



## HARPER HEADS TO PHILLY

Prized free agent finally chooses, reportedly signs 13-year/\$330 million deal. *See Sports for full story.*

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## Man killed in hit-run on interstate

### Port Charlotte man dies after being struck by truck

By SCOTT LAWSON  
NORTH PORT EDITOR

VENICE — A Port Charlotte man was killed when a driver struck a car on Interstate 75, went off the highway, then struck the victim who was standing on grass outside his vehicle.

The truck involved was recovered Thursday morning at U.S. 41 and State Road 681, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Ken Watson said. The driver has not yet been identified.

The victim was Jorge Quezada, 75.

Quezada was on the passenger side of his Toyota RAV4 parked on the right shoulder of I-75 about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night near Mile Marker 202 southbound when he was struck and killed by a driver in a 2005 Ford truck.

The driver of the Ford then struck a power box to a Department of Transportation warning sign and fled the scene, authorities said in a report released Thursday morning.

The report states the crash began moments earlier as Cheryl Sowards, 47, of Venice, was southbound in the center lane in a 2013 Honda CRV. The Ford truck failed to slow down behind her.

The front left side of the Ford struck Sowards' CRV, then the Ford "traveled off the roadway to the right toward (Quezada's vehicle) causing the front of (the Ford)" to strike Quezada's vehicle and Quezada "at the same time," the report states.

Vivianna Quezada, 50, of Port Charlotte was sitting in the vehicle's passenger seat when it was struck. She was not injured.

HIT-RUN | 4

"We're following up on all of the leads that we have."

— Ken Watson, Florida Highway Patrol



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## Teacher told to remove Kaepernick display

### Former NFL player joins local conversation that goes viral

By BRIANNA KWASNIK  
STAFF WRITER

A Port Charlotte High School teacher this week was ordered to take down a Black History Month display that depicted former NFL player and activist Colin Kaepernick.

After a student posted a photo of the display, which depicts Kaepernick kneeling on a football field, on social media, students and parents complained, prompting Principal Lou Long to tell

teacher Alissa Perry to take it down, school officials confirmed.

A video posted to Twitter by a student Wednesday shows Perry removing it from her door.

"Thank you all for participating in this. I'm going to go ahead and remove it," Perry said in the video, choking back tears.

The tweet gained the attention of Kaepernick himself, and he re-tweeted the video

TEACHER | 10



SCREENSHOT FROM TWITTER

Port Charlotte High School teacher Alissa Perry was asked to remove her Colin Kaepernick display celebrating Black History Month, after the school said they received complaints.

## Bill blocks local business regulations

### Some counties, cities oppose Rep. Grant's legislation for squeezing local control

By ANDREA PRAEGITZER  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Some cities and counties in the region are aligned against a bill in the Florida House that strips away their ability to make rules on businesses.

It would make local governments prove any new business regulation they want to impose is justified to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

All cities and counties in the state would have to show their rules don't restrict business. Regulations would have to be cost-effective, and only last two years after city and county leaders pass them by two-thirds majority vote.

The costs for any new business regulation would also have to be noticed to the public. Local governments would no longer be allowed to require their own licenses for certain construction-related jobs.

And it doesn't end there.

The bill says: "Any



ONLINE

To read and track HB 3 and its analyses visit: [www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=64175](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=64175)

METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

A bill recently filed in the Florida House (HB 3) by Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte) would prohibit local governments from requiring a license for: painting, flooring, cabinetry, interior remodeling, driveway or tennis court installation, decorative stone, tile, marble, granite or terrazzo installation, plastering and stuccoing.

local government regulation of a business or business entity adopted or imposed before July 1, 2019, expires on July 1, 2021."

Old rules on businesses could still be

readopted, though, if local governments meet the bill's new requirements.

The bill, HB 3, from Rep. Michael Grant

BILL | 4

"We are not trying to take over local government, but we are trying to curtail over-regulation by local government."  
— Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte)

## Boat captain in shark-dragging case gets 10 days jail for animal cruelty

### Michael Wenzel, who piloted the boat seen in a viral video that depicted a shark being shot to death, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor animal cruelty

By DAN SULLIVAN  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

TAMPA — One man has pleaded guilty to a reduced charge in an unusual animal abuse case that involved a video of a shark being dragged behind a boat in the waters off Tampa Bay.

In a deal with prosecutors, Michael Wenzel admitted Thursday to two misdemeanor crimes of animal cruelty and using an illegal method to catch a shark. He was sentenced to 10 days in the Hillsborough County Jail, which he can serve on weekends, plus 11 months probation.

Wenzel, 22, stood tall in a loud blue suit and a crisp white

dress shirt as Hillsborough Circuit Judge Mark Wolfe asked a series of standard questions about whether he understood his plea. Wenzel smiled at a question about whether he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"Is there something funny about this?" Wolfe asked.

"No, sir," Wenzel replied.

He made no public apology and left court quickly after the brief hearing.

Robert Benac, a second man charged in the case, rejected a similar plea deal Thursday. He is set for trial later this year. Charges against a third man, Spencer Heintz, were previously dropped.



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

Michael Wenzel of Palmetto, center, pleaded guilty Thursday to charges filed in a shark-dragging case that arose from a video of the incident. Robert Lee Benac of Bradenton, right, awaits trial in the case and charges were dropped against a third man originally charged, Spencer Heintz, left, also of Palmetto.

CRUELTY | 4

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ACA CONSULTING ENGINEERS

This is one example of what an airplane hot fire training prop looks like. The county must start to build the site for a facility this year. Then, it will have to find the funding and a company that will build a prop. They are not built often.

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**Hot fire training center coming to Punta Gorda**

Charlotte could become the state's only facility of its kind outside of Jacksonville

By **BETSY CALVERT**  
STAFF WRITER

**PUNTA GORDA** — Charlotte County must start building its airport fire training facility this year.

Commissioners authorized the use of \$1.5 million in grant funds this

week to start building a site where a fake fuselage will sit.

"The Federal Aviation Administration has recognized a lack of facilities across the country," Battalion Chief Larry Lippel told the Sun.

When completed, the site will be the only one in the state outside of Jacksonville, Lippel said. Firefighters from Charlotte County Fire and Emergency Management Services are required by federal regulations to train on this once a year. They currently pay to go to Jacksonville, as do other county fire departments.

This preliminary state grant will not pay for the purchase of the

simulation equipment known as a hot fire training prop. This funding will come at a later stage, said Public Safety Director Bill Van Helden.

First, the county must use the grant to build a computerized command center, the fuel storage, restrooms and other land work. The grant requires that the preliminary construction be done this year, said Van Helden. The site is at the fire department's location on Airport Road.

Before the facility is complete, the county will have to buy a full-sized plane model that will allow firefighters to practice rescuing people from inside the plane and putting out fires in all

parts of the plane. Not many companies build these models, Van Helden told commissioners two weeks ago.

"None have been made in many, many years," said Lippel.

The models are generally made of steel so they can withstand low-temperature propane fires, said Lippel. They can be set ablaze over and over again without burning up.

Commissioners asked Van Helden whether the county could charge other fire departments to use the facility. He answered yes, but added that will not necessarily make the facility a profit-making operation.

Email: [betsy.calvert@yoursun.com](mailto:betsy.calvert@yoursun.com)

**COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS**

**Elton John Tribute**

Rus Anderson, Elton John Tribute artist will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Englewood Elks Lodge, 401 N. Indiana Ave. Tickets are \$25 plus tax with an optional dinner starting at 5:30 p.m.

for \$15-20. For information call 941-474-1404.

**Buchan Fly-in**

The 13th Buchan Airport Fly-in Breakfast is set for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the airport grounds, 1390 Old Englewood Road. Enter

at Osceola Drive. Parking and admission are free with donations accepted. The French Artisan will again cater a breakfast, which includes a choice of quiche, plus pastries, orange juice and coffee for \$6. Organizers expect about 40 aircraft, including antique, experimental and aerobatic plans to be on hand for viewing and discussion with pilots, plus exhibits including radio-control aircraft, historic displays, information booths and raffles. Proceeds benefit local college scholarships. No pets. For information, contact Bill Bond at 941-475-4854 or [billandtinabond@yahoo.com](mailto:billandtinabond@yahoo.com).

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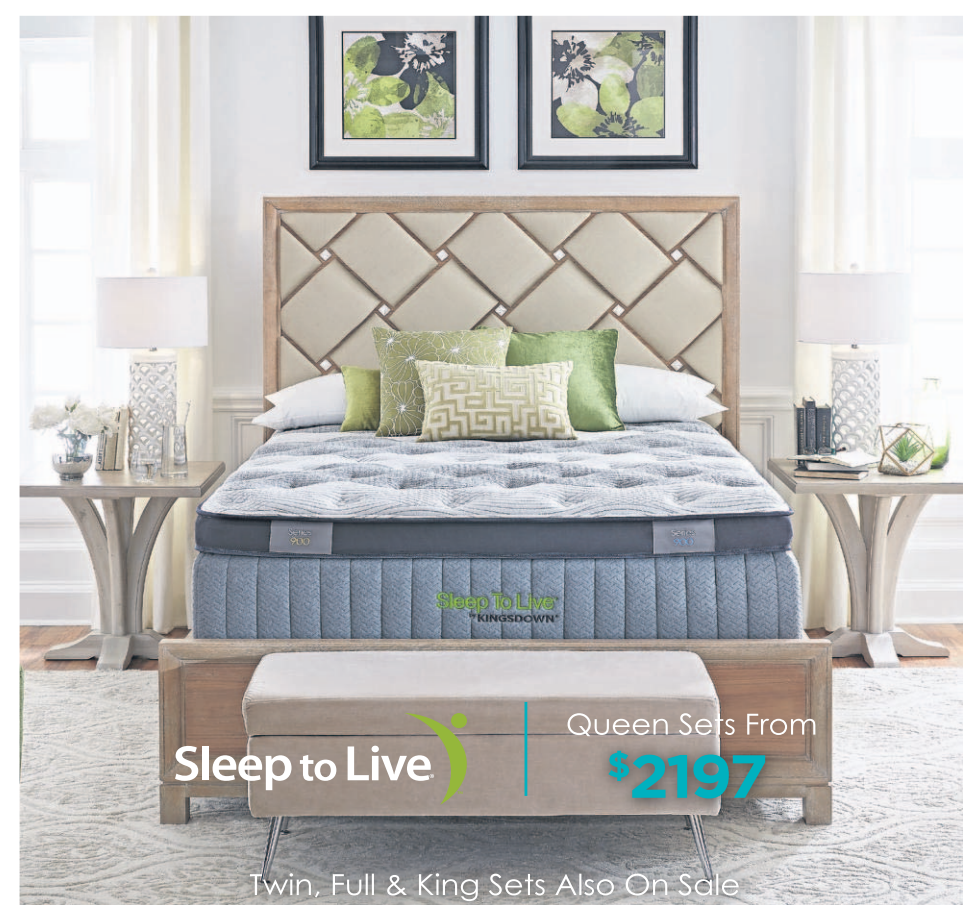
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## BILL

### FROM PAGE 1

(R-Port Charlotte), has a good chance of passing successfully through the Legislature this year, he says.

The Senate “may be a tougher slog,” but Grant said he’s confident it will pass in the House.

It may see some adjustments through the Legislative process, but ultimately Grant believes a main premise of it will remain intact — local governments won’t be allowed to impose regulations that aren’t authorized by general law.

Even cities and governments opposing the bill before 2019’s Legislative session begins next week say they know how important this is for House leadership, including Grant, who was named House Majority Whip this year.

“Anytime there is a proposal to take decision making away from local voters and to take decision making away from everyday people and put it in the hands of a government that is hundreds of miles away should make everybody very concerned, because it stifles the will of the people and silences voices that often have no other outlet,” said Rebecca O’Hara, Deputy General Council for the Florida League of Cities.

But to Grant, too much government can be arbitrary and hurts businesses. That affects local economies by stifling job growth and increasing construction costs.

“We are not trying to take over local government, but we are trying to curtail over-regulation by local government,” Grant said.

However, O’Hara says the bill “would lead to greater uncertainty for businesses and individuals.” She pointed to the two-year sunset for business regulations under the bill as undercutting predictability and uniformity.

“I don’t think the bill is necessary,” O’Hara said because its underlying premise is wrong. There’s no evidence that local governments are not allowing businesses to flourish, she said.

Grant says it’s not one-sided. “We’re not asking local government to do anything we (state



SUN FILE PHOTO BY DANIEL SUTPHIN

**Residents listened and spoke during a recent Punta Gorda City Council meeting involving a project for Buckley’s Pass. The Florida League of Cities opposes a bill filed in the Florida House, HB 3, by Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte), which they say would take away local control and lead to greater uncertainty for businesses and individuals.**

government) are not trying to do ourselves.”

Here’s a look at how the bill could affect business, and what local leaders have to say about it.

### What it does (and doesn’t do)

*Will counties and cities not be permitted to dictate where a medical marijuana dispensary or any other business can be located?*

No, Grant says. “The bill is not exempting or preempting local government’s ability to zone anything,” he said.

The proposed legislation doesn’t require a governing body’s two-third majority vote for zoning regulations. It also doesn’t require that for regulations that would increase building costs by less than \$750, nuisance ordinances or ordinances related to alcohol and tobacco.

*Will counties and cities take monetary hits?*

A Legislative analysis of the bill says: “The fiscal impact of the bill on local governments is indeterminate.”

O’Hara says there could be substantial costs to cities and counties.

“There will be a fiscal impact,” she said, but that’s not a number anyone has yet.

The bill’s requirement to perform a statement of regulatory cost analyses for local business regulations encompasses a potential host of actions taken by cities and counties. From contracts, permits, fees, to pretty much any type of decision or action taken by local government that affects a business, she said.

And that could conceivably be done multiple times a day. “We still don’t know how often this would be triggered,” she said, noting definitions in the bill are broad.

All that analysis requires staff time, possibly additional staff, and that’s more money a local government would need to spend.

Then, with the sunset and sunrise requirement

in the bill, there are ordinances on the books that would be subject to that. So if local leaders wanted to keep them in place, the analyses would have to be done before a two-third majority vote, and a proposed business ordinance would still need to be noticed and published in a local newspaper.

“Publication costs for sunset and sunrise alone will have fiscal impacts,” O’Hara said.

But Grant says the intent of the bill is to eliminate any over-regulation of businesses where there’s no major impact on the health of citizens in any city or county of the state.

The bill was amended and supported Feb. 21 by a Business & Professions Subcommittee, and ultimately Grant thinks it would have an indeterminate positive impact on the private sector.

*What about banning sunscreen, plastic straws or requiring septic to sewer conversion?*

Grant points to an ordinance in Key West as an example for why this bill is necessary.

Imagine a tourist flying in from Miami and driving down to Key West for a vacation. They have chosen FDA-approved sunscreen that protects them against skin cancer, but then they’re told they can’t get it there. That’s because of a local ordinance that Grant says is based on science that is “suspect” where chemicals in sunscreen degrade local coral reefs.

So then all the tourist can buy is some “goopy” product they’ve never heard of and may not protect them as well against skin cancer. He said you would need gallons of the chemical in the locally banned sunscreens placed directly on the reefs for such impacts. And that’s unfair to those sunscreen makers that have been banned there and people who use them, he said.

So, that Key West ordinance would be one required to follow the rules of this bill.

Banning of plastic straws on area beaches would also be another example, according to Grant. An analysis would be required along with notice, supermajority vote, and sunset after two years.

In the end, it would also allow for reassessment to ensure local ordinances



SUN FILE PHOTO

### Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte)

on businesses are effective before continuing them, he confirmed.

As for ordinances related to requiring septic-to-sewer conversion, however, Grant said he doesn’t think that would apply under the bill.

“Only business,” he said. *Can counties and cities keep making construction trade workers get local licenses?*

Under the bill, local governments would no longer be allowed to require their own licenses for certain jobs like painting, flooring, cabinetry, interior remodeling, driveway or tennis court installation, decorative stone, plastering, stuccoing, tile, marble, granite, or terrazzo installation.

Why should some counties require a special license to paint, while others don’t? Grant asked.

According to a recent Charlotte County Commission workshop document analyzing license types by area jurisdictions, for example, Sarasota County and North Port don’t make painters get a special license. But Collier County, Charlotte County, Lee County and Punta Gorda, all do.

“I don’t know what they’re trying to do by putting another layer of government on top of what is already there,” he said, especially if there is no proof it increases public safety or health.

An intent of the bill, Grant said, is to free up or deregulate some of those small, peripheral professions that typically have not proven to be in need of licensing at the state level.

“Why license them at the local level?” he asked.

If there’s a need, then Grant said local government should tell lawmakers why.

“It doesn’t take away



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

**HB 3 filed in the Florida House of Representatives by Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte) would preempt a variety of local business regulations. Grant says an example for why the bill is necessary is the banning of some FDA approved sunscreens in Key West by local leaders there who cite scientific studies saying chemicals degrade coral reefs. A requirement of the bill would be for local governments to publicly notice why a new rule involving business is justified and necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.**

from the business taxes they might otherwise collect,” he added.

### What our counties, cities say

City of Punta Gorda leaders haven’t much to say about the bill yet.

“With this bill being in its early stages, the Punta Gorda City Council has not discussed this specific legislation yet,” said city spokesperson Melissa Reichert.

Charlotte County spokesperson Brian Gleason said the county is “aware of the proposed legislation and is reviewing the language for potential impacts on county policies and operations.”

Sarasota County, meanwhile, is past the review stage.

“Sarasota County would oppose this legislation as currently written, given its preemption of local authority,” said county spokesperson Drew Winchester.

Venice Mayor John Holic told the *Venice Gondolier Sun* there seems to be a predominance of bills that are preempting local powers.

“It’s just another one we’re going to have to fight. I don’t know why they’re doing things like this. We have the closest contact to the public and we know pretty much what they want.”

O’Hara from the Florida League of Cities said there are opportunities for consensus building on contentious issues that happen at the community level through workshops and local government



PHOTO PROVIDED

### North Port Mayor Chris Hanks

meetings.

“The State Legislature does provide opportunities for citizen involvement, but it is very far away from the communities where people live and work on a daily basis,” she said.

City of North Port spokesperson Josh Taylor referred the *Sun* to the Florida League of Cities and said “typically, cities across Florida are against anything that limits Home Rule.”

And North Port Mayor Chris Hanks told the *North Port Sun* Tallahassee is always trying to chip away at home rule for cities.

“They have no idea what’s going on here in North Port,” Hanks said. “If they did, we would have a hospital by now. We are the boots on the ground.”

O’Hara said if local communities don’t like the job that their local elected officials are doing, than let the democratic processes work.

“A top-down approach from the state government is not the answer,” she said.

Email: [Andrea.Praegitzer@yoursun.com](mailto:Andrea.Praegitzer@yoursun.com)



SUN FILE PHOTO

### Venice Mayor John Holic

“It’s just another one we’re going to have to fight. I don’t know why they’re doing things like this. We have the closest contact to the public and we know pretty much what they want.”

— Venice Mayor John Holic

## CRUELTY

### FROM PAGE 1

Wenzel’s sentence outraged animal rights activists who watched from the courtroom gallery.

“This is a privileged kid,” said Marie Galbraith,

a member of Florida Voices for Animals. “This is a slap on the wrist. He hasn’t been educated about what he’s done.”

The case attracted widespread attention when a video of the incident circulated on social media in the summer of

2017. It showed a group of men dragging a shark by a rope behind a boat and laughing each time its body bounced off the water.

An investigation later revealed that Wenzel had captained the boat. In another video, he was shown

using a handgun to shoot a shark that Benac had caught near the mouth of Tampa Bay, prosecutors said.

Shark experts said the action would have resulted in pain and suffering to the animal.

Among other evidence

was a photo showing Wenzel holding a shark with a spear sticking out of its head. Prosecutors said Benac had captured the shark using a spear gun.

In addition to the probation sentence, Wenzel was ordered to serve 100

hours community service. A prosecutor asked that half of those hours be served at an animal shelter or animal abuse facility.

Still unknown is whether such an institution would allow Wenzel to work around animals.

## HIT-RUN

### FROM PAGE 1

Sowards, likewise, did not report any injuries to

authorities.

“The investigation remains open regarding further attempts to obtain information regarding Driver 1,” the Florida

Highway Patrol said.

Watson said authorities are trying to determine who the driver was, now that they have the vehicle involved in their

possession.

“We’re following up on all of the leads that we have,” he said.

Watson noted the driver likely would have

received a citation or a court appearance for the relatively minor wreck involving Sowards, but in the apparent attempt to speed way, made the

situation tragically worse by striking Quezada.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Florida Highway Patrol at 239-938-1800.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Fire & EMS crew was able to extricate the man in just four minutes, but he died at the hospital from his injuries.

# Man dies in forklift accident

Victim was delivering cinder blocks at construction site

By ANNE EASKER  
STAFF WRITER

A man operating a forklift at a construction project on Scenic View Drive in Punta Gorda died after the machinery overturned, trapping him beneath.

Charlotte County Fire & EMS received the 911 call just before 10 a.m.

"When they got there, they found the forklift on the gentleman, and they used airbags and cribbing," said Fire & EMS Spokesperson Todd Dunn. "They used the airbags to raise it up and put cribbing under it to keep it from falling back on him."

The man was freed from underneath the forklift in just four minutes and was transported to Bayfront Health Port Charlotte, where he succumbed to his injuries. NBC-2 reported the man was identified as 61-year-old Luis Garcia, of Cape Coral.



The forklift overturned in some sand at the property on Scenic View Drive.

Dunn said the man was working at a house by himself, delivering cinder blocks for a project. A neighbor across the street ran over

to help when he heard the man screaming and yelling after the machine overturned.

The man worked for Punta Gorda-based

company Fortress Block LLC. The company declined to comment Thursday out of respect for the family.

Email: anne.easker@yoursun.com

## CHARLOTTE

### Leon L. Bisson

Leon L. Bisson, 87, of Port Charlotte, Florida and Maine passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Leon is survived by his wife, Martha Bisson; six children; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

### Robert "Bob" M. Cavanagh

Robert "Bob" M. Cavanagh, 71, of Port Charlotte, Florida died on Monday, Feb. 25, 2019 at home.

Bob was born Sept. 11, 1947 in New York, New York to Arthur Francis and Agnes (Howard) Cavanagh.

He moved to Port Charlotte in 2000. Bob was a former telephone operations manager and retired from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Arcadia, FL as a maintenance supervisor. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his loving family, his wife, Elizabeth "Carol" Cavanagh of Port Charlotte; father, Arthur Francis Cavanagh of New York; brothers, James and Kevin Cavanagh of New York; sisters, Diane Rafferty and Colleen Gerard of New York; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may visit online to extend condolences to the family. Private arrangements by Roberson Funeral Home & Crematory Port Charlotte Chapel.

### Stanley H. Irish

Mr. Stanley H. Irish, 65, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 in Port Charlotte, Florida surrounded by family and friends.

Mr. Irish was born on April 13, 1953 in Essex Junction, Vermont to Mrs. Ilda and Harold Irish.

He graduated from Essex Junction High School in 1971. After moving to Port Charlotte, Florida, Stanley and his brother Richard became owners of an Amoco service station. Stanley recently retired after 26 years with Charlotte County Public Works ROW Department, Port Charlotte, Florida.

His children remember him as a kind, loving father who always had a smile and was quick with a joke. He loved playing with his grandchildren and being silly to make them laugh. Stanley, was a man of utmost integrity, loyalty, and love, who will be greatly missed by all whom he touched in their lives. Stanley, had a passion for baseball, particularly the New York Yankees. He enjoyed attending spring training games and collecting baseball cards.

Mr. Irish is survived by his wife, Mrs. Cathy Irish of Port Charlotte, Florida; children, Ms. Tracey A. Irish-Beaton of Port Charlotte, Florida, Mrs. Tammy L. Irish-Smith of Georgetown, South Carolina, Mr. Kyle E. Irish of Port Charlotte, Florida; step-children, Mrs. Catrina Goodman of Hampton, Virginia, Mr. William DeBoard of Coralville, Iowa, and Ms. Jamie DeBoard of Port Charlotte, Florida; grandchildren, SSGT. Timothy R. Beaton of Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Ms. Emily E. Beaton of Port Charlotte, Florida, Ava C. Smith and Aiden C. Smith

of Georgetown, SC, Kaysee DeBoard of Port Charlotte, Florida, Declan DeBoard of Iowa, Ms. Hannah Goodman and Mr. Daniel Keck of Hampton, Virginia; siblings, Mrs. Judith Fletcher of Silver Springs, Maryland, Ms. Diane Clark of Vermont, and Ms. Nancy Hemenway of Vermont. He is preceded in death by parents, Mrs. Ilda and Mr. Harold Irish of Vermont; and brother, Mr. Richard Irish of Port Charlotte, Florida.

Please join us for a celebration of Stanley's life, Saturday, March 2 between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the home of daughter, Ms. Tracey A. Irish-Beaton: 1270 Roswell Drive NW, Port Charlotte, FL.

### James "Duke" Updike

James "Duke" Updike, 87, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019.

James is survived by his wife, Laura; daughter, Tina Green; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

There will be a family memorial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to alz.org

### Leland "Lee" Berry Willey

Leland "Lee" Berry Willey, 95, of Port Charlotte, Florida, formerly of Farmingdale, Maine, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Lee was born on Oct. 3, 1923 in Portland, Maine to Orrin Fernal Willey and Ida Berry Willey.

He was a finance clerk for the Veterans' Administration in Togus, Maine, retiring in 1981. Lee was a veteran of the US Navy and served during WWII in the South Pacific and in the Korean Conflict in the Caribbean. He was a member of the Masons for 45 years in Lewiston, Maine and the Shrine Choral group.

Survivors include his wife, Myrtle Willey and his son, Michael Corbett.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, March 8 at 11 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church in Port Charlotte. Interment will follow in the church columbarium.

Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home, Cemetery, & Crematory is handling arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to St. James Episcopal Church General Fund.

To send condolences, please visit www.charlottememorial.com.

## OBITUARY POLICY

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

### Words of Comfort

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



### Words of Comfort

Through our love we will value a person for his goodness.  
- Anonymous  
Every man is entitled to be valued by his best moments.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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



# Three charged with child neglect

Three people were charged with child neglect after a young girl was taken to the emergency room bleeding with multiple bruises on her body and a burn mark on the back of her arm, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported. The agency did not release the age of the child.

Sarah Fiorelli, 32, brought the girl to Fawcett Memorial Hospital due to her injuries. Emergency room personnel began an examination on the child and found trauma indicating sexual assault, according to the arrest report. A Major Crimes detective was dispatched to the hospital around 11:30 p.m., along with a crime scene technician and personnel from the Department of Children and Families.

Fiorelli told a detective she lives with her children and mother, Lawreen Soulia, 65, on the 2100 block of Aaron Street in Port Charlotte. She has an on-again, off-again relationship with her friend, Jonathan Hamel, 35, of the 2100 block of Peterborough Road, Punta Gorda.

When Hamel was over on Tuesday, Fiorelli stepped outside to take a phone call around 7 p.m., according to the arrest report. When she returned, Hamel and the child were no longer in

## POLICE BEAT

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

the dining room. Shortly after, he appeared with the girl in his arms and notified Fiorelli the child was injured, the report stated. Hamel allegedly claimed to have no idea what had happened.

Fiorelli and Soulia signed a waiver to have their home searched, the arrest report stated. Detectives seized the girl's blood-soaked mattress, three bloody towels, and a wet wipe with blood but could not find a diaper consistent with the diaper she was found to be bleeding in, according to the report.

Detectives went to Hamel's residence on Wednesday and found no property besides a duffel bag consistent with the bag he fled the residence with.

Fiorelli, Soulia, and Hamel were all charged with child neglect for not immediately seeking medical attention for the girl. The case remains an open investigation with potential additional charges pending, according to CCSSO Spokesperson Katie Heck. As of Thursday, all three suspects remained at the jail. Fiorelli's bond was \$50,000; Soulia's was

\$25,000; and Hamel's was \$100,000.

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

- Victor Manuel Soto, 29, of Winter Haven, Fla. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Matthew Jacob Elston, 27, 3700 block of Ash St., Punta Gorda. Charges: off bond/forfeiture/revocations, three counts of aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony and resisting an officer without violence. Bond: none.
- Marquise Tyrelle Faison, 22, 400 block of East Virginia Ave., Punta Gorda. Charges: petty theft 2nd degree 1st offense. Bond: \$1,000.
- Amanda Carol Calvert, 36, 20200 block of Benton Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: leaving the scene of a crash involving injuries and reckless driving 1st offense. Bond: \$9,000.
- Roan Wynd Elgart, 43, 400 block of Kostner St., Port Charlotte. Charges: failure of defendant on bail to appear on felony and three underlying charges. Bond: \$11,000.
- Paul Edward Mann, 53, 700 block of Buckskin Court, Englewood. Charges: follow/harass/cyberstalking after injunction for protection and four violations of injunction for stalking. Bond: \$20,000.
- Rosa Marie Deleon, 37, of Arcadia. Charge: knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond: \$1,000.
- Christopher Lee Taylor, 37, 17200 block of Ursula Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: possession of firearm ammunition or weapon by other state felon. Bond: \$12,000.
- Justin Robert Casagrande, 30,

17100 block of Kellogg Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: nonsupport of dependents. Bond: \$545.

• Efrain Ramirez Jimenez, 25, of Arcadia. Charge: operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. Bond: \$1,500.

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

- Anthony Vece, 37, 100 block of Braemar Avenue, Venice. Charges: violation of probation, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: none.
- Kris Salley Jr., 27, 12000 block of Genoa Drive, North Port. Charge: possession of marijuana, not more than 20 grams. Bond: \$500.
- Reno Breedon, 20, 300 block of Cabana Road, Venice. Charges: two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bond: none.

### The North Port Police Department reported the following arrests:

- Steven Larson, 42, 3700 block of Cadbury Court, Venice. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, drug equipment, possession and/or use. Bond: \$2,000.
- Paul Paquette, 43, 3600 block of Roderigo Avenue, North Port. Charges: two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, drug equipment, possession and/or use. Bond: \$3,500.

### The Venice Police Department reported the following arrest:

- Michael Dey, 31, 3800 block of Zambrana Avenue, North Port. Charge: possession and/or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$500.

— Compiled by Anne Easker and Tom Harmening

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEF

### Woman's Club

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club will meet at 10 a.m. March 14 at the Rotonda West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle at

Broadmoor Park. Social time is 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Thomas Becker, a Florida Friendly Landscaping Program Assistant with the UF/IFAS. His presentation will be native wild flowers

and butterflies. The club encourages membership to those interested in making new friends and working toward the betterment of our community and for those less fortunate. For further

information visit www.gfwcrotondawest.org or contact Membership Chairman Clare at 941-214-8553. Membership is not exclusive to Rotonda West residents. Guests are always welcome.



# Sarasota, Charlotte prepare for Manasota sand

Joint project is expected to cost more than \$28M, and could start in November.

By **STEVE REILLY**  
STAFF WRITER

VENICE — Sarasota and Charlotte commissioners may agree the time has come for fresh sand on Manasota Key — but it's as complicated as it is expensive.

"This is a demonstration of how we cooperate," Sarasota County Commissioner Nancy Detert said at a joint commission meeting Thursday afternoon.

The counties are willing to move forward and are preparing to restore shorelines from Stump Pass Beach north to Blind Pass Beach in Sarasota County. The joint project is expected to cost more than \$28 million and could start as early as November.

North of the public Blind Pass Beach, however, Gulf-front homeowners face extreme erosion, and they also face a far more complex situation.

## Existing conditions

In August 2017, Hurricane Irma critically eroded the barrier island's shoreline north of the county line and washed out a portion of Manasota Key Road at the north end of Blind Pass Beach.

## MANASOTA KEY SAND SCHEDULE

Now to Spring 2019 — permitting process

Now to Fall 2019 — coordinated inter-local agreement and Florida Department of Environmental Protection contract.

Now to Fall 2019 — apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency post-storm, Hurricane Irma recovery assistance for the loss of 53,000 cubic yards of sand from Manasota Key shoreline.

Now to Fall 2019 — establish an erosion control line and obtain easements from Gulf-front property owners.

April to November 2019 — bid and construct an artificial reef required by state permitting.

June 2019 to May 2020 — construction bids for the replenishing the Gulf shoreline with sand as early as November of this year. State agencies prohibit sand being placed along the shoreline during sea turtle nesting season from May 1 to Oct. 31.

As a result, Sarasota County property owners on Manasota approached their commissioners asking about the possibility of a county-initiated beach nourishment project with Charlotte County.

In an initial report to both commissions, Coastal Engineering Consultants determined a stretch of Sarasota-Manasota Key shoreline gains sand, approximately 1,570



PHOTO BY CLIF KEWLEY

What was once a walkway onto a Gulf beach no longer leads to a beach in this 2016 photo taken on Manasota Key in Englewood.

cubic yards annually, but other areas are eroding at a rate of 4,650 cubic yards or more each year.

The rate of beach erosion has been accelerating over the years on Manasota Key.

"We have a sand-starved beach," Coastal Engineering president Michael Poff told commissioners.

In 2001, Manasota Key saw an erosion rate of 1 foot every year. The average erosion rate

has increased to 4 feet annually. In Sarasota County, the consultants determined one stretch of shoreline is eroding at a rate of 6 to 7 feet annually.

## Hard bottoms

Offshore of Manasota Key in Charlotte County, over the last 17 years, currents and other conditions scoured out sand, leaving 4.6 acres of hard rock bottom that is viewed as valuable

habitat for sponges and other sea life. Federal and state permitting agencies expect the county to replace the hard-bottom that will be covered with sand. It's expensive, a \$7 million one time cost for Charlotte.

