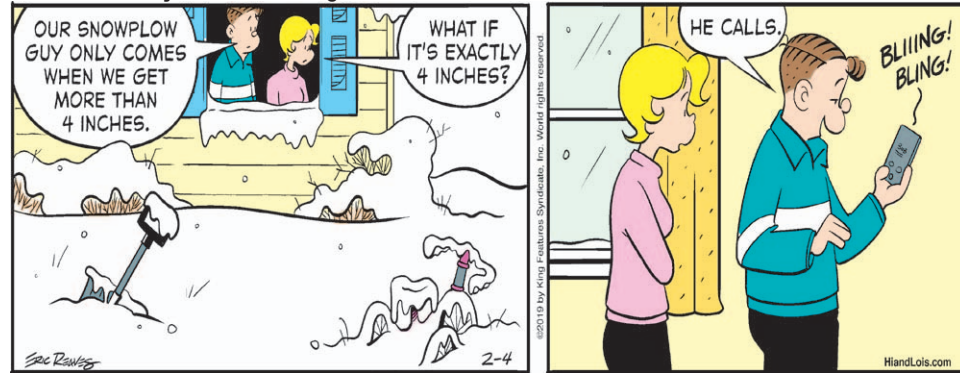
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



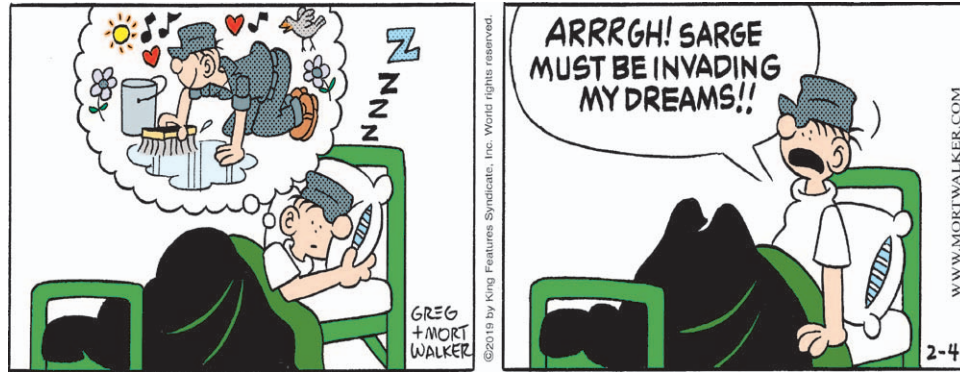
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



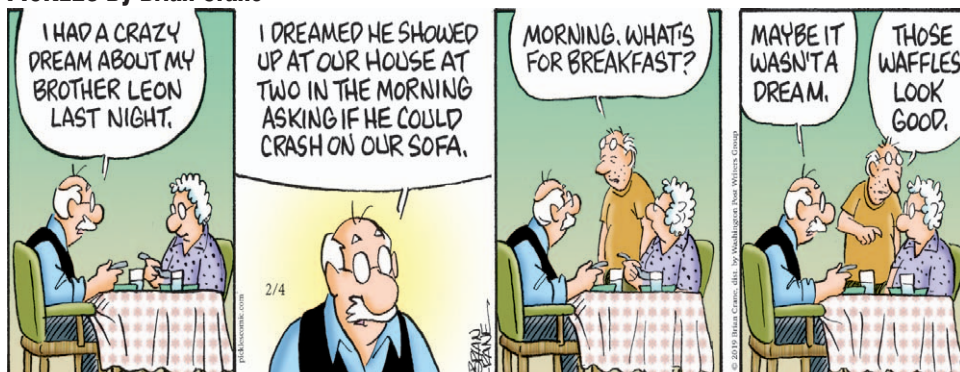
THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



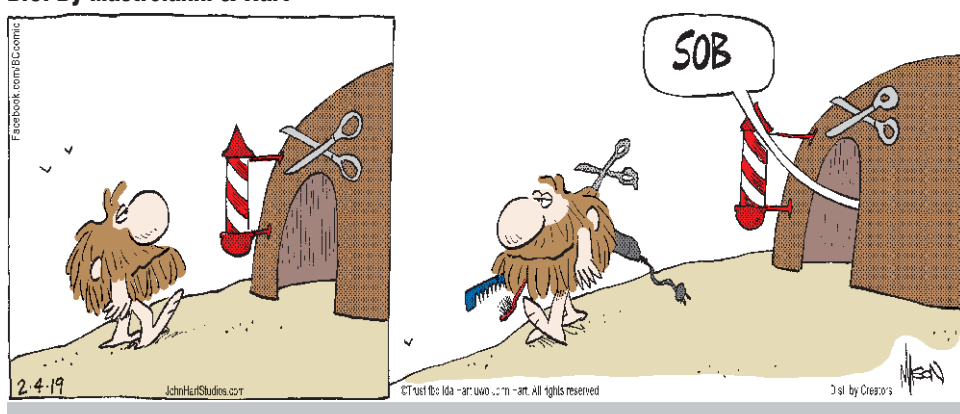
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



PICKLES By Brian Crane



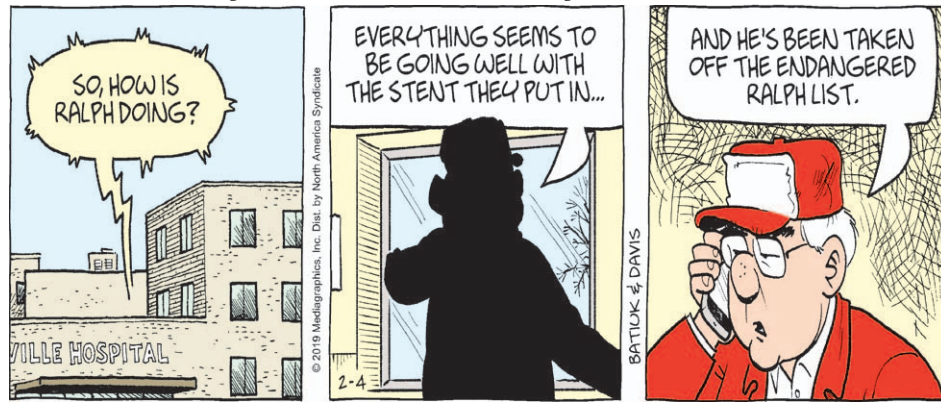
B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