"We're creating far better hard bottom environments than we are covering up," Charlotte County Commissioner Chris Constance said, reiterating a persistent

complaint he's had over permitting requirements.

The situation is more extreme north of Blind Pass Beach where Coastal Engineering discovered 12 to 20 acres of hard bottom. Coastal Engineering is looking at options, such as trucking in sand, rather than pumping in sand from an offshore source, and narrowing the width of restoration of the shoreline.

Email: [Steve.Reilly@yoursun.com](mailto:Steve.Reilly@yoursun.com)

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Tour de Parks

Friends of Legacy Trail hosts its annual Tour de Parks ride on Sunday, March 24. It starts and finishes at Venice Train Depot, 303 East Venice Avenue, Venice. There are 21-, 35- or 62-mile rides along Legacy Trail and other routes. Registration is \$40 through Feb. 27; \$45 between Feb. 28-March 20 and \$50 after March 20. The 62-mile ride begins at 7:30 a.m.; the 21-mile ride begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit [www.friendsofthelegacy-trail.org](http://www.friendsofthelegacy-trail.org).

### St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Holy Name Society of San Pedro Catholic Church hosts a St. Patrick's Dinner Dance beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16 with Meloni's corned beef and cabbage supper and music by Happy Feet. The donation is \$20. For tickets or more information, call Ron Sadowski at 941-416-5559 or Fred Kalita at 941-429-6602.

### AMVETS dinner

AMVETS Post 2000 Ladies Auxiliary hosts a St. Patrick dinner from 2-7 p.m. Sunday, March 17. It includes corned beef, potatoes, cabbage and dessert for a \$10 donation. The post is at 401 Ortiz Blvd., Warm Mineral Springs. For more information, call 941-429-1999.

### Quarter auction

A North Port Quarter Auction will benefit North Port High School Project Graduation at 6:30 p.m. April 16 at Morgan Family Community Center, 6207 W. Price Blvd., North Port. Participants must be 18 or older. For more

information, call 941-586-8126 or email [npqainfo@gmail.com](mailto:npqainfo@gmail.com).

### Price widening discussion

North Port officials will discuss the Price Boulevard widening project from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at Commission Chambers at City Hall, 4970 City Hall Blvd. City engineers along with consultants are presenting an update on the project at 6:30 p.m. that night, officials said. For more information, call 941-240-8050, or email [pwcustservice@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:pwcustservice@cityofnorthport.com).

### Fundraiser

North Port High School Project Graduation's fundraiser are plastic lawn signs in blue and white celebrating North Port graduates. The cost is \$20 per sign and includes the sign and a stake. For more information, contact Project Graduation at [nphsprojectgrad@gmail.com](mailto:nphsprojectgrad@gmail.com) or find it on facebook at NPHSProjGrad.

### Back Pack Angels fundraiser

A fundraiser for North Port Coalition for Homeless/Needy Children, known as Back Pack Angels, takes place from 8-10 a.m. March 9 at Applebees in North Port. The morning includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage for \$10 that can be purchased by calling Joyce Hill at 941-876-4809 or Dianne Patterson at 813-758-2805. They can also be purchased at the door. It will include a 50/50 drawing and a raffle for Universal Orlando including four passes for two parks — a \$680 value for a \$15 raffle. For more information, visit [www.backpackangels.org](http://www.backpackangels.org).

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# VIEWPOINT

## OUR VIEW

### Braves' home a question of identity

**OUR POSITION:** *The Next Big Thing in ...*

February 9 was an exciting day in downtown Venice. Thousands of people showed up for the "Braves on Miami (Ave) Block Party," put on by the merchants association Venice MainStreet in conjunction with West Villages and the Atlanta Braves baseball club.

It was a beautiful, clear Saturday. Miami Avenue was closed to traffic. Bands played into the evening. Braves banners waved in the wind. Former Major League standouts Brian Jordan and Bob Horner mingled with fans and signed autographs. Venice Mayor John Holic read a proclamation welcoming the Braves.

A good time had by all, or so it appeared. Welcome to Venice, Braves. Or so it appeared.

Braves. West Villages. Venice. That's a touchy issue. In a press release before the block party, the Venice event coordinator was careful to welcome the ball club "to South County." Just down the road from downtown Venice, in West Villages. Which is part of the city of North Port.

Credit to the Braves: This was a well-promoted, high-profile event, but only one of a number they have been involved with as their new spring training ballpark is built in the emerging West Villages tract. They've shown up with donations for the Venice Little League and the North Port Little League. They've attended North Port Chamber of Commerce events and held their ticket launch party at the George Mullen Center in North Port.

Today, the Braves are co-sponsors of the fifth annual Community Festival put by San Pedro Catholic Church in North Port. (The fair takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the grounds of the church on U.S. 41.) They're a feature attraction today. City Manager Peter Lear will read an official welcome proclamation from the city.

All fine. Solid singles. But North Port's hoopla is little underwhelming, considering the Next Big Thing is about to move into the city (West Villages) at the end of the month. The Braves will play the final game of this year's spring training season on March 24; they'll be here for the next three decades.

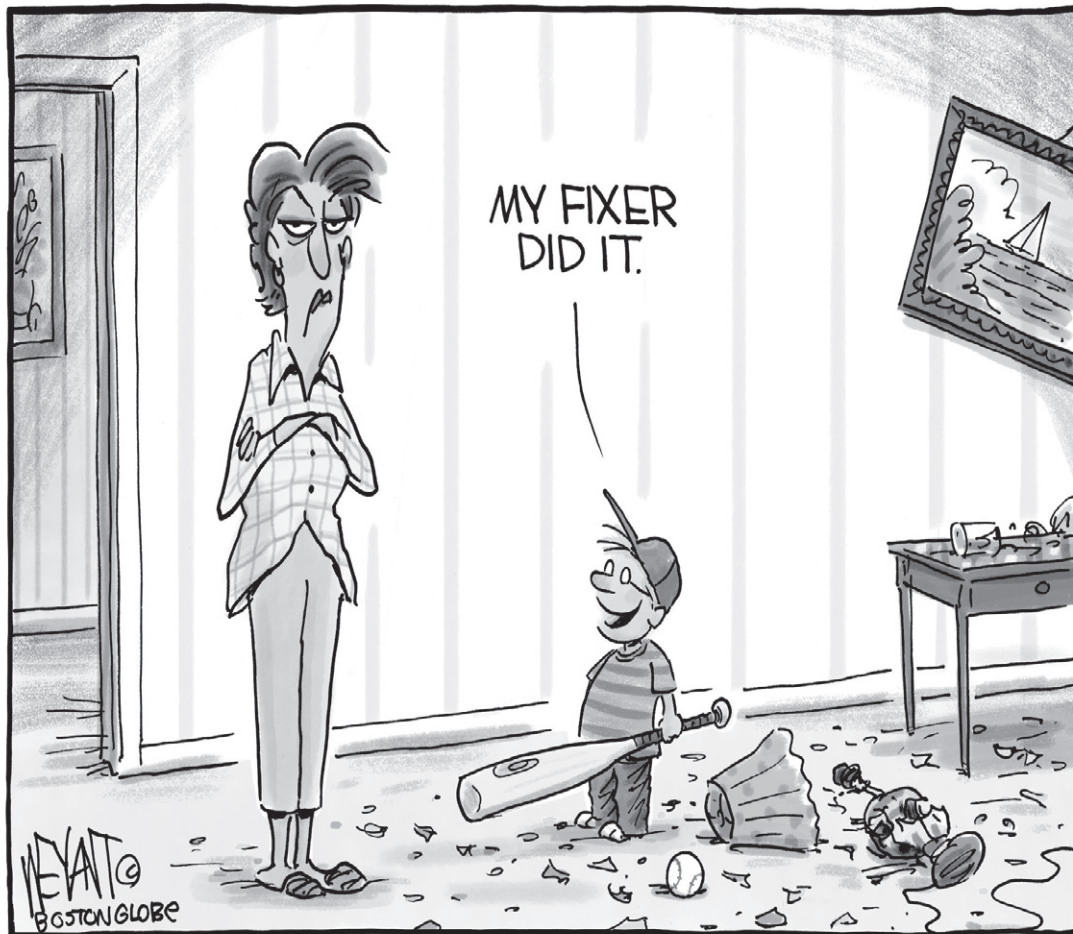
North Port officially may be home to the Braves, and West Villages, but the city is struggling with an identity, or labeling, problem. In recent years, West Villages residents have resisted efforts to switch their postal addresses from "Venice" to "North Port." Yes, it's primarily a postal thing, but homeowners have insisted on maintaining their traditional link to an area loosely identified as "Venice." If, for no other reason, than a belief that "Venice," not "North Port" on the MLS listing helps bolster property values.

Then, when tickets for the March 23 game went on sale, the Ticketmaster website listed put CoolToday Park in "Venice." Faux pas. When Facebook went a-blathe with indignant North Porters, Ticketmaster told the city it would correct the error. As of Thursday, it hadn't.

No surprise that North Port is sensitive about any perceived slight. The city kicked in \$4.7 million for the new sports complex. The park is in an annexed portion of North Port. West Villages is in North Port.

At some point, though, the real onus for cross-promotion is on the city. More has to be done to make sure North Port's brand becomes the "home of the Braves."

This is a one-game season. Next year, all in on the hoopla.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Congress engaged in ill repute

Editor:

While the president of the United States is negotiating with a man who could start World War III, Congress is fixated on Trump's affinity for prostitutes.

Maybe that's a little harsh. I don't know Michael Cohen.

**Bud Crihfield**  
El Jobean

### These immigrants will never fit in

Editor:

Maybe we should build a wall to keep illegal aliens out. They will never fit in here.

Mexicans and Central Americans are too family-oriented. They are not greedy enough to fit in here. They are content to earn just enough money to keep a roof over their heads and food in their stomach. If they have money left, they are not likely to spend it on a flashy car or a big screen TV. They are more likely to send it back home to family members they left behind. How is that going to help our economy?

On second thought, maybe the wall could help prevent more mass murders. After all, how many mass murders were committed by illegal aliens? None?

**Sue Radebaugh**  
Englewood

### Cheat at golf, cheat at life

Editor:

The word socialism seems to have a negative connotation in the eyes of some politicians. But for the majority of Americans we benefit from socialism through programs like Medicare and Social Security. The definition of socialism is a political or economic system where the wealth of a country is shared by all, especially those who are not in the 1 percent of the population. That is why it would be political suicide to consider ending these programs.

This brings me to golf, which has a handicap system that is designed to level the playing field and make the

game fairer for everyone, irrespective of one's ability. So this handicap system would constitute a form of socialism and I am sure that a low handicap golfer feels they are being penalized and the high handicapper is being rewarded, but this is golf.

Now, in the pros there is no handicap system, everyone is treated the same similar to the 1 percent of our population.

That's not to say that some people don't try to rig the handicap system for their own benefit, not unlike those using Medicare and Social Security, but golf is based on honesty and integrity and anyone who plays the game knows that if you are willing to cheat at golf you are willing to cheat in life.

Our president loves playing golf and I am sure he understands and respects the rules, but do you honestly believe he is a 3 handicap? Or that he weighs 230 pounds?

**George Baille**  
North Port

### Play pickleball in Gaines Park

Editor:

My younger sister had, what I think, is a great solution for the great pickleball debate.

Has anyone thought of putting the pickleball courts in the newly renamed William R. Gaines Veteran's Park on Edgewater Boulevard in Port Charlotte?

The park has a number of positive attributes which would be perfect for a complex. It is convenient to Punta Gorda, has a lot of open space, parking, restrooms, and, best of all, is quite a ways from the nearest homes and has acres of trees for buffering the sound.

**Beth Chaffman**  
Port Charlotte

### These men blocked from Honor Society

Editor:

As Bob Kraft and Jeff Epstein cavort with prostitutes, many of whom were underage or victims of human trafficking, I am reminded why I will never support President Trump.

Trump's character is such

that he has conveyed a message to all of us that you can get away with anything if you have money and a fixer to bail you out of trouble.

Trump's life is filled with numerous examples of this. Ask the folks who built Trump Tower if they were paid, for example. When Trump said that he could murder someone on 5th Avenue and nobody would care, he was right.

As someone who taught high school for 31 years, I got to vote yearly on the inductees to the National Honor Society. The credentials were scholarship, leadership, service and character. One bad mark in any of those categories by any teacher disqualified any potential member.

Tell me, do Trump, Epstein, Kraft and their fixers deserve membership in your Honor Society? If you say yes, then perhaps you just might be the problem. Just saying.

**James Wasowski**  
Rotonda West

### 'Aida' was a wonderful show

Editor:

I was fortunate enough to attend an outstanding production of "Aida" at Port Charlotte High School on Sunday afternoon.

I thought the students did a superb job on Elton John and Tim Rice's play. The sets were excellent, lighting good and the accompanying music was great. Kudos to the substitute Mereb who stepped in at the last moment. Erica you nailed the part of Aida.

I look forward to your future productions. Thank you, Edwin, for emailing me the ticket link.

**John Carhart**  
Port Charlotte

### Catholic Church failed its children

Editor:

How long have there been allegations of pedophilia among priests? At least 20 years. During that time priests have been moved, reassigned and maybe given a stern lashing with a wet noodle. It took years and mountains of testimony for

the church to even admit a problem. And even longer for there to be a smattering of real consequences. All the while, children grew to adulthood without the benefit of protection, apology or any sort of justice.

As a Christian, I find this appalling, that an organization based on Christianity would turn a blind eye to depravity within their own churches, against their own children. It is hard for an outsider to fathom that no parent, church secretary, teacher, or member of the congregation saw or felt anything concerning. Or if they did have suspicions why they didn't push the point. Even worse is that there was very little coverage of the situation or and in-depth investigation by news agencies.

It has taken Pope Francis six long years to condemn priest sexual abuse and to "launch an all out battle" which seems to be long on words but short on an action plan. In the meantime, I hope local law enforcement agencies will do what the church has been unwilling to do—punish the offenders to the full extent of our laws. This is one area where we can and should be a leader on the world stage.

**Stewart Andersen**  
Englewood

### Don't drop ball on pickleball

Editor:

Who would expect the world champion pickleball player, Tyson McGuffin, to come to Punta Gorda?

McGuffin came here a few weeks ago to give demonstrations and instructions on this fastest growing sport in North America. Once PicklePlex has been established, more celebrities and pickleball enthusiasts will be coming to our area.

Until that time, let us support and maintain the only official public pickleball courts in the county, which our city officials had the foresight to build in 2015. Gilcrest Park, Punta Gorda, could become the "pickleball capital of Florida." Let's not "drop the ball" on this opportunity.

**Molly Soba**  
Punta Gorda

### Predictions of doom that won't occur

Editor:

To those in the Democratic Party who support the Green Deal, I challenge any one of you to start riding a bike to work, never fly in an airplane, and most of all give up hamburgers. Democrats always know what's better for everyone, but are never willing to sacrifice themselves.

Ask Bernie Sanders what he's willing to give up. A lifelong politician with a nice fat salary and pension, he owns three houses and is a millionaire. Al Gore predicted the world would end in 2012 if we didn't go green. Occasionally, Cortez, the young genius, gives us 12 years or it will be all over for our civilization.

So sick of hearing all these predictions, that never happen. Give me a break all you democratic hypocrites. PS, the earth is still here.

**Susan Dunn**  
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.



# Michael Cohen embodies Trump's sordid career

CREATORS SYNDICATE

JOE CONASON

Watching the Republicans strenuously berate Michael Cohen as he appeared before the House Oversight Committee, it was clear that they had no idea who this New York character is or what his testimony means. They couldn't grasp that further diminishing this already disgraced attorney could not separate him from the man he had represented for 10 years, and that denouncing him as a lying felon cannot rehabilitate the president — because the detestable Cohen so perfectly embodies the sordid world of Donald Trump.

The Cohen moment on Capitol Hill inspired an almost eerie sense of déjà vu in anyone who has ever watched a mob chieftain's trial or a congressional hearing on organized crime.

With their exaggerated indignation and their recitations of witness lies and sins, Republicans on the House panel sounded just like Mafia defense lawyers impugning a rat witness. And in their morality play, Cohen fit the role of a Mafia capo who has turned on his old boss.

The timeworn strategy of discrediting an associate to exonerate the accused is rarely effective, however, for a very simple reason routinely explained by federal prosecutors: Convicting a bad guy almost always requires the testimony of another bad guy, because nobody else has firsthand knowledge of the crimes in question. Just look up the trial of the late

John Gotti, or the Senate hearings on organized-crime influence on labor unions — where the key witnesses had perpetrated crimes far worse than tax evasion or bank fraud.

So the more that the Republicans emphasized the dishonesty and criminality of Cohen, the more they impeached the character of his former client.

But there was a deeper problem in the Republican strategy, which relied heavily on the unflattering descriptions of Cohen in a sentencing memorandum filed by the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York. Over and over again, a GOP committee member would cite the Southern District prosecutors to underline Cohen's offenses and condemn his character — a gambit that the

witness hardly disputed.

If the Republicans say we must attend to what the Southern District filing said about Cohen, how about its description of "Individual 1," identified beyond doubt in Wednesday's testimony as Donald J. Trump. Recounting the scheme to hush up Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal with payoffs via the National Enquirer, that harsh sentencing memo explains clearly: "With respect to both payments, Cohen acted with the intent to influence the 2016 presidential election. Cohen coordinated his actions with one or more members of the campaign, including through meetings and phone calls, about the fact, nature, and timing of the payments. In particular, and as Cohen himself has now admitted, with respect to both payments,

he acted in coordination with and at the direction of Individual-1."

At the hearing, Cohen also produced two checks, each for \$35,000 — one bearing the distinctive signature of Donald J. Trump, and another signed by Donald J. Trump Jr. and the COO of the Trump Organization — that proved he was telling the truth about the reimbursement scheme.

Somehow, none of the Republican committee members mentioned that damning paragraph; in fact, none of them mentioned "Individual-1" at all. Nevertheless, Individual-1 made big news at the hearing, even though he was dining in Vietnam with his buddy Kim Jong Un.

The moment came when Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., asked specifically about Cohen's most

recent conversation with the president. His answer must have sent a chill clear across the Pacific: "Unfortunately, this topic is actually something that's being investigated right now by the Southern District of New York, and I've been asked by them not to discuss." Krishnamoorthi pressed him, asking whether Cohen knows of "any other wrongdoing or illegal act" by the president. The president's former lawyer replied, "Yes, and again, those are part of the investigation that's currently being looked at by the Southern District of New York."

Whatever report may arrive from the Office of Special Counsel in coming days, Trump's troubles are far from over.

Joe Conason is a Creators Syndicate columnist.

# An equal right to live, but unequal to survive

Last week, a district court judge ruled that it is unconstitutional for only men to have to register with the Selective Service, opening the possibility that women might also have to register.

The ruling may be fair in principle, but does it make sense? Would a universal draft best serve the security of the United States? Or would it be yet another exercise in asserting equality of the sexes to advance primarily social, not military, goals?

I should qualify all this by noting that the military always wants more bodies at its disposal — and high-ranking Pentagon women have long lobbied for full inclusion at every level of military engagement in part because, without combat experience, women couldn't compete with men for the highest military rankings.

Yet when now-retired Gen. Ann Dunwoody became the first female four-star officer in 2008, the combat exclusion of women was still in place. Although Dunwoody's service was



Washington Post  
**Kathleen PARKER**

extraordinary, including being the first female battalion commander in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, she, like most military women, never engaged in direct ground combat, as defined by the Department of Defense. More on this shortly.

U.S. District Judge Gray Miller's ruling seems to make sense in a fair-is-fair kind of way. But fair isn't always absolutely fair, and, as Dickens wrote, the law is still an ass. For a better understanding of what's at stake, it would be constructive to review the history of the draft. At this juncture, meanwhile, nothing has changed. The government probably will appeal the decision and then, likely, the Supreme Court will take a stab.

It seems improbable in light of precedent that the high court would

find against Miller. The Texas judge specifically mentioned Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's 1996 opinion in the United States v. Virginia, in which she concluded that excluding women from Virginia Military Institute violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution.

Yet earlier, in 1981's Rostker v. Goldberg, the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of excluding women from the Selective Service System's male-only policy. Noting that the purpose of the registry was to allow the government to raise a combat army — and given that women weren't then allowed in combat — the court wrote that the two sexes "are simply not similarly situated for purposes of a draft or registration for a draft." Thus, constitutionality wasn't an issue.

Much has changed since the 20th century, at least culturally, and the question is whether Rostker would still stand given those changes. For one thing, since 2015, all military jobs have been opened to women, including direct combat.

No sane person has ever argued that women aren't as brave as men or that they lack any other qualities or values necessary to military success. But in discussing women's expanding military roles, we return to the question of what ground combat really means. As the Defense Department defined it in 1994, it means "engaging an enemy on the ground ... while being exposed to hostile fire and to a high probability of direct physical contact with the hostile force's personnel."

Nothing — except the definition of combat, which the Pentagon altered so that civilians could pretend that this is not a travesty. It took only a generation or so for the culture to be manipulated into believing that women are equal to men not just under the law but in every conceivable way. This is, of course, a purely political abstraction with existential consequences.

Moreover, this entire debate isn't really about military preparedness but is about social engineering — changing

the way people perceive things so that they can be arranged according to the designs of a relatively very few. What's missing from all such cultural arrangements is a full appreciation of human nature, which remains essentially the same through most of time. Progressives will twist themselves into balloon poodles trying to codify gender differences, but heaven forbid we should speak of sex differences, not to mention cultural adaptations to better ensure survival of the species.

Maybe no 18-year-old American "woman" will ever be conscripted or

ordered to fight men mano a mano, but it seems more than a possibility at this point. I'm going to go out on a limb and simply say that a civilized nation doesn't put its women in combat where they have an unequal ability to survive.

Finally, here's a prediction you can take to your bookie: When women are included in the draft, America will no longer have to worry about declining birth rates, and big families will be back in vogue.

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

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Pursuant to Florida Statute 590.125 (5), the Florida Forest Service will be conducting fuel reduction initiatives consisting of prescribed burning and mechanical treatment of selected parcels within Charlotte County. Prescribed burning will be conducted during the period of November 2018 through March 2019. Mechanical treatment may be performed at any time during the year. These treatments are to reduce the fire occurrence hazard and to establish fuel continuity breaks. Parcels with structures or improvements will not be designated for prescribed burning. This service is provided at no cost to the landowner.

For additional information contact the Florida Forest Service at:  
941-460-1333

PORT CHARLOTTE PROJECT MAP



# Rocky road with side of delays



PHOTOS PROVIDED

A large amount of rocks and gravel litter I-75 northbound Thursday afternoon in Charlotte County blocking the right and center lanes near mile marker 153 delaying and slowing traffic. Florida State Police did not immediately respond to questions from the Sun about how the rocks got on the road and if there were any citations.

## TEACHER FROM PAGE 1

Thursday. As of Thursday afternoon, the original Tweet has earned over 81,000 likes and 32,000 re-tweets.

Perry, a full-time substitute math teacher, said the display on her classroom door was intended to be a conversation piece, and a celebration of a popular black figure in modern society who stood up against social injustice at the risk of his reputation, family and career.

She felt confused by the request to take it down, because she has seen online other teachers around the country who have received support for their Black History Month pieces.

"I don't know how black I can be," she told the Sun. "The outside of the door was celebrating Black History Month, like when we decorate doors for Christmas, or the fall festival. It was nothing more than celebrating Black History Month, celebrating who I am. Math is going on in that room."

But school district spokesperson Mike Riley said the school received more than a dozen complaints, and parents were coming to the school upset, saying things like, "that's not right, that shouldn't be up there."

School officials felt as if they were backed against a wall, and regardless of what decision they made, people would be upset.

"This is a no-win for us, if we left the picture up there, we'd have half the community saying how un-American we are for having it up, now we have half the community saying why'd we make her take it down?" Riley said.

"I don't know how black I can be (in the classroom)."

— Alissa Perry, PCHS full-time substitute teacher

Long could not be reached for comment.

Bob Segur, chairman of the Charlotte County School Board, said the display wasn't tied to the curriculum, since it was a math class.

"It became a political thing," he said. "Last time I checked, we don't do black history in math class."

On Thursday afternoon, Charlotte County School Board Member Cara Reynolds said in a statement that she was "extremely disappointed in the way this situation was handled."

Reynolds said: "In the coming weeks, I will push for a review of this incident and a district-wide review of CCPS policy. I plan to meet with students and staff affected to understand the issues at hand and create a policy that will prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future."

The district announced Thursday afternoon that the Rev. Louis Anderson from the Charlotte branch of the NAACP will meet with school officials Monday about the situation.

Last year for Black History Month, Perry featured the mathematicians from "Hidden Figures." She noticed black teachers around the country were so positive about their door displays celebrating black history, she decided to continue. This year, prior to the Kaepernick display, she featured black colleges.

A teacher from another school showed her Colin Kaepernick, and she said, "Wow, he's like

the modern day Martin Luther King Jr."

PCHS students quickly chimed in with their thoughts on the matter.

"It's completely unfair the Republican club at our school had a Trump cutout or something, they wear MAGA hats all the time (while other kids aren't allowed to wear any kind of hats)," said Brandon Perry, Alissa's son, a sophomore at PCHS.

"Many teachers have stuff on the walls. Why, just because it's recent and controversial? People can put Martin Luther King and other black people who stood up and made a statement against inequality but we can't do Colin Kaepernick, who did the exact same thing?" Brandon Perry asked.

"I feel like it was very wrong for her to be asked to take it down," said senior Nick Asselin. "Our opinions as young adults should be voiced and heard. Some students at the school wear Trump MAGA hats and nothing happens to them, but yet Mrs. Perry is told to take this art piece down? There is no justification for that."

District spokesman Riley called the controversy a "reflection on our society today" and how divided we are.

"Schools are a microcosm of our society, (and) you know what an uproar he caused, it's bigger than PCHS," Riley said. "Half thought it was fine, half didn't, and they get vocal."

Email: brianna.kwasnik@yoursun.com

## Newsday Crossword

SEE 36 ACROSS by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Golf-cart descriptor
- 9 Votes to enact
- 15 Most populous landlocked nation
- 16 "The competition begins!"
- 17 Traffic advisory
- 18 Metaphor for nurturing
- 19 *On the Road* narrator
- 20 DC suburb
- 22 Berlin Olympics hero
- 25 LAX overseer
- 26 Film with Aykroyd as a wasp
- 27 Evincing congestion
- 29 *30 Rock* lead role
- 32 Important part in ballet
- 33 Litigate
- 34 Of prime quality
- 35 Unburdened (of)
- 36 Title of the puzzle
- 39 Setter of water standards
- 41 Pan-cooked loaf
- 42 One of Seuss' little people
- 43 Mark, as a questionnaire
- 44 Wintry, in brand names
- 45 Main address
- 49 Part of an auto's ABS
- 51 Lobster — Diavolo
- 53 Intel mission
- 54 Pennsylvania home of the Wyeths

**DOWN**

- 1 Instructive example
- 2 North American political centre
- 3 Aggregates
- 4 Liquid sample
- 5 Govt. drop-off points
- 6 Latter-day "Impressive!"
- 7 Highest keno number
- 8 Hamlet and family
- 9 Pt. of 39 Across
- 10 Sainte Jeanne —
- 11 Union Pacific headquarters
- 12 Ostentatious academicism
- 13 Giant of Russian lit, alternatively
- 14 Derided, with "at"
- 21 Intrepidity
- 23 *New Horizons* launcher
- 24 Makes noise with noodle soup
- 28 Divulge
- 30 Feeling wowed
- 31 Mild breeze
- 34 Word after drinking or voting
- 36 Choral works
- 37 Switch labeling
- 38 Make more effective
- 39 Two-horse bets
- 40 Flask flaw
- 45 Defensive skill
- 46 Fuel datum
- 47 Served, as spaghetti
- 48 Starts upon
- 50 Clarification term
- 52 See 62 Down
- 55 Title for William and Harry
- 56 Petty clash
- 57 Cable-bill add-ons
- 61 Pack it away
- 62 With 52 Down, beef dinner

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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/1/19

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

Answer to previous puzzle

CLAMP	SURF	SWAM
MEDEA	BPOE	PERU
AIDAND	ABET	ALLS
DEERE	EF	ILES
BAN	LARAM	INANE
FLUB	ROTATE	NED
FOLIOS	SNARED	
STLOUIS	NICEGUY	
ASTRAL	LENORE	
SSN	FSTOPS	YOGA
HADJI	SOAPS	DER
INVITE	SPIED	
ICON	ONEAND	ONLY
SHIN	NOSY	ADIEU
MODS	SRTA	NOBEL

3/1/19

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

- 1 College Park Big Ten athlete
- 5 Smarten (up)
- 10 Cutlass, e.g.
- 14 Big name in the cookie aisle
- 15 "Rebel Without a Cause" actor
- 16 Castle
- 17 Addition at the palace?
- 19 Dot on a globe, perhaps
- 20 Surprising and sometimes annoying success
- 21 Felicity's "Desperate Housewives" role
- 23 Somme summer
- 24 Pringles alternative
- 26 Trap fluff
- 27 "\_\_\_ about time!"
- 28 Reason for road service
- 32 Disreputable
- 35 "All in the Family" spinoff
- 36 Dallas NBAer
- 37 Church service
- 38 Zany
- 39 Ballet move
- 40 Weapon in some action flicks
- 41 Potsdam "please"
- 42 Social gathering
- 43 Rip verbally
- 45 Fall back
- 46 Acknowledge
- 47 Woodwind musician's piece
- 49 CPR pro
- 52 Gasses up
- 55 University of Wyoming city
- 57 PC addresses
- 58 Mole in the cat food factory?
- 60 Down
- 61 Egbert \_\_, aptly named W.C. Fields character
- 62 Countertop material
- 63 Alluring
- 64 Youngster of an awkward age
- 65 Bullring bravos

**DOWN**

- 1 Kitchen topper
- 2 Release violently
- 3 Shortstop alongside Robinson
- 4 Keats or Yeats
- 5 Brainpower
- 6 1492 sailer
- 7 Lodging provider
- 8 Sense
- 9 Jimi Hendrix classic
- 10 Point in the right direction
- 11 Missing watch?
- 12 Nimrod
- 13 Arcade trademark word
- 18 Vile
- 22 Nick at \_\_\_
- 25 Intangible quality responsible for four puzzle answers
- 27 Passports, e.g.
- 29 "Star Wars" hero
- 30 Velocity, e.g.
- 31 At any time
- 32 "Give me \_\_\_ and nothing but": Tom Lehrer lyric
- 33 Sunset obscurer

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57						58	59						
60									61			62	
63										64			65

By Robert E. Lee Morris 3/1/19

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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Where are they biting? Check the FishFinder Every Thursday, only in **WaterLine** WEEKLY MAGAZINE Only in the

- 34 Change in China?
- 35 Actor LeBlanc
- 38 It includes reds
- 39 Lively dance
- 41 Small meal
- 42 Sierra \_\_
- 44 Mixed martial artist Ronda
- 45 Heavy
- 48 Beethoven dedicatee
- 49 Inbox message
- 50 Prepare, as garlic
- 51 \_\_ Pete: hot sauce brand
- 52 Messages
- 53 Creator of Perry and Della
- 54 Winter coat
- 56 Magazine contents
- 59 Go after, in a way

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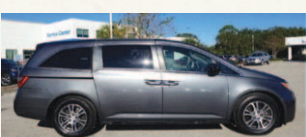
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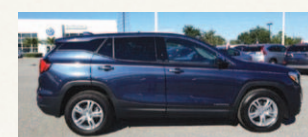
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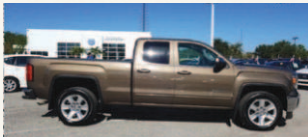
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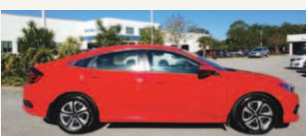
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# CoolToday Park enters final stretch of construction

By **ALEXANDRA HERRERA**  
WEST VILLAGES SUN EDITOR

VENICE — With 23 days left until the opening of CoolToday Park, Sarasota County Commissioners along with Charlotte County Commissioners received an update on the facility.

On Thursday, during the joint meeting at the Robert L. Anderson Building in Venice, the commission heard from Carolyn Eastwood, capital projects director for Sarasota County.

Eastwood said the park is 90 percent done, with the public plaza

and several other small projects being completed ahead of opening.

CoolToday Park is the new Spring Training home of the Atlanta Braves, who will play their last game of the spring training season on March 24 at the park. In 2020, the park will open for a full training season.

Groundbreaking for the park happened in 2017 and construction began shortly after. Construction teams have worked around the clock to get the site finalized.

The entire facility will open in April with full-time year round

Braves staff arriving at the park. Events are planned for the week before, and includes an open house on March 23.

While the Braves will only play one game this season, the idea is to have the park year round to host a variety of activities and events open to the public.

Eastwood said that seating and lighting were already in place. The public plaza is adjacent to the front of the park and would serve as a place for the community to host things like farmer's markets and other events. The installation

of ceiling, lighting, plumbing fixtures are also being finalized in the clubhouse, while much of the food service equipment at both the stadium and clubhouse is either installed or being finalized.

Following Eastwood's presentation, Charlotte County Commission Chair Ken Doherty celebrated the park — saying it was outstanding.

Doherty had questions about the soccer fields located adjacent to the parking lot.

Doherty wanted to know if the fields would be open to public use and

if there was an agreement with the city of North Port Parks and Recreation Department.

Sarasota County Chair Charles Hines said it was a big component of the agreement and the plan was to have the park open year round.

Charlotte County Commissioner Chris Constance said the park looked fantastic and understood why they waited until the last game to play at the park.

Constance did question the roads around the ballpark and how they could accommodate the traffic coming in and out of the ballpark. Constance was worried that the roads in and out of the park could not accommodate the traffic.