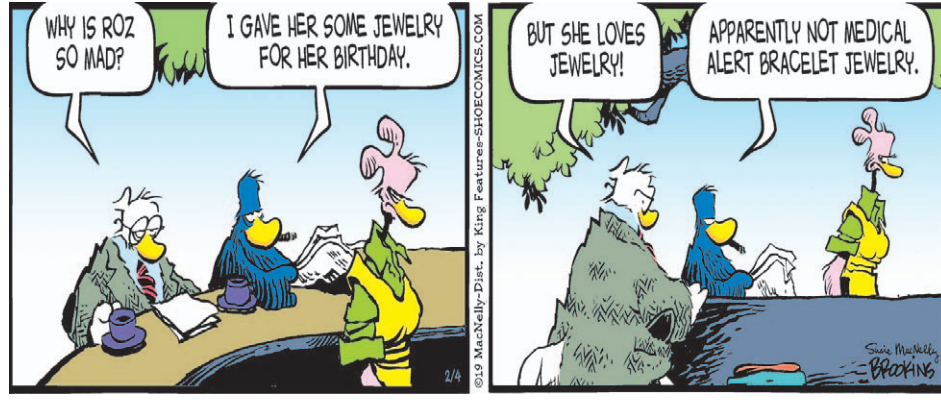
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



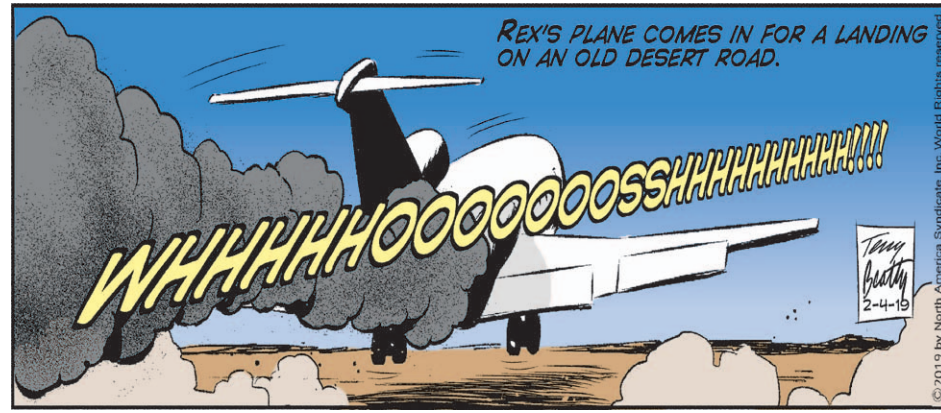
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



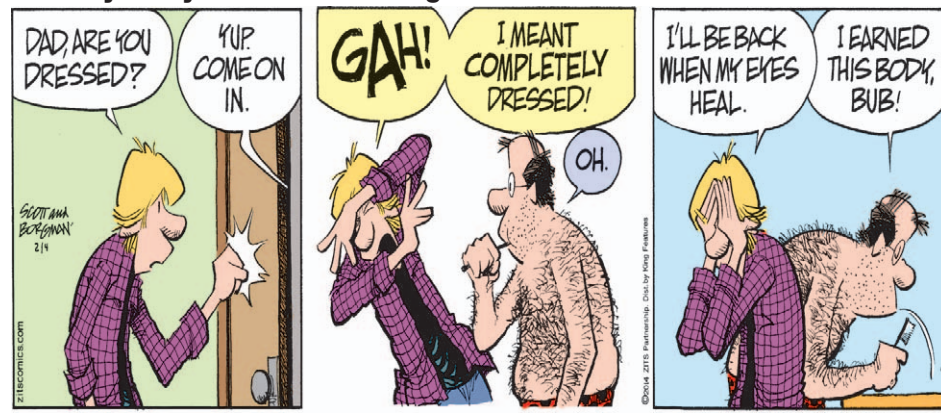
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



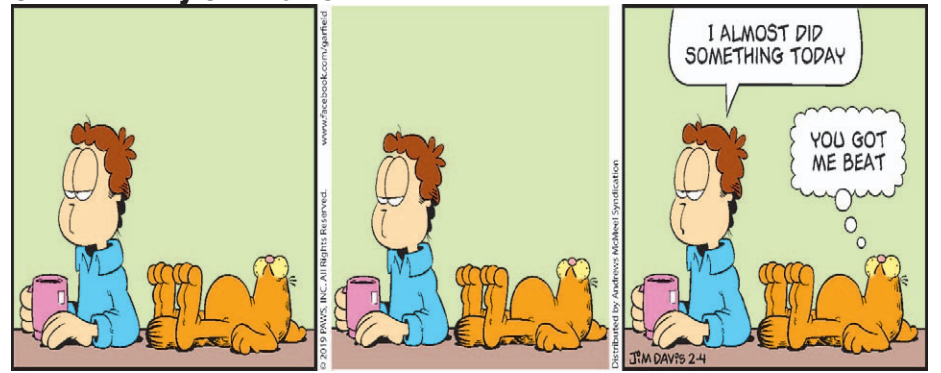
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



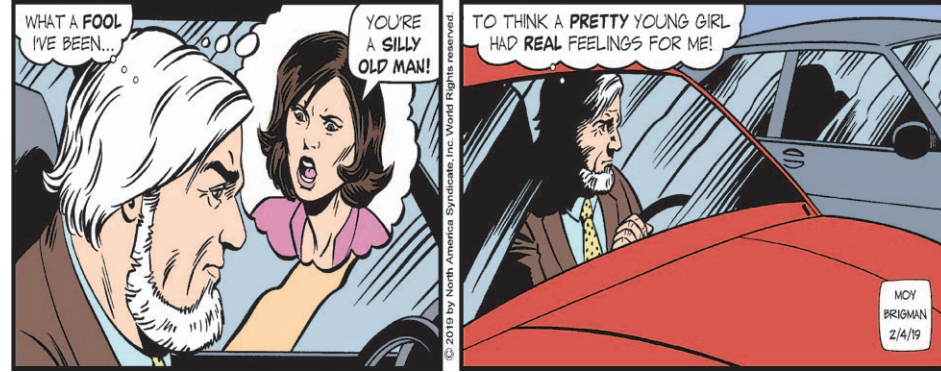
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