The park sits at the end of West Villages Parkway and Playmore

Drive behind State College of Florida and the IslandWalk community — Playmore Drive opened in late January for public.

Eastwood said West Villages Parkway was a four-lane road all the way out of the park and across Tamiami Trail pass the State College of Florida. Playmore is the only two lane road around the ballpark currently.

Constance replied that the park and the area around it has been well planned.

CoolToday Park will host the final game of the Atlanta Braves spring training game against the Tampa Bay Rays at 1:05 p.m. on March 24.

For more information on the park visit [www.facebook.com/CoolTodayPark](http://www.facebook.com/CoolTodayPark).

Email: [alexandra.herrera@yoursun.com](mailto:alexandra.herrera@yoursun.com)



PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

CoolToday Park and nearby areas of the new Atlanta Braves Spring Training facility as seen from the air recently.



SUN FILE PHOTO BY RONALD DUPONT JR.

The Atlanta Braves Spring Training ballpark is named CoolToday Park. While located in North Port in the West Villages, some online sources are saying it's in Venice. That has led to the ire of some North Port city commissioners.



SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

The Atlanta Braves stadium is nearly built in North Port in the West Villages area. It has practice fields for the public to play on year round.

# DESOTO



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# Exploring heritage at the Blanchard House

## 5-year-old excited to learn about "our people"

STAFF REPORT

**PUNTA GORDA** — Martha Bireda was so excited about a visitor to the Blanchard House Museum this week that she reached out to the Sun.

The visitor wasn't a politician, celebrity or other dignitary. No, it was a 5-year-old boy named Christian Irerere, who recently moved here with

his family from Michigan. Why was Bireda, executive director of Punta Gorda's museum of African-American history, so excited? According to Christian's aunt, Erica Desane, he wanted to visit the Blanchard House to learn about his cultural heritage.

"Christian is always curious and ready to learn, always asking me about God and 'our people,'" Desane said. "And he heard me talking about the museum and we googled it and stopped by."

Christian particularly enjoyed the museum's display on the African roots of southern cooking.

"He loves the pictures of the fried chicken and mac and cheese," DeSane said. "And he was surprised about

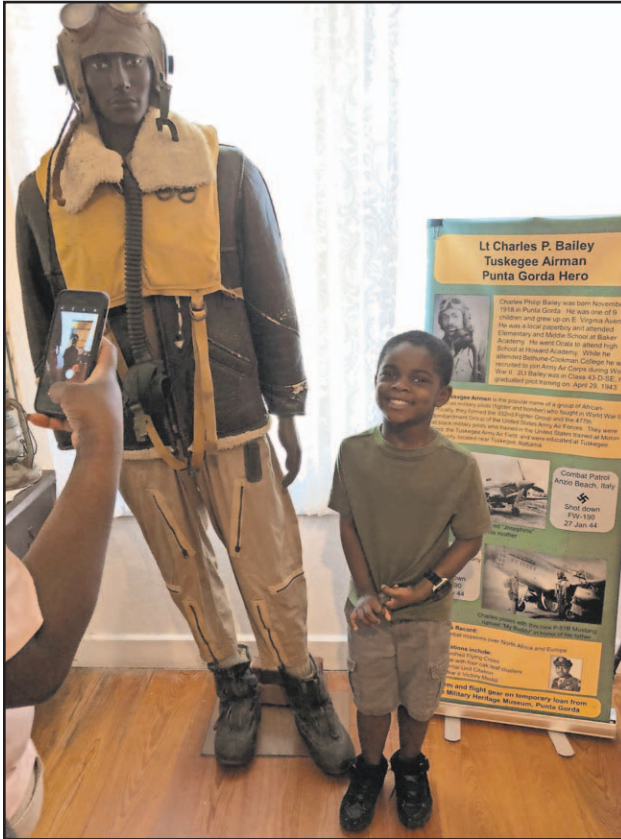
the Charmaphone (an antique cabinet containing a phonograph) and sewing machine. He thought they were speakers. He loves Africa and one day he wants to visit our Motherland."

For more information about the museum, located at 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Punta Gorda, visit blanchardhousemuseum.org or call 941-575-7518.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MARTHA BIREDA

Christian Irerere gleefully checks out the exhibit on southern cooking.



Christian Irerere poses with a display about Charles Bailey, a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen in World War II who was born in Punta Gorda.



Christian Irerere looks at an antique "Charmaphone" on display at the Blanchard House Museum. The cabinet contains a phonograph.



Christian Irerere, 5, really liked the displays on southern cooking.

### COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

#### Plant Native Day

The Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society will hold its 16th Annual "Plant Native" Day from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood. This half-day event is free and open to the public. The theme this year is "Shade: Planting for it & Planting in it." Learn about the various native trees, palms and shrubs that can be used to create shade in your sunny yard. Find out which native shrubs, ferns, groundcovers and wildflowers do well in

a shady landscape. Guest speaker is Laurel Schiller, Florida Native Plants of Sarasota, who will use live plants to demonstrate. The lecture will be between 10 a.m. and noon. Her nursery plants will be offered for sale, beginning at 9 a.m., outside the Environmental Center during the day's program. Mangrove Chapter members will also be offering their home-grown native plants for donations out in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden. The Peace River Butterfly Society is also participating in the event, with their

monarch-raising paraphernalia, as well as nectar and larval host plants for sale at their booth. Additionally, educational handouts will be available, a light refreshment will be served and the program will be followed by a choice of a Garden Tour or Guided Trail Walk. For more information, contact Cedar Point Environmental Park at 941-475-0769.

#### Lucky Ducks

American Legion post 113, 3436 Indiana Road, Rotonda West, will have its annual Lucky Duck Festival from 11 a.m. to

6 p.m. Saturday at the post. There will be live music all day from Seasons of Sound, Beans and Seeds and Rendezvous, plus food, beverages, raffles and the Lucky Duck Races, which pays \$2,500 for the grand prize. Duck tickets are \$10 each. For more information, call 941-697-3616.

#### Pool repairs

The activity pool at the The Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, 7001 San Casa Drive, Englewood, will be closed for repair on March 7-8. The pool will reopen on March 9, 2019. The main pool will remain open during this time. For information, contact Brenda Sisk at 941-833-3824 or Brenda.Sisk@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

#### Casino bus trip

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113, 3436 Indiana Road, Rotonda W., is sponsoring a casino bus trip to Seminole Casino Immokalee on March 7. Bus departs the Post at 9 a.m., returns at 6 p.m. Cost of \$25 includes motorcoach, New Play Pass Booklet, one free drink. Reservations must be paid by March 4 at the post. Call 941-697-3616.

#### Woodstock tribute

The Englewood Elks present Feelin' Alright! tribute to the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock starring Pat Surface and American Pie at 7:30 p.m. March 9 at the lodge, 401 N. Indiana Ave. Tickets are \$25 plus tax with an

optional dinners for \$15 or \$20 plus tax. For information call 941-474-1404.

#### Sailing classes

Learn to sail or refresh your skills with Englewood Sailing Association's Adult Sailing Class. Class will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily March 11-14 at the ESA Sailing Center at Indian Mound Park, 210 Winslow Ave., Englewood. Cost is \$195 per person and registration is open at the Englewood Family YMCA. You must be able to swim. ESA instructors are certified through U.S. Sailing and are trained in CPR and First Aid. For additional information contact Rosemary at 941-223-9807 or visit englewoodsailing.org.

#### St. Patrick's dinner

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113, Rotonda West will have a St. Patrick's Day dinner dance March 16. Dinner is \$15 and includes corned beef and cabbage with carrots and potatoes. Cocktails are at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Music by The Vibronauts, with special guest appearances by Legion family members Eric Stefanik and Doug Doble at 7 p.m. Open to the public. Call the Post at 941-697-3616 for information and reservations.

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**SERMON OF THE WEEK**

## God's tough love

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11."*

We usually think of God as a loving, caring Father and He is.



Rev. John T. JAMES  
FORMER PASTOR

But, there is another side to God. When I was 4 years old and my brother was 14, Daddy bought us a Baby Ruth candy bar. He gave my brother a whole candy bar, and then broke one in half and only gave half to me. This horrified me! I bawled like a baby. I fortunately forgot every untoward language I may have learned. I was furious and threw my half of the candy bar out the back door. My kind and loving Daddy turned into another creature. He only gave me one whipping in all my life and this was it. One of the most unforgettable times of my life.

Here you find almost two different people in the same man. One, a loving, caring Father, another a disciplinarian.

People seem to think God ought to be gentle all the time, never tough or strict or disciplinary.

But discipline is part of being a good parent. In reality, punishment is a part of real love. The Father wants his child to be a good child, so repentance is necessary.

He also wants us to escape the need for punishment. In the biblical sense, God's chastening hand is always followed by a loving heart.

The great advantage we have as Christians is forgiveness. But before forgiveness, comes genuine repentance. To repent means "to turn around." You are going one way but you repent and turn God's way.

Many of the worst deeds of our time have not gone unpunished. But through turning back to God, we are promised a better life, a better way forward.

*"The penitent can see with more than mortal sight,*

*Earth's wisdom gropes and falls, like lame men in the night.*

*To penitents alone, are heavenly things made clear,*

*The best of lenses, a penitent tear."*

— Max L. Reich  
The Rev. John T. James is the former pastor of Tatum Ridge Baptist Church, Sarasota, with 50 years of ministry in Florida churches. He is retired and now living in Port Charlotte. Email him at peacereiver80@aol.com.

## Meet Dr. Seuss at school open house

Redeemer Lutheran School hopes smaller class size is attractive to parents

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH  
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — With only 13 students, some parents wondered if their child was getting a good education.

But before long, most saw small class size as a huge benefit for first- and second- grade students at Redeemer Lutheran School in Englewood.

"We had a parent whose daughter went to our preschool at the church as an infant," said Catlin Tilton, administrative assistant with Redeemer Lutheran Church. "The little girl went to public school. She was having problems and the mom didn't feel they were being addressed. She enrolled her daughter here. She's improved her academics and is all catch up with her grade level. Now, that mom is our biggest cheerleader."

The church, preschool and school, under the direction of the Rev. James T. Kress, are now soliciting parents who want their children in a safe learning environment. The school is currently kindergarten through second grade. In August, a third-grade class is being added.

"We don't have a problem with the public school system," Kress said. "We just offer a smaller class sizes for children. It gives the teacher the chance to work one on one with each student."

The school follows the Abeka accredited curriculum, which is used by many homeschool groups and Christian schools. The



PHOTO PROVIDED

Redeemer Lutheran School students made special shirts recently.

interactive program includes math and language skills, hands-on learning, physical education, alternate languages and other classes offered in public schools. The program allows children to practice new skills, review what they've learned, work on projects, show their progress, read aloud, and more.

The school and day care also has safety drills for the children.

"Our child care is very large with 130 children in

our childcare center," Kress said. "We have 13 students in our new school. We are anticipating 25 to 30 students next year. We are inviting families to come check out our facility and learn more about what we offer. We are trying to get the word out that we have a quality educational program, which also includes the knowledge of Jesus Christ."

The school is throwing a party/open house today and Saturday for Dr. Seuss's

birthday. The public is invited from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. today, and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, 6465 Mayport St., for games, crafts, horse rides (on Saturday only), and Mumsy's Carribean Grill and Sunny Days Ice Cream truck. There's also a photo booth.

"We have a special guest — Dr. Seuss — who children can have their pictures taken with," Kress said. "The open house gives parents

SEUSS | 2B

## 'A light for the community'

First Baptist Church of North Port offers something for everyone

By KAYLA GLEASON  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Since 1960, First Baptist Church of North Port has been a pillar of the surrounding community and is continuing to find ways to reach locals with the gospel.

"It was actually the first church founded in North Port, back when it was still called North Port Charlotte," said Pastor Jared Gritton.

"About 70 people were in attendance for the first

### MORE INFORMATION

First Baptist Church of North Port  
8000 Dorothy Avenue  
North Port, FL 34287  
941-426-1000  
www.fbcnorthport.org  
Sunday services: 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Pastor Jared Gritton

service, which was incredible because that was probably half the population of the city."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FLORIDA GOSPEL CRUSADE

Attendees listen during a worship service at the recent Gospel Crusade.

Now, the church sees nearly 300 worshippers regularly come through its doors for Sunday services.

The style is traditional but far from sleepy, with a full choir and orchestra, services are continually filled with

joyful noise.

"Our services feature Bible messages, Christ-honoring music, and warm, friendly fellowship," according to the church website,

LIGHT | 2B

## Meet the preacher: Rev. Terri Jo Crego, First Presbyterian Church

By DEBRA GOUEVILLIS  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

### How did you get your start as a reverend?

"I was involved in children and youth ministry beginning in 1988 and sensed there was something else I was suppose to do. So in 2010, I went to seminary and graduated in 2014. I then served here filling in while they decided who would be the next director. I became involved in Pastoral Care fulltime in 2016, and I was just installed in 2018 as Pastor. It has been real exciting."

### What makes your church or congregation unique?

"We are a church that is very in touch with our

### REVEREND TERRI JO CREGO

First Presbyterian Church  
2230 Harriet St., Port Charlotte  
Service Times: Sunday, 10 a.m.

surrounding community. We really want to make a difference. The food insecurity in this particular neighborhood is very high. We are working to help decrease that problem with our food pantry and assisting other food distributors as well. We served more than 3,500 people last year with our efforts. We have also been working on creating a safe space here at the church for youth to come and hang out. The diversity in our church helps to make this an amazing group."

### What is the most challenging thing about what you do?

"What is challenging and



Reverend Terri Jo Crego proudly displays some of the food in their pantry. The food pantry will be open next from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. March 5. For more information, call 941-625-5045.

meaningful, as well, is walking with people who have lost their loved ones. Having people we love pass is not an easy thing. We are a church

learning how to be church in this new era when so many have not felt included and for those who understand God in different ways."



PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte has numerous stained glass art all created by many of the congregation. The Chancel Window creation, pictured, includes shades of all God's colors symbolizing the seasons of the earth and our lives. "I love that the stained glass art has each of the volunteers hand print on the making of these amazing creations," said Crego.

# SEUSS

FROM PAGE 1B

the chance to meet the teacher and the teacher's aide and ask any questions. Our regular school hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we do have a before- and after-school programs."

The school accepts the Step Up Program (scholarships for low-income students) and the McCay Scholarship for students with disabilities.

There is also a Voluntary Pre Kindergarten program at the school. VPK is a



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Students at Redeemer Lutheran School, 6465 Mayport St., Englewood, hold signs about how they feel about their growing school.

state-funded program, therefore it is free for

children to attend. "Our VPK program

typically runs from August to March," Kress



Students have regular subjects at Redeemer Lutheran School like physical education.

said. "Redeemer Lutheran Child Care offers after care for VPK children who wish to stay the remainder of the day."

For more information about school or church programs, call 941-475-2410.

Email: eallen@sun-herald.com

# LIGHT

FROM PAGE 1B

www.fbcnorthport.org.

Gritton added: "I came in July 2010 and I've been here ever since. I absolutely love it. There's a lot of diversity in both age and culture. It's a very welcoming place for families and people of all backgrounds."

In fact, First Baptist just hosted one of its biggest annual events for the area — the Florida Gospel Crusade — bringing together not

only multiple churches, but people from all walks of life, as well.

"The Florida Gospel Crusade is a nonprofit organization that spreads the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by organizing tent meetings throughout Florida," according to the Crusade's Facebook page, floridagospelcrusade.

Held at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds, First Baptist partners with Tri-City Baptist Church in Port Charlotte and Calvary Baptist Church in Englewood for the weeklong event.

"We really got the ball rolling about two years ago and then held the first Gospel Crusade in 2018. We hold it at the fairgrounds because it's a nice central location to all three of the churches," said Gritton.

"It's under a big tent just like the old days when Billy Graham would have his crusades in larger cities all around the country. We even put down saw dust paths to evoke a sense of nostalgia and so you can't hear people's footsteps as they're moving around."

And while each nightly service was mostly the same — so that people could come on the day most convenient for them — different groups were recognized on different days.

"On Sunday, it was educators, Monday was veterans, and Tuesday was first responders. We had a special guest, a former police officer from New York City, he was injured in the line of duty and survived, he was able to tell his story," Gritton said.

"We just gather for

singing and preaching the gospel. That's what it's all about: the gospel. We're not trying to build our churches, we just want to get together and celebrate the word of the Lord."

Outside of the annual Gospel Crusade, the church finds plenty more ways to open their arms and bring faith to the area, from a food pantry to thriving children's programs.

In fact, First Baptist has always had strong roots in education. In the 1970s, according

to Gritton, the church opened a Christian Day School, the first ever school in North Port.

And while the day school is no longer around, the church does offer Children's Church and a children's master class for them to learn the Bible and put it into practice.

"We want to serve the Lord, he gave us a commission and it is our desire to fulfill that commission. Our goal is to be a light for the community," Gritton said.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Car show

The fifth annual San Pedro Community Festival will include a Classic Car Show from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 2 with registration for a \$10 donation at 9:30 a.m. It will include a 50/50 drawing and door prizes along with music and trophies for a pastor's choice and 20 judges trophies. For more

information, call Steve at 941-423-6690.

### Friends of Wildlife

The North Port Friends of Wildlife hosts a discussion at 6 p.m. March 20 at Shannon Staub Public Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port, featuring Mollie Holland. Holland will discuss waterways in the region. For more

information, call 941-876-3720 or visit www.northportfriendsofwildlife.org.

### Art center

North Port Art Center is accepting art and 3-D pieces for its next exhibit called Reflections from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Art will represent "the artists interpretation of light and shadow." The exhibit

runs until March 29 with a March 15 reception at the center's open house. It is located at 5950 Sam Shapos way. For more information, call 941-423-6460.

### Archaeological society

The Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 at North Port Community United Church of Christ, 3450 South Biscayne Blvd. The meeting features archaeologist Robert Carr talking about Everglades: Lost Creeks and Prehistoric Sites. For more information, visit www.wmsslss.org.

### Wind Ensemble

The Sun Coast Wind Ensemble has its next performance at 2 p.m. Friday, March 22 at

Suncoast Catherdra MCC, 3276 E. Venice Ave., Venice. A variety of songs from "Miss Saigon," "Les Miserables," "Dances with Wolves" and "Aladdin" will be included with performers from North Port, Port Charlotte, Englewood and other areas as part of the ensemble. Admission is \$5 at the door.

### Plant sale

Allamanda Garden Club of North Port hosts its fundraising plant sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 16 at 4483 Persian Lane, North Port. It will include annuals, houseplants, perennials, supplies and other items. Proceeds benefit the club's scholarship fund. The club meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month September through May at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4285 Wesley Lane, North Port. For more

information, visit www.allamandagardenclub.com.

### Community festival

San Pedro Catholic Church hosts its Community Festival March 1-3, co-sponsored by the city of North Port, the Atlanta Braves, Quality TV and other area businesses. It includes rides, games, a car and bike show, music and other events. During it, North Port will make a proclamation welcoming the Atlanta Braves.

### Casino trip

Knights of Columbus Council 7997 hosts a bus trip to Immokalee Casino with the buses boarding at 8 a.m., Monday, March 11 at North Port Wal-Mart. Cost is \$25. For more information or to make reservations, call 941-400-7416.

# Leadership

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**For more information call:**  
**Kat Padgett 941-286-2056**

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# Helping Hand-All Faiths partnership makes dollars go farther

The two organizations combine to feed the hungry in Englewood

By **GERALDINE DENECKE**  
HELPING HAND VOLUNTEER

ENGLEWOOD — Red potatoes, green leafy cabbages, bulky bags of onions, and today, fresh strawberries, all spread out on 8-foot tables behind All Faiths Mobile Farm Market Truck.

It's a rainy Thursday in Englewood, and the All Faiths Mobile Farm Market truck has pulled up at Englewood Helping Hand, 700 E. Dearborn St. It's 11 a.m. and the folks are already beginning to line up with their umbrellas to wait.

The truck, stocked with close to 2,000 pounds of fresh produce, won't be packed out for another hour yet. But, as one smiling client told me, "It's worth the wait to know that I'll get fresh spinach to eat tonight."

By 3 p.m., it will all be gone, given to those who need it free of charge. Close to 200 people will sleep better this week, knowing, that at least for the next couple of weeks, there will be nutritious food on the table.

Since 2014, All Faiths Mobile Farm Market truck, with the help of a contingent of volunteers, has changed people's lives. The mobile food market truck stops in Englewood on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. It offers fresh food and hope.

In all of our lives, stuff happens. A once promising job in a restaurant



PHOTOS BY GERALDINE DENECKE

From left, Cherian Andrews, Steve Stoneburner and Robyn Stoneburner are ready to hand out some fresh strawberries from the All Faiths Food Bank truck at Englewood Helping Hand on a recent Thursday.

disappears when red tide hits and business slows. You're out for a week with the flu and the job is gone. A spouse dies after a long illness and suddenly, the family's income is cut in half.

More than 30 percent of what All Faiths Food Bank distributes is fresh produce. Produce is sourced from local food and grocery stores and local growers. As the only food bank in Sarasota and DeSoto County, All Faiths Food Bank puts 91 percent of all donations directly back into programs and services.

Englewood Helping Hand is affiliated with the All Faiths Food Bank

## FOOD TRUCK AT HELPING HAND

The All Faiths Food Bank truck comes to Englewood at noon the first and third Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact Englewood Helping Hand, 700 E. Dearborn St. at 941-474-5864, or visit [englewoodhelpinghand.org](http://englewoodhelpinghand.org).

and can purchase more food from the All Faiths Food Bank per dollar, than anywhere else. Donations can go much further through this partnership. Donations can be made to Englewood Helping Hand, 700 E. Dearborn St. Englewood, FL 34223



Cherian Andrews and Carole Kozminski look over the cabbages for distribution.



The All Faiths Food Bank truck comes to Englewood Helping Hand the second and fourth Thursday of each month to distribute food to the needy of Englewood.

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<p><b>THE RESERVE</b></p> <p>474 Sherbrooke Court \$795,000 Joe Vuono 941.544.0977</p>	<p><b>VENICE ISLAND</b></p> <p>721 Apalachicola Road \$625,000 Gwen Heggan 941.468.1297</p>	<p><b>BOCA ROYALE</b></p> <p>57 Golf View Drive \$559,900 Bob Linthicum 941.228.9206</p>	<p><b>OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>PELICAN POINTE</b></p> <p>1323 Tuscany Boulevard \$519,900 Chris &amp; Betsie Shiparski 941.375.1148</p>	<p><b>VENICE GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p>107 Overlea Way \$499,900 Victoria Stultz 941.387.5676</p>	<p><b>MYAKKA RIVER TRAILS</b></p> <p>River Road \$499,000 Debi Cohoon 941.877.2550</p>
<p><b>THE VENICE GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p>114 Ventana Way \$478,000 Debi Cohoon 941.877.2550</p>	<p><b>OPEN SATURDAY 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>ENGLEWOOD</b></p> <p>1490 Alamander Avenue \$469,000 Debbie &amp; Ron DoorenBos 941.525.6399</p>	<p><b>OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>THE VENICE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p>402 Huntridge Drive \$459,000 Debi Cohoon 941.877.2550</p>	<p><b>PARK ESTATES</b></p> <p>594 Aston Woods Court \$439,000 Beth Sargent &amp; Richard Bradway 941.716.1277</p>	<p><b>OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>STONE WALK</b></p> <p>19906 Cobblestone Circle \$425,000 Victoria Stultz &amp; Ruth Hipwell Purcell 941.315.8710</p>	<p><b>VENEZIA PARK</b></p> <p>219 Turin Street \$375,000 Victoria Stultz 941.387.5676</p>
<p><b>GRAND OAKS</b></p> <p>115 Grand Oak Circle \$369,900 Eddie King 941.416.6082</p>	<p><b>ALDEA MAR</b></p> <p>500 Park Boulevard South #79 \$349,000 Cindy Marovich 941.408.6041</p>	<p><b>PUNTA GORDA ISLES</b></p> <p>2033 Magdalena Drive \$319,000 Gwen Heggan 941.468.1297</p>	<p><b>CHESTNUT CREEK</b></p> <p>975 Harbor Town Drive \$310,000 Debbie Sugden 941.223.9363</p>	<p><b>ENGLEWOOD</b></p> <p>455 Viridian Street \$279,900 Beth Sargent &amp; Richard Bradway 941.716.1277</p>	<p><b>OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4 P.M.</b></p> <p><b>VENICE GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p>511 Cheval Drive \$275,000 Debi Cohoon 941.877.2550</p>

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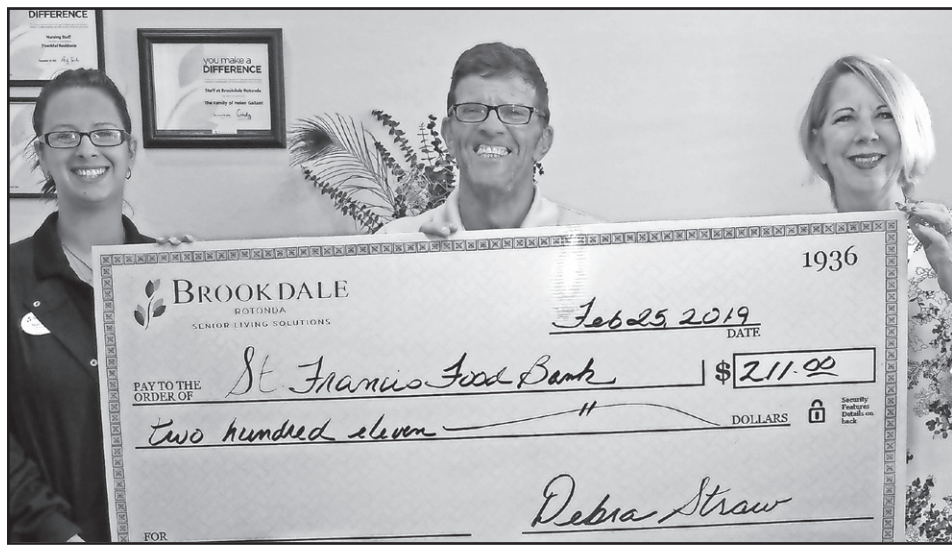
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PHOTOS PROVIDED

Mary Twombly, left, and Brenda Peckham of Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, present a donation for St. Francis of Assisi food bank to Matt Eagan, the director of outreach for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

# Donation to St. Francis food bank

STAFF REPORT

ENGLEWOOD — The residents and staff at Brookdale Senior Living Solutions recently collected donations for the food bank at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Englewood.

The residents collected enough for 25 hygiene boxes for the homeless, which St. Francis will distribute.

St. Francis' food bank is at the church, 5265 Placida Road, Englewood. For more information about its



Jennie Arieno, a resident of Brookdale Senior Living Solutions in Rotonda West, poses with Matt Eagan of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, and Brookdale's Barbara Crosby. Brookdale residents and staff collected hygiene items to donate to St. Francis' food bank.

services or to donate, visit [www.sfoachurch.com](http://www.sfoachurch.com)/Outreach-Ministry or call 941-697-4899.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Garden Club to meet

Port Charlotte Garden Club's next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 14, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail. Education this month, "Container Gardening," will highlight plant choices, container size and maintenance. The public is warmly welcomed. For more information, call Carolyn Savary at 941-426-1299.

### Guardian Ad Litem child advocate orientation

The Florida Guardian Ad Litem

program supports volunteers who advocate for the best interests of the 416 children in Charlotte County who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by the adults in their life. If you are interested in being a champion for the children in your community, attend a one-hour orientation from noon to 1 p.m. on March 18 at the GAL office 18500 Murdock Circle Bldg. B Suite 203. Open to all full-time residents at least 21 years of age with 8 to 10 hours monthly to volunteer on their own schedule with staff support and free training. For more information or to sign up for orientation, call 941-613-3233.

Don't forget to recycle your newspapers!

## RELIGION NEWS BRIEFS

### Resale shop specials

St. Vincent de Paul's / St. Max Resale Shop, 17753 Toledo Blade Blvd., Port Charlotte, specials this week are Friday, 20 percent off small appliances, Saturday, ladies tops \$1 (excludes boutique), 20 percent off ladies and men's pants. Check out the dot specials throughout the shop ranging from 50 cents to \$3. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All profits go to buy food for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

### Tribute Quartet

Peace River Baptist Church, 478 Berry St, Punta Gorda, winter concert series continues today, with The Tribute Quartet at 2 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 1:15 p.m. hymn sing. Tribute will also sing the same night at 7 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6:15 p.m. hymn sing. A love offering will be received for the group. No tickets are required and seating is limited.

### Flea market

Faith Lutheran Church, 4005 Palm Drive, Punta Gorda, will host its annual flea market today and Saturday. Hours are 4-6 p.m. today with a \$2 entrance for prime shopping, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday with hourly specials. Lunch will be available. All proceeds benefit local and national missions. Call 517-438-0140.

### Jazz concert

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, will host husband-and-wife jazz duo Jenny and Nathan Wilson from Morgantown, West Virginia, on an evening of classic jazz standards and contemporary popular song at 7 p.m. tonight. Tickets at the door are \$15. For more information, call 941-627-4303.

### Pancake Breakfast

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Ave., will host a pancake breakfast from 7-10 a.m. Saturday. Cost is \$5. Children 6 and under, and those over 90 eat free; ages 7-12, \$2. All the pancakes one can eat plus scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee and tea. Call 941-625-4356.

### Garage sale

The Youth Group of Burnt Store Presbyterian Church's annual Garage Sale is 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the church fellowship hall, 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda. Proceeds support the youth group. Contact the church office at 941-639-0001 or email office@bspconline.org.

### Rummage Sale

The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Women will hold its annual rummage sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday in the church great hall, 401 W. Henry St., Punta Gorda. Sale includes books, games, toys, baked goods, kitchen items, clothing, electrical supplies, linens, holiday items, home goods and outside space and lanai items. Proceeds will help support community ministry programs.

### Voice of Hope

Fellowship Church of Englewood Worship Center, 140 Rotonda Blvd. West, Rotonda will host Voice of Hope in concert at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services Sunday. Both concerts are free with complimentary refreshments to be served in our Fellowship Hospitality Cafe beginning at 9:45 a.m. and free childcare will also be available. For more information, call 941-475-7447 or log on to fcenglewood.com.

### Light and Sound

Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, will

host an ECK Light and Sound Service at 11 a.m. Sunday at LaQuinta Inn and Suites, Kings Highway, Port Charlotte. Nancy Streidl of Venice will speak on "Accepting the Miracles in Our Lives." The public is invited. For more information, call 941-766-0637.

### Just Neighbors

Just Neighbors meets at 6 p.m. March 5 at St. David's Church hall, 401 S. Broadway, Englewood. Guest speaker is Charles Denton, from Family Promise of South Sarasota County, which works with families with children who have become homeless. Just Neighbors is an ecumenical ministry comprised of representatives from organizations, churches, and individuals that work together to bring awareness of the problems for the low income families and homeless in our community. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are available. For more information, call Pat Knox at 941-276-6720.

### Ashes to Go

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church, 1100 McCall Road, Port Charlotte (Gulf Cove area), will offer Ashes to Go between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. March 6. A way to start your day on your way to work or shop. If you do have time in the evening, come for the traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. For more information, contact the church at 941-697-1747 or GulfCoveUMC@gmail.com.

### Ash Wednesday

Enter into the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday Worship which will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion by attending the Worship Service at 7 p.m. March 6 at Faith Lutheran Church, 551 Rotonda West Blvd., Rotonda West. For more information, call 941-697-3313.

RELIGION | 5B

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

<p><b>ANGLICAN CATHOLIC</b></p> <p>Trinity Anglican Church 1928 Book of Common Prayer Worshipping at <b>MacDonald Hall</b> Sunday, 10am 2230 Harriet St., Port Charlotte For Info Contact Don Kieffer 941-235-8052 <a href="http://www.TrinityACC.org">www.TrinityACC.org</a></p>	<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA 459 Gill St., Punta Gorda 639-3857 <a href="http://www.fbcpuntagorda.org">www.fbcpuntagorda.org</a> Rev. Bill Frank, Pastor Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Services - 11:00 a.m. Team Kid Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study - 6:15 p.m. Nursery Provided</p>	<p><b>BAPTIST INDEPENDENT</b></p> <p>You are Invited to <b>Berean Baptist Church</b> <a href="http://www.BereanBaptistPortCharlotte.org">www.BereanBaptistPortCharlotte.org</a> 17377 Godwin Avenue (Located off Collingswood Blvd) Port Charlotte • 941-629-7053 Bible Study - 9:30 am Sun. Worship Service 10:30am &amp; 6:00 pm Sunday School 9:30 am Wed. Evening Service - 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b></p> <p>ENGLEWOOD EAST CHURCH OF CHRIST 9600 Gulfstream Blvd Englewood, FL 34224-9256 <b>(941) 475-4973</b> Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Junior Church all ages 11 am Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm <b>Jim Chandler, Pastor</b> <a href="http://www.engchurch.org">www.engchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>EPISCOPAL</b></p> <p>ST. NATHANIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 4200 Biscayne Dr, North Port 426-2520 Priest-In-Charge Rev. Andrea R. Hayden Sundays - Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Rite I 10:00 am Rite II ALL ARE WELCOME <a href="http://www.stnathaniel.org">www.stnathaniel.org</a></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN</b></p> <p><b>FAITH LCMS Punta Gorda</b> "Welcome Home!" Contemporary Sat. 5:00 Traditional Sun. 9:30 Bible Study 9:10 941-639-6309 4005 Palm Drive 1/4 mile west of US41 on Rio Villa</p>
<p><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p> <p>COMMUNITY LIFE together we can make a difference Community Life Center Church is a group of people in Port Charlotte passionate about our journey in God. JOIN US! 19048 Edgewater Drive Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Questions? (941) 629-0999 Find us on Facebook, Instagram, or <a href="http://www.clclive.org">www.clclive.org</a> Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. **Children and Youth Services Available (There's something for everyone!)</p>	<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p>Peace River Baptist Church 478 Berry Street, Punta Gorda <a href="http://www.peacriverbaptistfl.org">www.peacriverbaptistfl.org</a> Jim Stultz, Pastor 637-6768 Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Worship 8:30am, 11:00am, 6:00pm Tuesday Youth Group &amp; A.W.A.N.A. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Wednesday Prayer, Bible Study 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p>SAN ANTONIO CATHOLIC CHURCH 24445 Rampart Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33980 (941) 624-3799 <a href="http://sanantoniorccc.org">sanantoniorccc.org</a> Weekdays - 8AM Saturdays 8:30AM Saturday 9AM-10AM Confessions Saturday Vigil - 3:30 Civil Holiday - 9AM Sunday - 7AM, 9AM &amp; 11AM Holy Days 6:30PM</p>	<p><b>EPISCOPAL</b></p> <p>THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 401 W. Henry St., Punta Gorda <b>639-2757</b> The Rev. Roy W. Tuff, Pastor "All Are Welcome" Sundays - 8 &amp; 10 am - Holy Eucharist Nursery Available at 10am Svc. Email: <a href="mailto:church@goodsshepherdpg.com">church@goodsshepherdpg.com</a> <a href="http://www.goodsshepherdpg.com">www.goodsshepherdpg.com</a></p>	<p><b>INTER DENOMINATION</b></p> <p>DEEP CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH 1500 Cooper St., Punta Gorda <b>941-235-REAL</b> Sunday Services 8:30 am, 10:00 am &amp; 11:30 am <a href="http://www.dc3.TV">www.dc3.TV</a> Real Love, Real People</p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN</b></p> <p>HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN, ELCA 2565 Tamiami Trail, Pt. Charlotte 625-5262 Traditional Service 7:45, 11:00 AM Celebration Service 9:00 AM Rev. Ken &amp; Andrea Barrios Co-Pastors Food Pantry Open Mon. &amp; Wed. 9am-12pm Email: <a href="mailto:office@htlchurch.org">office@htlchurch.org</a> <a href="http://www.htlchurch.org">www.htlchurch.org</a></p>
<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p>Eastside Baptist Church Pastor Mike Mowry 6220 Golf Course Blvd., Punta Gorda 639-1648 Sunday Worship 11am &amp; 6pm Sunday School 9:45am "AWANA" Wednesday 6:00-7:45pm Wed. Discipleship &amp; Prayer Service 6:45 pm Nursery &amp; Children's program provided <a href="http://eastsidebaptist.com">eastsidebaptist.com</a></p>	<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p>SUNCOAST BAPTIST CHURCH 410 Warrington Blvd. Port Charlotte <a href="http://suncoastbaptistchurch.com">suncoastbaptistchurch.com</a> 941-625-8550 Eric McConnell, Senior Pastor Sunday - 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am &amp; 6:00 pm Worship Wednesday - 6:45 pm AWANA 7:00 pm Aftershock Youth Group &amp; Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN</b></p> <p>MURDOCK CHRISTIAN CHURCH 17500 Elmwood Ave., Murdock <b>255-1858</b> Minister Mark Tyree Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:30am Email: <a href="mailto:info@murdockcc.com">info@murdockcc.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.murdockcc.com">www.murdockcc.com</a></p>	<p><b>EPISCOPAL</b></p> <p>St. James Episcopal Church 1365 Viscaya Dr., Port Charlotte <b>627-4000</b> The Rev. Cesar Olivero Sunday Worship 8 am &amp; 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Praise and Worship/Adult Bible Study <a href="http://www.stjamespcfl.org">www.stjamespcfl.org</a></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN</b></p> <p>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH WELS <b>941-766-9357</b> 23456 Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33980 Corner of Kings Hwy. &amp; Olean Bible Discovery Hour 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Alan Gumm, Pastor Website: <a href="http://myctk.com">myctk.com</a></p>	<p><b>LUTHERAN</b></p> <p>LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; PRESCHOOL, ELCA 12475 Chancellor Blvd. (North Port Blvd. &amp; Chancellor) North Port • 941-625-8090 Sunday Worship 10am <a href="http://www.LivingWatersLutheran.com">www.LivingWatersLutheran.com</a></p>
<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p>First Baptist Church Port Charlotte 20035 Quesada Ave. Jim McCarty, Pastor SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM &amp; 11:00 AM WORSHIP - 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM 12:30 - Hispanic Service Call for information on weekly activities and special events. <b>24-HOUR INFO LINE - 629-0444</b></p>	<p><b>BAPTIST - BIBLE</b></p> <p>VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH 1538 Nash Terrace Pt. Charlotte, FL 33953 (Located off Biscayne Dr.) <b>(941) 220-8317</b> <a href="http://SalvationVictory.com">SalvationVictory.com</a> Sunday 10am Wednesday 7pm Expository Bible Preaching &amp; Teaching</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN</b></p> <p>New Horizons Christian Church 500 Sable St. Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Worship 10am Sundays Pastor Rob Thomas <a href="http://facebook.com/nhccfl">@Nhccfl</a> (Instagram)</p>	<p><b>To Place Your Ad In Our Worship Directory</b> Please Call (941) 429-3110</p>		

# RELIGION

FROM PAGE 4B

## Ashes to Go

St. David's Episcopal Church, 401 S. Broadway, Englewood, will be part of a nationwide movement called Ashes to Go on March 6. Receive the ashes in their own car when you drive through the circle in front of the church's red doors. The Moose Lodge on Dearborn Street in Englewood will be another location where lay persons will provide the mark of ashes to Moose Lodge members and patrons. For those who drive to the church, Ashes to Go will take place from 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. The Moose Lodge hours are noon to 2 p.m. to accommodate people who come for lunch or just stop by to receive the ashes. For more information, contact the reverend@stdavidsinglewood.org.

## Day of Ashes

Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood, will host an evening of special music, including harp and flute at 5 p.m. March 6. Soup and sandwiches will follow in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call 941-474-1989.

## Lenten services

The North Port Community United Church of Christ, 3450 S. Biscayne Drive, invites the public to attend its Lenten Season services and soup suppers. On

Ash Wednesday, March 6, the Rev. Attila Szemesi will lead the worship service at 7 p.m. On Wednesdays March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3 and April 10, a soup supper will be held at 5 p.m., followed by a Lenten study and service. For more information, call the church office at 941-426-5580 or email npcuccpastor@frontier.com.

## The Sound

Peace River Baptist, 478 Berry St., Punta Gorda, will present The Sound, formally the Rob Mills family, for a 7 p.m. concert March 8. A love offering will be received for the group. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6:15 p.m. hymn sing. No tickets are required, seating is limited. The Sound will also be performing March 10 at the church for the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. For more information, call 941-637-6768.

## Resale shop

St. Vincent de Paul's / St. Max Resale Shop, 17753 Toledo Blade Blvd., Port Charlotte's Monthly Mega Sale will be March 8-9. Specials include 50 percent off store-wide, all clothing \$1, and boutique clothing 50 percent off ticket price. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All profits go to buy food for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

## Yard, bake sale

Trinity United Methodist Church, 4285 Wesley Lane, North Port,

will hold a yard and bake sale from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 9. Lunch will be available. Large variety home goods, clothing, accessories and small furniture, and tools. Proceeds benefit the church operations.

## Eirren Abu

Eirren Abu will be in concert at Rotonda West Community Church, 501 Rotonda Blvd W., at 10:30 a.m. March 10. He will be sharing his testimony and playing many favorite hymns.

## 50th anniversary

The North Port Community United Church of Christ, 3450 S. Biscayne Drive, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in March. The celebratory services are March 10 and March 17 to coordinate with the Charter Date (March 9, 1969). All community members are invited to celebrate at the 10 a.m. worship services. On March 10, distinguished guests from the community will celebrate our 50 year history beginning in the sanctuary and culminating in the Memorial Garden. On March 17, UCC Conference Minister, John Vertigan and South Western Regional Minister, Leslie Etheredge along with many former clergy of the church will be part of the service. Each of these services will be highlighted with the music of bagpiper, Vance McDougall, as well as special selections from the choir directed by area musician Kimberly Campos. For

more information, call 941-426-5580.

## Café Jubilee open

The Café Jubilee is a gathering place for the elderly, homeless, and others looking for fellowship in the community. Complimentary coffee, tea and fresh baked pastries, will be offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week from 9 a.m. to noon next to the Jubilee Center in St. David's Church Hall at 401 S. Broadway, Englewood. The Café provides a friendly atmosphere, conversation and sociability to alleviate loneliness, and can be a refuge from the heat, cold, and isolation. For more information, call 941-474-3140.

## Weekly dinner

Cleveland United Methodist Church, 28038 Cleveland Ave., Punta Gorda, has a free community dinner at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday. For more information, call 941-639-2775 or email clevelandumcpg@gmail.com.

## Monthly breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, will offer a premium breakfast to members and the community on the first Saturday of each month. The price is \$8 for all-you-care-to-eat menu. Kids 9 and under eat for free. Join for breakfast and fellowship. Reservations for large groups are accepted. For more information,

contact the church office at 941-625-5262.

## At Ease, Veterans

During World War II, and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, the percentage of American soldiers who shot their weapons with the intent to kill steadily rose from just 15 percent to almost 100 percent. The Department of Housing & Urban Development estimates that in January 2017, more than 40,000 veterans are more likely to be homeless each night. These brave men and women need a listening ear, and they need to know that God's grace is still with them. Combat veterans from Gulf Cove United Methodist Church are providing some of the support and discussion that our veterans deserve.

On the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., they will be at the American Legion Post 113, at 3436 Indiana Road, Rotonda West. Veterans are invited and encouraged to meet with them there. For more information, call 941-697-1747 or email GulfCoveUMC@gmail.com and GulfCoveChurch.com.

## Single parents

Offering a safe environment for both single moms and dads, the Single Parent Small Group meets at 5 p.m. on Sundays in the Life Center, room 5 of First United Methodist Church, 507 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. This group is open to anyone

in the area. For your convenience, Connect Kids and United 4 Him Youth Group is available for all children in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Over the next few weeks, the group will focus on the challenges facing today's single parents, providing support, friendship and fellowship. If you know someone who is a single parent or know someone who would be interested in joining this valuable ministry, contact Janet Minerich, singleparentministry@whatis1st.com.

For religious briefs, contact Sherrie Dennis at 941-206-1127 or sdennis@sun-herald.com; or write (to her attention): c/o the Charlotte Sun, 23170 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980. TYPE or PRINT submissions, each of which MUST include the church's NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE and the name of a contact person. Don't forget the TIME, DATE and LOCATION of the event. Email is the preferred method for communicating this information. Email photos, in .jpg format, as file attachments. Submissions will be edited for length. Information must be received NO LATER than NOON WEDNESDAY for inclusion in the upcoming Saturday's column; announcements will run on a space-available basis. If you would like to purchase an ad to guarantee a spot in the paper for your event, call 941-206-1000 and ask for Display Advertising.

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Audubon Night Walkabout

The Peace River Audubon Society will hold a night hike on Tuesday, March 5. Participants should meet at 6:30 p.m. at Hathaway Park 35461 Washington Loop Road. Walking will be minimal, but participants should bring insect repellent and dress appropriately. This outing will provide a unique look at nature after dark and will include calling for barred owls. The public is welcome. For more

information, contact Ron Mills at 941-575-6968 or rtmillsfl@embarqmail.com.

### NARFE monthly meeting scheduled

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 2194, Peace River, will meet at 11 a.m. on March 5, at the Elks Lodge 2606, 25538 Shore Drive, Punta Gorda. This month's program will feature the Director of the C.A.R.E., Linda Lusk, who will present "Human Trafficking

in SW Florida- A Humanitarian Crisis." Attendees are reminded to bring toiletries and personal items for collection and donation to C.A.R.E. This meeting is open to all Active and Retired Federal Employees, Survivor Annuitants and their guests. For more information call 571-259-4280.

### Friendship Force group to meet

SW Florida Friendship Force group will meet at 10:30 a.m.

on March 1 at the Punta Gorda Police & Fire Station Conference room at 1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda. The program is a presentation by Australians Chris and Cathy Stone who will share pictures of their part of the world. Visitors are welcome.

### Dine with a Star

The Burg'r Bar, 317 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, will host the 3rd annual Dine with a Star at the Burg'r Bar on March 20 benefiting the Fred

Lang Foundation to support mental health in Charlotte County through Charlotte Behavioral Health Care. Local celebrity stars will be there to serve food and drink throughout the night. Enjoy music, silent auction items, and dining with friends. Tickets are \$25 per person and include entry into the event, a delicious barbecue pork dinner, and a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). To purchase tickets visit www.cbhcf.org/event/dine-star-burg-r-bar.



<p><b>LUTHERAN</b> LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS LCMS 2300 Luther Road, Port Charlotte 627-6060 Sunday Worship 7:45 &amp; 10:15am Christian Education Hour Sunday 9:00 a.m. Rev. R. Brian Stolarczyk, Pastor Rev. Mark Schoenherr, Winter Asst. Pastor Nursery Provided Email: Secretary@lccross.org www.lccross.org</p>	<p><b>METHODIST</b> EDGEWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 19190 Cochran Blvd. (At the corner of US 41 &amp; Cochran Blvd.) www.edgewaterchurch.com 625-3039 Pastor Dan Prine Services: Saturday Night Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm 8:00am Traditional 9:30 &amp; 11:00am Contemporary 11:00am Sunday Bible Study Class Sunday School: 9:30 • Nursery Provided</p>	<p><b>NON-DENOMINATION</b> Blessed Assurance Bible Chapel Worship Service with Meaningful Bible Message Sunday Mornings 10:00am A different speaker each week. 866 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte, FL 33953 www.swfbi.org 941-249-9662 A ministry of the SouthWest Florida Bible Institute, Inc. Refreshments after every service</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> BURNT STORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 11330 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda (2 miles south of US 41) 941.639.0001 www.bspconline.org Traditional Service 8:15 am &amp; 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:40 am Faithworks class 9:40 am M.Y.P.L.A.C.E Youth Group 11:30 am Coffee &amp; pastries between 1st and 2nd service in Fellowship Hall. Nursery available at all services.</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUNTA GORDA 25250 Airport Rd., Punta Gorda 639-1959 Rev. Stephen Mock Sunday Worship New Beginnings Service 9 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Watch Services Live via Website ECO A Covenant Order Of Evangelical Presbyterians www.fpcpunta.org</p>	<p><b>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Open and Affirming Rev. Michael Ford 1201 Aquil Esta Drive, Punta Gorda www.puntagorda-ucc.com 637-8443 Worship at 10:00am</p>
<p><b>LUTHERAN</b> Lakeside Lutheran Church 2401 South Tamiami Trail Venice, FL 34293 941.493.5102 Pastor David J. Dahlke PastorDavid@LakesideLutheran.net 8:00 &amp; 11:00 Traditional Service 9:30 Contemporary Service www.LakesideLutheran.Net</p>	<p><b>METHODIST</b> TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 4285 Wesley Lane North Port Directions: www.trinityumcnorthport.org 941-426-1734 Pastor Danny Chronister Adult &amp; Children's Worship - 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM "The Spirit is Alive At Trinity!"</p>	<p><b>NON-DENOMINATION</b> Incredible Music &amp; Powerful Messages! fellowship ENGLEWOOD 2 SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30 &amp; 10:30am   140 Rotonda Blvd West PASTOR GARRY CLARK 941.475.7447   fcenglewood.com</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH PORT Learning to Live from God's Word Sunday 11:15am &amp; 5:00pm Traditional Worship Service Rev. Arnold Brevick, Pastor (941) 421-8163 5600 S. Biscayne Drive www.fpcnorthportfl.net Presbyterian Church In America</p>	<p><b>THE SALVATION ARMY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND CHARITY</b> 2120 Loveland Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida 33980 941-629-3170 Pastor: Major Ed &amp; Major Carla Binnix 9:45am Sunday School/all ages 10:50am Sunday Worship 5:30pm Tuesdays- Youth Ministries 6:00pm Wednesdays- Bible Study www.salvationarmyporthcharlotte.org</p>	<p><b>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 24515 Rampart Blvd. Pt. Charlotte 629-2633 Pastor Mike Robinson Sunday Traditional Service 8:00am Contemporary Service 10:00am Nursery &amp; Children's Church Provided during all services.</p>
<p><b>LUTHERAN</b> Trinity Lutheran Church SWFL (LCMS) 1379 McCall Rd. (Gulf Cove) Port Charlotte, FL 33981 941-828-1910 Pastor Brian Albrecht 8:30am &amp; 10:30am Worship. 9:45am Sunday School. Email: tlcswfl3@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>METHODIST</b> 507 W. Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950 639-3842 Rev. Michael Loomis Sunday Worship 8:00 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:15 a.m. Adult, Teen &amp; Children's Sunday School Nursery Provided www.whatis1st.com</p>	<p><b>PENTECOSTAL</b> Evangelio de Amor Ministerios Pentecostales, Inc 80 Rosemary St Port Charlotte FL 33954 Pastor Antonio Garcia 941-286-8823 Lunes Oracion 10AM Martes y Jueves Alabanza y Adoracion 7:30PM Domingo Escuela Dominical - 10AM Servicio Evangelistico 11:30AM</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT CHARLOTTE SUNDAY HOURS 10:00am - Worship Coffee Fellowship - 9:00am 9:00am - Sunday School Pastor Terri Jo Crego 2230 Harriet St. Between Midway &amp; Gibraltar 625-5045 www.fpcpc.com</p>	<p><b>UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST</b> A SPIRITUAL HOME WHERE RELIGION AND REASON MEET UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY Rev. Amy Kindred Regular Sunday Worship - 10:30 AM www.uufcc.org www.facebook.com/uufcc 1532 FORREST NELSON BOULEVARD PORT CHARLOTTE 941.627.4303</p>	<p><b>UNITY</b> UNITY CHURCH OF PEACE 'Unity Leaves No One Out' Rev. Donna Loflin 1250 Rutledge St. Corner of Veterans &amp; Torrington 941-423-8171 Unitychurchofpeace.com Sunday Service 9AM &amp; 11AM</p>
<p><b>METHODIST</b> CHRIST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN HARBOUR HEIGHTS 27000 Sunnybrook Road 941-629-1593 Pastor Josh Landen Sunday Worship at 10 am Communion &amp; Covered Dish Dinner First Sunday of the Month Hall available for Rent www.mycuccm.org</p>	<p><b>METHODIST</b> PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST 21075 Quesada Ave. 941-625-4356 Pastor Denvil Farley Worship Services 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service 8:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast on WYFJ FM 91.7 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service Sunday School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. www.pccm.info</p>	<p><b>To Place Your Ad In Our Worship Directory</b> Please Call (941) 429-3110</p>			

# A place to call home

## Habitat dedicates home

Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity hosted a dedication ceremony recently for Evelyn Vidaud and her 9-year-old son Christopher Worley at their new Port Charlotte residence.

Gifts were presented to Vidaud during the ceremony by local businesses, organizations, groups, churches as well as Habitat.

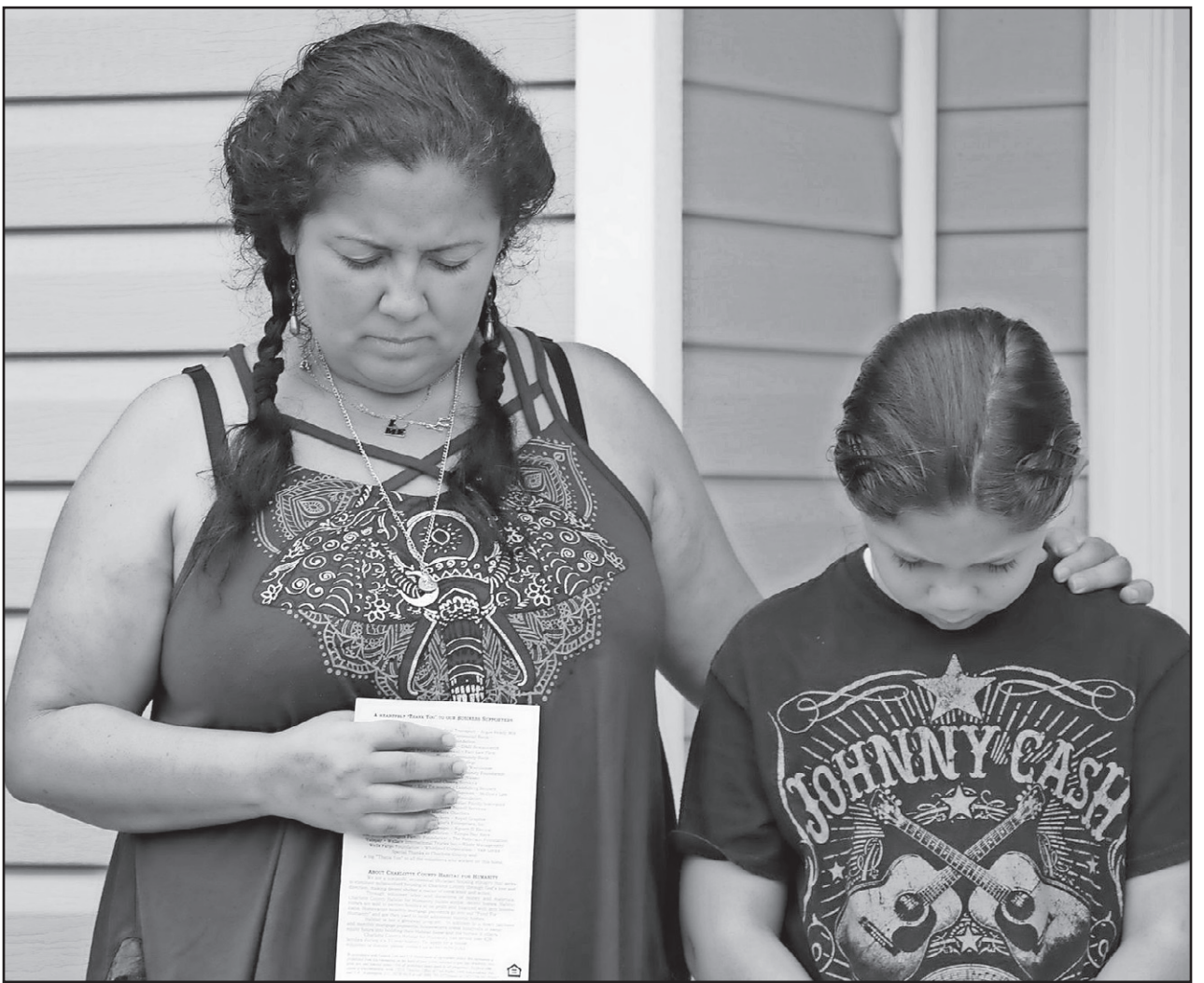


SUN PHOTOS BY TAMI GARCIA

Mike Mansfield, CEO with Habitat, gives a congratulatory hug to new homeowner Evelyn Vidaud.



Ron Klein, representing Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, with Christopher Worley, 9.



Evelyn Vidaud and her 9½ year old son Christopher Worley bow their heads during an opening prayer presented by Tony Huffer, executive pastor with First Alliance Church.



Tony Huffer, executive pastor of First Alliance Church.



Trish Bellois, senior director of operations, Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, provides a scripture reading.



Paul Lioon, Independent Trust Services of SW FL, and Habitat board member.

— 18TH ANNUAL —

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# A good day for 'Yosemite Sam,' 'Groucho'

Moosers' Bud Felthoff Moosetache and Beard Competition another hit

In celebration of real and fake beards and mustaches, Moosers held a contest to find out whose is best.

The third-annual Bud Felthoff Moosetache and Beard Competition was held at the Englewood Moose Lodge 1933 on Saturday. It featured men and women who sported costumes and facial hair.

This is the first year more than one woman entered the lady's category. Three women participated. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the community.

The Moosers have given more than \$85,000 to local and Moose charities. The winner of the special category called "Most like Bud" — for longtime Moosers president Bud Felthoff — was Jay Long. He was friends with Felthoff and called him "a good man."

For more information about the Moosers, visit moosers1933.com.



SUN PHOTOS BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH

The audience weighed in on who was the best-in-show overall winner at the recent Moose Rider's beard contest.



And the first-place winner in the women's division is Nancy Stayrook. She won last year with her Colonel Sanders contest.



Jay "Goober" Long won the "Most like Bud" beard special category for the late Bud Felthoff, who was the longtime president of the Moose Riders. Long was a good friend of Felthoff.



Sally Lindsey was one of three ladies to enter the Moose Riders annual beard competition.



Ross Mosed was the overall winner of the beard contest.



Carl Lemay won for having the most authentic Southern rock beard.



Earning second place was Pam Schildknecht with her Groucho Marx costume and mustache. Moose Riders President Norm Coleman announced the winners.

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## The Art of the Walk?



U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un take a walk after their first meeting at the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi hotel, Thursday, in Hanoi.

AP PHOTO

## Collapse of Trump-Kim summit shines alight on the president's brand of personal diplomacy

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and MATTHEW LEE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, Vietnam — President Donald Trump framed the breakdown of his nuclear summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un as wisely knowing when "to walk." But the stunning collapse revealed the limits of his unique brand of personal diplomacy and raised concerns about future efforts to disarm a global threat.

Eyeing the history books and a much-needed political

victory, Trump bet big on the two-day Vietnam summit only to be forced to explain away its sudden failure.

The president and North Korea gave conflicting explanations of what went wrong, though the result actually was a relief to some critics and even some Trump supporters who feared he might give too much away in pursuit of a deal.

Trump, the businessman who was elected in part on his boasts of deal-making prowess, said a proposed agreement was "ready to be signed." But he said he

refused to accept what he described as North Korean insistence that all U.S. sanctions be lifted without the North committing to eliminate its nuclear arsenal.

"I'd much rather do it right than do it fast," the president said. "We're in position to do something very special."

The North said it had demanded only partial relief from the punishing sanctions.

Trump had pushed for the summit, telling wary aides that his personal chemistry with North Korea's

young and reclusive leader outweighed any need for detailed, staff-level talks to iron out differences before either head of state set foot in Hanoi.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who along with his special envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, had been leading the preparatory effort, said staff work had achieved some results but that negotiators had intentionally left some of the most contentious issues unresolved.

WALK | 8

## Agree to disagree

US, North Korea offer dueling accounts of talks breakdown

By DEB RIECHMANN, HYUNG-JIN KIM and CATHERINE LUCEY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, Vietnam — In open dispute, the U.S. and North Korea offered contradictory accounts Thursday of why the summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un broke down, though both pointed to punishing American sanctions as a sticking point in the high-stakes nuclear negotiation.

President Trump, on his way back to Washington on Thursday, said before leaving Hanoi that the talks collapsed because North Korea's leader insisted that all the sanctions the U.S. has imposed on Pyongyang be lifted without the North firmly committing to eliminate its nuclear arsenal.

But North Korea challenged that account, insisting it had asked only partial sanctions relief in exchange for shutting down its main nuclear complex. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho commented on the talks during an abruptly scheduled middle-of-the-night news conference after Trump was in the air.

Ri said the North was also ready to offer in writing a permanent halt of the country's nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and Washington had wasted an opportunity that "may not come again." He said the North's position won't change even if the United States offers to resume another round of dialogue.

On Friday, North Korea's official news agency put a more positive spin on the summit, saying Trump and Kim "had a constructive and candid exchange of their opinions over the practical issues arising in opening up a new era of the improvement" of relations between the two nations.

Trump made no mention of the disagreement as he addressed U.S. troops during a stopover at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, though White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said he was aware of Ri's comments.

DISAGREE | 8

## Opioids, timber, cancer on Florida Cabinet priority lists

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Attorney General Ashley Moody wants a task force on opioid addiction, Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried wants to help the timber industry recover from Hurricane Michael and Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis wants to help firefighters with cancer.

While Florida's three Cabinet members can't sponsor or vote on bills, they hold important leadership roles in state government and each is working with lawmakers to pass legislation and make budget recommendations.

The Associated Press interviewed each of the Cabinet

members to discuss their 2019 legislative priorities:

### Attorney General Ashley Moody

Moody's top priority is legislation to create a state-wide task force to combat the opioid epidemic. She said while campaigning last year that Florida was averaging 14 opioid deaths a day.

"We now lose 17 people a day, so we're not heading in a direction we as Floridians would like to see," she said.

The task force would examine what programs have been effective in reducing opioid addiction and make recommendations on how to best address the problem.

FLORIDA | 8

## Cohen finishes week of testimony after calling Trump liar

President's former lawyer completes third day on Capitol Hill

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL R. SISAK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former lawyer has completed three days of testimony on Capitol Hill — and is coming back for another day next week — after publicly branding his former boss a racist and a con man who lied about business dealings in Russia and directed him to conceal extramarital relationships.

Cohen was interviewed behind closed doors Thursday by the House Intelligence Committee for more than eight hours, the last of his three appearances before Congress this week. He said as he left that he would be returning to Capitol Hill on March 6 for another



AP PHOTO

Michael Cohen, center, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, arrives to testify before a closed-door hearing of the House Intelligence Committee on Thursday.

round of questioning with the House Intelligence Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff called the

closed-door session with Cohen productive and said lawmakers

COHEN | 8

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# FBI: Vet shoots, wounds doctor before mental health check

RIVIERA BEACH (AP) — A double-amputee Army veteran shot and wounded a doctor just before a mental health evaluation at a veterans' hospital in Florida, authorities said.

Larry Ray Bon, 59, of Michigan, arrived at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Riviera Beach on Wednesday morning and was combative for hours, according to the FBI. Authorities said Bon was taken to the emergency room that evening for the mental health evaluation, when he pulled out a gun and shot the doctor in the neck.

"During the shooting, in between shots, the doctor saw an opportunity to jump on the suspect and disarm him," Justin Fleck, the assistant special agent in charge for the FBI's Miami office,

said in a Palm Beach Post report.

"He's a pretty heroic individual and probably saved a lot of lives," Fleck said.

It was not clear how Bon was able to bring the gun into the hospital.

Another hospital employee was grazed by a bullet. VA spokeswoman Mary Kay Rutan says the doctor was treated at a West Palm Beach hospital and released. The doctor's name was not released.

The medical center opened for scheduled appointments Thursday.

Bon, who has had both his legs amputated and uses an electric wheelchair, served in the Army in the 1970s, but investigators were not aware of him having any combat-related conditions, Fleck said.

Nancy Bon told the

Post that her son was mentally ill and arrived in West Palm Beach after he skipped a 2016 sentencing hearing in Muskegon, Michigan, for illegally possessing a stun gun.

"I don't even know where he would have gotten a gun. He's a felon," she said.

Nancy Bon said her son's mental health suffered after he contracted spinal meningitis at age 8. She said he was honorably discharged from the Army after contracting pneumonia during basic training. One leg was amputated after an infection, and the other was amputated 15 years ago after a car accident, she said.

Bon refused to cooperate after he was taken into federal custody on an assault charge, authorities said. A hearing on



AP PHOTO

Police investigate the scene of a Wednesday shooting incident at the VA Medical Center, in Riviera Beach.

his detention and mental competency was scheduled March 7.

According to online

court records, Bon's only history in Palm Beach County's legal system was a case in small claims

court in 2017 that was dismissed. His name did not appear in county jail records.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

### Sheriff: Man turns self in, admits to 17-year-old killing

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — Authorities say a Georgia man has walked into a Florida sheriff's office building and confessed to a 17-year-old homicide.

The Florida Times-Union reports that 41-year-old Kenny Lee Maxwell turned himself in last week at the front desk at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Officials say Maxwell confessed to strangling 57-year-old Richard Ottis Morrison at the Palms Hotel in January 2002. Investigators haven't said what prompted the confession.

The investigation at

the time determined that a physical fight had occurred, and some of Morrison's property was missing. No suspects were identified, and the case went cold.

Detectives are reviewing the case to see if anyone else was involved.

Maxwell was being held without bond. Jail records didn't list an attorney.

### Police: Man ends standoff for slice of pizza

PENSACOLA (AP) — Authorities say a Florida man accused of threatening his family ended a four-hour standoff with police after he was promised a slice of pizza.

The Pensacola News Journal reports that 33-year-old Evan Charles McLemore was arrested Tuesday and charged with resisting an officer and aggravated stalking.

Police say officers responded to a report of a possible battery at the Pensacola home and found McLemore had barricaded himself in a room. Officers say McLemore claimed to have a gun, so they brought in a SWAT team. Crisis negotiators eventually managed to coax McLemore out with the promise of pizza. It wasn't clear if he actually received a slice.

McLemore's bond was set at \$105,000 bond. Jail records didn't list an attorney.

### Auction nets \$2M for horses owned by ex-Venezuelan official

WEST PALM BEACH (AP) — Bidders spent over \$2 million for show-jumping horses once owned by Venezuela's former national treasurer, who is serving a decade-long U.S. prison sentence for taking part in a \$1 billion bribery scheme.

Fifty-four-year-old Alejandro Andrade is being held at a federal penitentiary in Pennsylvania.

The Palm Beach Post reports 14 horses Andrade owned in Florida brought in \$2,086,500 in an online auction that ended Tuesday. A stallion

named Hardrock Z that Andrade's son rode in the 2016 Summer Olympics fetched the highest bid at \$282,000.

The sale proceeds will go to the U.S. Treasury. Separate auctions will be held to sell off the rest of Andrade's property that was seized by U.S. authorities, including mansions in exclusive Palm Beach County neighborhoods, two farms, 10 vehicles and 35 designer watches.