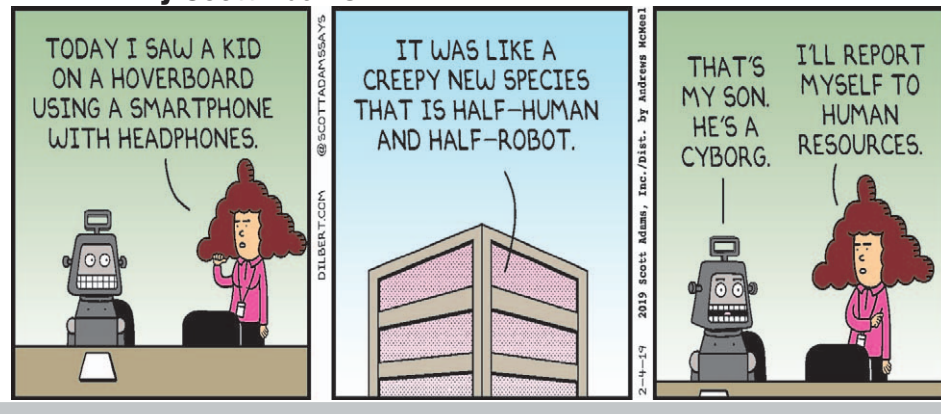
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



DILBERT By Scott Adams



Recent trade of Porzingis symbolizes problem for Knicks.
See the full story on page 4.

Monday, February 4, 2019

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Regatta concludes with final results

By Staff reports

PUNTA GORDA--The 10th Annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta concluded Sunday, at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club.

A total of 37 races for five boat classes were contested over the past three days.

In the Weta class, there were a field of 12 entries, and Bob Hodges claimed the top spot sailing for Pontchartrain, with the

results being compiled by scoring eight races.

The F18 class featured the weekend's shortest field with only three boats taking part in the 10 races. Clay Selsmeyer, sailing out of CRAW, Catamaran Racing Association of Wisconsin, took the honors.

In the Hobie 16 class, eight races were scored to determine the winner, and it would be Borios Racing with Tom

Korzeniewski at the helm, placing first in the field of 11.

In the 2.4mR class, Storm Trysail Club's 2 for 1 earned the honors, with Dee Helm serving as the skipper. A field of eight boats composed the entries, who competed in the seven races that were scored.

In the Harbor 20 class, it was Yellow Jacket who



SUN PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER G BLAKE

REGATTA | 3 The start of the first Hobie 16 class race during Sunday's 10th Annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta.

■ SUPER BOWL LIII: Patriots 13, Rams 3

Patriots, Brady win sixth title

Running attack, blistering defense leads New England in throwback title match



AP PHOTO

New England Patriots' David Andrews picks up Tom Brady after the Patriots scored the decisive go-ahead touchdown against the Los Angeles Rams in the second half, Sunday, in Atlanta.

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

ATLANTA — Defenses dominated what was supposed to be a super shootout until Tom Brady led one classic drive to win the New England Patriots their record-tying sixth Super Bowl.

Brady threw two perfect passes to Rob Gronkowski to set up rookie Sony Michel's 2-yard score — the only touchdown in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever. That put New England up 10-3. A late field goal clinched the win over the Rams 13-3.

In a season in which all sorts of offensive records were set, this Super Bowl rewrote the defensive record book.

"Finally got a touchdown and the defense played the best game of the year," Brady said.

No Super Bowl had gone into the fourth quarter without a touchdown. This one did, tied 3-3 — even though these teams

■ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

FSU dismisses Francois after domestic abuse allegations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State's head football coach announced Sunday that quarterback Deondre Francois had been dismissed from the team after allegations of domestic abuse surfaced.

FSU head coach Willie Taggart said in a statement Sunday that he had notified Francois of his decision the night before. Taggart's decision to drop Francois came the same day the quarterback's girlfriend posted a video to Instagram alleging abuse by Francois.

"As we build a new culture and foundation for FSU football, we have high expectations for all of our student-athletes and we will not shy away from those high standards of conduct," Taggart said. "We are moving forward as a program."

The Tallahassee Democrat reports that

the video shows neither Francois nor the girlfriend, but a woman can be heard begging a man to stop hitting her.

Francois hasn't been charged with a crime. He couldn't be reached and Francois' uncle, Pat Julmiste, didn't respond to a phone call seeking comment.

Only last month, Francois announced he would return to Florida State for his senior season in 2019.

The redshirt junior started 11 games for the Seminoles, who went 5-7 in 2018 but did not make a bowl game for the first time since 1982.

Francois completed 57.1 percent of his passes for 2,731 yards, 15 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. But in each of his last four starts, he completed fewer than 50 percent of his passes and had just two touchdowns along with six interceptions.

■ RAYS

MLB Network ranked top 10 starters right now and Rays' Cy Young winner Blake Snell was 10th

By MARC TOPKIN
TAMPA BAY TIMES

Rays LHP Blake Snell posted dazzling and historic numbers in going 21-5, 1.89 to win the 2018 Cy Young award as the American League's best pitcher.

But when MLB Network on Saturday revealed its list of the Top 10 Starting Pitchers Right Now!, Snell was

ranked only 10th.

The rankings, per MLB Network PR, "considers player performance over the last two seasons, offensive and defensive metrics, both advanced Statcast data and traditional numbers, and expert analysis by the MLB Network research team."

The two-year window is a key factor, as Snell wasn't very good in 2017,

struggling early and was twice being demoted to the minors before a strong finish, posting a 5-7, 4.04 record overall. Still, for the two seasons he was 26-12, 2.79.

From what MLB Network analyst Ron Darling said, Snell's 2018 work was so impressive he made up for 2017 just to make the list.

"Well, we try to look at a longer period of

time, but sometimes you have such a breakout season, it doesn't matter," Darling said during the show. "If you said before the season that a Tampa Bay Rays pitcher was going to win the Cy Young, everyone would have said, 'Chris Archer,' and not Blake Snell. But he came and he came fast, and the irony of it of course, the Rays are famous for the

opener, yet won the Cy Young with a traditional starter."

The full top 10:

1. Max Scherzer, Nationals
2. Chris Sale, Red Sox
3. Jacob deGrom, Mets
4. Corey Kluber, Indians
5. Justin Verlander, Astros
6. Aaron Nola, Phillies
7. Clayton Kershaw, Dodgers

8. Luis Severino, Yankees

9. Carlos Carrasco, Indians

10. Blake Snell, Rays
In previous episodes, Tampa Bay's Tommy Pham ranked fourth among leftfielders, Joey Wendle seventh among second basemen, Mike Zunino ninth among catchers, Kevin Kiermaier 10th among outfielders.

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■ HOMETOWN HEROES

Hardison, Former Tarpon, joins new league

Defensive tackle, ex-Bengals player and NFL journeyman, on roster for Arizona

By **BARBARA BOXLEITNER**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Marcus Hardison isn't giving up on football. The Charlotte High School graduate is on the roster for the Arizona Hotshots of the Alliance of American Football, which is scheduled to begin its inaugural season this month.

The defensive tackle, who turns 27 soon, has been an unsigned National Football League free agent. He most recently was with the Los Angeles Chargers, who claimed him off waivers from the Houston Texans in August but waived him Sept. 1.

Out of college, Hardison spent two years with the Cincinnati Bengals. He was inactive his first season and missed the second because of injury. He was on the practice squads for the Jacksonville Jaguars, New England Patriots and Texans before joining the Chargers.

Softball

Previously at DeSoto County High, freshman Dekoda Johnson hit .500 in three games. The Miami Dade College third baseman had two hits, including a solo home run, in four at-bats against

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

Florida SouthWestern State College sophomore Elsie Rivera batted .182 in seven games. The Venice High graduate drove in five runs.

Women's indoor track and field

University of Miami's Michelle Atherley was named Wednesday as the Atlantic Coast Conference field performer of the week. The Port Charlotte High alumna was recognized for winning the pentathlon at the Texas Tech Classic.

University of Mississippi junior Kendall Chavarria finished 17th in the weight throw at the Indiana Relays. The past Tarpon's toss traveled 51 feet, 10 inches.

Southeastern University freshman Maddison Welch placed second in the mile at the Warrior Invitational. She is from Lemon Bay High.

Women's swimming University of Louisville's Sophie Cattermole finished second in the 1,000-yard freestyle against Kentucky. The former Manta Ray was fourth in the 500 freestyle.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Marcus Hardison, a defensive tackle who graduated from Charlotte High School and played two seasons for the Cincinnati Bengals, is on the roster for the Arizona Hotshots of the newly created Alliance of American Football. Hardison has also been on the practice squads of the Los Angeles Chargers, Houston Texans, Jacksonville Jaguars and New England Patriots.



SUN PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER G BLAKE

Two F18 class boats square off at the starting line of Sunday's 10th Annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta. Skipper Clay Selsmeyer and crew (1978) took the lead at the start and finished first in the race.



Skipper Tom Korzeniewski and Karen Grisko are all smiles after winning a Hobie 16 class race during Sunday's 10th Annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta.

REGATTA

FROM PAGE 1

was much the best in the field of nine boats, who competed in a class where four races were scored. Jeffrey Scholz served as the skipper.

Weta Class top three finishers

1. Bob Hodges, sailing for the Pontchartrain Yacht Club.
2. It's Now or Never !!, Knox Rodgers, Lake Lanier Sailing Club.
3. Rick Sylvester, Gulfport Yacht Club.

F18 Class top three finishers

1. Clay Selsmeyer, CRAW.
2. Turtle Mo, Dick Macdonald, no affiliation.

3. Dan Maxwell, Sarasota Sailing Squadron.

Hobie 16 Class top three finishers

1. Borios Racing, Tom Korzeniewski, OYC.
2. Jason Sanchez, Gulfport Yacht Club.
3. Ken Hilk, Tropical Yachts.

2.4mR Class top three finishers

1. 2 for 1, Dee Smith, STC.
2. Peter Eagar, National Yacht Club.
3. Edge, Tony Pocklington, CHYC.

Harbor 20 Class top three finishers

1. Yellow Jacket, Jeffrey Scholz, CHYC.
2. H20, James Nuzzo, Isles Yacht Club.
3. Jay Nadelson, Chester Yacht Club, Storm Trysail Club, PGSC.

■ HOMETOWN HEROES

Former Bobcat Kirzen wins first collegiate start

By **BARBARA BOXLEITNER**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Freshman pitcher Ben Krizen won his first start for Ave Maria University.

The North Port High School graduate allowed four hits and two earned runs in three and one-third innings against William Carey. He struck out four and walked three.

Through eight games, the right-hander led the team with a 2-0 record and had a 3.86 earned run average.

More baseball

Warner University sophomore pitcher Jaryd Clary earned his first victory. The Lemon Bay High product allowed four hits and three earned runs in four innings in his start against Florida National. He fanned five.

Out of Venice High, Colin Costello did not earn a decision in his

start against North Georgia. The Florida Tech senior allowed six hits and two earned runs in five and two-third innings. He struck out five.

Another from the Indians, Langston Provitt has transferred from Warner to St. Johns River State College. Through four games, the sophomore outfielder hit a team-high .417 with one run batted in.

Men's basketball

Young Harris College starter Nickens Blanc had 16 points against University of South Carolina Aiken. The Port Charlotte High graduate tied with a team-high eight rebounds.

Malek Barber of Palm Beach Atlantic University had seven points and six rebounds against Lynn. He played for the Bobcats.

Charlotte High

alumnus Brandon Gonzalez had eight points for Southeastern Louisiana University against Nicholls. The sophomore had three rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Men's indoor track and field

Former Pirate Chale McLeod placed third in the 400-meters run at the Akron Invitational. The Indiana Tech junior ran the first leg of the 4-by-400 meter relay that placed second.

Women's basketball Florida College's Sarah Lutz had 13 points against Blue Mountain. Previously at Lemon Bay, she had one rebound and one steal.

Mykelli Taylor of LaGrange College blocked two shots against Berea. The past Tarpon had one rebound, one steal and one assist.

PREP SPORTS CALENDAR

BASKETBALL

Venice Girls in District Quarterfinals at Lakewood Ranch, 7 p.m.
Venice Boys Senior Night vs

Sarasota Military at 7 p.m.
Lemon Bay Girls District Quarters home vs. North Fort Myers, 7 p.m.
Port Charlotte Girls vs. Island Coast, 7 p.m.

LOCAL PREP BRIEFS

SAILING

Earn the Florida Safe Boaters' Certificate in One Day America's Boating Course is being offered by the Venice Sail and Power Squadron on Saturday Feb. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fee for the course is \$50 per student. Family discounts are available. The class will be held at the Waymire Training Center in Wellfield Park, 1450 Lucaya Ave. Venice.

The subjects that will be covered include docking and undocking maneuvers, required and

suggested equipment, rules of the road, Florida regulations, use of a trailer including backing, PWC operation and the handling of emergency situations. Those interested in taking the course must register by Feb. 18. A boating safety ID card is required by the State of Florida for anyone born after Jan 1, 1988. The certificate will be issued at the successful completion of the course. All students are requested to bring a lunch for themselves. Beverages are provided by the Squadron.