### Man, 83, dies in wrong-way golf cart crash; wife injured

FORT MYERS (AP) — Authorities say a wrong-way golf cart crash in a Florida gated community killed an 83-year-old man

and injured his wife.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office tells news outlets Joseph Heller died in the crash Monday in Estero. His wife, 81-year-old Betty Heller, was riding in the golf cart and suffered life-threatening injuries. Heller died at a hospital where they both were taken after being ejected in the crash.

Deputies say in a report that Heller was driving his golf cart northbound in the southbound lane when it was struck head-on by a pickup truck. It says the truck's driver told deputies he was distracted after dropping a cigarette, however Heller was at fault because he was on the wrong side of the road.

# Israel attorney general recommends charges against Netanyahu

By ARON HELLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel's attorney general on Thursday recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with bribery, fraud and breach of trust in a series of corruption cases, a momentous move that shook up Israel's election campaign and could spell the end of the Israeli leader's illustrious political career.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced his decision after more than two years of intense investigations and deliberations.

Police had recommended indicting Netanyahu on various charges in three separate cases that ranged from accepting expensive gifts from wealthy allies to allegedly trading influence for more favorable press coverage.

The final decision on indictment will only take place after a hearing, where Netanyahu is given the opportunity to defend himself. That process is expected to take many months and be completed long after the April 9 elections.

But the recommendations immediately cast a cloud over the campaign and Netanyahu's future.

Appearing on national TV, Netanyahu dismissed the allegations as an "unprecedented witch hunt" by political opponents intent on ousting him. He called the timing, just weeks before the election, "outrageous" and appeared emotional at times as he dismissed the charges as a "blood libel." He vowed to debunk all allegations and said he would remain prime



AP PHOTO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures as he delivers a statement at the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, Thursday.

minister for "many years." "Don't let this witch hunt affect you," he told Israeli voters.

An indictment would mark the first time in Israeli history that a sitting prime minister has been charged with a crime. Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert served time in prison for corruption, but had already resigned by the time he was charged.

Netanyahu doesn't look to go that quietly. He denies any wrongdoing and calls the allegations a media-orchestrated campaign aimed at removing him from office. He has vowed to carry on and is deadlocked in the polls, 40 days before Israelis go to vote.

In a last-ditch effort to prevent the public release of an indictment, Netanyahu's Likud party petitioned the Supreme Court to have it delayed until after the elections. But the court rejected the request Thursday,

clearing the way for the announcement from the attorney general.

Despite opposition calls for Netanyahu to step down, Likud and his other nationalist coalition partners have lined up behind him thus far, all but ruling out sitting in a government led by his primary opponent, retired military chief Benny Gantz.

While Israeli prime ministers are not required by law to resign if charged, the prospect of a prime minister standing trial while simultaneously running the country would be uncharted territory.

Mandelblit's decision could either galvanize Netanyahu's hard-line supporters who see him as a victim of an overzealous prosecution or turn more moderate backers against him who have tired of his lengthy rule tainted by long-standing accusations of corruption and hedonism.

Either way, the upcoming elections appear to be morphing into a referendum on Netanyahu as he seeks to become the longest serving premier in Israeli history. Netanyahu has been prime minister since 2009 and served a previous term between 1996 and 1999.

President Donald Trump, with whom Netanyahu has forged a close connection, offered the Israeli leader a boost ahead of the expected announcement.

"I just think he's been a great prime minister and I don't know about his difficulty but you tell me something people have been hearing about, but I don't know about that," he said in response to a question in Hanoi, where he was holding a summit with the leader of North Korea.

"I can say this: that he's done a great job as prime minister. He's tough, he's smart, he's strong," Trump said.

# Pakistan pledges to release captive Indian fighter pilot

By MUNIR AHMED  
and KATHY GANNON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's prime minister pledged on Thursday his country would release a captured Indian fighter pilot, a move that could help defuse the most serious confrontation in two decades between the nuclear-armed neighbors over the disputed region of Kashmir.

Prime Minister Imran Khan made the announcement in an address to both houses of Parliament, saying he tried to reach his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on Wednesday with a message that he wants to de-escalate tensions.

"We are releasing the Indian pilot as a goodwill

gesture tomorrow," Khan told lawmakers. He did not say whether the release was conditional.

Meanwhile, fresh skirmishes erupted Thursday between Indian and Pakistani soldiers along the so-called Line of Control that divides disputed Kashmir between the two nuclear-armed rivals.

India's army said Pakistani soldiers were targeting nearly two dozen Indian forward points with mortar and gunfire. Lt. Col. Devender Anand, an Indian army spokesman, called it an "unprovoked" violation of the 2003 cease-fire accord between the two countries. He said Indian soldiers were responding to ongoing Pakistani attacks along the highly militarized de facto frontier.

# Irish drivers warned over 'no-deal' Brexit as EU and UK talk

By JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Ireland's deputy prime minister said Thursday that the European Union wants to work with Britain to ensure there is a Brexit deal, as Irish drivers were warned they will need new paperwork to cross the currently invisible border to Northern Ireland if the U.K. leaves the bloc without an agreement.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau of Ireland said it has supplied insurance companies with 1 million forms

so customers can apply for the internationally recognized "Green Card" proof of insurance documents.

British drivers traveling to Ireland or other EU countries will also need the paperwork — just one of a host of new rules and hurdles citizens will need to negotiate if Britain crashes out of the bloc without a framework over its departure.

Currently, auto insurance in any EU country covers the whole bloc. If Britain leaves with a deal, there will be no change until at least the end of 2020.

# US growth falls below Trump goal for 2018

## Economists expect slower economy going forward

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy turned in a solid performance in 2018, boosted in part by tax cuts and higher government spending. But growth slowed by year's end, and most economists envision a weaker outlook for the coming months and probably years.

The nation's gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of economic health, expanded at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the October-December period, the government said Thursday. That was down from a 3.4 percent rate in

the July-September period and a sizzling 4.2 percent pace from April through June. During those months, the economy benefited from tax cuts and from higher government spending, the gains from which are thought to be fading.

For 2018 as a whole, GDP growth amounted to 2.9 percent, the government said, the best showing since 2015. It was just below the 3 percent pace the administration has said it can maintain consistently. By contrast, most economists foresee slower growth ahead. For the current January-March quarter, many analysts say they think growth could

slow to a 2 percent annual rate or less.

"I think the economy will be steadily throttling back over the next two years," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

The economy's pace of expansion last quarter reflected a slowdown in consumer spending and the start of a 35-day partial shutdown of the government, which subtracted an estimated 0.1 percentage point from growth. That weakness was offset somewhat by a gain in business investment and less of a drag from trade.

The \$1.5 trillion tax cut that President Donald

Trump pushed through Congress in late 2017 and billions of extra dollars in government spending that Congress added for military and domestic programs helped accelerate the economy last year.

In the view of most economists, though, 2018 may turn out to have been the economy's high point for some time. Many are forecasting that growth this year will slow to around 2.2 percent and to weaken further in 2020. Some analysts say they think the economy could even dip into recession next year as the support from the tax cuts fades and the global

economy sputters.

Zandi has forecast growth of 2.5 percent this year and just above 1 percent in 2020 and estimates the chance of a recession starting in 2020 at about 50-50. The National Association for Business Economics said in a survey released this week that roughly half the economists who responded to its latest survey expect a recession to have begun by the end of 2020.

The forecasts from the Trump administration are far rosier. Its officials have projected that the administration's policies will produce growth surpassing 3 percent in coming years.

Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, argued in an interview Thursday that private forecasters are relying on outdated models that don't fully reflect the latest research. Hassett said he had forecast growth of 3.1 percent for 2018, when measured on a fourth-quarter-to-fourth-quarter basis and said that that pace was achieved.

"It worked exactly the way I said," Hassett said. For 2019 as a whole, Hassett said he foresees growth improving to 3.2 percent — well above the expectations of most economists.



AP PHOTO

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-California, meets with reporters just after the Democratic-controlled House approved a measure requiring federal background checks for all firearms sales and transfers.

## House passage of gun bills reflects political shift

By **LISA MASCARO**

AP CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — The House put on a display of Democratic priorities this week with two bills to bolster background checks on firearms purchases, showing just how quickly the politics of gun control have turned.

Just a few years ago, says Kris Brown, the president of one of the nation's leading gun violence prevention groups, there was a "sense of hopelessness" after a divided Congress tried — and failed — to change gun laws following the mass shooting of 20 young children and six adults at Newtown Elementary School in Connecticut.

But a new generation of teen leaders "flipped" public sentiment after the shooting last year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, she said, helping to elect lawmakers in 2018 who are willing to buck the powerful gun lobby, including the National Rifle Association.

"We're at a completely different time," said Brown, the president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

On Thursday, the House approved legislation to allow a review period of up to 10 days for background checks on firearms purchases.

Democrats led passage, 228-198, with a handful of defections and scant Republican support.

## After a listless day, S&P 500 marks its 3rd straight loss

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA**

AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Stocks finished modestly lower Thursday, closing out another listless day of trading on Wall Street with a third straight loss for the market.

Technology, energy and consumer products companies pulled down the market, offsetting gains in consumer goods, utilities and real estate stocks.

Investors weighed a government report that showed economic growth slowed at the end of last year. Traders also had their eye on a mixed batch of corporate earnings reports.

"You have a market that's trying to digest what's next right now; really all week it's been kind of consolidating a little bit," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird.

The S&P 500 index slipped 7.89 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,784.49. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 69.16 points, or 0.3 percent, to 25,916. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 21.98 points, or 0.3 percent, to 7,532.53.

## Experts: US anti-Huawei campaign likely exaggerated

By **FRANK BAJAK**

AP CYBERSECURITY WRITER

Since last year, the U.S. has waged a vigorous diplomatic offensive against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, claiming that any nation deploying its gear in next-generation wireless networks is giving Beijing a conduit for espionage or worse.

But security experts say the U.S. government is likely exaggerating that threat. Not only is the U.S. case short on specifics, they say, it glosses over the fact that the Chinese don't need secret access to Huawei routers to infiltrate global networks that already have notoriously poor security.

State-sponsored hackers have shown no preference for one manufacturer's technology over another, these experts say. Kremlin-backed hackers, for instance, adroitly exploit internet routers and other networking equipment made by companies that are not Russian.

If the Chinese want to disrupt global networks, "they will do so regardless of the type of equipment you are using," said Jan-Peter Kleinhans, a researcher at the Berlin think tank Neue Verantwortung Stiftung.

One of the most common U.S. fears — that Huawei might install software "backdoors" in its equipment that Chinese intelligence could use to tap into, eavesdrop on or interrupt



AP PHOTO

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy Robert Strayer, right, and Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, center, attend a press conference at the Mobile World Congress wireless show, in Barcelona, Spain.

data transmissions — strikes some experts as highly unlikely.

Priscilla Moriuchi, who retired from the National Security Agency in 2017 after running its Far East operations, does not believe the Huawei threat is overblown. But she called the odds of the company installing backdoors on behalf of Chinese intelligence "almost zero because of the chance that it would be discovered," thus exposing Huawei's complicity.

Moriuchi, now an analyst at the U.S. cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, said she

was not aware of the NSA ever finding Huawei backdoors created for Chinese intelligence but also cautioned that it can be extraordinarily difficult, when backdoors are found, to determine who is behind them.

European allies have been reluctant to embrace a blanket anti-Huawei ban even as U.S. officials continue to cast the world's No. 1 telecom-equipment maker as little more than an untrustworthy surrogate for Beijing's intelligence services.

The top U.S. diplomat for cybersecurity policy,

Robert Strayer, says Huawei is obliged to heed Chinese Communist Party orders by a 2017 intelligence law that "compels their citizens and their companies to participate in intelligence activities."

Strayer provided no specifics when pressed by reporters Tuesday as to how Huawei gear might pose more of a security threat than other manufacturers' switches, routers and wireless base stations. The diplomat spoke at Mobile World Congress, the world's largest wireless trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

### MORE HEADLINE NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

#### Huawei pleads not guilty to trade secrets charges in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — The Chinese tech giant Huawei pleaded not guilty Thursday to U.S. trade-theft charges in a case that has heightened a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies.

The pleas were entered in federal court in Seattle, where a 10-count indictment was unsealed in January against two Huawei units, Huawei Device Co. and Huawei Device USA.

Charges include conspiracy to steal trade secrets, attempted theft of trade secrets, wire fraud and obstruction of justice. The conspiracy charge carries a potential fine of \$5 million or three times the value of the stolen trade secret, whichever is greater, the U.S. Attorney's office said Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez set a March 2020 trial date.

The U.S. has accused China of using predatory tactics to turn Chinese companies into leaders in tech fields such as robotics and electric vehicles.

#### Tribe says Corps' pipeline findings preordained

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Native American tribe leading the fight against the Dakota Access oil pipeline said Thursday that an Army Corps of Engineers document shows the agency concluded the pipeline won't unfairly affect tribes before it consulted them.

Standing Rock Sioux officials say the document, which they shared with The Associated Press, bolsters the tribe's claim that the Corps disregarded a federal judge's order to seriously review the pipeline's potential impact on the Standing Rock Sioux and three other Dakotas-based tribes and to not treat the study as a "bureaucratic formality."

"This was a rigged process intended to justify a dangerous and illegal pipeline," Standing Rock Chairman Mike Faith said in a statement to the AP.

The Justice Department declined to comment Thursday. The Corps has said previously that the four tribes suing to shut down the pipeline that began delivering North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois two years ago have been difficult to work with.

And the agency did meet with the tribes before it presented its study findings to U.S. District Judge James Boasberg.

#### California man swept away by flood trying to reach kids

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A Northern California man was swept away by floodwaters and died trying to get to his home where three children were trapped, authorities said Thursday, as residents of two communities hundreds of miles to the south were marooned by the worst flooding there in more than 20 years.

The unidentified man was trying to walk from a barn to his home in Ferndale through up to 5 feet of water Wednesday evening when he was carried away by the fast-moving current, said Samantha Karges, a spokeswoman with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

Two adults and a child tried to rescue the man, but their tractor stalled in the water. Deputies in a boat then rescued them and the three children from the home, Karges said.

The missing man's body was found Thursday morning. He was the father of a 12-year-old trapped in the home with two children

under 4, Karges said. She was not sure if all three children were related.

#### Amazon ups its anti-counterfeit game

(AP) — Amazon, which has wrestled with counterfeit products on its site for years, has developed a fleet of tools that allow sellers to remove items from Amazon.com themselves and to prevent fake goods from making it to the site at all.

To speed the removal process, Amazon said that it's now allowing some companies to remove those goods themselves, rather than reporting fake goods that had been removed previously only after an investigation by Amazon.

In addition, the company has created unique serial codes that can be placed on products during the manufacturing process, which can then be monitored by Amazon on its site.

Amazon has also been testing automated technology that it said can prevent 100 times the number of counterfeit products on its site by scanning logos, trademarks and other key data. The company said it's now scanning more than 5 billion products daily for tell-tale signs of counterfeiting.

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

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

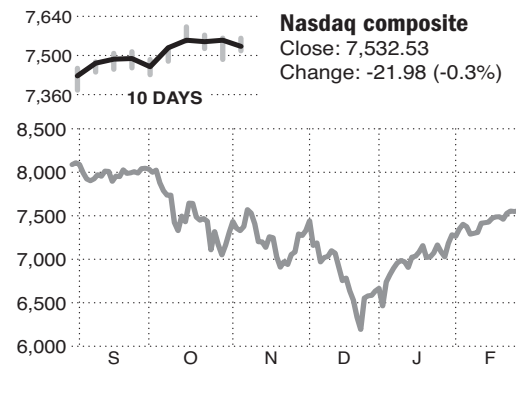
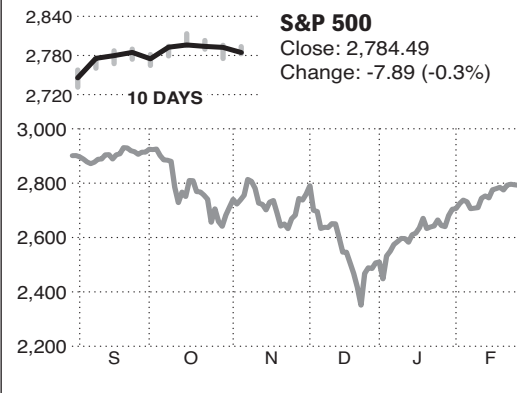
our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com, or call 941-206-1138. You can leave the stock name and symbol on voice mail. If you reach voice mail, please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

Market indicators: DOW 25,916.00 -69.16, NASDAQ 7,532.53 -21.98, S&P 500 2,784.49 -7.89, 10-YR T-NOTE 2.71% +0.02, 30-YR T-BOND 3.08% +0.01, CRUDE OIL \$57.22 +.28, GOLD \$1,312.80 -4.90, EURO \$1.1379 +0.009

Money&Markets

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

Table of stock listings with columns for YTD Name, Last Chg, and various stock symbols and prices.



Stocks Recap table with columns for NYSE, NASD, and various stock categories like Vol. (in mil.), Pvs. Volume, etc.

Main stock listing table with columns for HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD, and various stock symbols.

Continuation of the main stock listing table with various stock symbols and their corresponding prices and changes.

Table of stock listings with columns for various stock symbols and prices, including a section for Stock Footnotes.

Interest rates table with columns for TREASURIES, BONDS, and various interest rate metrics.

Foreign Exchange table with columns for MAJORS, EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST, and various exchange rates.

Commodities table with columns for FUELS, METALS, and various commodity prices.

Table of stock listings with columns for various stock symbols and prices, including a section for Stock Footnotes.



# Researchers are working on a cure for the herpes virus

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** If a person has been exposed (verified by blood test) to herpes 1 and 2, can that person be a blood donor? Could a person catch herpes by sitting on a toilet seat that has been used by an infected person? Are scientists working on a cure for herpes? — Anon.

**ANSWER:** There remains a stigma against people with genital herpes, which is almost always caused by herpes simplex virus type 2. However, most people with genital herpes will not have major disruptions to their lives provided they take some precautions.

First off, a person with herpes simplex virus type 1 (about half of the population between ages 18-49, higher in older people) or HSV-2 (about 12 percent of the same population) certainly can donate blood. Second, being exposed doesn't guarantee infection.



**Dr. Roach**

Third, blood testing is not perfect. Fourth, getting any kind of sexually transmitted infection from a toilet seat is very unlikely. Herpes viruses have a very difficult time getting through intact skin, which is why most exposures come through mucus membranes, especially of the genitals and mouth.

There is a type of herpes (usually HSV-1, occasionally HSV-2) in wrestlers, called herpes gladiatorum or "mat herpes," and it can be

transmitted from person to person through skin-to-skin contact, especially if the skin is raw or chafed.

Once a person has herpes of either variety, there is no cure. The virus stays in the nerve cells. There is extensive work being done both on preventing transmission and curing existing infections, but herpes viruses are very good at escaping the immune system. This makes herpes difficult to treat.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I have recently started transitioning to a plant-based diet for preventative health reasons. While discussing the benefits of nuts and seeds with a dietitian, they had a disclaimer that flax seed can interfere with medications and to eat them two hours before or one hour after taking medications.

I would not sit down and eat a handful of flax seeds, but now I am afraid to use them in the meals

I prepare at all. Can you help me make a good decision in using them? — J.E.

**ANSWER:** For people eating reasonable amounts (like a handful or two) of flax seeds as part of a meal, it is unlikely that they would interfere with medications enough to cause any significant problem, for most medications.

There are two situations that might merit concern: In powerful anti-clotting agents, such as clopidogrel, flax seeds might prompt increased activity. Secondly, flax seeds may lower blood sugar a small amount. In combination with insulin or oral diabetes drugs, the blood sugar could possibly dip lower than expected. I doubt either of these interactions is likely to cause harm, but it is reasonable to discuss with your doctor if you are on one of the classes of medications mentioned.

# 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**

- Dartmouth, for one (7)
- clothes, in old slang (4)
- stone fruits (8)
- without shame (9)
- like Pine Sol, perhaps (6)
- Peter Pan had his sewn on (6)
- restaurant delivery service (7)

**SOLUTIONS**

COL	HED	APR	GE	TS
GS	NY	UB	LE	GRU
MO	DOW	AB	ICO	TO
UN	BH	LE	SHA	AS

Thursday's Answers: 1. MIRING 2. SCOTTIES 3. HOLLOWNESS 4. PROSECUTED 5. SPECTATED 6. CRATER 7. DISREPUTE 3/1

# Boss in love with secretary has issue focusing at work

**DEAR ABBY:** My secretary has worked for me for six years, and I have fallen in love with her. Neither of us is married. There's a couple of problems, however.

The first is, she's half my age. The second, she's a great secretary, and I would never want to do anything to upset her.

I have never done anything as far as making advances toward her or making any type of inappropriate comments. However, I do know I am in love, and I'm finding it harder to concentrate and wonder what to do, which is why I am writing to you. Should I just leave it alone? — Dazed And Confused

**DEAR DAZED:** Conversations that could make a subordinate uncomfortable could put your employment at risk if you are rebuffed. Because I don't know the policies in the company you work for, I'm recommending you err on the side of caution and leave it alone.

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiancé and I are getting married this summer. We are both atheists here in the Bible Belt and come from religious families who will be invited to our small backyard wedding. We



**Dear Abby**

won't be having any prayers or religious readings in our ceremony.

We are concerned about the reception. There is sure to be someone who expects a prayer over the meal and, if there isn't one, will speak up and do it.

I would like to address this issue ahead of time so our wishes are respected. I thought of perhaps including a little note in the invitations asking that any prayers be offered silently. Would that be rude? — Religionless Gathering

**DEAR RELIGIONLESS:** Would it be rude? Yes. Feeling as strongly as your relatives do about religion, your families could feel confused or offended. Because you know someone is likely to want to bless the food, be polite, grin and bear it, and while it's being offered, focus your thoughts on your honeymoon.

# How to help out the planet

**Dear Heloise:** As rising levels of POLLUTION in our air, land and water can adversely affect our health and the health of the planet, what environmentally friendly tips do you recommend? — A Reader in Los Angeles

There are no easy answers, but each of us can start in small ways to make a big impact on the planet:

- \* Reduce, recycle and reuse items.
- \* Treat water as a precious commodity; don't waste it.
- \* Use renewable energy as much as possible.

For more hints on saving the Earth, go to: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov> and



**Hints from Heloise**

[www.savetheearth.org](http://www.savetheearth.org). — Heloise  
**Dear Heloise:** Can vinegar really kill germs? — Pam F., Dillon, S.C.  
 It's been a common disinfectant for several centuries. Researchers found that the acetic acids in vinegar kill bacteria by destroying their cell structure. — Heloise

# WHATZIT?

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



**SOLUTION:** Don't eat between meals

# JUMBLE

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

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

DBEIA

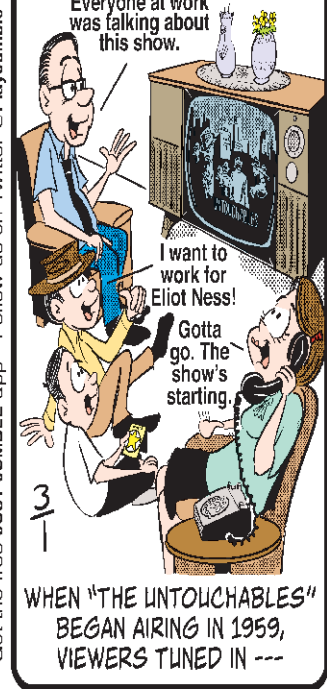
GROEGJ

SLENET

KLUSL

# 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.

(Answers tomorrow)  
 Yesterday's Jumbles: FEVER OBESE SAILOR MOMENT  
 Answer: Between the Baltic and the Mediterranean, they visited sites — FROM "SEE" TO "SEE"

# KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

2÷	3	3-	
	1-		4
1-	3-		6X
	3+		

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**CHALLENGING**

5-	3÷	2÷	120X	
			1-	3+
2-	30X	3		12+
		6+	3+	
2	10+			10+
		2÷	5	

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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**

3-	72X	1-	2	3
4	2	3	1	
1-	2	3	1	4
3	1	4	2	

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# Challenger

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

		7		3-1
	7			33
			8	31
				32
6				30
				34
30	31	32	33	34

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1	1	1	1	4
1	8	8	8	25
1	7	8	9	25
1	9	7	8	25
4	25	24	26	25

Yesterday's Challenger Answers

# MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"A good neighbor knows when to go home."

# Cryptoquip

3-1

XYMHC MD LGTZEYQJ  
 CYMDTLTQJB TJ P LQYBPTJ  
 LMUCHBQY CYMXYPUUTJX  
 ZPJXHPXQ: BGQ ZTBZQ  
 CPWLPZW

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOMORROW WE PLAN TO CAPTURE A BUNCH OF LARGE, FLAT FISH. YES, WE'LL BE CATCHING SOME RAYS.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals C

**WORD SLEUTH • FLUFFY THINGS**

CYWTROLJGEBYWUR  
 PNNKIGDBZXVSQOM  
 KPOWDERPUFFIGEC  
 AYKITTENSWMHSQ  
 PNYLLMAERCJHAWF  
 ECANYEKSEONXIOV  
 USQPNADNHOCMLRF  
 KJHFUENTCBPDLZ  
 YXSNOWBTAVUTOIR  
 QPALNWODEDOMLPK  
 I PCHGCELFPUOSED

Thursday's unlisted clue: PAYTON

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Friday's unlisted clue hint: WHIPPED —

Bunny	Down	Kitten	Powder puff
Clouds	Feathers	Pancakes	Snow
Cotton	Foam	Pillow	Souffle
Dandelion	Hairdo	Popcorn	

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**HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The most frustrating thing is when something doesn't quite work right, but it doesn't work wrong enough to warrant the cost of repair or replacement. Hold on. What you're dealing with isn't broken, just temporarily wonky.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your prize for doing everything right may be simply that you get to keep doing it. Is it worth it? Doing a thing differently to satisfy your own curiosity will be lucky for you.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). No need to agonize about your choices today because there won't be any wrong paths, just paths that get there a little sooner, or paths that don't get "there" at all but go somewhere delightful nonetheless. Enjoy.  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). When you please that one certain person, the rest goes better. Maybe this person has too much power. Or it could be that this is just what works for both of you. The good news is that this person will be easy to please today.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The prize may seem just out of reach, and as uncomfort-

able as this, it's a great sign. One leap, shove or gust of wind is all it will take to bring this to hand, so keep that hand outstretched.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are things you're experiencing that can't be described in words because words are inadequate. And yet, there are parts that can be described, and when you try to do this, you'll gain new insights and understanding.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sweet afterthoughts, door prizes — the add-ons do make a difference. And while the novice finds them frivolous, the expert has counted them as part of the package all along and made it into a surprise.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your ambition is high gear, but the question that keeps coming up is: At what cost? The biggest clue will come from observing the people around you.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You do have an overactive inner critic; it's true. But your inner ambassador also has a lot of energy, as does your inner cheerleader. Pit them against one another if necessary — whatever it takes to do your best work.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're still sorting something out — your feelings, your involvement in a process, what you are and are not willing to do. You don't have to decide all of this in a day and anyone pressuring you has an agenda.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One pop song suggests that "it's too late to apologize..." and yet it never really is. The apology may not hold any sway, but if it's sincere, it shouldn't come with such contingencies in the first place.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). To impact the world, one must first impact the personal. It sounds big, but it's accomplished in all the small actions you take to assume responsibility for yourself.  
**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (March 1). This year features the warrior in you — the part of you willing to work up the courage to take on your fears and obstacles and to fight for those who need you. You'll have a breakthrough in your work that connects you with people you never thought you'd know. Beauty in your home life has to do with far-off influences. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 1, 11 and 45.

Friday, March 1, 2019

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH BOB JONES

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**STEPPING STONE**

East-West vulnerable, South deals

**NORTH**  
 ♠ J 6 4  
 ♥ K 10 6 2  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ A K 7 5 3

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 9 7 3  
 ♥ Q 9 7  
 ♦ Q 10 6 5 2  
 ♣ 8

**EAST**  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ A 5 4 3  
 ♦ J 9 4  
 ♣ J 9 6 4 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A K Q 8 2  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ A K 8 7  
 ♣ Q 10

declarer draw trumps and cash the 10 of clubs, there would be no sure entry to dummy's clubs, as East might have the queen of hearts as well as the ace.  
 Travis captured East's jack of clubs with the queen, cashed the ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond. She then drew trumps in four rounds and cashed her last trump. This was the position:

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Void  
 ♥ K 10  
 ♦ Void  
 ♣ A K 7

**WEST**  
 ♠ Void  
 ♥ Q 9  
 ♦ Q 10 6  
 ♣ Void

**EAST**  
 ♠ Void  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ Void  
 ♣ 9 6 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Void  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ K 8  
 ♣ 10

The bidding:  
**SOUTH** 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 4♠ Pass 5♠ Pass 6♠ All pass  
**WEST** Pass Pass Pass Pass  
**NORTH** 2♣ Pass 4♠ Pass 5♠ Pass  
**EAST** Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♣

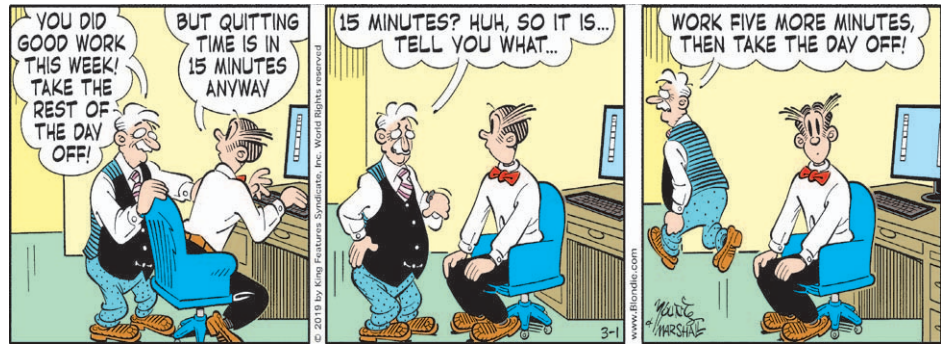
South in today's deal was Barbara Travis, one of Australia's leading players. Travis recognized the opening lead in dummy's suit as an obvious singleton. She also reasoned that East held the ace of hearts. Why would West lead a singleton in dummy's suit if she held that ace? Partner wouldn't be able to gain the lead and give her a club ruff. Should

She cashed the king of diamonds discarding the 10 of hearts from dummy. East was forced to shed his low heart. Travis then cashed the 10 of clubs and led a heart to dummy's king and East's ace, using East as a stepping stone to get to the ace-king of clubs. Well played!

**BORN LOSER** By Art and Chip Sansom



**BLONDIE** By Dean Young and John Marshall



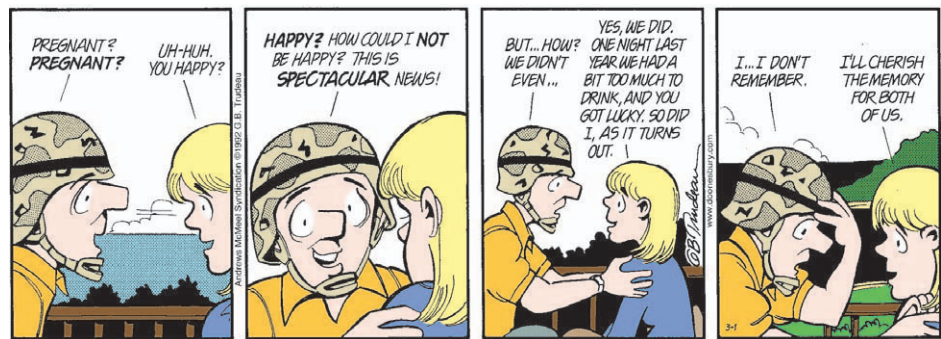
**MUTTS** By Patrick McDonnell



**BABY BLUES** By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



**DOONSBURY** By Garry Trudeau



**TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Catches a crook
  - 5 Jane Austen title
  - 9 Cuzco locale
  - 13 Dairy-case buy
  - 14 False witnesses
  - 16 Home of Iowa State
  - 17 Letter preceding kappa
  - 18 Computer-chip maker
  - 19 Roman's IX
  - 20 Esteems
  - 22 Eloquent speaker
  - 24 Garden bloom
  - 25 Tinned meat
  - 26 Make trouble
  - 29 Toaster pastries (hyph.)
  - 33 Love in Italy
  - 34 Antidote
  - 35 Dried-up
  - 36 Midwest st.
  - 37 Having weapons
  - 38 Yes in Yokohama
  - 39 Comes out even
  - 41 Flics
  - 42 — link fence
  - 44 Bromine and chlorine
  - 46 Suitable for two persons
- DOWN**
- 1 Roulette color
  - 2 Lotion additive
  - 3 Wagers
  - 4 Sudsier
  - 5 Bring forth
  - 6 Makes coins
  - 7 Tumblers' pads
  - 8 How — things?
  - 9 Straw hats
  - 10 Discharge
  - 11 Las Vegas rival
  - 12 Spreadsheet worker
  - 15 Splashed out
  - 21 Ocean flier
  - 23 Lab denizen
  - 25 Blisters
  - 26 Trust

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

DULL	PHASE	DART
AREA	RACER	ELIA
BAGS	ENTER	CAMO
SLOSHED	DALLIES	
IAN	TIA	
LABELLED	CUBICAL	
AWLS	DENIM	MENU
DOE	KEG	COB
EKED	METAL	AIDE
DEPOSED	RUSTLES	
DOM	SIL	
GARGLED	ATTACHE	
OBOE	NOISE	ROOT
YEAR	TONER	GOWN
ATMS	ORCAS	ELLA

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- 27 "— vincit amor"
- 28 Cover girl
- 29 Ladies' shoes
- 30 Fixed-up building
- 31 Path
- 32 Fishing net
- 34 Sidekick
- 37 Spot remover
- 40 League
- 42 Unfeeling
- 43 Manage with economy
- 45 Rickey ingredient
- 46 Heavy-duty engine
- 48 Condor nest
- 49 Extinct bird
- 50 Scent
- 51 Factory
- 52 Cost of a taxi ride
- 53 Assert positively
- 54 Deep
- 55 Door handle
- 58 Startled cry

**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).

Rating: SILVER

5			3	1		9		
		2	1				7	3
	1			2		6		4
	8					9		
			2	8				
		1					4	
1	7		5				6	
8	6			3	2			
9	3		6					7

Solution to 2/28/19

5	7	8	3	6	4	2	9	1
2	4	1	8	5	9	3	6	7
3	9	6	7	2	1	8	4	5
8	5	2	6	4	3	1	7	9
9	1	4	5	7	8	6	3	2
7	6	3	9	1	2	4	5	8
1	3	5	2	9	6	7	8	4
6	2	7	4	8	5	9	1	3
4	8	9	1	3	7	5	2	6

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**WORDY GURDY**®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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.

- Sweet potato con game (1)
- Desire a baptismal basin (1)
- Casts fault on Iowa State city (1)
- Tango-induced hypnotic state (1)
- United Way uncommon occurrence (3)
- Finger joint belt clasp (2)
- Damp, marshy areas' pony types (2)

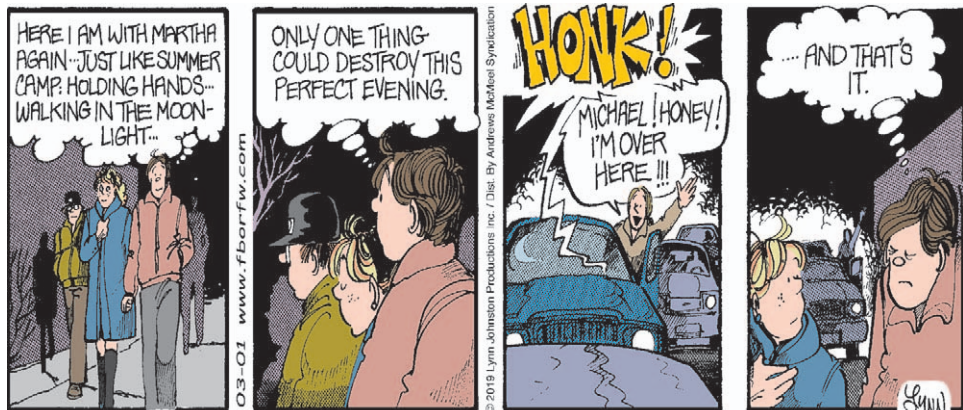
ANSWERS  
 1. YAM SCAM 2. WANT FONT 3. BLAMES AMES 4. DANCE FRANCE 5. CHARITY RARITY 6. KNUCKLE BUCKLE 7. WETLANDS SHELANDS

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14			15		16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22	23				
				24					25					
26	27	28					29				30	31	32	
33						34					35			
36						37						38		
39			40			41				42	43			
44						45				46				
						47				48				
49	50	51						52				53	54	55
56							57	58				59		
60							61					62		
63										64			65	

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

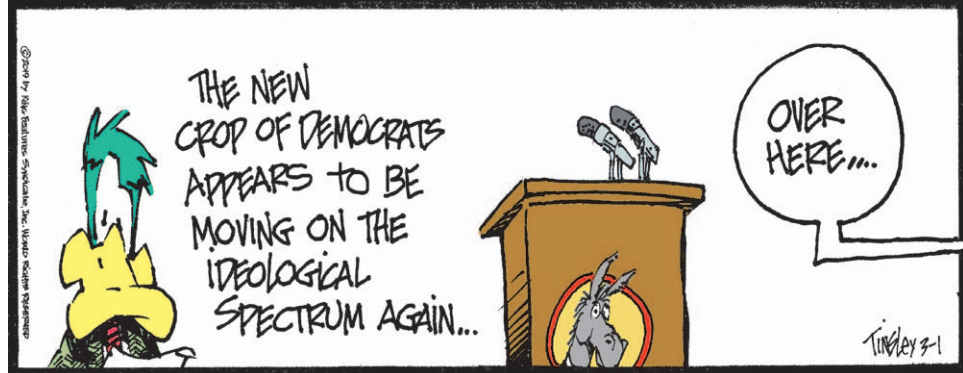
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



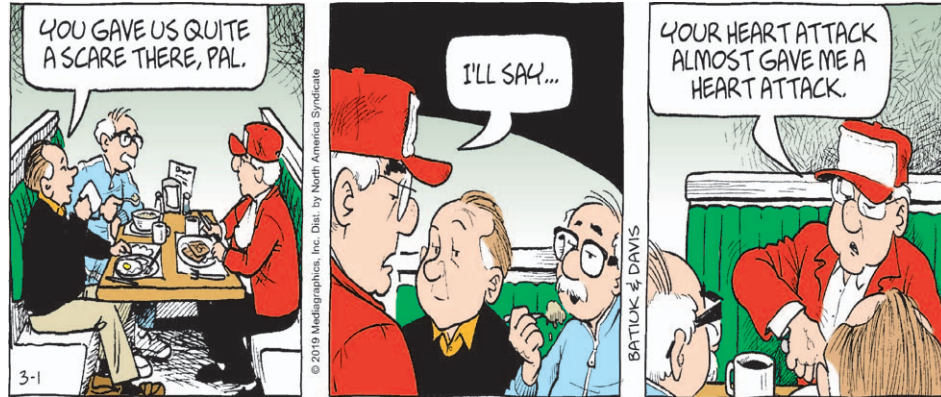
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



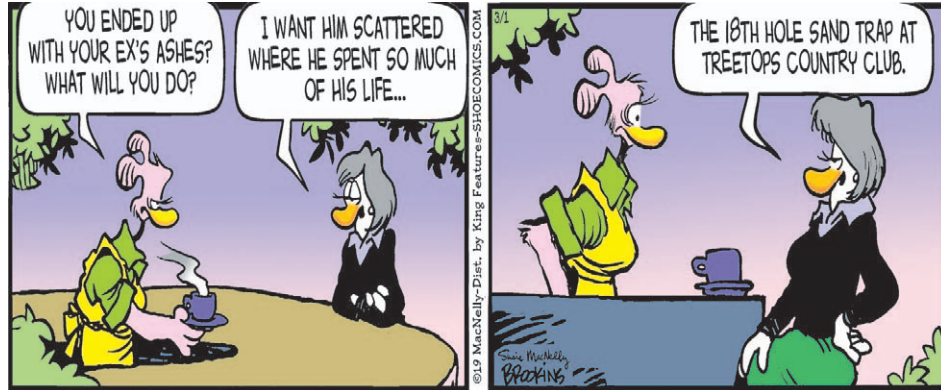
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



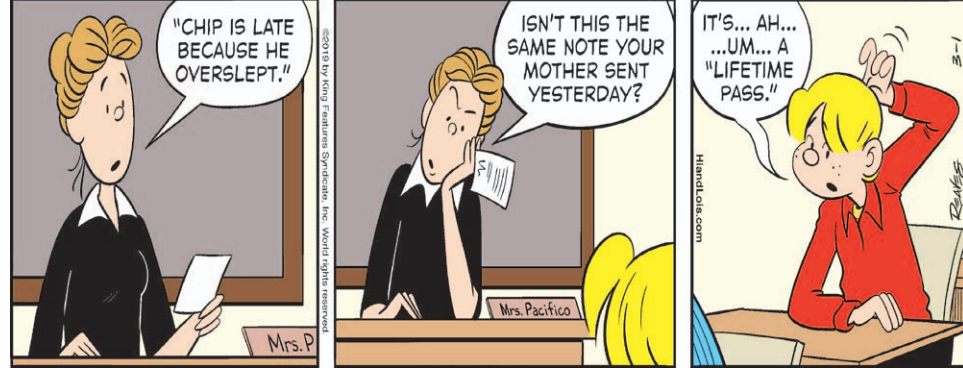
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



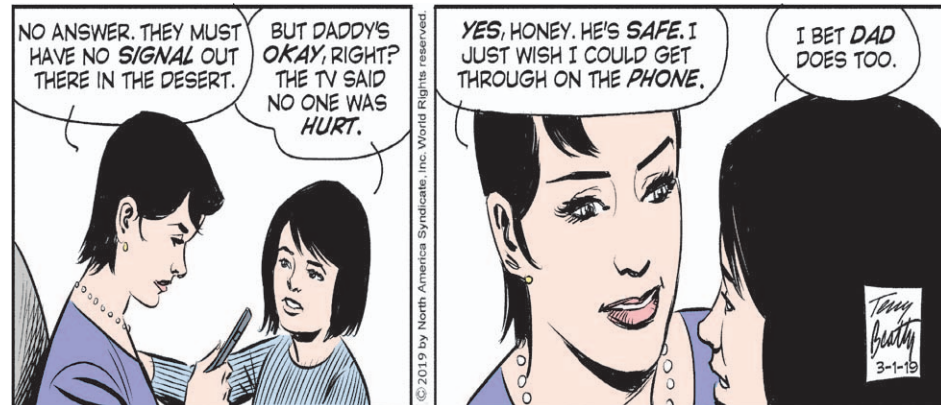
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



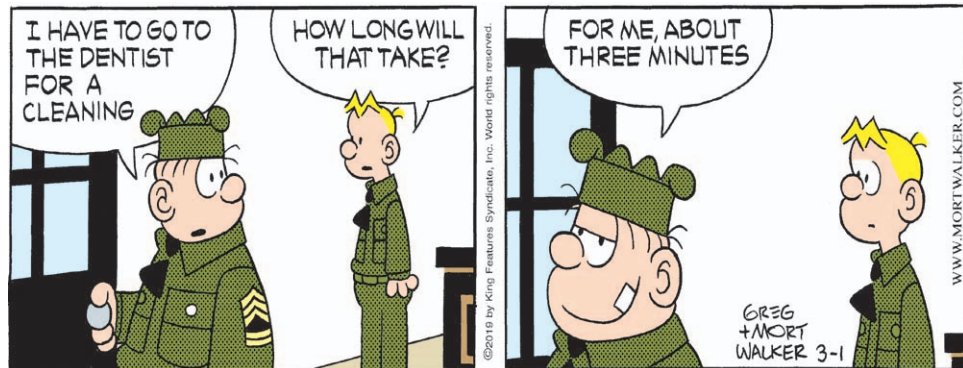
HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



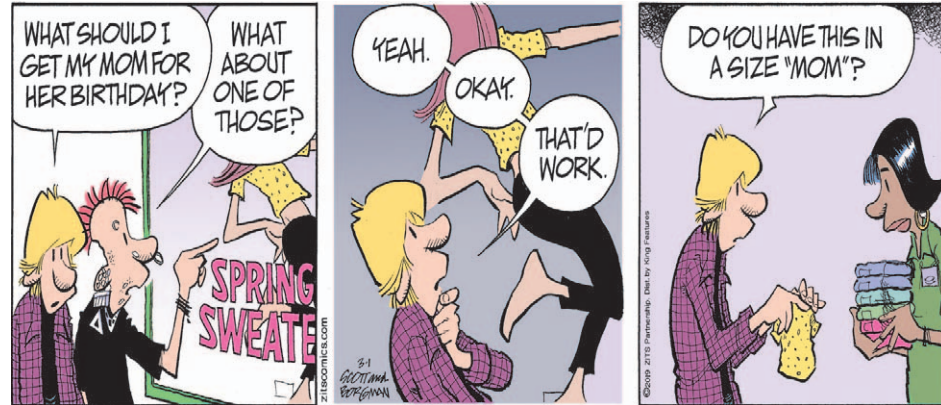
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



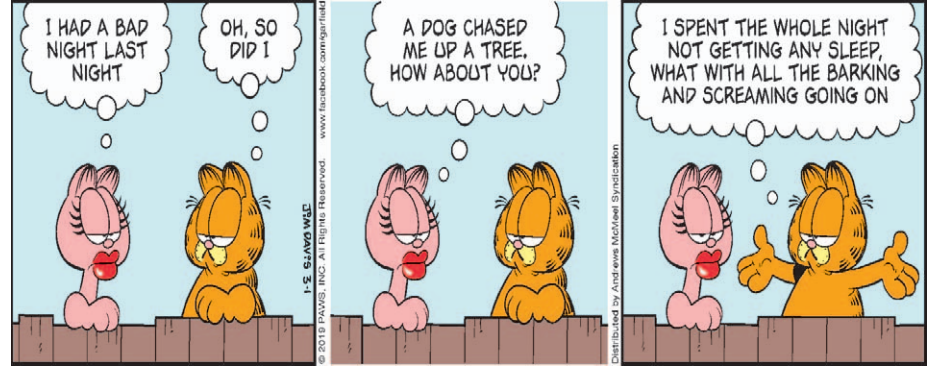
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



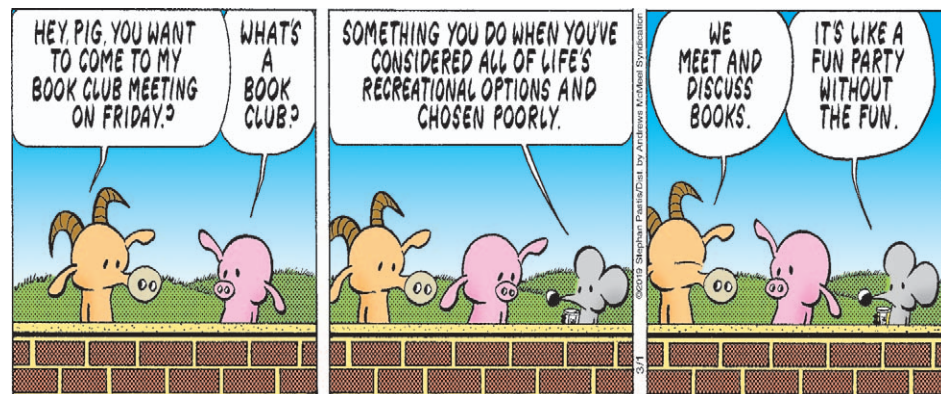
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



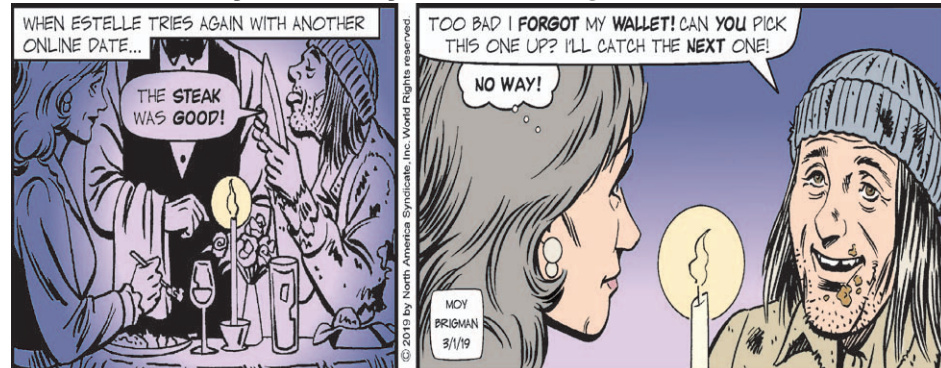
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



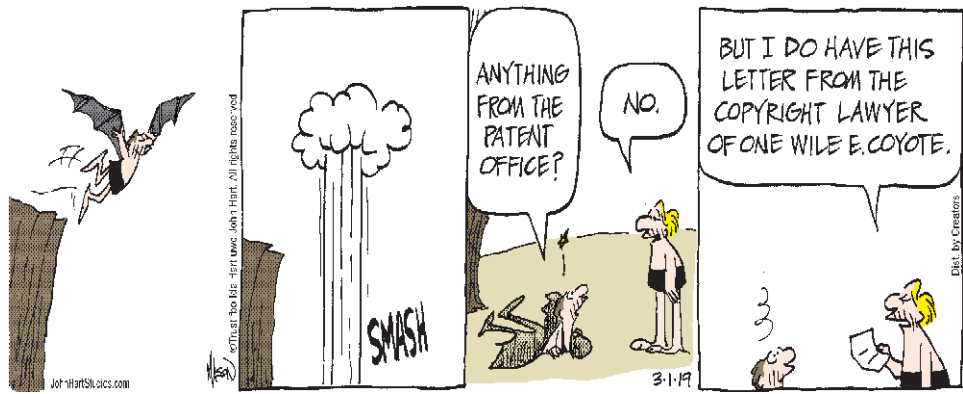
PICKLES By Brian Crane



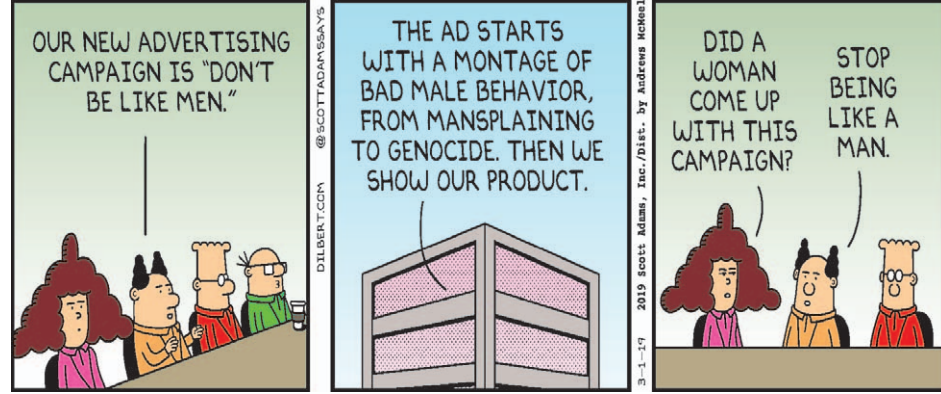
MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



DILBERT By Scott Adams



## WALK

FROM PAGE 1

"We were hoping we could take another big swing when the two leaders got together," he told reporters as he flew from Vietnam to the Philippines after the summit collapsed. "We did. We made some progress. But we didn't get as far as we would have hoped we would have gotten."

Pompeo noted that "when you are dealing with a country that is of the

nature of North Korea, it is often the case that only the most senior leaders have the capacity to make those important decisions."

Echoing the refrain that "no deal is better than a bad deal" — often used during the Obama administration by critics of its Iran negotiations — there was relief in some quarters that the president had not impulsively agreed to concessions without much in return.

"Kudos to him for walking away from the table," said Jonathan Schanzer

of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think-tank that has been highly skeptical of Trump's efforts with Kim Jong Un. "No deal is, in fact, better than a bad deal."

And White House aides stressed that Trump stood strong. Some observers evoked the 1987 Reykjavik summit between Ronald Reagan and the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev, a meeting that ended without a nuclear weapons deal but laid the groundwork for a

future agreement.

Long-standing U.S. policy insists that American sanctions on North Korea will not be lifted until that country commits to, if not concludes, a complete, verifiable and irreversible end to its nuclear weapons program.

Trump, who did not consult with allies South Korea and Japan before breaking off the talks, declined to restate that goal Thursday, saying he wanted to retain flexibility with Kim.

But North Korea's

foreign minister, in a rare news conference, said that Trump wasted an opportunity that "may not come again" and that the North's position wouldn't change even if there was another round of dialogue.

The failure in Hanoi laid bare a risk in Trump's negotiating style: Preferring one-on-one meetings with his foreign counterparts, his administration doesn't always do the staff-level advance work intended to make a summit more of a victory lap than a negotiation.

## DISAGREE

FROM PAGE 1

Instead, Trump focused on U.S. military might and offered a broad warning to U.S. enemies.

"America does not seek conflict, but if we are forced to defend ourselves we will fight and we will win in an overwhelming fashion," he declared.

Earlier on Thursday in Hanoi, Trump had told reporters the North had demanded a full removal of sanctions in exchange for shutting the Yongbyon nuclear facility. Trump said that there had been a proposed agreement "ready to be signed."

However, he said after the summit was cut short, "Sometimes you have to walk."

The demise of the talks came after Trump and Kim had appeared ready to inch toward normalizing relations between their still technically



AP PHOTO

President Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Thursday, in Hanoi.

warring nations.

The American leader had dampened expectations that the negotiations would yield an agreement by North Korea to take concrete steps toward ending a nuclear program that Pyongyang likely sees

as its strongest security guarantee. However, Kim, when asked whether he was ready to denuclearize, had said, "If I'm not willing to do that I won't be here right now."

But hours after both nations had seemed hopeful of a deal of some

kind, the two leaders' motorcades roared away from the downtown Hanoi summit site within minutes of each other, lunch canceled and signing ceremony scuttled. The president's closing news conference was hurriedly moved

up, and he departed for Washington more than two hours ahead of schedule.

The breakdown denied Trump a much-needed triumph amid growing political turmoil back home and the path forward now appears uncertain. Trump insisted his relations with Kim remain warm, but he did not commit to having a third summit with the North Korean leader, saying a possible next meeting "may not be for a long time."

Ri's comments reflected the North Koreans' disappointment, though there was a notable absence of bluster or threats by either side.

Both Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said significant progress had been made in Hanoi, but the two sides appeared to be galaxies apart on an agreement that would live up to stated American goals.

## FLORIDA

FROM PAGE 1

"You have people trying different things all over the state, all over the nation. Some are working, some are not," she said. "You want to make sure that once we can pinpoint something that's having a dramatic effect on the death toll, that we can use economy of scale and the structures we have set up throughout Florida to push that out in an efficient way."

Moody also wants lawmakers to increase the amount of money authorized to pay for forensic examinations after sexual assaults. The state now allows up to \$500 payment for the exams.

"It actually costs over twice that, so we're asking for permission to be able to use our funds that we already have ... to pay for those," she said.

She also wants a bill allowing state-paid mental health counseling for 15- through 17-year-old victims of lewd acts.

"We have the authority to do so for younger children and we just want to expand that definition," Moody said.

### Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried

Fried's top priority is helping the timber industry recover from Hurricane Michael. The industry took a \$1.3 billion hit from the October storm and many of the millions of downed trees still need to be removed.

"The timber industry has been decimated. To see a farmer have his entire life savings on the



AP PHOTO

In this Jan. 30 photo, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody speaks at a pre-legislative news conference, in Tallahassee.

ground and no opportunity to make it better is heartbreaking," Fried said.

She's asking for \$39 million to help clear fallen trees, replant new ones and for helicopters to prepare for what's expected to be an active wildfire season because of the downed trees and debris.

"We're going to get to the dry season and fires are going to start," she said. "Our helicopters right now are older than the ones that are in the Vietnam (War) museum and are no longer really safe for our guys to be up there monitoring."

Fried said her second priority is strengthening the department's consumer services operations.

"We hear reports all the time of different fraud that's happening, whether it's travel agents, whether

it's nonprofit organizations, the skimmers in the gas station pumps to car wash places, payday loan lenders," she said. "One of our agency bills will talk about different types of consumer services and beefing up the penalties."

She also is making a budget request to add 77 new employees to the division that issues concealed weapons permits and licenses for armed private investigators and security guards. Her predecessor was criticized for problems with improperly issued licenses. She said one reason is because the department lacks enough full-time staff to process them.

### Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis

Patronis' top priority is providing firefighters with

cancer benefits, including full cost of treatment, a \$25,000 payout, disability pay and death benefits for beneficiaries.

"Seventy percent of our firefighters' in line of duty deaths are cancer related. It's just a huge, obscene number," Patronis said. "We've got to create a solution ... to help offset their expenses, their deductibles and their lost wages while they get treatment."

Patronis also is seeking a way to cut down on the number of insurance-related lawsuits following hurricanes. He says the problem occurs when homeowners sign over insurance benefits to contractors before getting in touch with their insurance companies and then the contractors sue to collect payment. He said thousands of lawsuits were filed in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

Patronis said contractors immediately swooped into the Panama City area after Michael while internet and cellphone services were down and had homeowners sign assignment of benefits agreements before they were able to contact their insurance companies.

"They were staged prior to the storm better than Verizon Wireless. These guys were everywhere prepared to hit the ground running to sign people up," Patronis said. "The assignment of benefits process has a purpose, but it's being exploited and perverted for a use that it was never, ever intended."

One bill he's seeking would only allow reimbursement of attorney fees for people named on insurance policies, which would make assignment of benefits agreements less attractive for contractors.

Patronis also wants to crack down on scams to replace windshields. He's working with lawmakers to pass a bill that would prohibit auto repair shops or their employees from offering anything of value to entice people to make an insurance claim for windshield replacements.

He said car owners are often offered gift cards to agree to a windshield inspection, the windshield is replaced and insurance companies are billed, often leading to lawsuits.

"The insurance carry will say, 'Where's the broken windshield?' 'It's in the dumpster.' There's no evidence to draw from," Patronis said. "Ultimately it will drive rates up. It's unethical."

## COHEN

FROM PAGE 1

were able to "drill down in great detail" on issues they are investigating. Schiff said the committee will also hear from Felix Sater, a Russia-born executive who worked with Cohen on an ultimately unsuccessful deal to build a Trump Tower

in Moscow, in an open hearing March 14.

Cohen, who pleaded guilty last year to lying to Congress about the Moscow real estate project and reports to prison soon for a three-year sentence, gave harsh testimony about Trump on Wednesday. He said Trump knew in advance that damaging emails about Democrat Hillary

Clinton would be released during the 2016 campaign — a claim the president has denied — and accused Trump of lying during the 2016 campaign about the Moscow deal.

Cohen also said Trump directed him to arrange a hush money payment to a porn actress who said she had sex with the president a decade earlier. He said the president arranged

to reimburse Cohen, and Cohen brought to the hearing a check that he said was proof of the transaction.

Two of Trump's most vocal defenders, GOP Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Mark Meadows of North Carolina, sent a referral to the Justice Department alleging Cohen lied in his testimony. Their letter to Attorney General William

Barr details several Cohen statements they said were false, including claims that he "never defrauded any bank" and did not want a job in Trump's White House.

They pointed to Cohen's guilty plea for making false statements to a banking institution and to court filings that say Cohen told friends he wanted a White House job.

## ALMANAC

Today is **Friday, March 1**, the 60th day of 2019. There are 305 days left in the year.

### Today in history

On **March 1, 1932**, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

### On this date

In **1781**, the Continental Congress declared the Articles of Confederation to be in force, following ratification by Maryland.

In **1790**, President George Washington signed a measure authorizing the first United States Census. (Census Day was Aug. 2, 1790.)

In **1867**, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

In **1893**, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.

In **1954**, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress. The United States detonated a dry-fuel hydrogen bomb, codenamed Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In **1961**, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

In **1966**, the Soviet space probe Venera 3 impacted the surface of Venus, becoming the first spacecraft to reach another planet; however, Venera was unable to transmit any data, its communications system having failed.

In **1971**, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In **1974**, seven people, including former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, were indicted on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate break-in. (These four defendants were convicted in Jan. 1975, although Mardian's conviction was later reversed.)

In **1981**, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

In **1990**, the controversial Seabrook, New Hampshire, nuclear power plant won federal permission to go on line after two decades of protests and legal struggles.

In **2014**, Russian troops took over Crimea as the parliament in Moscow gave President Vladimir Putin a green light to use the military to protect Russian interests in Ukraine.

### Today's birthdays

Actor Robert Clary is 93. Actor Robert Conrad is 84. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 75. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 75. Actor Dirk Benedict is 74. Actor-director Ron Howard is 65. Actress Catherine Bach is 64. Actor Tim Daly is 63. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 62. Rock musician Bill Leen is 57. Actor Bryan Batt is 56. Actor Maurice Bernard is 56. Actor Russell Wong is 56. Actor Chris Eigeman is 54. Actor John David Cullum is 53. Actor George Eads is 52. Actor Javier Bardem is 50. Actor Jack Davenport is 46. Rock musician Ryan Peake (Nickelback) is 46. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 45. Singer Tate Stevens is 44. Actor Jensen Ackles is 41. Rock musician Sean Woolstenhulme is 38. Actor Joe Tippett is 37. Actress Lupita Nyong'o is 36. Pop singer Keshia (formerly Ke\$ha) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sammie is 32.

### Bible verse

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven," — **Psalms 119:89**.

*The Word of God has been proof-read in Heaven, and its promises ready for everyone on earth. Read and believe: He will not go back on His word.*



## Witten returns

Cowboys sign tight end, franchise leader in receptions to one-year, \$5 million deal after a year away from the game as a broadcaster. See the story on page 6.

Friday, March 1, 2019

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### COMMENTARY

# Here's why Bucs should trade Pierre-Paul

Defensive end was one of the best in NFL in sacking QBs in 2018, but unlikely to repeat



TAMPA BAY TIMES PHOTO

Last year, the Bucs traded a third-round pick for Jason Pierre-Paul, who had the third best rate of converting quarterback pressure to sacks in the NFL in 2018. He was 12th in the league in sacks. Tampa Bay Times writer Thomas Bassinger says Pierre-Paul is unlikely to repeat that effort and should be traded.

By **THOMAS BASSINGER**  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

About this time last year, Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht picked up the phone.

"Hi, Dave. Is JPP available?"

Dave Gettleman, the New York Giants general manager, paused.

"I have to think about that."

Of course Gettleman was going to think about it. The Giants needed to clear cap space, not only in 2018 but also in 2019. Plus, their new defensive coordinator, a former

assistant under Bruce Arians in Arizona, was switching to a scheme that would feature 3-4 fronts. Jason Pierre-Paul had never played in a 3-4 defense since entering the NFL in 2010.

After about three weeks of talks, Licht and Gettleman had a breakthrough. Gettleman agreed to trade Pierre-Paul to the Bucs. Tampa Bay picked up the defensive end's backloaded contract, and sent New York a third-round draft pick for the privilege.

Pierre-Paul had a solid 2018 campaign, becoming the first Bucs

player since Simeon Rice in 2005 to record at least 10 sacks in a season. His play, however, did not transform the defense like Licht had hoped that it would. Tampa Bay generated more pressure against quarterbacks but at only a slightly higher rate. It improved from last in 2017 to second-to-last in 2018, according to Sports Info Solutions.

Now, the 2019 Bucs are in a similar position to the 2018 Giants. They have limited cap space, a new defensive coordinator (handpicked by Arians) and a high-priced defensive end who might

not be an every-down player in the new scheme.

That is why Licht should do what Gettleman did. He should do what he has been reluctant to do in the past: Sell high. He should trade Pierre-Paul.

To be sure, there's a lot to like about Pierre-Paul. He's a name, someone the Bucs can put on billboards or in season-ticket email solicitations. He's a good story, a resilient player who bounced back after a fireworks accident threatened his career. He's a leader, the

BUCS | 6

### SPRING TRAINING: Rays 1, Twins 0

# Snell returns to Port Charlotte as ace, Cy Young Award winner

Southpaw threw 16 pitches, scoreless inning in spring debut

By **JOHN VITTAS**

SUN CORRESPONDENT

PORT CHARLOTTE — Blake Snell climbed a familiar pitcher's mound Thursday, but with an unfamiliar title.

For the first time, Snell pitched in a Major League game as a Cy Young Award winner.

"No difference," Snell said about pitching with his new title. "I don't look at awards or anything like that. I was definitely excited to go through it and feel the way I felt. I felt good. I was excited about just getting back on the mound. I was happy with how I was mentally. I was very locked in."

Snell threw 16 pitches over one scoreless inning in the Rays' 1-0 win over Minnesota. He issued a one-out walk to Jonathan Schoop before striking out Lucas Duda and C.J. Cron swinging on curveballs.

"Cron and Duda are very good hitters, but



SUN PHOTO BY TOM O'NEILL

**RAYS | 3** Rays pitcher Blake Snell struck out two, allowed no hits and one walk in a 16-pitch scoreless inning for his Spring Training debut in Port Charlotte, Thursday, in a 1-0 win over the Twins.

### NFL

# Murray measures up at combine

Heisman Trophy winner erases some doubts about size

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyler Murray may not show off his arm or his legs at the NFL scouting combine, but on Thursday he assuaged colossal concerns about his size.

The Heisman Trophy-winning dual-threat quarterback and speedy outfielder from the University of Oklahoma checked in at just over 5-foot-10 and 207 pounds with a hand size, as measured from his pinkie to his thumb, of 9½ inches.

"I don't know why people think Kyler is 5-8," said running back Rodney Anderson, Murray's college teammate and fellow NFL hopeful. "I don't know where that came from. I'm 6-foot — I look small next to our offensive line. Anybody is going to look small next to our offensive line."

"He's a solid 5-10, he's heavy, he's fast. He's a heck of an athlete. His size was never an issue."

And now it's less of one for many NFL teams.

Although he's the shortest quarterback measured at the combine since 2003, those numbers were welcome news for Murray, the executives and coaches gathered in Indianapolis and fans wondering how his size would affect his draft stock.

"Quarterbacks come in all shapes and sizes," New York Giants coach Pat Shurmur said.

Murray compares favorably to Wilson in 2012 and Baker Mayfield, last year's top overall draft pick. Murray is a half-inch shorter but 3 pounds heavier than Wilson, and his hand is a quarter-inch larger than Mayfield's.

Murray's measurements might be his most significant results at the combine because he is not expected to throw or compete in any other quarterback drills at Lucas Oil Stadium this week.

After signing a contract with a \$4.66 million signing bonus

as the ninth overall pick in June by baseball's Oakland Athletics, Murray led Oklahoma to the College Football Playoff in his only season as the starter while posting the second-best passer efficiency rating in Bowl Subdivision history.

Before throwing for 4,361 yards and 42 touchdowns and running for 1,001 yards and 12 scores, Murray's only extensive college experience was a rough freshman season at Texas A&M in 2015. After transferring to Oklahoma, he was the backup to Mayfield.

Murray announced a few weeks ago he was choosing the gridiron over the diamond.

How much Murray's size will factor into his success in the NFL is a matter of great speculation.

"I think it's been proven to not be as much of a factor as maybe it was years ago," Los Angeles Raiders coach Jon Gruden said. "I don't know that it's a true impact on the position or the performance."

### MLB



AP PHOTO

Former Washington Nationals Bryce Harper outfielder reacts to winning the Home Run Derby this past summer. Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a \$330 million, 13-year contract, the largest deal in baseball history.

# Harper, Phillies agree to \$330M, 13-year deal

Record contract for 26-year-old All-Star caps team's winter shopping spree

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — It took a long time and a lot of money, but the Philadelphia Phillies finally landed Bryce Harper with a record contract.

The young star outfielder and the Phillies agreed Thursday to a \$330 million, 13-year contract, the largest deal in baseball history.

Harper's agent, California-based Scott Boras, said the deal was agreed to at 10:34 a.m. PST, subject to a successful physical.

Phillies manager Gabe Kapler and his players learned of the agreement from fans behind Philadelphia's dugout who saw media reports on their mobile devices during a spring training game in Clearwater, Florida.

"If the reports are true, it's a huge moment for our baseball team," Kapler said. "Certainly I think that the city of Philadelphia will embrace Bryce Harper. I think he would be very

happy in this city because our fans care deeply about winning."

A 26-year-old All-Star who had spent his entire big league career with the Washington Nationals, Harper topped the \$325 million, 13-year agreement outfielder Giancarlo Stanton reached before the 2015 season with the Miami Marlins.

"Harper's goal was he wanted the largest contract and he wanted his value," Boras said. "He wanted the largest length he could get because he really wanted to stay in one city and one uniform, wanted to get a ballpark he hit well in, saw the ball well."

Harper has a .279 career average with 184 homers and 521 RBIs, including a .268 average with 14 homers, 32 RBIs and a .930 OPS in 47 games at Citizens Bank Park. He likely would hit third or fourth, according to Kapler.

"We get a whole lot better on the field," the manager said.

HARPER | 6



■ PREP BASEBALL: North Port 2, Port Charlotte 0

# Corso, Long combine on five-hit shutout of Pirates

Corso provides boost from the plate as well by walking twice and scoring for Bobcats

By **BRUCE ROBINS**  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

PORT CHARLOTTE — Brandon Corso and Brandon Long combined on a five hit shutout as North Port blanked Port Charlotte, 2-0, in a non-district baseball game Thursday night.

Corso pitched the first five innings, allowing only two hits, while the sophomore Long came on and set down the Pirates in order in the sixth before running into a bit of trouble in the seventh. Port Charlotte put runners at the corners with two outs, but Long got Damian Ashley to fly

out to center to end the game. “Port Charlotte showed a lot of fight there,” Bobcat coach Miles Mayer said. “That’s how you want the ball game to be, you want it to be a battle. And our guys stuck in there and held their own, so hat’s off to those guys.”

“We should have made it interesting the whole game,” Pirate coach Rodney Taylor said. “It’s kind of hard to come out and score runs when you don’t swing the bat. We were not very aggressive at the plate, not the way we have been in the last few games. There’s nothing we can really do without baserunners. We

put a little threat on there at the end, but the ball went their way. We had a couple of hard hit balls, and they made plays on them. Their starting pitcher did a great job and they got hits when they needed them.”

Both Bobcat runs were unearned off Pirate starter Tyler Zylstra. In the first inning, Corso led off with a walk, was sacrificed to second, moved to third on a passed ball, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Alex Partridge.

In the fourth, Cameron Carpenter reached on a dropped popup. After a force out at second, Zylstra walked Lazaro Salazar, Corso, and

Jayson Zmejkoski to force in the second run.

Port Charlotte got a break in the top of the seventh when Trace Christmas tripled to right to score Partridge from first, but the Pirates appealed and the umpires ruled that Partridge had missed third base.

But the Pirates couldn’t capitalize on a night where the Bobcats pitching dominated. “Corso did a heck of a job,” Mayer said. “He did everything and more to what we were hoping for him to do. He kept them off balance, which was great. And then for Brandon Long to come in as a young

guy for his first appearance this year in a tough situation, to hold his own, it was good to see.”

North Port (2-0) will host Hardee on Friday night. Port Charlotte (1-2) is off until Tuesday when the Pirates will travel to Cape Coral for their first district game of the season.

**North Port 1001000 — 2 6 1**  
**Port Charlotte 0000000 — 0 5 2**  
WP — Brandon Corso. LP -Tyler Zylstra  
Leading hitters: Trace Christmas (NP) 2-3, 3B; Kyle Yeager (NP) 2-3.

## LOCAL PREP BRIEFS

# Indians start defense of state title with shutout

### BASEBALL

#### Venice 4, Palmetto 0

Venice pitcher Orion Kerkering allowed two runners to reach base in the first inning on an error and a single, but that’s just about all he would surrender to Palmetto on Thursday night.

Over the next four innings, Kerkering would strike out eight batters and allow just one more batter to reach base — on a walk — as he cruised through the Tigers lineup in Venice’s 4-0 win at Palmetto High School

“Kerkering overpowers a lot of teams,” Venice coach Craig Faulkner said.

“He throws in the 90s and he’s got his hammer. He struggled a little bit early, but when he gets it on, he is dealing. I think at one point we struck out eight guys in a row between Kerkering and the sidearm

guys.

“We have tough pitching. Our goal is to be really strong defensively and to dominate on the mound.”

Following two straight days of cancelled games due to impending rain, Venice (1-0) finally opened its season against Palmetto on Thursday in typical Indians fashion.

Using a run in the first inning off a sacrifice fly from Mac Guscette and a run off a sacrifice bunt from Ryan Marti in the fourth inning to build a lead.

After wearing down the Palmetto pitching staff, Venice broke through for a three-hit seventh inning in which it added two more runs to its lead.

However, the insurance runs would hardly be necessary as sidearm relievers Jacob Faulkner and Clay Callan came on to throw perfect innings

— striking out the side in the sixth and seventh innings.

With the win, the Indians will make a quick turnaround as they travel up to play Cardinal Mooney today at 4 p.m.

### TENNIS

#### Lemon Bay girls 5, Bayshore 2

The Lady Mantas moved to 3-1 on the year after their win over Bayshore (2-3).

In singles, Lemon Bay’s Jordan Shirley won 6-1, 6-4, Marie L’Abbe won 2-6, 6-4 (10-8), and Elizabeth Schum won 6-0, 6-1.

The teams split the doubles matches with the Lemon Bay duo of Shirley and L’Abbe winning 8-2.

Lemon Bay plays next at Charlotte on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

#### Lemon Bay boys 6, Bayshore 1

The Mantas got a decisive

win to move to 4-0 on the young season.

In singles, Josjua Hutcherson won 6-2, 6-2 and Matthew Hutcherson won 6-0, 6-1. The rest of Lemon Bay’s points came via forfeit.

Lemon Bay will play next at Charlotte on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

### SOFTBALL

#### Lemon Bay 10, Southeast 0 (5 inn.)

The Lady Mantas (3-1) got the perfect mix of pitching and offense in a shutout over Southeast.

Starting with the pitching, freshman Ella Kraszewski pitched a complete game, allowing just one hit and a walk with eight strikeouts to earn the win.

The Lady Mantas drove in two runs on back-to-back at plate appearances in the first

inning. Christain Chandler drove in Leanna Kelly from third on a single and Karlie Sweiderk drove in another with a single.

The Mantas piled on four more runs in the third inning. Sweiderk drove in another, followed by an RBI double by Kraszewski and an RBI single from Sarah Hamsher. Hamsher later scored on an error to make it 6-0.

Getting RBIs were Grossenbacher (2), Chandler (2), Sweiderk (2), Kraszewski (1) and Hamsher (1).

### GIRLS LACROSSE

#### Fort Myers 13, Port Charlotte 5

Brooke Ollerenshaw scored three goals and an assist for the Lady Pirates. Shaelyn Taylor scored two. The Lady Pirates play again on Monday against Cape Coral.

## RAYS

### FROM PAGE 1

they don’t expect stuff to be that sharp during spring,” Snell said. “I didn’t expect it. That was the best the curveball looked all spring.”

Even though Snell was happy with his curveball, he found plenty of other points to knit-pick about in his first outing of 2019.

“I was upset with the four-pitch walk to Schoop,” said Snell. “It’s just lack of concentration, lack of execution. That was pretty frustrating for me. The fastball command needs to get better and I need to throw more strikes.”

It’s the self-criticism and perfectionism in an exhibition game that’s allowed Snell to reach the pinnacle of the sport. He was scheduled to start the second inning, but said that he and pitching coach Kyle Snyder were satisfied with his one inning and decided to call it a night.

#### Yarbrough exits, others get healthy, versatile

Both Rays position players dealing with minor injuries received good reports on Thursday. Matt Duffy made his Grapefruit League debut at third base after missing the first six games with a hamstring tweak.

He was tested on the first pitch of the game, handling an Ehire Adrianza ground ball flawlessly. Duffy played five innings, finishing 0-for-2 while making two defensive plays at third base.

“It was good to be back out there,” Duffy said. “It felt fine. Overall, I was happy with how it went. I’ll continue to ramp it up from here.”

Ji-Man Choi reported back tightness early in camp, but will return to the Rays lineup Friday when Tampa Bay visits Sarasota to play the Orioles. Rays manager Kevin Cash says he will likely play every other day to avoid any flare-ups.

Left-hander Ryan Yarbrough exited Thursday’s game as a precaution due to left groin tightness after facing one



SUN PHOTO BY TOM O’NEILL

Tampa Bay Rays infielder Yandy Diaz made his spring debut at first base, Thursday. Diaz made a diving backhand to rob Ronald Torreyes of a hit. Diaz did not get a hit in two at-bats, drawing a walk and striking out. Diaz was one of the major offseason acquisitions for the Rays which sent Jake Bauers to the Indians.

batter.

“If anything, it’s just being a little precautionary,” Yarbrough said.

“I just felt a little tight in my warmup pitches. At this point of the year, it’s not worth pushing through it and potentially having something worse and missing a lot of time.”

Offseason acquisition Yandy Diaz made his spring debut at first base and handled the position extremely well. Playing in the hole with the shift on in the second inning, Diaz made diving backhand stop to rob Ronald Torreyes of a base hit.

“That was huge,” Cash said. “When they start making good plays, they start believing in it. We work on those plays and it’s nice to see it happen. We saw him play first against us (last season), so I think he’s familiar over there. I don’t

think it will be too big of an adjustment.”

Diaz is expected to share first base with Choi and Brandon Lowe while also spelling Duffy at third base.

Former Stone Crabs short-stop Lucius Fox was one of two Rays players to pick up multiple hits.

He drove in the winning run with a single in the sixth while making a pair of slick plays in the field.

“Lucius Fox was fun to watch,” said Cash. “He smoked a couple balls.”

#### The Prized Acquisition

Charlie Morton will pitch in a Rays’ uniform for the first time on Friday, starting the Rays’ 1:05 p.m. matchup against Baltimore.

“I’m probably going to be a little amped up, and that’s the danger of going into games early,” Morton said. “We have egos, we don’t want to get hit

around. At the same time, you have to balance that with regulating your effort and accepting it if things don’t go the way you want them to.”

## PREP SPORTS CALENDAR

### FRIDAY

**Boys Basketball Regional Final**  
Port Charlotte at Lehigh, 7 p.m.  
**Baseball**  
RAYS: Rays at Orioles, 1:05 p.m.  
Venice at Cardinal Mooney, 4 p.m.  
North Port vs. Hardee, 7 p.m.  
Charlotte at IMG Academy, 7 p.m.  
Lemon Bay vs. Mariner, 7 p.m.  
**Softball**  
Venice at Sarasota, 7 p.m.  
Port Charlotte at Ida Baker,

6 p.m.  
DeSoto vs. Palmetto, 6 p.m.  
**Wrestling Regionals**  
Venice, Charlotte at Charlotte, noon  
Lemon Bay at Home, 10 a.m.  
North Port at Osceola, 10 a.m.  
**Track and Field**  
Venice, Lemon Bay at Larry Richardson Invite at Booker, 3 p.m.  
**Boys Lacrosse**  
Venice at Manatee, 7:30 p.m.  
**Water Polo**  
Venice at Osceola & Gateway, 5 p.m.







## ■ NFL

# Witten rejoins Cowboys after year as broadcaster

## Tight end, franchise leader in receptions signs up for 16th season, \$5 million deal

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Jason Witten is back. One year after retiring from the NFL to join the broadcast booth on ESPN's "Monday Night Football," Witten has agreed to terms with the Dallas Cowboys for the 2019 season.

The deal is for 1 year and \$5 million, sources tell the Star-Telegram.

The future Hall of Fame tight end will now suit up for a 16th season.

"The fire inside of me to compete and play this game is just burning too strong," Witten said. "This team has a great group of rising young stars, and I want to help them make a run at a championship. This was completely my decision, and I am very comfortable with it. I'm looking forward to getting back in the dirt."

Witten admittedly struggled with retirement throughout last season while also struggling with the transition to television.

He previously admitted a desire to return to the team during their 2018 playoff run but ultimately decided it wasn't the right thing to do.

Tight end remained a huge need for the Cowboys and was an area the team planned to address in the upcoming draft and possibly free agency.

The Cowboys like the potential of Blake Jarwin and Dalton Schultz but still see a need to improve.

Witten retired as the team's all-time leader with 1,152 career receptions. He ranks fourth in NFL history, behind Jerry Rice, Tony Gonzalez and Larry Fitzgerald.



AP PHOTO

Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten is coming out of retirement and rejoining the Cowboys after one season as a television analyst on ESPN's Monday Night Football. The 11-time Pro Bowl tight end had agreed to a one-year, \$5 million contract.

## ■ MLB: Roundup

# Swihart hits RBI single day after brother dies

## AROUND THE GRAPEFRUIT LEAGUE

### RED SOX 13, NATIONALS 5

Blake Swihart had an RBI single a day after the death of his 23-year-old brother, Romell Jordan. Swihart was pulled following his hit in the fourth and was greeted by a big hug from manager Alex Cora in the dugout.

Jackie Bradley Jr. had three hits, driving in a run and scoring another for Boston. Brock Holt hit his first home run of the spring, a three-run shot, and Xander Bogaerts added an RBI double and a single.

Matt Adams picked up his first spring double and home run for Washington. Max Scherzer made his second start, giving up one hit in three shutout innings with four strikeouts.

### YANKEES 8, PIRATES 6

Troy Tulowitzki hit a three-run home run for New York. J.A. Happ made his first start, allowing three runs on three hits in 1 1/3 innings. Aaron Judge doubled and scored.

Jung Ho Kang had a hit, an RBI and scored twice, raising his average to .429 this spring with a 2.214 OPS in three games.

### METS 3, CARDINALS 2

Michael Conforto got his first two hits of the spring and stole a base for New York. Top prospect Pete Alonso had two hits and two RBIs, and Jason Vargas allowed only Matt Carpenter's leadoff home run, pitching two innings and striking out three in his first start.

Miles Mikolas made his

second start for St. Louis, allowing five hits and a walk in three shutout innings.

### TIGERS 7, BRAVES 6

JaCoby Jones had his first spring hit, singling and scoring a run for Detroit. Matt Moore made his second start for the Tigers, surrendering two runs and three hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Ozzie Albies had two hits for Atlanta. Touki Toussaint was rocked in his second start, allowing five runs, four hits and a walk in one inning.

### ATHLETICS 10, CUBS 3

Franklin Barreto and Ramon Laureano hit solo home runs and Josh Phegley had three hits and an RBI for Oakland. Brett Anderson, vying for a rotation spot in his return to the

Athletics, allowed two hits and a walk in his first start, pitching three shutout innings.

Kyle Schwarber had his first double for Chicago. Anthony Rizzo went 0 for 2, striking out twice. Kyle Hendricks pitched two scoreless innings.

### PHILLIES (SS) 11, BLUE JAYS 5

Scott Kingery had a double and a single, stealing a base and scoring a run for the Phillies. Aaron Altherr walked three times and scored twice.

Top prospect Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had his first spring double for Toronto. Randal Grichuk hit a three-run home run.

### ASTROS 7, MARLINS 5

Carlos Correa had an RBI double for Houston. Robinson

Chirinos had a single and a run-scoring double. Jose Altuve went 0 for 3 with three strikeouts at designated hitter and is expected to play second base next in his third game following offseason knee surgery.

Brian Anderson hit a two-run home run for Miami. Sandy Alcantara made his second start, allowing two runs, two hits and three walks in two innings.

### ROCKIES 7, DODGERS 7

Ian Desmond hit a solo home run and Daniel Murphy had a single for his first hit with Colorado. David Dahl had a double and an RBI, and infield prospect Colton Welker hit his second homer of the spring. Chad Bettis made his second start, pitching three innings and allowing two runs and three hits.

# HARPER

## FROM PAGE 1

"Bryce Harper is a sensational teammate."

Harper's agreement surpasses the previous high for a free agent, set last week when infielder Manny Machado signed a \$300 million, 10-year deal with the San Diego Padres. Harper's average annual value of \$25.4 million ranks 14th in baseball history, well below the high of \$34.1 million set by Arizona pitcher Zack Greinke as part of a \$206.5 million, six-year contract.

Harper gets a \$20 million signing bonus in equal installments this June 1 and Nov. 1, a \$10 million salary this year, \$26 million in each of the following nine seasons and \$22 million in each of the last three years. None of the money is deferred, and he gets a full no-trade provision.

Philadelphia will forfeit its second-highest draft selection, currently No. 55, and \$500,000 of its 2019-20 international signing bonus pool allotment.

Following a slow offseason of negotiations that sparked outrage from the players' association, three players in a 10-day span agreed to deals guaranteeing a total of \$890 million. Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado, who would have been eligible for free agency next offseason, signed a \$260 million, eight-year agreement this week.

Phillies owner John Middleton met with Harper in a Las Vegas hotel suite and at dinner around the time of the winter meetings in December and then again last weekend.

Philadelphia has been among the most active teams this offseason, adding outfielder Andrew McCutchen for \$50 million over three years and reliever David Robertson for \$23 million over two years, and acquiring catcher J.T. Realmuto and shortstop Jean Segura.

"We thought we were a complete team. Now, we're even more of a complete team," McCutchen said.

Philadelphia also gave ace Aaron Nola a \$45 million, four-year deal.

After leading their division in early August, the Phillies went 16-33 over the final 49 games of last season and at 80-82 finished with a losing record for the sixth straight season.

San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers had also pursued Harper in recent weeks.

Harper has been an All-Star in six of seven big league seasons and was the unanimous winner of the 2015 NL MVP award.

An up-and-down defender and an unusual mix of popular and polarizing, Harper is known for the occasional contretemps with opponents, one particular exchange with a reporter about a "clown question," and, most infamously, a dugout dustup in which he was choked by then-teammate Jonathan Papelbon during a game.

Washington took him with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 amateur draft and called him up to the majors less than two years later at age 19. He would go on to become the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year for a Nationals club that won its



AP PHOTO

Bryce Harper is the fifth major acquisition for the Phillies this winter, following the signings of free agents Andrew McCutchen, David Robertson, and trades for J.T. Realmuto and Jean Segura. They also gave their ace Aaron Nola a four-year, \$45 million deal.

first division title and made its postseason debut.

Harper was also an integral part of the team that added NL East titles in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and never finished lower than second place in his seven seasons. The Nationals never won a playoff series in that span.

His best year was 2015, when at age 22 he hit .330 with 42 homers, 99 RBIs, 118 runs and 124 walks, amassing an OPS of 1.109.

Last year, he hit 34 homers and produced a career-high 100 RBIs while walking 130 times although his batting average dipped to .249.

# BUCS

## FROM PAGE 1

self-proclaimed hardest worker on the team.

Those things mean something but not enough to cancel out two key numbers: 30 (Pierre-Paul's age) and \$14.9 million (his 2019 cap hit, seventh highest among defenders who play his position). Soon, his production-to-earnings ratio won't work in Tampa Bay's favor. Expecting him to reach 12.5 sacks again isn't realistic. He hadn't recorded

that many since 2014 and has yet to do so in back-to-back seasons.

The Bucs might want to hide the next couple of paragraphs from prospective trade partners: Pierre-Paul wasn't as productive last season as his sack numbers suggest. Sacks are valuable, of course. They can be drive killers. But they're not the only way a defender can affect a quarterback.

Hurries and hits are disruptive, too, and can lead to incompletions and interceptions. When we take into account hurries, hits and sacks, it turns out that

Pierre-Paul and oft-double-teamed Gerald McCoy had comparable seasons. Each generated pressure on 9 percent of his pass snaps, according to Pro Football Focus.

Let's compare Pierre-Paul's pressure rate with other edge rushers' rates. Did he end in the top 10? The top 20? The top 50? Nope. He came in at ... No. 74 (among those who played at least 100 pass snaps).

Though Pierre-Paul succeeded at converting his pressures into sacks, he did so at an exceptionally high, and likely unsustainable, rate. Of the

edge rushers who recorded at least 20 pressures last season, Pierre-Paul's 28.3 percent sack conversion rate ranked behind only Green Bay's Kyler Fackrell and Arizona's Chandler Jones.

Perhaps Pierre-Paul has a knack for taking down the quarterback? Not at the rate that he did last season. Over his nine NFL seasons, he has converted 17 percent of his pressures into sacks. In other words, if Pierre-Paul plays a ton of snaps again and generates pressure at the same rate this season as he did last season, we should expect him to get to

seven or eight sacks, not 12.5.

As the Bucs look ahead, they should heed the warning hidden in Pierre-Paul's pressure statistics. Regression is coming.

So if a general manager approaches Licht at this week at the NFL scouting combine and asks whether Pierre-Paul is available, he should pause and then respond:

"I have to think about that." *Statistics in this report are from Football Outsiders, Pro Football Focus and Pro Football Reference. Contact Thomas Bassinger at tbassinger@tampabay.com. Follow @tometrics.*

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

# No. 9 Michigan beats Nebraska 82-53 in home finale

## Wofford wins first game as top 25 team

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Jon Teske scored a career-high 22 points, and No. 9 Michigan easily rebounded from its loss to Michigan State with an 82-53 victory over Nebraska on Thursday night.

The Wolverines (25-4, 14-4 Big Ten) were without Charles Matthews, out with a right ankle injury, but they raced out to a 22-point halftime lead behind Teske and Iggy Brazdeikis. It was the last home game for Michigan, which finishes the regular season with trips to Maryland and Michigan State.

The Wolverines lost only once at home in 2018-19 — 77-70 to Michigan State on Sunday. That dropped Michigan a game

behind the Spartans in the Big Ten title race, but the Wolverines still look formidable. The biggest question after Thursday's game is how long Matthews will be out. He had a boot on the injured ankle.

Brazdeikis went down holding his left knee near the end of the first half, but he walked off without assistance and was back at the beginning of the second. He finished with 20 points.

Isaiah Livers, who replaced Matthews in the starting lineup, had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Nana Akenten scored 11 points for Nebraska (15-14, 5-13) but took a hard fall in the second half near the basket.

### No. 25 Wofford 80, Chattanooga 54

Wofford made a successful debut as an AP Top 25 team by relying on the same businesslike approach that got the Terriers to this point.

Fletcher Magee scored 18 points and the 24th-ranked Terriers pulled away in the second half to trounce Chattanooga 80-54 for their 16th consecutive victory.

Wofford, a private liberal arts college in Spartanburg, South Carolina, with fewer than 1,600 students, moved into the Top 25 for the first time.

"I think our team has handled it with great confidence and humility,"

Wofford coach Mike Young said. "It's a big deal, now. It's a big deal on our campus. But we're still playing."

The Terriers (25-4, 17-0 Southern Conference) haven't lost since falling 98-87 at Mississippi State on Dec. 19. Their only other losses this season were against No. 5 North Carolina, Oklahoma and No. 15 Kansas.

A victory Saturday at Samford would make Wofford the first Southern Conference team to finish the regular season unbeaten in league competition since Davidson in 2007-08.

That squad featured Stephen Curry and advanced to an NCAA regional final.



AP PHOTO

Nebraska guard Glynn Watson Jr., right, has his shot attempt blocked by Michigan center Jon Teske, left, as Michigan forward Isaiah Livers, gets caught between them two.

■ NBA ROUNDUP

# Gordon scores 22, Magic rally to hand Warriors second straight loss

ORLANDO (AP) — Aaron Gordon had 22 points and 15 rebounds, Terrence Ross added 16 points and the Orlando Magic rallied in the final three minutes to beat the Golden State Warriors 103-96 on Thursday night.

A night after they were stunned in Miami by Dwyane Wade's buzzer-beater, the Warriors blew an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter and lost for the fourth time in six games.

D.J. Augustin scored 14 points and Nikola Vucevic had 12 points and 13 rebounds to help Orlando end an 11-game losing streak to the Warriors. Orlando's last win over Golden State was on Dec. 14, 2012.

Stephen Curry scored

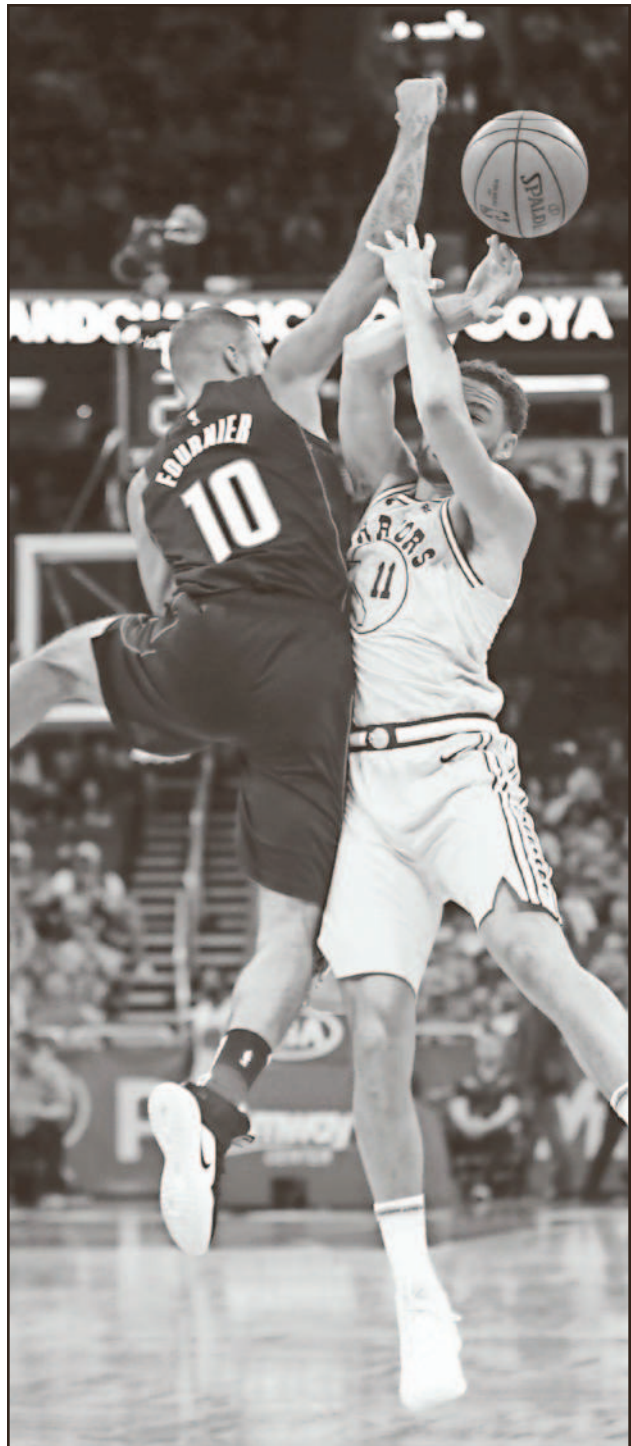
33 points, but was only 1 for 6 in the fourth quarter. Klay Thompson and DeMarcus Cousins each had 21 for the Warriors. They played without Kevin Durant (rest) and Andre Iguodala (sick).

### Pacers 122, Timberwolves 115

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Bojan Bogdanovic scored a season-high 35 points and Indiana overcame Karl-Anthony Towns' big night for Minnesota.

Towns had 42 points and 17 rebounds, scoring 23 points and grabbing seven rebounds in the first quarter.

Tied at 107, the Pacers closed with a 15-8 run, with Bogdanovic scoring 11 points.



AP PHOTO

Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier (10) fouls Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson during the first quarter.

■ NHL ROUNDUP



AP PHOTO

Boston Bruins left wing Jake DeBrusk (74) watches his shot go in for a goal against Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Louis Domingue.

# Bruins use late scoring barrage to snap Lightning's streak

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Bruins scored three times in less than three minutes in the third period and snapped the Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay Lightning's franchise-best 10-game winning streak with a 4-1 victory Thursday night.

Jake DeBrusk, Noel Acciari, Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand all had goals for the Bruins (38-17-9), who have won nine of their last 10 games and earned at least one point in 15 straight.

The game was the first in NHL history in which teams faced off while each owning simultaneous point streaks of 14 or more contests.

Boston's win tied the season series between the East's top two teams at 1-1. They will play twice more over the final five weeks of the regular season.

A goal by Tampa Bay's Anthony Cirelli's with 7:08 remaining prevented the Lightning (49-12-4) from being shut out for the first time since losing 1-0 in overtime to St. Louis on Feb. 7.

Tuukka Rask had 20 saves for the Bruins. Louis Domingue stopped 37 shots for the Lightning in his 24th start of the season and first since Feb. 19.

The Bruins improve to 7-0-1 without leading goal scorer David Pastrnak in the lineup and are 11-0-2 in their last 13 games. They have not lost in regulation since a 3-2 home loss to

the New York Rangers on Jan. 19.

The Lightning looked every bit like a team on the second night of a back-to-back and playing their third game in four nights. Tampa had scored four or more goals eight times in its previous 10 victories, but looked lethargic and generated a minimal attack for most of the night.

For the game, the Bruins outshot the Lightning 41-21.

### N.Y. Islanders 6, Toronto 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Casey Cizikas scored twice and the New York Islanders beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 6-1 Thursday night in former captain John Tavares' first time back as a visiting player.

Anthony Beauvillier, Anders Lee and Valtteri Filppula also scored for the Islanders, who had lost three of their last four. Jordan Eberle and Cal Clutterbuck each had two assists, and Robin Lehner stopped 34 shots to help New York move two points ahead of Washington atop the Metropolitan Division one night before hosting the Capitals. The Islanders' 81 points are one more than they had all of last season.

Islanders fans, vocal on social media about their lingering displeasure with Tavares' departure after he repeatedly said he wanted to stay, booed loudly when Tavares and the Maple Leafs hit the

ice for pregame warmups, and when they came back out for the start of each period.

They also serenaded him with choruses of "We Don't Need You!" and other derisive chants throughout the game, including around a video tribute midway through the first period. The face of the franchise for nine years after he was selected No. 1 overall by New York in 2009, Tavares insisted he agonized over his decision to leave before announcing it on July 1, the first day of free agency.

Zach Hyman scored for the Maple Leafs, who had won three straight. Garret Sparks finished with 31 saves.

### Edmonton 4, Ottawa 2

OTTAWA, Ontario — Connor McDavid scored a slick goal, Mikko Koskinen made 35 saves and the Edmonton Oilers beat the league-worst Ottawa Senators 4-2 on Thursday night.

Sam Gagner, Colby Cave and Zack Kassian also scored for the Oilers, who stopped a two-game skid.

Chris Tierney and Mark Borowiecki scored for the Senators, who lost their sixth straight, and Craig Anderson stopped 22 shots in his ninth straight defeat.

It was the first home game for Ottawa since Mark Stone was traded to Vegas, but thanks to McDavid the Senators

had one of their biggest crowds of the season.

Edmonton was up two goals after two periods and took a 3-1 lead 1:46 into the third when Cave took advantage of a giveaway by Christian Jaros for his second of the season.

Ottawa made it a one-goal game when Borowiecki scored his first of the season at the seven-minute mark, but Kassian iced it for the Oilers with an empty-net goal.

### Colombus 4, Philadelphia 3 (OT)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Seth Jones scored 4:27 into overtime and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-3 on Thursday night.

As the back-and-forth extra period wound down, Artemi Panarin wove his way through the defense and fed Jones, who knocked the winner past Brian Elliott. Jones got his third overtime goal this season and set a franchise record with the seventh of his Blue Jackets career.

Panarin, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Scott Harrington also scored for the Blue Jackets, who rebounded from a loss Tuesday night to Pittsburgh and hopped over the idle Penguins and Carolina Hurricanes into third place in the Metropolitan Division. Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves.

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Weather forecast for TODAY/TONIGHT, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, including temperature ranges and precipitation chances.

AccuWeather Gulf Water Temperature map showing temperatures for various Florida locations like Clearwater, Tampa, and Orlando.

Florida Cities table listing cities and their weather conditions for today and Saturday.

TIDES table showing high and low tide times for Punta Gorda, Englewood, Boca Grande, and El Jobean.

MARINE table providing wind speed, seas, and bay/inland direction for Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs and Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola.

SUN AND MOON table showing rise and set times for the sun and moon on March 1st and 2nd.

CONDITIONS TODAY section featuring UV Index and RealFeel Temperature charts for various times of the day.

POLLEN INDEX table showing pollen levels for trees, grass, weeds, and molds.

AIR QUALITY INDEX table showing air quality readings and health advisories.

MONTHLY RAINFALL table comparing 2019 rainfall to historical averages for each month.

THE NATION weather map showing fronts, precipitation, and U.S. Extremes for the 48 contiguous states.

U.S. Extremes table listing high and low temperature records for 48 major U.S. cities.

WORLD CITIES table listing weather conditions for various international cities.

NFL

Kraft pleads not guilty to prostitution charges

Patriots owner requests non-jury trial on misdemeanor solicitation counts in spa case

WEST PALM BEACH (AP) — New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft has pleaded not guilty to two counts of misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution in a Florida case, according to court documents released Thursday.

Kraft's attorney Jack Goldberger filed the written plea with the Palm Beach County court on Wednesday. Kraft, 77, is requesting a non-jury trial.

Kraft was among hundreds of men charged in a crackdown on massage parlor prostitution and an investigation into human trafficking at Florida spas. Ten spas have been closed and several people, mostly women originally from China, have been charged with running the operation.

Jupiter, Florida, police say in court documents that Kraft was chauffeured to the Orchids of Asia Day Spa in a 2014 white Bentley on the evening of Jan. 19, where investigators say they videotaped him engaging in a sex act and then handing over an undetermined amount of cash.

Kraft returned 17 hours later, arriving at the upper-middle class shopping center where the spa was located in a



AP PHOTO

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft pleaded not guilty to two counts of misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution. Kraft, 77, is requesting a non-jury trial in the case involving a Jupiter spa where investigators allege they videotaped him engaging in a sex act and handing over cash.

chauffeured 2015 blue Bentley, the documents said. Kraft was videotaped engaging in sex acts before paying with a \$100 bill and another bill, police said. He then flew to Kansas City to watch his Patriots defeat the Chiefs hours later.

Kraft's team then defeated the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl two weeks later, their sixth championship. Under Florida law, if Kraft is convicted,

he would be required to complete 100 hours of community service, attend a class on the dangers of prostitution and its connection to human trafficking and pay a \$5,000 fine.

He could also get a year in jail, although that is unlikely.

He could also enroll in a diversion program. He would still have to perform the community service, attend the class and pay a fine.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Feds want stiff prison terms over recruiting

Corruption investigation and scandal resulted in convictions for wire fraud

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors have recommended multiyear prison sentences for three men convicted of fraud for channeling secret payments to the families of top-tier basketball recruits to influence where the players went to school.

Former Adidas executive James Gatto, business manager Christian Dawkins and amateur league director Merl Code were convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in October for funneling recruits to Louisville, Kansas and North Carolina State.

On Wednesday, prosecutors in the Southern District of New York recommended a sentence of 46 to 57 months for Gatto and 30 to 37 months in prison for Code and Dawkins.

They are scheduled to be sentenced next week.

The schools submitted victim impact statements seeking restitutions from those convicted.

Kansas asked for more than \$1.1 million from Gatto and his co-conspirators.

Kansas says it has "suffered considerable



AP PHOTO

In these October photos, business manager Christian Dawkins (left) arrives at federal court in New York, former amateur basketball league director Merl Code (center) leaves federal court in New York, and former Adidas executive James Gatto arrives at federal court in New York. Federal prosecutors have recommended multiyear prison sentences for the three men convicted of fraud for channeling secret payments to the families of top-tier basketball recruits to influence where the players went to school.

financial harm," citing losses of scholarships and financial aid to athletes and legal expenses tied to the government and NCAA investigations.

"The damage done by Mr. Gatto's and his co-conspirators' greed cannot be overstated," university counsel William Sullivan wrote.

Louisville is seeking about \$32,000 in connection with Brian Bowen Jr., who was supposed to play for the Cardinals but was suspended by the school amid the corruption scandal.

He also, unsuccessfully, tried to play for South Carolina "It impacted every

employee who worked with young Brian Bowen during the summer and fall of 2017," the school said.

Amy Elizabeth Shoemaker, deputy counsel for Louisville, described Bowen as an 18-year-old who "by all appearances had no idea that a handful of deceitful individuals were conspiring with his father to buy and sell his choice of school."

North Carolina State is seeking \$258,585, the value of the one year of tuition for Dennis Smith Jr., who played one season at the school before being an NBA lottery pick in 2017, plus attorney's fees.

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## Zonta Club to recognize Wilson

By **RUSTY PRAY**  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Zonta Club of Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte will honor longtime community activist Linda Wilson at its annual Yellow Rose luncheon, to be held at 11:30 a.m. March 6 at Laishley Crab House in Punta Gorda.

The Zonta Club will be honoring Wilson during the 100th anniversary of the international organization. Chartered in 1979, the local club seeks to advance the status of women through local projects, including scholarships for students at Charlotte and Port Charlotte high schools, along with Charlotte Technical College. The luncheon is a fundraiser to support those scholarships.

The luncheon is traditionally held close to International Women's Day on March 8.

"Every year, we honor a woman in the county who has held a leadership position and had an impact on the community," said Judi Wilson, past president of Zonta. She is not related to Linda Wilson. "We are talking an inspirational woman, a community woman."

"It's not always a leader of something, but someone who has had an impact in service."

Linda Wilson, a local Realtor, has long been a leader in fundraising for the American Cancer Society through the Punta Gorda Relay for Life. Her Relay team, Wilson Realty Warriors, is well-known in Charlotte County as a successful fundraising group.

Wilson is recovering from a stroke she suffered in January.

"We chose her for a variety of reasons," Judi Wilson said. "Different members of our club know her. She has been a major fundraiser for the Cancer Society."

In all, Zonta funds five scholarships: the two high schools; one for a woman returning to the work force and one health science student at the technical college; and one for a GED graduate pursuing a higher education.

The local Zonta Club, celebrating its 40th anniversary, was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergency (C.A.R.E.), is a contributing partner to SW Florida Human Trafficking, annually contributes to Charlotte County Healthy Start and supports the Girls on the Run program.

For more information and membership information, contact Susan Scribner at [suescrib@gmail.com](mailto:suescrib@gmail.com).



### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Zonta Yellow Rose Luncheon

**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m. March 6

**WHERE:** Laishley Crab House

**TICKETS:** Contact C.J. Brennan at [cjexpress@outlook.com](mailto:cjexpress@outlook.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

ZONTA CLUB OF PUNTA GORDA/PORT CHARLOTTE YELLOW ROSE HONOREES

2019 — Linda Wilson  
2018 — Fran Kowalczyk  
2017 — Dale Phillips  
2016 — Carrie Blackwell Hussey  
2015 — Elizabeth Triana  
2014 — Patricia Land

2013 — Linda Lusk  
2012 — Kim Lovejoy  
2011 — Julie Mathis  
2010 — none  
2009 — CARE Auxiliary members  
2008 — Barbara Scott  
2007 — Roseann Samson

### INSIDE

Boat Club hosts monthly 'Attitude Adjustment'

P | 5

DIVE INTO THE MAGICAL WORLD OF CIRQUE!



'Cirque Italia Water Circus Gold' comes to town

P | 8



Punta Gorda Block Party signs lead act

P | 7



## Artist, Kate Staber's work being offered to fund scholarships

PROVIDED BY BONNIE BENANDE  
SEA GRAPE GALLERY

Highly acclaimed Oriental brushwork artist, Kate Staber, recently retired, has donated many of her paintings to the Sea Grape Gallery with the intention that all proceeds of these wonderful works be used for scholarships going to art students in Charlotte County. Kate was a well-respected member of Sea Grape Gallery for many years.

Kate, a life-long award-winning international artist, is very experienced in Oriental brush painting, working in the traditional Oriental discipline. She began the study of Oriental brush painting in 1978 and continued her studies with many great masters in China. In 1988 Kate was one of 50 artists chosen by First Lady Nancy Reagan to paint two Easter eggs which are now in a permanent collection in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Sea Grape Gallery has collaborated with the Visual Arts Center to offer Kate's paintings at deeply discounted prices in order to honor Kate's wishes for the proceeds to fund the scholarships. These lovely artworks, which are typically matted and framed with museum glass, will be on display from March 2 through March 26 at the Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St., Punta Gorda. The art will be offered on silent auction with an option to "buy it now." The auction will close on March 26 and the winning bidders will be contacted by phone and asked to pick up the purchased works by March 28. In addition, there will be an Art Reception at the Visual Arts Center at 5 p.m. on March 14 where Sea Grape Gallery members will be available to discuss Kate's unique work.

Sea Grape Gallery is located at 113 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, Florida and can be reached at 941-575-1718.

## 55 years of service

PROVIDED BY BETTE SCHRAGE

At the Girl Scout Council annual meeting in January, Martha McKenzie and Kelly Wertenbach each received years-of-service pins. McKenzie has been active in Girl Scouts for 35 years. She followed her daughter from Daisy to Senior as troop leader. She has served as neighborhood manager, master trainer, camp director and cookie coordinator.

When their daughters graduated from high school as senior scouts in 2008, the two leaders developed a Pathway Program starting with a Daisy troop. As the girls moved up, there were eventually four troops at five levels servicing East Elementary, Punta Gorda Middle, Charlotte High,



PROVIDED BY BETTE SCHRAGE

**Martha McKenzie, left, 35 years, and Kelly Wertenbach, 20 years, display the service pins and certificates received at the Girl Scout Council annual meeting in January.**

Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School and home schooled girls.

Wertenbach received her 20-year service pin at the annual meeting. She has been a co-leader with McKenzie, cookie coordinator, and trainer for all levels of Girl Scouts.

Working together, these ladies have served

more than 100 girls and taken them on trips to Kennedy Space Center, Savannah Georgia and on a cruise to Belize and Cozumel, Mexico to study native peoples' history compared to that of our country's native Americans. They also took a trip to the national scout chalet in Switzerland.

# PGH

## HAPPENINGS ON THE HARBOR

### ■ TODAY

**"Advice for Your Device,"** from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St. Free program. Need help to set up with the Cloud Library, Hoopla, Freegal, RBDigital Magazines or Pronunciator? Reservations required: 941-833-5460. PuntaGordaLibrary@charlottecountyfl.gov.

**Yoga Tots Storytime,** from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St. Free program for children ages 12-36 months. Bring your toddler, towels or yoga mat to stretch your mind and muscles with a story and fun yoga poses. 941-833-5460 or PuntaGordaLibrary@charlottecountyfl.gov.

**Burnt Store Marina Farmers Market,** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Cass Cay parking lot, 3200 Matecumbe Key Road, Punta Gorda.

**Haunted History of Punta Gorda Walking Tours,** are set for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays through March 31. Participants enjoy a two-mile stroll through Punta Gorda's historic and haunted neighborhoods while being entertained with true stories. Cost is \$29 for adults; \$19 for minors. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Meet at the free parking garage on Herald Court, wear walking shoes and bring a camera. For reservations: swfloridawalkingtours.com/haunted-history-tours/.

**Tribute Quartet at Peace River Baptist Church,** 478 Berry St., Punta Gorda, for a 2 p.m. concert. The doors open at 12:30 p.m. followed by a 1:15 p.m. hymn sing.

### ■ SATURDAY

**Punta Gorda Farmers Market,** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. thru April and 8 a.m. to noon May thru Sept., corner of Olympia Avenue and Taylor Street, Punta Gorda. Call 941-391-4856 or email jerry@puntafordafarmersmarket.com.

**American Legion Post 103 Outdoor Market,** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2101 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda. For more information, call 941-626-2567.

**Bicycle ride,** departs at 8:30 a.m. from Acme Bicycle Shop, 615 Cross St., Suite 1116, Punta Gorda. All riders welcome. Helmet required. Details: 941-639-2263.

**Story Time at Copperfish Books,** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., 103 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Family Game Day,** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St., Free. 941-833-5460 or PuntaGordaLibrary@charlottecountyfl.gov.

**Punta Gorda Chocolate & Wine offers a tasting of chocolates,** along with premier wines and craft beers from around the world, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 941-626-2008.

**"Bach to Bacharach" Concert will be performed at 4 p.m. at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center,** 701 Carmalita St. For more information, visit www.charlottechorale.com.

### ■ SUNDAY

**Open Air Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at History Park,** 501 Shreve St., Punta

Gorda.

**American Legion Post 103 Outdoor Market,** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2101 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda.

**Live music with Devin Starr,** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Dean's South of the Border, 130 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.

**Live music with Michael Hirst,** from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Esplanade.

**Live music with John Reno,** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Hurricane Charley's, 300 W. Retta Esplanade.

### ■ MONDAY

**Live music with Kat Orlando Duo,** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Hurricane Charley's, 300 W. Retta Esplanade.

### ■ TUESDAY

**The Charlotte County Woodcarvers/ Sculptors,** invite the public to come see what they do from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday mornings at the Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda. Details: Chuck at 941-875-9244.

**FGCU Foreign Film Series — "The History Boys" (UK 2006),** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at FGCU's Renaissance Academy, 117 Herald Court, Suite 211, Punta Gorda. The fee is \$5. Call 941-505-0130.

**Charity Bingo,** at American Legion Auxiliary Unit 103, 2101 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda, from 6 pm. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday through March 19. The facility is non-smoking and the bingo is open to the public. For more information, call 941-639-6337 or just come by and play.

### ■ WEDNESDAY

**Balance through Qi-gong,** from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at PGICA, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda. Cost is \$10. For more information, call 407-923-8310.

**A Punta Gorda Food Tour,** runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday through April in the Punta Gorda Historic District. The three-hour walking tour takes participants to five food stops and offers an insider's perspective plus local specialties and history lessons. Cost is \$59 and tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, visit swfloridawalkingtours.com/food-and-pub-tours/, or email: tourguides@swfloridawalkingtours.com.

**The Charlotte County Master Gardeners,** are available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St., to answer questions on gardening. For more information, call 941-833-5460 or PuntaGordaLibrary@charlottecountyfl.gov.

**Wild Wednesday at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center,** at 10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda. Movie, Nature: Raptor Force, will be shown at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 941-575-5435 or visit www.checflorida.org.

**USA Dance Chapter 6049 offers an adult group class,** taught by Nathalie and Franck Lemoine from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays through March 6 at the Punta Gorda Woman's Club, 118 Sullivan St. This is a Ballroom Dance Team, Cha Cha intermediate/ advanced class that teaches Latin and ballroom routines. For more information, call 614-439-8545, visit www.usadance6049.org or email: info@usadance609.org.

### ■ THURSDAY

**Meet Luna the Screech Owl from Peace River Wildlife Center,** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade.

**A Punta Gorda Pub Tour,** runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday through April. The walking tour takes participants through the historic downtown district to five local pubs. Cost is \$59. Meet at the Herald Court parking garage. For more information, visit swfloridawalkingtours.com/food-and-pub-tours/ or email: tourguides@swfloridawalkingtours.com.



## Find The Perfect Companion

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# AWL Pets of the Week

The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County is at 3519 Drance St., Port Charlotte. All animals are microchipped, spayed or neutered and are current with their shots prior to adoption, including rabies. The shelter is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. To view some of the adoptable pets, visit [www.awlshelter.org](http://www.awlshelter.org).



Jade is a large one-year-old mixed breed. He is an energetic beauty and would be great for a family. She loves to play ball and frisbee but needs a little work on giving the ball back. She is dog selective and knows her basic commands.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Winter is a 5-year-old, domestic short-haired mix. He is a big hunk of love and is FIV positive. He needs to be an only cat and will be an awesome companion and a great lap cat for some lucky person.

**DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!**



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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### The Charlotte Chorale to perform 'Bach to Bacharach'

The Charlotte Chorale, the largest community choir in Charlotte County, accompanied by a select group of symphonic musicians, will perform a selection of masterworks by five monumental composers covering a span of over three hundred years. The March 2 concert is the second of a three concert series performed by The Charlotte Chorale under the expert direction of Dr. William Dederer.

The "Bach to Bacharach" Concert will be performed at 4 p.m. on March 2, at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 701 Carmalita St., Punta Gorda. Reserved seat tickets are available at a price of \$25 for adults, \$10 for students and can be purchased by calling 941-204-0033. Visa/Mastercard accepted. For more information, visit [www.charlotte-chorale.com](http://www.charlotte-chorale.com).

### Bar-B-Q -N- Boogie Woogie Blues

Florida harmonic a champion Dockta-D & The Jam Masters horn band with Detroit Mike on keys perform from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. March 2 at Kings Gate, 2400 Rampart Blvd., Punta Gorda at Bar-B-Q -N- Boogie Woogie Blues. Doors open at 5 p.m. Also performing is Josh Rowand. Tickets are \$35 dinner with dinner buffet. [www.thephoenixradio.com](http://www.thephoenixradio.com).

### Timeless Fashions

American Business Women's Association, will host a fashion show from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 2 at

Hurricane Charley's, 300 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda. Doors open at noon. Fashions provided by Nichole's Collections. Tickets are \$35 per person. For tickets, call Randy Ann Bechtel at 941-255-3555 or Patti Dyson at 941-637-8017.

### Wild Wednesdays

Join Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, at 10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda for great films and great company during Wild Wednesdays. Guests enjoy a nature-themed film followed by lively discussion led by a Master Naturalist. The next Wild Wednesday program is March 6, showing Nature: Raptor Force. Due to popularity, there will be two showings 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Stunning footage highlights eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and more. For more information, call 941-575-5435 or visit [www.checflorida.org](http://www.checflorida.org).

### PRAS annual banquet and fundraiser set

Peace River Audubon Society will host its annual banquet and fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. on March 21 at Twin Isles Country Club, 301 Madrid Blvd, Punta Gorda. Everyone is welcome to attend this once a year event which raises funds to support environmental education. This year's speaker is Charles Sobczak with a talk titled: Alligators, Sharks, Panthers or How To Avoid Being Eaten. For reservations or information, contact Sandy Artman at 717-880-3341, or email: [banquet1@peacriveraudubon.org](mailto:banquet1@peacriveraudubon.org) or visit [PeaceRiverAudubon.org](http://PeaceRiverAudubon.org). Reservation deadline is **March 7**. Tickets not available at the door.

## PEACE RIVER NATIONAL ART FESTIVAL MARCH 16 & 17, 2019 LAISHLEY PARK, PUNTA GORDA

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace River National Art Festival Will be held March 16 & 17 from 9am to 4pm in beautiful Laishley Park featuring fine art and fine crafts, food, music and more.



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# Yacht Club holds annual 'Change of Watch'



**Jerry Beard**  
Photojournalist

*Jerry Beard is a freelance photographer. Contact him at lenstotable@gmail.com.*

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club held its annual "Change of Watch" on Saturday, Feb. 16. Dinner was served, and live music performed. New officers included Commodore Martin Holland, and Vice Commodore Jack MacDonald. The club will be hosting the 2.4 Meter Class "CanAm Championship Final," March 29-31. For more information, visit: [www.charlotteharboryachtclub.com](http://www.charlotteharboryachtclub.com)



HERALD PHOTOS BY JERRY BEARD



Club Treasurer Jack Whaley and wife Nancy

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club officers from left: Jack Whaley, Jeri Fine-Schaller, Tom Geisler, Jack MacDonald, Paul Kidd, Robert MacMillan, Martin Holland, Tony Pocklington, Maryann Letteri.



Sandra Pierce and incoming Commodore Martin Holland



Officers of the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club pose for a photo. From left: Commodore Martin Holland, Vice Commodore Jack MacDonald, Rear Commodore Tom Geisler, Fleet Captain Maryann Letteri, Secretary Jeri Fine-Schaller, Treasurer Jack Whaley, Director Robert MacMillan, Director Tony Pocklington, and Past Commodore Connie Martel.



Past Commodore Connie Martel, and Jerry Martell, are presented at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club "Change of Watch."



Incoming Commodore Martin Holland and Sandra Pierce, are presented at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club "Change of Watch."

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# Boat Club makes 'adjustments to attitudes'



**Jerry Beard**  
Photojournalist

*Jerry Beard is a freelance photographer. Contact him at lenstotable@gmail.com.*

The Punta Gorda Boat Club held its monthly "Attitude Adjustment," on Friday, Feb. 22. Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke gave a talk and a slide presentation labeled "2019 State of the City the Year of Engagement." Topics included Harbor Walk West, the "Waterfront Activity Center," Veterans Park renovations, and the new Sunseeker Resort. Eight prospective members were presented, who would join the other 25 members the club has added since January. Contact the club at 941-639-3828, or visit [www.pgboatclub.org/](http://www.pgboatclub.org/)



Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke addresses the Punta Gorda Boat Club.



Punta Gorda Boat Club Vice-Commodore, Tom McDonough, listens to Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke as she explains ongoing City projects.



Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke meets Punta Gorda Boat Club Commodore Ruby Ryan, at the Club's "Attitude Adjustment."



HERALD PHOTOS BY JERRY BEARD

A crowd samples light appetizers and homemade desserts, after the presentation by Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke.



Over 150 people attended the monthly "Adjustment" meeting held by the Punta Gorda Boat Club.



## Spring Bazaar

**March 08-9: 9am-3pm**  
**March 10: 11am-3pm**

### FREE ADMISSION

**Vendors selling arts, crafts and more are encouraged to join us for this fun event!**

*A limited number of vendor spaces are still available on a first come first serve basis! If you are interested in being a vendor please contact Mackenzie Smart at extension 213*

**Cultural Center of Charlotte County**  
2280 Aaron Street Port Charlotte, FL  
941-625-4175  
[www.theculturalcenter.com](http://www.theculturalcenter.com)

audio-3661116-1

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audio-3661201-1

# Tarpons shut down by Pirates in 11-1 loss



**Steve Knapp**  
Sports Writer

*Steve Knapp is a sports writer and photographer. Contact him at SbigdaddyKnapp@aol.com.*

The Charlotte Tarpons JV softball team had their first home game of the season and didn't do so well in front of the home town fans. They couldn't get the big hit when they needed it and lost to Port Charlotte 11-1.

The Pirates touched Tarpon starter Logun Midgett for 4 runs on 4 hits in the first and it was an uphill battle from then on for the Tarpons. The Pirates added a run in the third and had a pair in the fifth and invoked the run rule with another 4 spot in the sixth inning.

The Tarpons lone tally came in the fourth when left fielder Mia Riviuccio blasted a shot to the gap in left center to score Ella Snyder from third. Riviuccio was out on a controversial call as she attempted to stretch her double into a three bagger. She collided with the Pirate shortstop making the catch while rounding second which some people thought it could have been called obstruction. The call wasn't made and it ended the inning.



PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP

**Charlotte third baseman Ella Snyder makes a nice diving catch of a shot heading down the line in the home opener for the Tarpons.**

The Tarpons had other chances but weren't able to get the big hit at the right time to get them back into the game. In the third, Lindsey Levesque and Midgett led off with walks. Madyson Ratliff drew a one out free pass to juice the bases. A strikeout and an out on a play at the plate after a passed ball ended the inning. Another bases loaded two out threat in the fifth ended with a ground out.



**Lindsey Levesque gets tagged at the plate attempting to score on a passed ball. The Tarpons lost their home opener to Port Charlotte 11-1.**

**Andrea Shinault puts a high tag and gets the call on the Pirate runner on a steal attempt at second in the Tarpons loss to Port Charlotte.**



# Tarpons lose first match

By **STEVE KNAPP**  
SPORTSWRITER

After starting the season with a convincing win over North Port, the Charlotte girls tennis team took on the regional powerhouse Venice Indians. A loss to the Indians didn't dampen their spirits as the Lady Tarpons enjoyed their time on the court.



**Sofia Scalvini, Megan McGivern and Liz Davis are the three seniors representing the Charlotte Tarpons.**



PHOTOS BY STEVE KNAPP

**Charlotte coach Nanci Daniel has 5 ladies on the tennis team. Kami Arias, Paige Kehoe, Liz Davis, Sofia Scalvini and Megan McGivern make up the 2019 Charlotte team.**



**Megan McGivern returns a shot in the match with the Venice Indians.**



**Senior Liz Davis prepares to go onto the court in the Tarpons match against Venice.**



**Sofia Scalvini was all smiles as she took on the number one singles player for Venice.**

# Come downtown to go 'Up on the Roof'

PROVIDED BY PUNTA GORDA BLOCK PARTY

The Punta Gorda Block Party has signed its lead act and is fleshing out the entertainment schedule for the April 27 street festival. Like last year, the Block Party will be located on downtown streets and is free for all who enjoy great music on three stages, food, drink, dancing in the streets and numerous children's activities.

Entertainment director Donna Gossett said of the lineup, "We're going to have just about every genre of music – reggae, country, rock, southern rock, oldies, old time rock and roll and local favorites."

Another variety of music much adored by local residents has never appeared at any of the previous 30 block parties. Do the tunes "Under the Boardwalk," "Up on the Roof," "There Goes My Baby," "Save the Last Dance for Me" and "Saturday Night at the Movies" ring a bell? That's right; The Drifters, the most legendary group in rhythm and blues history, will be performing at 6:30 p.m. as the lead act on the main stage.

The Drifters have sold more than 200 million records, a number matched only by the likes of Michael Jackson and The Rolling Stones. They were part of the first class inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and have performed for six American presidents, the queen of England and the pope among other notables.

Older readers may be thinking, "The original members can't still be together." Yes, group members have come and gone over the group's 66 years, but the sound and the songs remain the same and audiences all over the



JERRY ANGELICA PHOTOGRAPHY

The Drifters, a timeless rhythm and blues group, will headline this year's April 27 Punta Gorda Block Party.

world still flock to their concerts.

Kevin Gossett, Donna's hubby, Block Party board member and lead singer of local band American Made, said, "We're excited to have them; I love that music. They get a great response all over the U.S.; that's why we brought them here. Great voices and timeless romantic songs everyone is going to know."

Several options are available to enjoy The Drifters. Stake out a free spot of pavement on Taylor Street; pay a little for close-in elevated seating to the left of the main stage; or a

little more to sit in the VIP tent where meals, snacks and drinks will be provided. Sponsors also have access to a close-in tent with food and drink among other benefits.

Space prevents a full accounting of all the activities available every year at this family oriented street festival. Some notable improvements for this year's affair include an extension of the thruster stage so entertainers can get closer to the audience; an open aisle through the crowd to a larger dance area; and beers will be in aluminum bottles with koozies available

to keep them cold.

More information will be in upcoming Herald issues as the date approaches. Meanwhile, go to [www.puntagordablockparty.info](http://www.puntagordablockparty.info) for more information, to purchase prime seating or to learn of the many sponsor and vendor opportunities available.

On Block Party day, please do not walk through the entry gates without dropping a generous amount of money into the donation buckets. The Block Party is only possible as a result of your generosity, and all proceeds go to area nonprofits.



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†\$19 Service calls apply to standard service calls only-during normal business hours. Does not apply after hours or emergencies. Coupons must be presented and discounted applied the point of sales transaction. All sales are final and no other offers can be combined.

# The Cirque 'Water Circus Gold' arrives downtown



**Jerry Beard**  
**Photojournalist**

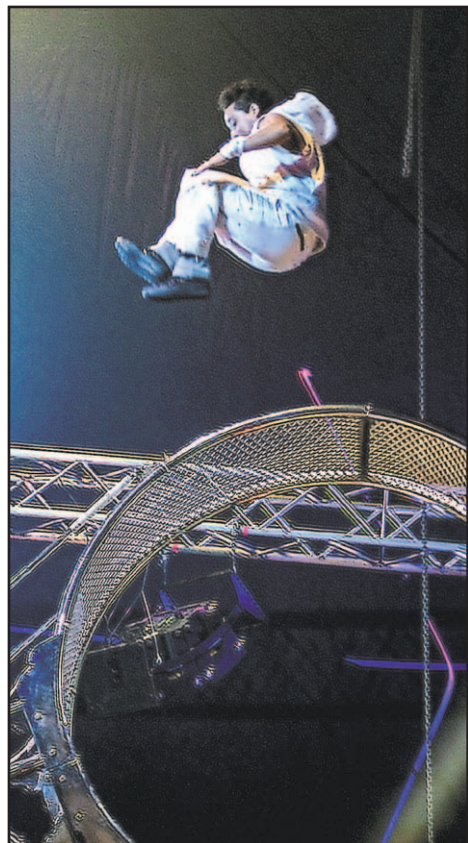
*Jerry Beard is a freelance photographer. Contact him at [lentotable@gmail.com](mailto:lentotable@gmail.com).*

Cirque Italia held multiple shows on Feb. 9-10, in Punta Gorda. The Cirque "Water Circus Gold" unit performed its acts atop a 35,000 gallon water tank, which sprayed multi-colored cascades, amidst laser light shows, actors and acrobats. The family friendly event included a "Mermaid", an "Elephant", Aerialists, and interaction with children in the crowd. From their website: Cirque Italia is an Italian entertainment company that brings a performance of European style. It is described as a "vivid, dramatic, and moving experience under a customized traveling tent." For more information, visit: [cirqueitalia.com](http://cirqueitalia.com)

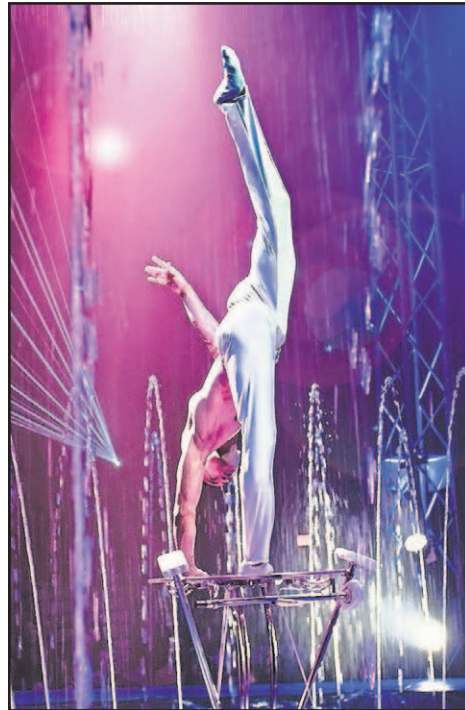


HERALD PHOTOS BY JERRY BEARD

Performers work within a circle of water, supplied by a thirty-five thousand gallon tank in the middle of the arena, at "Cirque Italia Water Circus Gold."



An aerialist performs a flip, at "Cirque Italia Water Circus Gold."



Performers work within a circle of water, supplied by a thirty-five thousand gallon tank in the middle of the arena.



Performers work within a circle of water, supplied by a thirty-five thousand gallon tank in the middle of the arena.



Performer Alex Acero prepares for the show.



A "Mermaid" gets caught in a net, at "Cirque Italia Water Circus Gold."



Performer Alex, works with the "Elephant."



Alex performs on the trampoline, as "Bibi" assists.



Performer Alex (left), and Amie Jamison-Gatto, 7, pose for a photo with the "Elephant."



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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Includes stocks like BIP Cocoa, BarCbk pR, BiPAsnGulf, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Includes stocks like CBL Asc, CBL pD, CBL pE, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Includes stocks like Citi CHF n, CitiStratD, CitiStn, etc.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg. Includes sections for -E- and -F-.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including GabUtil, Gafisa, Gain Cap, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including GUG, GUG, GUG, etc.

- G -

- I -

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes tickers like iShGSCI, iShAetla, iShAria, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes tickers like iShGSci, iShAetla, iShAria, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes tickers like iShChAcxUs, iShChBMM rs, iShChFRBd, etc.

- J -

- K -

- L -

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like LattUSEq, HirtLobS, LazGlobTR, etc.

- M -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like M&T Bk, M&Tbk pFA, M&Tbk pFC, etc.

P-Q

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like PBF Engy, PBF Logist, PCM Fund, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like Mohawk, MolinaHth, MolCoorA, etc.

- N -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like NCI BldSy, NCR Corp, NGL EnPt, etc.

- O -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like OCI Ptrs, OFG Bncp, OFG pFA, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like NuVFloat, NuVFIOP, NuVGADiv2, etc.

- O -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like OCI Ptrs, OFG Bncp, OFG pFA, etc.

P-Q

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week Vol, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like PBF Engy, PBF Logist, PCM Fund, etc.

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NYSE

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

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

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

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains data for various stocks including SPDR S&P 500, SPDR Tech, SPDR Biotech, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains data for various stocks including State Str, StateSt pFC, StateSt pFD, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains data for various stocks including TransEntx, TransUn n, TrnsatPat, etc.

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NYSE

Table of NYSE stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and YTD %Chg.

X-Y-Z

Table of NYSE stock market data for X, Y, and Z sectors, including columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and YTD %Chg.

- W -

Table of NYSE stock market data for W sector, including columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and YTD %Chg.

Nasdaq

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and YTD %Chg.

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks including Amgen, AmicusTh, AmkorTech, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks including BIRidgAc rt, BIRidgA, BlackLin n, etc.

- C -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks including C&F Fnc, CAS Med, CASI Phr h, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, YTD. Lists various stocks including ChyusaHldg, ChyusaTh n, Cimpress, etc.

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes sectors like Technology, Healthcare, Consumer, and Energy.

Table with columns: Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes sectors like Technology, Healthcare, Consumer, and Energy.

Table with columns: Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg. Includes sectors like Technology, Healthcare, Consumer, and Energy.





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Nasdaq

Main table containing stock market data for Nasdaq, including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg, and various financial metrics.

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Nasdaq

Table with 15 columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg, Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg, Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for - V -, - U -, and X-Y-Z.

Money Market Funds

Table with 15 columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

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Money Market Funds

Table listing various Money Market Funds with columns for Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, and Fund details.

Tax Exempt

Table listing Tax Exempt funds with columns for Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, and Fund details.

Toronto stocks

Table listing Toronto stocks with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, and Name details.

Treasury bonds

Table listing Treasury bonds with columns for Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point-must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables

Table listing Mutual Funds with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and Name details.

Continued on next page

Top 20 Mutual Funds

By Year-to-Date Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

By Total Net Assets

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Total Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

By 4-Week Percent Return

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

Continued from previous page

Main table of mutual funds with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists numerous mutual funds across various categories.

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Mutual Funds

Table with 15 columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Contains a wide variety of mutual fund entries such as GrDiscvK, HealthCareM, CirdTxFrncAdv, and Fidelity Advisor.









Continued from previous page

Table containing financial data for various mutual funds, including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and detailed descriptions of fund types and managers.