For more information

call 941-244-8331.

SOCCER

Charlotte High School will be conducting a soccer clinic, for middle school boys and girls, grades 6-8, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 and March 4, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Charlotte High School soccer fields.

Those wishing to participate should bring shin guards and shoes.

The cost is \$10 per player and should be sent to the Charlotte Boys Soccer, 1250 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda, 33950.

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL PLAYOFFS

Table of NFL Playoff results including Wild-Card Round and Divisional Playoffs.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Table of Conference Championship results for AFC and NFC.

PRO BOWL

Jan. 27 At Orlando, Fla. AFC 26, NFC 7

SUPER BOWL LIII (53)

Sunday's Game At Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta

NFL AWARDS

Comeback Player of the Year - Andrew Luck, QB, Indianapolis.

2019 HALL OF FAME FINALISTS

Steve Atwater, S - 1989-1998 Denver Broncos, 1999 New York Jets.

Isaac Bruce, WR - 1994-2007 Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, 2008-09 New York Jets.

CONTRIBUTOR FINALS

Pat Bowen, Owner - 1984-Present Denver Broncos.

ODDS

PREGAME.COM LINE

Table of Pregame.com line for NFL matchups.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Table of NBA game results.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table of college basketball game results.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Table of NHL game results.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS

FOOTBALL

Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

HOCKEY

National Hockey League NEW JERSEY DEVILS

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

Table of NBA game results.

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Table of Western Conference and North West Division NFL scores.

Table of Saturday's NFL Games results.

Table of Grizzlies 96, Knicks 84 MEMPHIS game results.

Table of Celtics 134, Thunder 129 OKLAHOMA CITY (129) game results.

Table of Raptors 121, Clippers 103 L.A. CLIPPERS (103) game results.

Table of Raptors 121, Clippers 103 L.A. CLIPPERS (103) game results.

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Table of Raptors 121, Clippers 103 L.A. CLIPPERS (103) game results.

Continuation of NFL scores from previous page.

Table of Sunday's NFL Games results.

PRO HOCKEY

NHL

Table of NHL game results.

Table of Eastern Conference and Atlantic Division NHL scores.

Table of Western Conference and Central Division NHL scores.

Table of Saturday's NHL Games results.

Table of Eastern Conference and North Division NHL scores.

Table of Saturday's NHL Games results.

Table of Eastern Conference and North Division NHL scores.

Table of Saturday's NHL Games results.

Table of Eastern Conference and North Division NHL scores.

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Table of Saturday's NHL Games results.

Table of Eastern Conference and North Division NHL scores.

Table of Saturday's NHL Games results.

Table of Eastern Conference and North Division NHL scores.

Continuation of NFL scores from previous page.

Table of Sunday's NFL Games results.

EUROPEAN TOUR

SAUDI INTERNATIONAL

Table of European Tour and Saudi International golf scores.

Table of Saturday's European Tour golf scores.

Table of Sunday's European Tour golf scores.

Table of Saturday's European Tour golf scores.

Table of Sunday's European Tour golf scores.

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Table of Saturday's European Tour golf scores.

Table of Sunday's European Tour golf scores.

GOLF

PGA TOUR WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN

Table of PGA TOUR Waste Management Phoenix Open golf scores.

SUPER BOWL

FROM PAGE 1

combined to average over 60 points a game.

When the Patriots needed a score, Brady, the oldest winning quarterback in a Super Bowl at 41, completed four straight passes, including a pair covering 47 yards to Gronkowski. The second, on which the star tight end beat two defenders, ended at the Los Angeles 2, the only time either team was inside the 20-yard line. Michel ran off left tackle for his sixth postseason touchdown.

"He knows to trust in me and throw that ball," Gronkowski said, "and I'm going to grab it."

Julian Edelman, the outstanding receiver who missed the 2017 season with a knee injury, was the game's MVP with 10 receptions for 141 yards.

With 4:17 left, All-Pro Stephon Gilmore picked off an ill-advised pass by Rams quarterback Jared Goff, who seemed overwhelmed by the big stage all night, at the New England 2.

Stephen Gostkowski made a 41-yard field goal with 1:12 remaining, completing a 72-yard march that took more than three minutes off the clock and included 26-yard runs by Michel and Rex Burkhead.

It was a workmanlike conclusion for the Patriots (14-5), whose losses all came away from New England. They beat the top two offenses in the Chiefs and Rams (15-4) in the postseason, and tied Pittsburgh for most Super Bowl titles.

The Patriots were terrific all game on defense, allowing the fewest points in a Super Bowl (tied with Dallas in 1972 against Miami).

"We're a relentless team," linebacker Dont'a Hightower said. "We didn't give up. A lot was thrown at us. When we play like we did tonight, we can't be beat."

The Rams, who reached the NFL championship game with the aid of a major officiating error in the conference title victory at New Orleans, never really threatened to reach the end zone.

"Last time I checked, defense wins championships," Rams running back C.J. Anderson said.

At 66, Bill Belichick became the oldest winning Super Bowl coach. The Patriots beat the Rams, then representing St. Louis, to begin their dynastic run in the 2002 game. They also have beaten Carolina and Philadelphia (2004 and '05, the last repeater); the Seahawks in 2015; and the Falcons in 2017 in the only overtime in Super Bowl history.

They have lost three times, including to Philadelphia a year ago. New England is the first team since the 1972 Dolphins to win a Super Bowl the year after losing one.

How the Patriots accomplished it was atypical. The 10-point margin was their biggest in winning a championship.

Brady, who has won four Super Bowl MVP trophies, wasn't particularly sharp — except when throwing to Edelman. He was the steadiest offensive player on the field, finishing with 10 catches for 141 yards.

"It just matters that we won," Edelman said. "It was a crazy year. We had a resilient bunch of guys."

Brady passed Charles Haley to become the only player with six Super Bowl titles.

All those suspicions about the Patriots declining this season became moot as the defense made the 24-year-old Goff look awful and turned All-Pro running back Todd Gurley into a nonfactor.

While it was anything but odd to see New England celebrate a championship, the manner it earned this one was startling. The 2 1/2-point favorite Patriots moved the ball well, ran down the clock, but made uncharacteristic gaffes on offense. Goff and the Rams made more.

LA's second-ranked offense managed just 57 total yards for the half. The Rams were completely overmatched on the line and were particularly unable to handle the elusive Edelman,



AP PHOTO

New England Patriots' Sony Michel dives over the goal line for a touchdown in front of Los Angeles Rams' Cory Littleton during the second half of the Super Bowl in Atlanta. It was the lone touchdown scored in a game won by the Patriots 13-3. Michel ran for 94 yards on 18 carries.



AP PHOTO

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski catches a pass in front of Los Angeles Rams' Cory Littleton in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl, as part of the Patriots' touchdown drive. Gronkowski had six catches for 87 yards, including two big catches on the touchdown drive.

who had seven receptions for 93 yards.

Coach Sean McVay, whose Rams never had been blanked in a first half, let out a long, deep sigh just before halftime, recognizing how badly his team was manhandled, even though it trailed just 3-0.

It was the lowest score at halftime since Super Bowl 9, which Pittsburgh led 2-0 over Minnesota.

McVay, the youngest Super Bowl head coach at 34, admitted he was outcoached. He had no answers as Gurley, coming off knee issues, managed 35 yards rushing, Goff went 19 for 38 for 229 yards and was sacked four times. Brandin Cooks, a Patriots receiver last

season, did have eight receptions for 120 yards.

KICKING GAME

Gostkowski's 46-yard miss wide left in the first quarter was the first unsuccessful field goal in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, home of the Falcons, by an NFL player all season. The 13-year veteran also missed a field goal and extra point in the 2018 Super Bowl loss to Philadelphia.

But he gave the Patriots a 3-0 lead with a 42-yarder in the second quarter.

The Rams' Johnny Hekker had a 65-yard punt in the third quarter, the longest in a Super Bowl. It was his eighth punt of

the game — with 1 1-2 periods remaining — the most for LA in McVay's two seasons in charge.

Greg Zuerlein tied it with 2:11 left in the third quarter on the first drive on which Los Angeles gained more than one first down. His 53-yarder was the second-longest field goal in a Super Bowl.

COIN TOSS

McVay deferred after winning the coin toss. In their previous two playoff games, the Patriots marched right downfield to a touchdown with the opening kickoff, setting an immediate tone. This time, after Cordarrelle Patterson's

38-yard kickoff return and four successful runs, Brady's first pass was tipped by receiver Chris Hogan and cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman. Linebacker Cory Littleton made a diving interception; it was the first time Brady was picked on his initial throw in a postseason game.

INJURIES

New England lost safety Patrick Chung on the third play of the second half when his right forearm was caught between Gurley's shoulder pad and the helmet of teammate Jonathan Jones. Chung writhed in pain before walking off with an air cast on.

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL: Roundup

Booth spurs Villanova run past Georgetown

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Phil Booth was having one of his poorest shooting games of the season Sunday when 14th-ranked Villanova was struggling with Georgetown, but he found his stroke just in the nick of time.

Booth, who made two of his first 12 shots and did not have one 3-point basket, broke through for eight points in a late 15-2 run that carried the Wildcats to a 77-65 victory over the Hoyas at Wells Fargo Center, their 10th consecutive win.

The two teams were tied at 53 when Georgetown's James Akinjo drained a three-pointer with 7 minutes, 23 seconds to play. Booth followed with a layup and knocked down his first three of the game on the very next possession.

Booth later hit another 3-point basket at the 3:52 mark to give Villanova its largest lead to that point, 66-55, and the Wildcats (18-4, 9-0 Big East) maintained at

least an eight-point margin the rest of the way.

The Hoyas (14-8, 4-5) went 5:45 without a field goal. For the game, they shot 33.8 percent.

Collin Gillespie had six of Villanova's nine three-point baskets and established a career high with 30 points while Eric Paschall added 24. Booth finished with 14.

A most unusual statistic for the Wildcats came from sophomore forward Jermaine Samuels, who had 15 of his career-high 16 rebounds before he took his first shot of the game — a successful dunk — with 1:02 to play.

Akinjo led Georgetown with 19 points. Senior center Jesse Govan, the team's leading scorer with a 19.4-point average, did not score in 13 minutes, missing all nine of his attempts from the field, and fouled out with 4:53 remaining.

Paschall scored 10 of the Wildcats' first 13 points in the second half for a 46-43 advantage but Georgetown pulled into a tie 4 1/2

minutes later when Josh LeBlanc hit a basket and a free throw for a 50-50 tie at the 8:14 mark.

Gillespie and Akinjo exchanged 3-point baskets for a 53-53 before the Wildcats took control.

No. 17 Purdue 73, Minnesota 63

Carsen Edwards scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half to lead the No. 17 Boilermakers to a 73-63 victory over Minnesota.

Trevion Williams added 16 points and Matt Haarms had 15 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots for the Boilermakers (16-6, 9-2 Big Ten), who moved into a three-way tie with Michigan and Michigan State for the Big Ten lead.

Amir Coffey scored 22 points, Daniel Oturu had 19 points and nine rebounds off the bench, and Jordan Murphy contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Golden Gophers (16-6, 6-5).



AP PHOTO

Villanova's Phil Booth scored 14 points including eight points in a 15-2 run to defeat Georgetown, Sunday, in Philadelphia.

■ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Roundup

North Carolina hands NC State its first defeat

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Stephanie Watts scored 20 points to help North Carolina upset No. 7 North Carolina State 64-51 on Sunday, handing the first loss to the nation's last unbeaten team.

Janelle Bailey added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Tar Heels (14-9, 5-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), who knocked off top-ranked Notre Dame last week.

This time, they went on the road against a longtime rival in front of a sellout crowd and took over in the third quarter to earn a fourth straight win.

N.C. State (21-1, 8-1) came in leading the ACC and as the only unbeaten team in Division I on the men's or women's side.

No. 4 Oregon 102, Colorado 43

Ruthy Hebard made all 10 of her shots and scored 24 points as Oregon routed Colorado.

The Ducks (21-1, 10-0 Pac-12) won their 14th in a row. They scored the first 16 points of the game and led 27-2 after the first quarter.

Hebard had her second perfect shooting game this season, and also had 12 rebounds. Maite Cazorla added 16 points, all in the first half, and Satou Sabally had 15.

Oregon shot 40 of 69 (58 percent).

Mya Hollingshed had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Colorado (10-11, 0-10), which lost its 10th in a row.

No. 5 Notre Dame 90, Georgia Tech 50

Marina Mabrey scored 20 points to lead four teammates in double figures as Notre Dame had four big runs in a rout of cold-shooting Georgia Tech.

Mabrey hit seven of 10 shots, including 6 of 7 from beyond the arc, and had a team-high five assists. Jackie Young had 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting, Jessica Shepard scored 13 points and Arike Ogunbowale added 12 for the Fighting Irish (21-2, 8-1 Atlantic Coast Conference).

The Irish had runs of 8-0, 10-0 and 24-0 over two quarters to take a 54-13 halftime lead and a 9-0 run on three of Mabrey's 3-pointers to lead 74-30 heading into the fourth quarter.

Elizabeth Dixon had 12 points for Georgia Tech (13-9, 3-6).

No. 6 MISSISSIPPI ST 65, ALABAMA 49

Anriel Howard scored 24 points, Teaira McCowan added 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Mississippi State beat Alabama.

Howard made 9 of 12 shots and also had seven rebounds. McCowan posted her 17th double-double of the season.

Mississippi State (21-1, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) controlled the paint, outscoring Alabama by 18 points inside.

The Bulldogs led almost the entire way, shooting 55 percent in the first half while taking a 12-point lead.

Cierra Johnson scored 15 for Alabama (11-11, 3-6).

No. 9 OREGON ST 71, No. 14 UTAH 63

Destiny Slocum scored 20 points and Oregon State used a strong fourth quarter to beat Utah.

Mikayla Pivec and Aleah Goodman each scored 12 points for the Beavers



AP PHOTO

North Carolina's Janelle Bailey (left) and North Carolina State's Erika Cassell fight for a rebound in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday. Bailey scored 16 points and had 13 rebounds to hand NC State its first loss.

(19-3, 9-1 Pac-12).

Megan Huff had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Sarah Porter added 11 points with three 3-pointers for the Utes (18-3, 7-3), who lost their second straight game to a top 10 team.

No. 10 MARQUETTE 93, DEPAUL 87

Allazia Blockton scored 25 points and added a crucial three-point play as Marquette held off DePaul for its 10th straight win.

The Golden Eagles (19-3, 10-0 Big East) led by 13 in the third quarter, but DePaul (15-7, 6-4) chipped away at the deficit and tied the game with 3:42 left in the fourth on a layup by Kelly Campbell. Blockton, the reigning Big East Player of the Year, gave Marquette a three-point lead with her basket and the foul with 2:01 left, and the hosts couldn't answer.

Marquette used a 10-0 run late in the first quarter to take control, with Amani Wilborn capping the burst by powering in a put-back layup plus the foul. DePaul made only one basket in the final six minutes of the first half and trailed 39-27 at the break.

No. 13 IOWA 81, PENN STATE 61

Megan Gustafson had 30 points, 11 rebounds and five assists for her 20th double-double this season, and 75th of career, and Iowa beat Penn State.

Gustafson was named the Big Ten player of the week on Monday for the ninth time this season, tying the conference record for weekly awards in a career with 19. She was 13 of 18 from the field against Penn State.

Makenzie Meyer added 18 points for Iowa (17-5, 8-3 Big Ten), which is off to its best start in conference play since the 2014-15 team made a trip to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

Teniya Page scored 17 points and became the sixth player in program history to reach the 2,000-point plateau for Penn State (10-11, 3-7).

No. 16 SOUTH CAROLINA 87, ARKANSAS 79

Freshmen reserves Destanni Henderson and Victoria Saxton had career days, scoring 19 points apiece, and South Carolina took over in the fourth quarter to defeat Arkansas.

Saxton was perfect, going 7 for 7 from the field and 5 for 5 from the foul line, and grabbed nine rebounds. Henderson was 7 of 11 with two 3-pointers, both in the fourth quarter when she also had a critical 3-point play and scored 12 points.

Saxton had 10 points in the fourth quarter when the Gamecocks had their biggest quarter of the season, outscoring Arkansas 35-23.

South Carolina (16-5, 8-1 Southeastern Conference), which has won 12 of 13 overall and 10 straight in the series, was 12 of 21 from the field and 8 of 12 from the foul line in the fourth quarter.

Chelsea Dungee had a career-high 32 points, her third straight game with at least 25 points, for the Razorbacks (16-7, 5-4) and Malica Monk had 25, just six in the second half.

MINNESOTA 50, No. 17 RUTGERS 46

Kenisha Bell and Destiny Pitts both scored nine fourth-quarter points and Minnesota held off Rutgers, the Big Ten leader.

Bell finished with 19 points, nine at the free-throw line, Pitts had 14, Brunson 13 and Taiye Bello had 11 points with a career-high 21 rebounds for her ninth double-double this season for the Gophers (15-7, 4-7).

The Scarlet Knights (17-5, 9-2) saw

their conference lead cut to a half-game over No. 11 Maryland (8-2), which plays last-place Illinois Monday.

No. 19 KENTUCKY 62, FLORIDA 51

Rhyne Howard scored 16 points and Kentucky took advantage of 24 Florida turnovers.

Taylor Murray scored 13 points, 11 on free throws, and Maci Morris added 10 points and seven assists for the Wildcats, (18-5, 5-4 SEC), who were coming off back-to-back losses to ranked teams.

The Wildcats scored 31 points off turnovers and had 16 second-chance points with a 16-7 edge on the offensive glass.

The Gators (5-17, 1-8) got 20 points from Danielle Rainey and 10 points and 14 rebounds from Delicia Washington but lost their fifth straight.

No. 20 TEXAS A&M 72, MISSISSIPPI 60

Chennedy Carter scored 28 points and Texas A&M turned up the defensive pressure in the second half to defeat Mississippi for its seventh-straight win.

Shandricka Sessom scored 14 points and Jhileiya Dunlap had 10, on 5-for-5 shooting, as Ole Miss took a 37-30 lead at the half.

The Aggies opened the second half with a 13-2 run to take the lead for good. They outscored the Rebels 18-6 with Kayla Wells, who finished with 17 points, scoring 12.

Ciera Johnson added 13 points for the Aggies (18-4, 7-2 Southeastern Conference).

Ole Miss (8-15, 2-7) has lost four straight.

No. 22 MICHIGAN ST 74, PURDUE 66

idney Cooks and Shay Colley scored 20 points apiece and Michigan State scored the last eight points to defeat Purdue after blowing a 15-point, second-half lead.

After Tamara Farquhar's putback with 57.3 seconds left tied the game at 66, Colley drove down the lane for a difficult layup.

The Boilermakers missed three shots and had a critical five-second turnover after that. Cook and Colley both made a pair of free throws.

Jenna Allen became the fifth player in double figures with two late free throws for the Spartans (16-5, 6-5 Big Ten Conference), who have won three straight and are 12-0 at home.

Ae'rianna Harris had 20 points and 13 rebounds for Purdue (15-9, 6-5), which lost its fourth straight. Karissa McLaughlin added 16 points.

No. 24 FLORIDA STATE 85, WAKE FOREST 61

Kiah Gillespie scored 12 of her 22 points in the first half when Florida State took control and the Seminoles rolled to a win over Wake Forest.

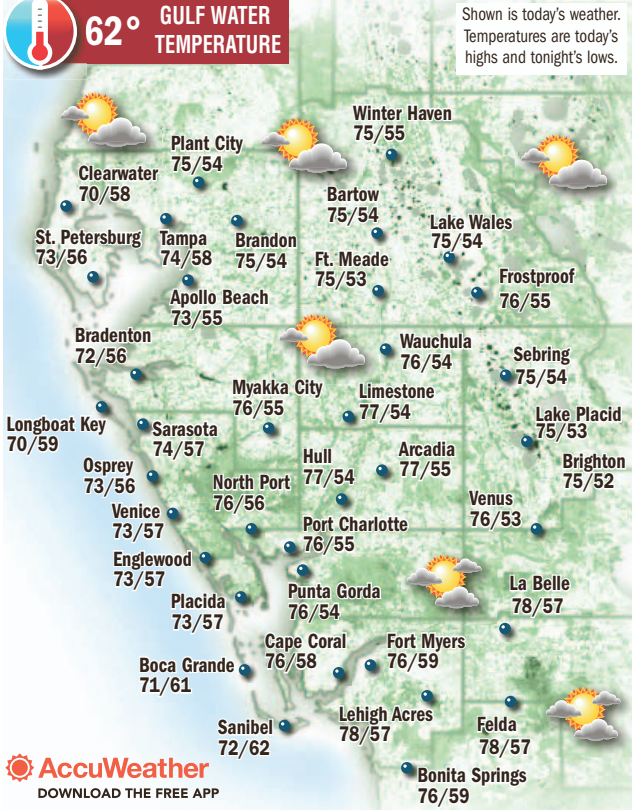
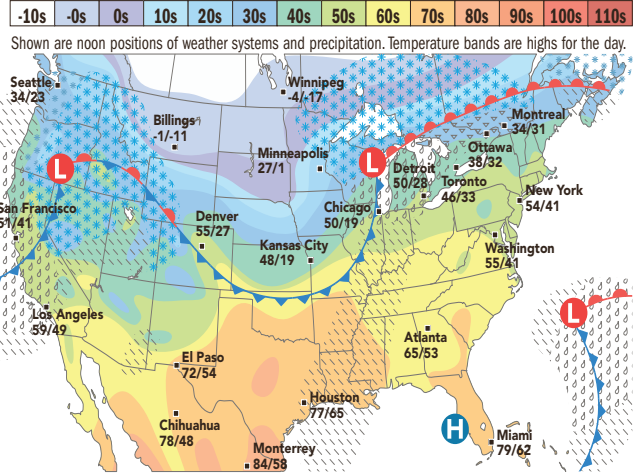
Nicki Ekhomu added 17 points and Nausia Woolfolk had 14 as the Seminoles (19-3, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) put five players in double figures.

Gina Conti tied her career high with 19 points for the Demon Deacons (10-12, 1-8), who had 12 of their 18 turnovers in the first half when they fell behind 44-25.

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Weather forecast for TODAY/TONIGHT, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY. Includes high/low temperatures, chance of rain, and weather icons.

THE NATION Publication date: 02/04/19



PORT CHARLOTTE Venice through 2 p.m. Sunday. Temperatures: High/Low 77°/59°. Record High 88° (1990). Record Low 40° (1994).

MONTHLY RAINFALL. Table with columns for Month, 2019, 2018, Avg. Record/Year. Rows include Jan through Dec and Year totals.

VENICE Venice through 2 p.m. Sunday. Temperatures: High/Low 73°/63°. Record High 84° (1989). Record Low 34° (1980).

SEBRING Sebring through 2 p.m. Sunday. Temperatures: High/Low 80°/60°. Record High 84° (1989). Record Low 34° (1980).

AIRPORT Possible weather-related delays today. Check with your airline for the most updated schedules. Table with columns for Hi/Lo, Outlook, Delays.

FLORIDA CITIES Table with columns for City, Today (Hi Lo W), Tue. (Hi Lo W).

TIDES Table with columns for High, Low, High, Low. Includes locations like Punta Gorda and Englewood.

MARINE Table with columns for Wind, Speed, Seas, Bay/Inland direction.

SUN AND MOON Table with columns for The Sun, Rise, Set. Includes dates Feb 4, Feb 12, Feb 19, Feb 26.

SOLUNAR TABLE Table with columns for Minor, Major, Minor, Major. Includes dates Feb 4, Feb 12, Feb 19, Feb 26.

CONDITIONS TODAY UV Index and RealFeel Temperature Today. Includes UV Index scale and RealFeel temperature scale.

POLLEN INDEX Table with columns for Trees, Grass, Weeds, Molds. Includes pollen index readings.

AIR QUALITY INDEX Table with columns for Air Quality Index readings as of Sunday. Includes AQI scale and pollutant information.

U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)

High/Low temperature extremes for various states.

WORLD CITIES Table with columns for City, Today (Hi Lo W), Tue. (Hi Lo W). Includes cities like Amsterdam, Beijing, London, etc.

Retiring, Vonn and Svindal to say goodbye

By ANDREW DAMPF AP SPORTS WRITER

and two of skiing's most well-spoken ambassadors. "It's always been a good place for me. I've always felt comfortable there," said Vonn, who has also won seven World Cup races in Are.

suit that I kind of designed in honor of Stenmark," Vonn said.

The 36-year-old Svindal, also slowed by persistent knee injuries, recently announced that he, too, will retire after worlds, and there are sure to be plenty of his Norwegian fans who hop across the border to see him race for the last time.



Lindsey Vonn, of the United States (left), and Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal, show their Alpine ski World Cup trophies in 2009. Both announced they will retire after the world championships, which begins this week.

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WOMEN'S TENNIS Bertens beats Vekic to take St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy. ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Kiki Bertens won her third title in six months on Sunday, beating Donna Vekic 7-6 (2), 6-4 in the final of the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy.