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## BARR, MUELLER TRADE BARBS AS RUSSIA PROBE RIFT GOES PUBLIC

Private tensions between Justice Department leaders and Robert Mueller's team broke into public view in extraordinary fashion as Attorney General William Barr pushed back at the special counsel's "snitty" complaints over his handling of the Trump-Russia investigation report. *See The News Wire*

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## More pay for new teachers

### Charlotte County schools bump starting rate to \$45K

By **BRIANNA KWASNIK**  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning this fall, the starting salary for new Charlotte County teachers will jump from \$38,232 to \$45,000.

The School Board approved the proposal unanimously at a special meeting Tuesday.

The agreement comes after nearly four months of bargaining between the district and the unions representing teachers and support employees. Union representatives could not be reached for comment.

"Our districts faced challenges in the past in extending regular increases and compensation to our employees," said Assistant Superintendent Chuck Breiner at the meeting Tuesday. "This history left our district in a less-than-competitive position in the recruitment and retention of support, instructional and leadership staff."

The 17.7-percent hike for first-year teachers was the only pay rate explicitly stated in the proposal approved Tuesday. The proposal did not include a full pay schedule for teachers and other employees, but School Board member Ian Vincent said they can expect a raise of about 6 percent across the board.

Vincent told the *Sun* Wednesday that the problem with determining how much an employee can expect to make in the upcoming year is employees haven't always been able to receive step bonuses, a yearly bonus that increases each year of employment.

"This was my ninth time through bargaining, I've been through contracts that neither side was happy with, because the conversations were 'How bad are we going to make these cuts?'"

PAY | 4



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# Babcock Ranch shelter funding in state budget

## A Charlotte County commissioner opposes hurricane shelter, field house

By **BETSY CALVERT**  
STAFF WRITER

It seemed like a long shot, but \$8 million in state funding for a hurricane shelter at Babcock Ranch has survived the Florida legislature's budget negotiations.

Legislators on Tuesday agreed on a \$90 billion-plus fiscal 2020 budget, including

the shelter line item. They will not take a final vote until at least Saturday, though, due to a required 72-hour waiting period.

Gov. Ron DeSantis could still veto the line item, but the man behind the shelter idea, Syd Kitson, said he hopes that does not come to pass.

"We would hope that because of the nature of what

it is we are trying to do, he (DeSantis) will understand how important this is to southwest Florida," Kitson told the *Sun*.

Southwest Florida has the greatest shortage of storm shelters in the state, according to the 2018 Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan from the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

According to that report, Charlotte County has no Red Cross-approved shelters, although it has a number of unapproved shelters.

Florida uses the "American Red Cross Standards for Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Selection" as the minimum for facilities to be considered safe

SHELTER | 4

# Ready to make a splash?



DRONE PHOTO PROVIDED BY KEN SHORT

## Water slide, lazy river coming this summer

By **TOM HARMENING**  
STAFF WRITER



SUN PHOTO BY TOM HARMENING

**Lindsey Saller, the North Port Parks & Recreation Department's Aquatics supervisor, and Laura Ansell, the department's communications and outreach coordinator, stand in front of construction at the new North Port Aquatic Center along Price Boulevard.**

NORTH PORT — It's been nearly nine years in the planning, but the city's new Aquatic Center is on schedule to open in July.

New, tall aerial water slides have been put into place, pools have been pressure tested and signs are being erected.

"I wouldn't suggest trying out the water slides just yet," said Lindsey Saller, the Parks & Recreation Department's Aquatics Supervisor.

There currently is no water in the slides and at present the tubes end approximately 30 feet above the dry swimming pool.

The approximately \$12 million center features a lazy river float course, three water slides, a children's play area, a 25-meter stretch pool, a concession area and a locker room/restroom building.

The center, along West Price Boulevard

next to the Morgan Family Community Center, is about to start hiring staff for the facility.

Admission costs vary, but the basic rate for a North Port resident will be \$8. For non-residents, the admission rate is \$12. There are discounts for children, seniors, members of the armed forces and veterans.

Through the decades, there were at least 70 City Commission meetings and 38 city commissioners who discussed the concept of a pool or aquatic center in North Port.

Laura Ansell, the department's communications and outreach coordinator, said all are welcome once the center opens, however, the primary reason the facility was constructed was for the "enjoyment of the residents of North Port."

Ansell said the site will be "one to enjoy and remember." Construction of the facility began in June of 2018. The design of the facility began in 2010.

## Welcomed with 'open arms'

### Puerto Rican student displaced by Hurricane Maria nominated for North Port prom king

By **VICTORIA VILLANUEVA-MARQUEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — After two months of living without water and electricity, Heber Mercado fled from Hurricane Maria's devastation, leaving his loved ones behind in Puerto Rico.

Mercado sought refuge in North Port, moving in with his aunt who quickly became a second mother. But he couldn't help missing

"I'm really grateful that I get to participate. ... It's an experience I know I'll remember."

— **Heber Mercado**, North Port High School senior

his parents back home, he remembers.

Although his decision to flee was tough, Mercado said he knew he needed to leave.

"It was a very difficult situation for the country," Mercado said. "It had been two months and there were still utility poles on the ground. There were still trees on the ground. There were still people that couldn't leave their homes."

Hurricane Maria ravaged the island in September 2017, with its government stating it killed an estimated 2,975 people and left many residents without electricity for



SUN PHOTO BY VICTORIA VILLANUEVA-MARQUEZ

**Heber Mercado moved to live with relatives in North Port after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He has been nominated to be prom king for North Port High School. Prom is Saturday.**

nearly a year.

Mercado had to adapt to

STUDENT | 4

# New CEO coming to Englewood Community Hospital

By **STEVE REILLY**  
STAFF WRITER

ENGLEWOOD — Michael Ehrhart will serve as Englewood Community Hospital's new CEO, the company announced Wednesday.



**EHRHART**

"We are excited to have Michael join our team and return to HCA, where he began his career," HCA chief administrative officer Tim Burroughs said in a prepared statement. The HCA West Florida network includes 15 hospitals, 24 ER locations, 14 ambulatory surgery centers, 54 physician practices, 40 graduate medical education programs, a regional lab, and consolidated service center.

"(Ehrhart) is a leader who excels in aligning clinical, operational and quality objectives, to create world-class healthcare for the patients and communities he serves," Burroughs said. "We know that he will do great things to support the continued expansion and growth for Englewood and surrounding communities."

Ehrhart is now CEO for Sovah Health Martinsville, a LifePoint Health two-hospital system in Virginia. He is credited with expanding that company's surgical programs, reorganizing its medical staff

and developing its primary care outreach.

He and his wife, Cindy, will relocate to Englewood with their four children, Andrew, Joshua, Rebekah, and Nathanael.

## Physical therapist to CEO

Ehrhart earned a bachelor of science degree in Athletic Training from the University of Southern Illinois and his Master of Physical Therapy from the University of Indianapolis. He later earned his Master of Health Services Administration and a Master of Business Administration from the University of St. Francis in Illinois.

He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives with advanced certifications as a Health Care Professional in Quality and Patient Safety, in addition to a Six Sigma Green Belt.

Ehrhart started his medical career as a physical therapist and athletic trainer at HCA's Terre Haute Regional Hospital in Indiana. He eventually rose to become that hospital's director of ancillary services.

Ehrhart then went onto several other HCA facilities including Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, as its associate administrator; Skyline Medical Center as chief operating officer, also in Nashville; and Mainland Medical Center as CEO from 2012-15, in Houston, Texas, before joining Sovah Health.

Outside of his work, Ehrhart is

described as enjoying fishing and running, as well as having an interest in history.

## Englewood to St. Pete

Ehrhart takes over for Valerie Powell-Stafford, who served as ECH's CEO from 2016 to April 1 of



**POWELL-STAFFORD**

this year, when she took over as the CEO for HCA's 288-bed Northside Hospital in St. Petersburg. Under Powell-Stafford's leadership, ECH never earned less than A grades for its dedication to patient safety by Leapfrog, an independent nonprofit that grades medical facilities on safety and how well hospitals protect patients from preventable medical errors, injuries and infections within the hospital. ECH also expanded its surgical services to include robotics and spine surgery.

Powell-Stafford also was very active in the Englewood community, serving on the boards of Englewood Chamber of Commerce and SKY Family YMCA. She chaired the American Heart Association's Heart Walk in February, breaking records for local donations.

Powell-Stafford participated in local golf tournaments, Christmas breakfasts with firefighters, back-to-school expos, fundraisers and other community activities.

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

# Law enforcement searching for armed robbery suspect

## Suspect held up two gas stations Wednesday morning

By **ANNE EASKER**  
STAFF WRITER

The Punta Gorda Police Department and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office teamed up Wednesday to investigate two armed robberies at gas stations.

A man robbed the Circle K located at Aquia Esta Drive and Tamiami Trail shortly before 6 a.m.

Then, around 6:15 a.m., Charlotte County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the Marathon gas station at Edgewater Drive and Bayshore Road in Port Charlotte for a second robbery, this time to customers in the store.

Both crimes were determined to be committed by the same suspect. He is described as a black male in his 20s, wearing black Puma sweatpants and a gray Zoo York hoodie. He displayed a gun and was driving a small SUV-style vehicle, possibly a Chrysler.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office released



PHOTO PROVIDED

The suspect is believed to be a black male in his 20s, wearing black sweatpants and a gray hoodie at the time of the crime.

surveillance photos and videos Wednesday afternoon and encouraged the public to reach out with any information, even if they simply recognized the suspect's mannerisms.

Anyone with information on either crime can contact Southwest Florida Crimestoppers at 1-800-780-TIPS.

Email: [anne.easker@yoursun.com](mailto:anne.easker@yoursun.com)

# Do you want to be a 'cannaboss'?

## FGCU offers cannabis certification workshop

By **BRIANNA KWASNIK**  
STAFF WRITER

For \$1,300, you can immerse yourself in a five-day intensive educational workshop about cannabis.

Class begins Monday at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. Patients, healthcare providers, or individuals looking to break into the cannabis industry can obtain a cannabis professional certificate.

Dr. Martha Rosenthal, who will be teaching the course, said there's a lot of people don't understand about cannabis and the fast-growing industry.

"I think one of the misconceptions is it's [the industry] a whole bunch of stoners growing weed in their closet. It's not that

at all," Rosenthal said. "These are professionals."

The course will touch on the history, demographics, public opinion, laws and policies surrounding the drug, the plant, how it affects the body, cannabis as a business — and how participants can use their knowledge to be a "cannaboss."

"Another misconception when I talk about working in cannabis, people think [only] about working at Trulieve [a medical marijuana dispensary]," Rosenthal said. "It's not this narrow-focused industry that people are thinking, it's very widespread."

Rosenthal will introduce speakers who are currently working in the industry, including



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Dr. Martha Rosenthal, professor of neuroscience and physiology at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) will teach a five-day intensive workshop on cannabis.**

cannabis accountants, attorneys, businessmen, chefs, etc.

Rosenthal compared the current state of the industry to Google in the late '90s.

"It's good to get in early in an industry that's only going to get bigger," she said.

The salary varies, depending on the chosen career path. Rosenthal

## CANNABIS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

**Who?** Taught by Dr. Martha Rosenthal, professor of neuroscience and physiology and director of education and research of the new cannabis and workforce initiative at FGCU.

**What?** A five-day intensive workshop about cannabis, including the history, demographics of use, public opinion, laws and policies, the plant, cannabis as a business, etc.

**Where?** Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd S., Fort Myers

**When?** Monday May 6 through Friday May 10

said if someone is starting as a bud-tender, the pay is fairly low. However, for someone starting as a chemist, the salary could be way over \$100,000.

The course will be offered again in August over two weekends. In the fall FGCU is offering five courses on cannabis, all of which are full with 30 students enrolled in each class. The new classes offered include marijuana law, cannabis culture, cannabis and its impact, botany and horticulture, and drug store society.

"They filled fast," Rosenthal said, "There's

a need for this, there's a desire for this."

She said one of the benefits of partnering with local businesses and individuals in the cannabis industry is the school can refine its curriculum based on what the employers are looking for.

"When we work with people in the industry, we know what their wants are," she said.

To learn more about the course, or to register for the upcoming session, visit [registerce.asapconnected.com/?#CourseGroupID=43699](http://registerce.asapconnected.com/?#CourseGroupID=43699).

Email: [Brianna.Kwasnik@yoursun.com](mailto:Brianna.Kwasnik@yoursun.com)

# Florida lawmakers approve school-safety bill that allows teachers to be armed

By **SKYLER SWISHER**  
SUN SENTINEL

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Legislature is sending a controversial bill to the governor that allows teachers to carry guns on campus, despite protests from teachers and students urging them not to put more firearms in schools.

The Florida House voted 65-47 Wednesday in favor of the school safety measure, which promoted hours of heated and emotional debate.

The Legislature made the change in response to last year's shooting

at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that left 17 students and staff dead.

Rep. Chuck Brannan, R-Macclenny, said allowing the arming of school staff will serve as a powerful deterrent for anyone thinking of harming students.

"This bill is the ultimate school-hardening law," said Brannan, a retired law enforcement officer from rural North Florida. "It allows the good guy to stop the bad. ... The bad guy will never know when the good guy is going to be there to shoot back."

Gov. Ron DeSantis has

been supportive of the school safety package.

Although the bill appears likely to be signed into law, local school boards must authorize the arming of teachers. Teachers would have to complete at least 144 hours of training and pass a psychological evaluation.

School boards representing some of the state's largest counties — including Broward, Palm Beach and Orange — are opposed to the idea. It appears unlikely school districts in Central and South Florida would authorize the arming teachers.

Democrats said allowing any district to authorize teachers to carry guns is a step too far.

"Teachers need to teach," said Rep. Matt Gottlieb, D-Davie. "We need to create a more nurturing, loving environment in a school so people don't grow up to become monsters. ... We are creating a police state. It is wrong."

Supporters said a last line of defense is needed in schools, and the bill gives communities the flexibility of whether to implement the program.

The Parkland school

shooting that left 17 people dead was over in less than four minutes.

"Our law enforcement officers failed us on Feb. 14, 2018," said Rep. Dane Eagle, R-Cape Coral. "When they can't get there to save others, I would hope that someone else in that room has the ability to do so."

Students, including some from Stoneman Douglas, protested in the Capitol and urged lawmakers not to authorize the arming of teachers. They voiced concerns that arming teachers would have unintended consequences,

putting them at risk of accidental shootings or excessive force.

Democrats expressed concerns that bill doesn't provide enough guidance on the safe storage and handling of guns at schools. They wanted more training requirements and annual psychological evaluations.

The bill features other items aimed at school safety, including greater reporting of school safety incidents, a standardized risk assessment process for dangerous students, and new guidelines on school-based mental health.

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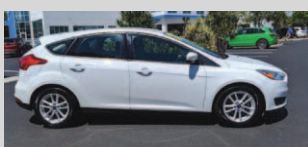
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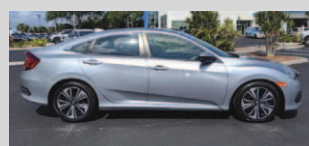
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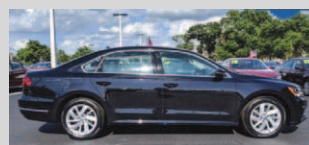
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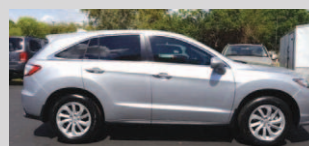
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# Hepatitis A cases increase in Charlotte, region

## Some health officials say many cases involve foreign travel

By CHANNING FRAMPTON  
WINK NEWS

Hepatitis infections are increasing and so far this year Lee County has reported ten times the number of Hepatitis A cases compared to the same time last year.

And, Lee County is not the only place seeing the increase.

Last year between January 1 and April 27, the Department of Health reported only one case in SWFL, and it was in Lee County.

This year, Lee County has reported 10 cases, with three in Charlotte County, two in DeSoto County and one in Collier County.

As of April 27, 954 cases were reported this year in Florida. Compare that to all of 2018, when a total of 549 cases were reported

for the entire year, despite a vaccine that's offered through the health department.

The Collier County Health Department says most of the cases they see are related to foreign travel.

Dr. Stacey Rizzais, an infectious disease expert with Mayo Clinic says, "Anybody who travels to areas where Hepatitis A is endemic, or works in the healthcare field where they may be exposed, or works in the food preparation field where they may be exposed, should be vaccinated."

The Mayo Clinic also says symptoms usually don't appear until you've had the virus for a few weeks.

Practicing good hygiene, including washing hands frequently, is a good way to protect against Hepatitis A.

## Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A.

The hepatitis A vaccine is safe and effective. The vaccine series usually consists of 2 shots, given 6 months apart. Getting both shots provides the best protection against hepatitis A.

### Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for:

- All children at age 1 year
- Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common
- Family and caregivers of adoptees from countries where hepatitis A is common
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- People who use or inject drugs
- People with chronic or long-term liver disease, including hepatitis B or hepatitis C
- People with clotting factor disorders
- People with direct contact with others who have hepatitis A
- People experiencing homelessness

Hepatitis A is caused by a contagious virus that infects the liver, and can lead to serious liver problems.

There is a vaccine that prevents the virus.

The virus spreads through the feces of

people who have the virus. If a person with the virus doesn't wash his or her hands after going to the bathroom, feces can transfer to objects, food, drinks or drugs, according to the Florida Department

## Symptoms

Not everyone with hepatitis A has symptoms. Adults are more likely to have symptoms than children. If symptoms develop, they usually appear 2 to 7 weeks after infection and can include:

- ✓ Yellow skin or eyes
- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Not wanting to eat
- ✓ Dark urine or light-colored stools
- ✓ Upset stomach
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Throwing up
- ✓ Joint pain
- ✓ Stomach pain
- ✓ Feeling tired

Symptoms usually last less than 2 months, although some people can be ill for as long as 6 months.

## Diagnosis and treatment

A doctor can determine if you have hepatitis A by discussing your symptoms and taking a blood sample. To treat the symptoms of hepatitis A, doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids. Some people will need medical care in a hospital.

— Source: Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

of Health.

"When these things are shared, other people can unknowingly swallow the virus," states information from the DOH. "If a person who has the virus comes in close contact with

others—like during sex—the virus can also spread."

Fore more information visit: [www.floridahealth.gov/Diseases-and-Conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/Diseases-and-Conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a/index.html)

## SHELTER

FROM PAGE 1

as hurricane evacuation shelters.

The proposal was submitted originally by Rep. Michael Grant (R-Port Charlotte), and would lead to a privately owned field house to double as a storm shelter in times of emergency. It would be located in the undeveloped eastern part of the county, far from the coastal population and flooding. But population is increasing in the county's interior with the opening of the Babcock

Ranch community.

Not everyone is thrilled with the budget success.

"The funding is not our funding. It's Syd Kitson's funding," said Charlotte County Commissioner Joe Tiseo Wednesday. "The appropriation request was crafted under false and misleading representation."

Tiseo has been a persistent critic of the Babcock shelter plan since he learned of Grant's legislative submission in March.

Tiseo's main criticism is that the proposal includes a \$2 million contribution from Charlotte County,

which never came before the board in a public session. The state Appropriation Request notes a contribution of \$2 million in "local" funding.

"I think the shame of this whole thing is, you've got millions of dollars of public money, and no hearings," Tiseo told the Sun. "That's a tragedy. This whole thing was done with back door deals."

Public hearings were the first thing Kitson mentioned when asked about the next step for the shelter, now that funding appears possible.

"The next step is to put

a team together and work with Lee and Charlotte counties," Kitson said. "There's no commitment from anyone right now to do anything. We have to see what level of engagement they want to have."

Kitson did meet originally with commissioners one-on-one, and asked for first \$8 million and later for \$2 million, but that was after the legislation was filed. Not knowing of the legislation, Tiseo said he told Kitson he would not support the funding request. The other four commissioners have not commented on their meetings, and have

declined to criticize Grant or Kitson in relation to the legislation.

Tiseo also said he believes the shelter will be of more use to Lee County.

In fact, Kitson said, it was a Lee County legislator, state Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers, who in the end, persuaded her fellow senators to buy into the plan.

"Sen. Benacquisto understood the need and really wanted to do something about it," Kitson told the Sun.

Benacquisto filed a Senate version of the bill, which mirrors Grant's bill.

Both bills suggest funding for a field house/shelter could also require \$3 million from Florida Power and Light, \$2 million from local sources and \$2 million from the federal government.

From the state, funding would be \$8 million this year and \$8 million next year.

Public hearings after the fact do not redeem the project, Tiseo said. That would be rewarding bad actors, he said.

"If we set the precedent now that this is the way we establish board priorities, what about the next time?"

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

## PAY

FROM PAGE 1

Vincent said, "It was never 'How much are we going to give you?' but 'How much are we going to take away?'"

The increased salaries were made possible by the voters of Charlotte County passing the tax referendum in

November.

The referendum will cost homeowners an additional \$1 for every \$1,000 assessed value of their property, bringing an additional \$17 million annually to the district.

The district promised voters the money would make teacher salaries more competitive compared to other counties, as well add an extra

half-hour of instructional time with students.

"These agreements before you today make profound and significant repairs in starting wages, especially in several support employee categories to allow our district to recruit new applicants and to retain qualified experienced and trained staff," Vincent said.

The district's decision

places Charlotte's starting teacher wage slightly ahead of Sarasota County, where a first-year educator with a bachelor's degree currently makes \$44,300.

"Hopefully this will stop the mass exodus from our schools. We've had so many experienced teachers leave because we're not offering competitive pay," Vincent said. "Now

we're at least in the same ballpark [for starting salaries]. Before, it was about 15 percent higher, it was a huge amount. Now it's a very minor pay difference between us and Sarasota."

The Charlotte County district set aside \$7 million from the referendum for compensation for staff and an additional \$5 million to cover

the costs for the extra half hour added to the workday.

"I could not be any prouder of the district," said superintendent Steve Dionisio at Tuesday's meeting. "It's one of those days hopefully that will push us in a direction that the district has not been in a very long time."

Email: [Brianna.Kwasnik@yoursun.com](mailto:Brianna.Kwasnik@yoursun.com)

## STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

a new country, a new culture and a new high school.

He enrolled at North Port High School during his junior year where he soon grew close with a group of friends in his AP Spanish class. They were among the first peers

who he could speak to in Spanish and who helped him feel understood.

Despite the hardships Mercado endured, his AP Spanish teacher, Karla Arzuza, notes that he always kept an optimistic outlook.

"Last year, we had a number of Puerto Rican students who came after the storm," Arzuza said. "I had students, like

Heber, who adapted to North Port, but I also had many others who didn't and decided to move

to Orlando, where the Puerto Rican community is significantly larger. But Heber adapted very well. His classmates welcomed him with open arms."

Arzuza said she admires her student's ability to adapt to difficult circumstances, adding that

he has become a great example for the North Port community, as well as the Latino community.

"I've never heard Heber complain or cry or feel sorry for himself," Arzuza said. "He's always trying to do his best and he's always made an effort to take advanced classes. It amazes me that in less than two years of being here, he's already completed his graduation requirements."

After a year of living away from her son, Mercado's mother moved into an apartment with him in North Port. She arrived at the start of his senior year — a moment Mercado had longed for.

"There's no one like my mom," he said. "She knows everything about me ... I wouldn't

## UPCOMING PROMS:

- The Academy**- 7 p.m. Friday at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex, 4500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte
- Charlotte High School**- 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
- North Port High School**- 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave., Venice
- Port Charlotte High School**- 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11 at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda

change being with her for anything."

Mercado notes that this year has been a lot easier since being reunited with his mother. The end of his senior year has been marked with new achievements.

Mercado walked into Arzuza's classroom to find a classmate waiting to tell him he had been nominated for prom king.

Mercado, who didn't expect to receive the nomination, said he felt

proud to represent the Latino community on campus.

"I'm really grateful that I get to participate," Mercado said. "It's an experience I know I'll remember."

As the end of the year comes to a close and graduation starts to approach, Mercado notes that he has his sights on going to college nearby.

He has been accepted to State College of Florida, where he hopes to finish his associate's degree before transferring to the University of Tampa or the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Mercado has already started looking into the college classes he will soon register for. But the thought of returning home to Puerto Rico hasn't left his mind.

"I'd like to go back," Mercado said. "I miss my country. I wouldn't change it for anything, but I think I'd have better opportunities here than I'd have back home, so I'd prefer to stay here."

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# 'It's been a great adventure'

## Councilman Gary Wein not seeking 3rd term in Punta Gorda

By DANIEL SUTPHIN  
STAFF WRITER

With the 2019 city elections coming in November, Council Member and former Vice



WEIN

Mayor Gary Wein has opted not to run for re-election. Rounding out his second term as the District 3 representative, Wein made the announcement at Wednesday's City Council Meeting.

"I am not seeking a

third term," Wein said. "I would encourage all good citizens to step forward and take it; it was a great adventure."

Wein, 71, was elected in November 2015.

"This is a very unique community," Wein told the Sun. "I was asked by some people if I would consider running four years ago and I said yes. I believe I've had some great accomplishments, a couple mistakes ... absolutely. Hopefully, I've left far more good than bad in my tenure, but it's time for me to move on to other areas to serve my community. I couldn't

have asked for a more enriching opportunity."

With certain projects important to Wein making progress, he said that this is just the right time for him to go.

"The Shell Creek Water Treatment Plant Reverse Osmosis (water purification) project is on its way," Wein said. "I see the CityWide Master Plan (a guide for the city's future) winding down soon and then to be implemented ... getting to see those types of things through was important. It's time to work on new projects in other venues."

Two council seats will be contested in November: District 3 and 5.

Mayor Nancy Prafke, the District 5 council member, said she will seek re-election. The mayor position is not up for election because mayors are picked by the City Council.

Candidate packets are available through the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 326 W. Marion Ave. They can also be obtained online from the Division of Elections website, [dos.myflorida.com/elections](http://dos.myflorida.com/elections).

Email: [Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com](mailto:Daniel.Sutphin@yoursun.com)

## OBITUARIES

### CHARLOTTE

#### Carole Grace Kenyon

Carole Grace Kenyon, 81, of Punta Gorda, Florida, passed away on Monday, April 29, 2019, at the Tidewell Hospice House facility in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Carole, the only child of Bruce and Mildred Schlinkert, was born August 11, 1937 in Los Angeles, California. After graduating high school, Carole attended and later graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Education. During this period of time, she met and married the love of her life, Ralph Edward Kenyon, whom she wed in July of 1960. She continued to teach full time until the birth of their son, then devoted herself primarily to taking care of her family. Carole and Edward, long time residence of Belle Mead, New Jersey, retired to Punta Gorda in 1990 where they enjoyed the warm sunny days and family activities together.

Carole is survived by her loving husband of nearly 59 years, Edward Kenyon; son Ron (Spouse Leah) Kenyon of Suwanee, GA; daughter, Laura (Spouse Charles) Kesler of Naperville, IL; and grandsons, Johnathon and Christopher Kesler.

Visitation will be held this Sunday, May 5, 2019 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Roberson Funeral Home, Punta Gorda Chapel at 215 Mary Street in Punta Gorda.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Carole's name are suggested to Tidewell Hospice, Philanthropy Department, 5955 Rand Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34238.

Friends may visit online at [www.robersonfh.com](http://www.robersonfh.com) to extend condolences to the family. Arrangements are by Roberson Funeral Homes & Crematory, Punta Gorda Chapel.

#### Agnes Paolella

Agnes Paolella, 84, of Punta Gorda passed away April 29, 2019. She was the daughter of Victor and Palma Corapi, born December 3, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY. Agnes was a homemaker and a librarian at the public library. She came to this area in 1982 from Levittown, NY and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Agnes will be greatly missed by her husband Frank of 61 years; sons, James Paolella of Levittown, NY, and Frank Paolella, of Punta Gorda; grandchildren, Frank, Michele, and Keli; and brother, Victor (Marianne) Corapi of Staten Island, NY.

The family will receive friends 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2019 at Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services. The service in celebration of Agnes' life will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 3 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. To express condolences to the family, please visit [www.LTaylorFuneral.com](http://www.LTaylorFuneral.com) and sign the online guest book. Arrangements are by Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services.

### ENGLEWOOD

#### Norman Bruce Ellinwood

Norman Bruce Ellinwood, 85, of Englewood, Florida died on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at home.

Norman was born March 14, 1934 in Rochester, New York to Ben and Aleda Ellinwood.

He was a retired Sheriff of Monroe County in New York. Norman moved to Englewood in 1989 from Rochester.

He is survived by his loving family, his companion of 30 years, Marlene Bullard of Englewood; two daughters, Lorrie Ellinwood and Cindy Coyle of Rochester, New York; two sons, Howard Ellinwood of Spencerport, New York and Michael Ellinwood of Watkins Glen, New York; and several grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date in Rochester, New York.

Friends may visit online to extend condolences to the family.

Arrangements are by Roberson Funeral Home & Crematory Port Charlotte Chapel.

### NORTH PORT

#### William Edwin Hastings

William Edwin Hastings, 80, of North Port, Florida died on

Monday, April 29, 2019 at Bayfront Health-Punta Gorda.

William was born Jan. 9, 1939 in Memphis, Tennessee to the late Avery and Sybil Hastings. He retired

after a 20 year career in the U.S. Navy as an aircraft mechanic and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He and his wife moved to Florida 10 years ago from Culdesac, Idaho. Bill was an avid fisherman and spent a lot of time fishing on his boat "The Shaker" on the coast of Washington, Canada and Alaska. He also invented an electronic device called Trollmaster that aids in trolling for salmon. Bill was a very giving, caring and loving, husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his loving family, his wife of 43 years, Marianne Hastings; three daughters, Kathleen Gentle, Connie Hastings and Jennifer Kueter; three sons, William D. Hastings, Jr., David Hastings and Eric Hastings; a sister, Kaye Hastings; and 10 grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date by the family.

Friends may visit online at [www.robersonfh.com](http://www.robersonfh.com) to extend condolences to the family.

Arrangements by Roberson Funeral Home & Crematory Port Charlotte Chapel.

# Overdose investigation lead to drug bust

## Four arrested on drug charges

By ANNE EASKER  
STAFF WRITER

Four people were arrested after a search warrant was carried out at a Port Charlotte residence Wednesday afternoon related to two overdose calls, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported.

Detectives identified a home on the 21300 block of Glendale Avenue as the source of illegal narcotics that led to the overdose calls on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, according to a press release.

Methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and drug paraphernalia were all seized from the home, the news release stated.



Fentanyl was found at the home where the search warrant was conducted based on the investigation into two overdoses.

The suspects are:  
• Jeremy Peters, 31. Charges: possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia.  
• Christopher Tenor, 18. Charges: possession of fentanyl, possession of dab oil, and possession of



PHOTO PROVIDED

Methamphetamine was found at the residence on Glendale Avenue.

drug paraphernalia.  
• Sean Orawe, 25. Charges: possession of fentanyl and possession of drug paraphernalia.  
• Crystal Clark, 30. Charges: possession of methamphetamine, possession of heroin,

and possession of drug paraphernalia. Information about drugs or dealers can be submitted online at [www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org) or the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office mobile app.

Email: [anne.easker@yoursun.com](mailto:anne.easker@yoursun.com)

# Punta Gorda woman charged in conspiracy to distribute meth, marijuana

A Punta Gorda woman was arrested Tuesday after allegedly accepting two packages containing methamphetamine, marijuana, and cannabis in edible and dab forms, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office reported.

Narcotics Detective Cody Forbus and his partner K9 Ladybird intercepted the first package on April 24 at a shipping facility. Ladybird alerted to the odor of illegal drugs, and the recipient was determined to be Rosa Santiago Bonilla, 42, using the alias Heidi Colon, according to a press release. On April 25, she allegedly requested re-delivery of the package.

On April 30, a second package addressed to Heidi Colon arrived at the facility, and Ladybird again sniffed out the drugs, the press release stated.

Both packages were then delivered by an undercover corporal, and Bonilla identified herself as Heidi Colon to accept the packages. She was then detained by Narcotics Unit detectives.

She told them she had been receiving packages containing narcotics for about a year and was paid to redistribute them throughout the state, according to the arrest affidavit. When she receives a shipment, she opens the box, confirms its contents, and takes directions over the phone of where they need to be delivered next.

Bonilla said she "had a feeling that something bad was coming and she needed to change her life," but stated she never went to the Sheriff's Office because she did not want to be labeled as a "snitch."

The packages contained

## 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.

85.5 grams methamphetamine, 151.11 grams of marijuana, three grams of marijuana joints, 14 grams of edible cannabis, and 27.6 grams of THC dab, also known as "shatter." She was placed under arrest for trafficking amphetamines, two counts of possession of marijuana with intent to sell and conspiracy to traffic narcotics.

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

- Morgan Leah Cahill, 18, of Tampa. Charges: possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana. Bond: \$5,000.
- Regge Sergio Lopez, 26, of Tampa. Charge: knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond: \$1,000.
- Julie Ashley Nguyen, 18, of Tampa. Charges: possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana. Bond: \$5,000.
- Tara May Edwards, 47, 4800 block of Fairway Drive, Punta Gorda. Charge: grand theft of property more than \$300 but less than \$5,000. Bond: \$5,000.
- Bradley Benjamin Boswell, 38, 2000 block of Onondaga Lane, Punta Gorda. Charge: battery and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Brian Jamison Cox, 43, 18400 block of Meyer Ave., Port Charlotte. Charges: DUI and off bond/forfeiture/revocations. Bond: \$500.
- Devin Tyler Milton, 18, 23300 block of Scenic Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: \$500.
- Robert Wayne Briggs III, 32, 1600 block of Harmony Drive, Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Javante Bernard Colston, 23, of Fort Myers. Charge: grand theft of property between \$100 and \$300 from dwelling. Bond: \$10,000.
- David Allan Reed, 48, of Fort Myers. Charge:

- violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Dylan Michael Paquin, 24, 900 block of Suncrest Lane, Englewood. Charge: petty theft 2nd offense and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- William Robert Council, 38, of Bradenton. Charges: failure of defendant on bail to appear on felony and two underlying charges. Bond: none.
- Bennie Mitchell Carroll, 55, of Bartow, Fla. Charge: out of county warrant. Bond: \$10,000.

### The Punta Gorda Police Department reported the following arrest:

- Robert Vincent Olivo, 29, 1200 block of Red Oak Lane, Port Charlotte. Charge: knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond: \$1,000.
- Edwin Christ Rackeweg III, 35, of Arcadia. Charge: out of county warrant. Bond: \$1,000.

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

- Lindsay Burke, 31, 4600 block of Bayano Street, North Port. Charges: contempt of court, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment. Bond: \$13,000.
- Adam Hubbard, 55, 100 block of Roberta Street, Venice. Charges: two counts of drug possession without a prescription, drug equipment use and/or possession, marijuana possession, 20 grams or less. Bond: \$2,500.
- David Price, 58, 3300 block of Gatton Street, North Port. Charge: larceny, petty theft, second degree, third offense. Bond: \$1,500.
- Jean Ridgeway, 46, 80 block of Cedar Street, Englewood. Charge: loitering or prowling. Bond: \$120.
- Tyler Shepard, 28, 300 block of Houre Boulevard, Venice. Charge: larceny, petty theft, second degree, third offense. Bond: \$120.
- Chard Wickersham, 31, 1300 block of Cypress Avenue, Venice. Charges: two counts of larceny, grand theft, less than \$5,000. Bond: \$3,000.

— Compiled by Anne Easker and Tom Harmening

## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### PCHS bands to perform

The Port Charlotte High School Bands will be performing its Spring concerts at Murdock Baptist Church, 18375 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte. The symphonic band will perform at 7 p.m. on May 6, and the wind orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. on

May 7. The concerts are free, but donations will be appreciated.

### A Comedy Competition

56 stand up comedians will compete for a \$500 cash prize and a paid feature spot, opening for a nationally touring comedian at Visani and The Comedy Zone, 2400

Kings Highway in Port Charlotte. 12 contestants will perform five minutes each night, May 14, June 4, July 9 and Aug. 13 and the top three from each event will advance to the finals which will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 17. Each of the preliminary shows will be free admission, with a \$5 ticket price on Sept. 17 for the finals. The finals

will feature 12 comedians, each performing seven minutes. This competition is for clean stand up comedy only. Comedians are welcome to sign up for future competition nights in the event they do not place in the top three at their initial event. For more information, call 941-629-9191 or visit [www.visani.net](http://www.visani.net).

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# VIEWPOINT

## OUR VIEW

### Block Party benefits from great effort

Brenda Ryan and her dozen or so Punta Gorda Block Party board members were thankful for a day of rest Sunday. But it won't last long.

"We'll meet next week, go over our bills and start talking about next year," she said Monday.

It's that type of dedication and hard work that make the Block Party the biggest one-day event in Charlotte County.

An estimated 20,000 people flooded the blocked-off streets in Punta Gorda Saturday to see live bands, eat from food trucks and vendors, enjoy some cold drinks and bring their kids to the fun zone. And, while the event was free, donations dropped in buckets by the entry gates are expected to add up to nearly \$18,000. That money — after the bills are paid — goes to local charitable organizations.

Ryan, chairman of the event and a Charlotte County native, knows well the history of the Block Party. Its early years meant a rowdy beer fest that attracted thousands but left some people with a distaste for the event. New leadership tried to change that image but a lack of funding forced the event to be cancelled in 2015.

A "Bring Back the Block Party" movement was successful and, after the one-year hiatus, it came back bigger and better in 2016. It's family-first effort has reaped dividends with bigger crowds than ever and lucrative sponsorships for front row seating for the main attraction.

Ryan said she was thrilled with the reception for the Drifters this year. "We thought they'd be a bang or a bust and they were definitely a bang," she said.

Ryan's only wish is that younger people would join her board and get involved. She lamented that the current crop of volunteers — there are more than 100 involved — is not getting any younger.

It would be great for young families or even college-age kids, or younger, to join in the fun and give the Block Party a new perspective. That would assure the event can continue for years to come.

Meanwhile, kudos to the great team that put on a super event this past weekend.

### Proms, grads: Just be smart

Memory gets a little furry as we age, but many in our older demographic no doubt remember the good old days as teenagers in high school enjoying the heady spring season of proms and graduation parties.

Both the good, and the bad. Remember?

We're in prom and graduation season. It's an exciting time for kids, a celebration of accomplishment and transition to a new phase of life. The heart skips, the hormones flow and the head — occasionally — becomes overwhelmed by all the skipping and flowing. The brain can then make unfortunate mis-connections.

It may do no good for adults to lecture youngsters. Few of us enjoy sitting through long lectures.

But adults need to make the point to their children that actions have consequences. An emotional decision on one day — to blow it out at a party, say — can result in something that brings a lifetime of regret.

It all counts.

You may get lucky, and then you may not.

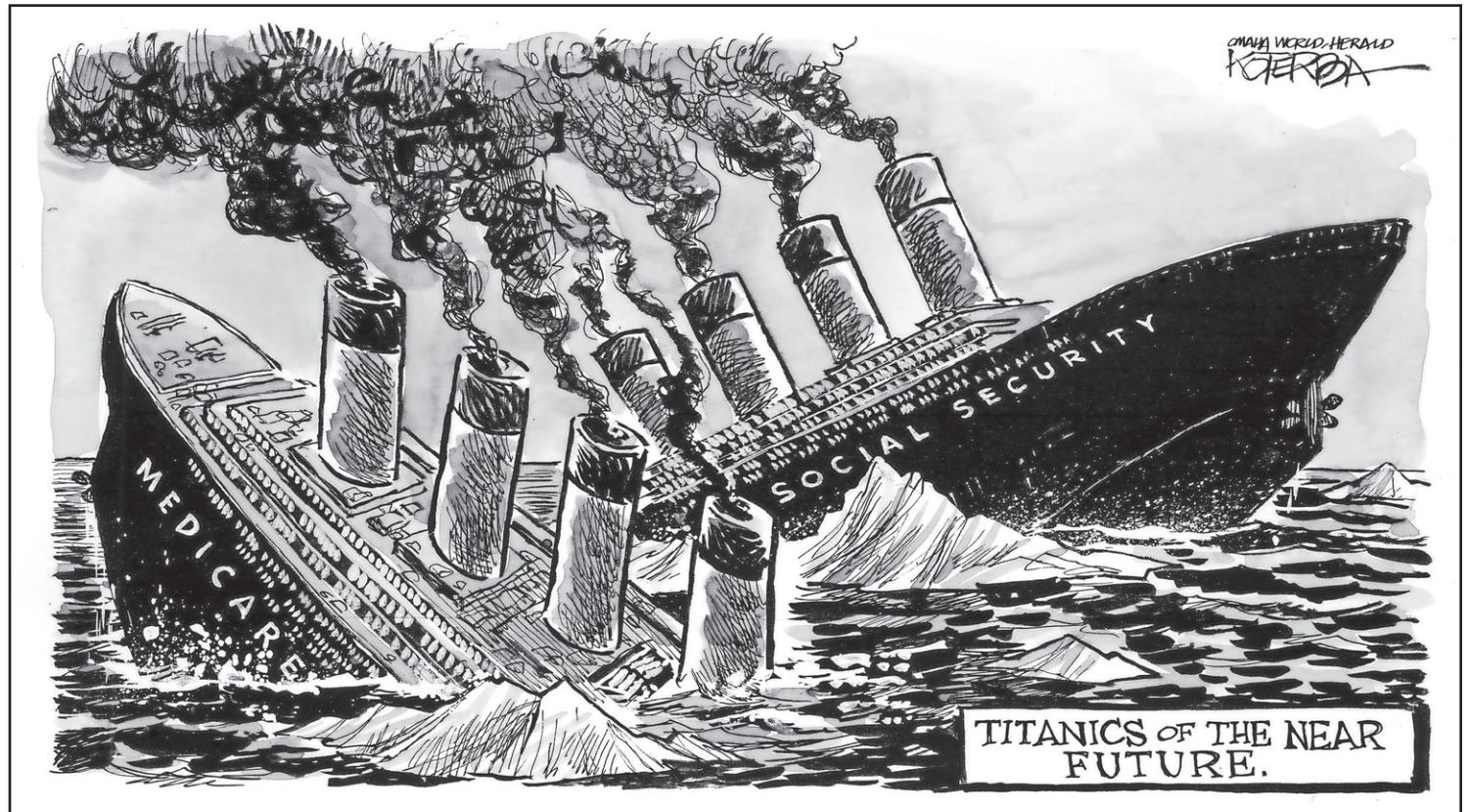
Is it worth the risk?

Parents, talk to your kids.

Kids, try hard not to do stupid stuff.

Have fun, but remember that you've got years ahead of you. It's likely you'll have kids of your own someday and you'll feel the same way we oldsters do now. You'll have to speak with them, too, about actions and consequences.

OK. Maybe that was a lecture. At least it was short.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fire the editor for Bernie cartoon

Editor:

I read the letters to the editor every day. Some I agree with, others I do not. At least everyone who writes in owns their opinion by having their name clearly printed.

Apparently, this is not required by your paper, as the name identifying the author/artist of the incredibly offensive and vulgar representation of Sen. Bernie Sanders in the political cartoon published April 30, is hidden and difficult to locate. Even if you don't agree with Sen. Sanders' politics, publishing a cartoon depicting him as a supporter and disciple of Soviet Russia communist leaders Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin, responsible for the subjugation and deaths of millions of their own countrymen, is the epitome of irresponsible journalism, at its worst.

Whoever approved of this "cartoon," for whatever reason, needs to be relieved of their job.

Gary Sanders  
Rotonda West

### Bernie cartoon was appalling

Editor:

I was absolutely appalled at the political cartoon, portraying Bernie Sanders as a scythe-holding communist.

It is not only completely incorrect, it is extremely irresponsible. To put him in front of a banner with Lenin and Stalin only serves to confuse people who are already confused about the differences in communism and socialism.

Low and behold, under the cartoon, a letter bashing socialism and Democrats. There is enough hate and confusion in our world. We shouldn't have our local newspaper adding fuel to the fire. Very disappointing.

Caroline Gannon  
Rotonda West

### Royal palms needed on Price Boulevard

Editor:

For all intents and purposes it appears that the city of North Port is about to recreate a 2.7-mile slab of ugly concrete right through the heart of the city with the widening of Price Boulevard.

After watching a video of the last meeting on the project I

heard several officials come up with a bunch of reasons (space constraints, root damage, etc.) why trees could not be planted but no solutions on how to create what could be a beautiful roadway and an attraction to the city.

I would encourage every North Port resident to take a drive on McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers to view the potential of what Price Boulevard could be. Royal palm trees have ball root-type systems which do not interfere with roadways, curbs, utilities and take up only a few feet and alleviate all the concerns raised in the meeting.

I went to Fort Myers, took pictures and submitted them for city officials to prove this is a viable solution. Instead of decreasing home values along Price Boulevard with the expansion, the city could increase them with proper aesthetics by planting royal palms making it a location where people would actually want to relocate to.

I've submitted my suggestions and pictures to the City Commissioners and got the following responses. Two commissioners not even an acknowledgement, one commissioner replied good idea I will submit it, one commissioner moderate interest and one commissioner taking it seriously.

If you agree contact the City Commission.

Stephen Burke  
North Port

### Make old library a community center

Editor:

The Punta Gorda Library on Henry Street will soon be replaced by a sparkling new library. But what's to become of the old library?

The April 24 Charlotte Sun front page article discussed the efforts of the Charlotte County Historical Society to persuade the county to establish the old library as a county history museum.

I value museums and am sure such would be a value to the community, but for several years I've advocated re-purposing the old library as a community/senior center. For lack of community or private sponsorship there's been no traction for this, although the Punta Gorda City Council did include a "Community Center" in a list of suggestions to the county to consider for future use of the old library. Unless

you're a resident of Punta Gorda Isles, there is no community/senior center available to Punta Gorda residents.

Please accept this as my last-ditch effort to garner support for re-purposing the old library for the varied daily uses of residents, young and old.

Gary Skillcorn  
Punta Gorda

### President deserves four-year extension

Editor:

Does anyone think that the CEO of a business would be fired if he or she improved the workplace environment, raised the income level of the company, worked out better deals for selling their product, improved buildings and equipment and raised wages?

Of course not.

The CEO would get a raise and probably some shares of company stock. In the real world results matter. That CEO might get hired on his resume' but if he didn't perform as expected he'd be out the door.

This is the world our president understands. We the people looked at his resume' and hired him for the job of president of the United States. So far we are pleased with his performance and prepared to offer him another four-year contract. There are no other candidates with his credentials.

Virginia Sparks  
Rotonda West

### President deserves to be impeached

Editor:

I've been wrestling with the "impeach/don't impeach" question for a while. I see strong arguments each way. Some Dems fear that impeachment, probably not successful in the Senate, would strengthen Trump, as it did Clinton in the 1990s.

I no longer buy that political argument.

The cases are completely different. Clinton was impeached for lying about a sexual encounter. Trump would be impeached for solicitation and willingness to collude with a hostile foreign power, lying about it over and over again, and then actively obstructing efforts to discover the truth. Perhaps other counts of accepting emoluments, money laundering, etc. Night and day.

Many prosecutors, including Judge Napolitano on Fox, have said that, based on Mueller's

report, if Trump were not president, he would be locked up. The evidence is so strong.

An official statement of condemnation by the Congress is required. If Congress does not move to impeach, history will record Trump's assertions of "no collusion, no obstruction" as true. Congress, the voice of the people, must move to impeach and establish a "permanent record" of Trump's betrayal of our country. If the Republican Senate does not affirm the impeachment, each of them will need to explain their vote not to impeach. They will lose, and the Republican Party will fade into history.

If Trump's offenses were limited to Stormy Daniels, "Access Hollywood" and the like, I could see letting it go. But we are talking about defrauding and betraying the country. We cannot let that go.

Bill Vensel  
Rotonda West

### Bucking a trend in Charlotte County

Editor:

There is a classic painting by Edward Hicks which demonstrates all of God's creations living together in perfect balance and harmony. This allegorical piece of artwork could be ascribed to the people in our community.

In the 41 years that I have lived here, I've seen true brotherhood and sisterhood at their best, while our diverse community lives together the way our Creator intended. We almost never see hateful, malicious crimes against a cemetery, a house of worship or a personal residence. Even in the worst of times, such as the time after 9/11, the people of Charlotte County banded together when there was a slight uptick in bigotry and prejudice.

In my chosen profession, I have colleagues, friends and "brothers" from every religion, racial group and country of origin in this world. I think that I am a better person for it, and so are the patients and residents of our local area. Each local ethnic group maintains its remarkable identity while keeping our community and our country first in its heart.

It is a paradigm for the rest of our society. We seem to be bucking a disturbing worldwide trend that is quite the opposite.

David Klein  
Punta Gorda

## HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# A museum fuels hatred of America in a foreign land

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is a masterpiece of American architecture, a swirl of curved configurations crafted out of sheets of titanium by Frank Gehry. But step inside the stunning structure, and the celebration of America is over.

Most of the second floor is dedicated to the works of American artist Jenny Holzer, who seems to be filled with loathing for the land of her birth. As you enter one gallery, you are greeted with an exhibit called the “Inflammatory Essays,” a series of posters printed on colored paper and containing the artist’s various manifestos. They were originally pasted throughout the public spaces of New York City, and now plaster the walls of the gallery in a rainbow of geometric designs. The presentation is beautiful,



Washington Post  
**Marc A. THIESSEN**

but the sentiments are anything but.

The first one I see, right by the door, is titled “The End Of The U.S.A.” It reads: “All you rich f — see the beginning of the end and take what you can while you can. You imagine that you will get away, but you’ve s — in your own bed and now you’re the one to sleep in it. Why should everyone else stay behind and smell your stinking cowardice? Here’s a message to you — space travel is uncertain and any refuge of yours can be blown off the map. There’s no other place for you to go. Know that your future is with us so don’t

give us more reasons to hate you.”

Charming. The posters are helpfully translated into Basque, Spanish, French and German, so that visitors from many lands can take in Holzer’s sentiments and, according to the Guggenheim, “consider the necessity of social change, propaganda’s potential to manipulate the public, and the conditions that attend revolution.”

In another gallery, Holzer has created paintings out of redacted U.S. government documents relating to interrogation of terrorist detainees at Guantanamo Bay and in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some canvasses show intelligence documents with the black redaction lines in gold and silver leaf, while others are blowups of handwritten statements by detainees alleging all kinds of horrific abuses at the

hands of Americans.

Nowhere is it noted that terrorists were trained to lie about abuses in custody, that multiple government investigations found that no torture took place at Guantanamo Bay or that when abuses did take place, as they did in Abu Ghraib, abusers were investigated and punished. The vast majority of U.S. personnel responsible for detaining and questioning terrorists served with honor to prevent another attack such as the one we suffered on September 11, 2001. But if you came through the exhibit, you would think that the American military was the modern-day equivalent of the Spanish Inquisition.

Not all her works are so offensive. In one exhibit, a four-sided vertical LED sign swings from the ceiling with scrolling first-person accounts

from those detained and tortured by the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria. But even here, the juxtaposition of this exhibit with the redacted military documents seems designed to send a subtle message that there is really no moral distinction between Assad and America — both are torture regimes.

In fact, it was the U.S. armed forces that struck Assad’s regime to stop his use of chemical weapons against innocent civilians and drove the Islamic State from its murderous caliphate. The men and women of the U.S. military risk their lives every day to protect us from evil men bent on our destruction. Their courageous service gives Holzer the freedom to produce her art.

It’s no surprise that the art world is left wing. But the Guggenheim Museum

Bilbao — an institution owned by an American foundation, in the heart of Spain — has turned itself into something worse: an instrument of anti-American propaganda. The museum is spreading calumnies against the men and women of the U.S. military and fueling hatred of America in a foreign land.

Among the redacted documents in the gallery, one of her most recent works is displayed — a massive rendering of a page from special counsel Robert Mueller’s indictment of Paul Manafort. Missing from the exhibit was the page from the actual Mueller report that declared there was no conspiracy with Russia. She has yet to turn that redacted document into art. I’m sure she’s working on it.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

# There’s a better way to get Donald Trump out of office

Sen. Elizabeth Warren says President Trump must be impeached. She says it’s a moral imperative, when it’s actually a simple math problem.

The House of Representatives could easily vote for articles of impeachment, but the Republican-controlled Senate will never convict Donald Trump. There aren’t enough votes.

It would be, like the Bill Clinton impeachment hearings, a doomed and stupendously expensive exercise that could backfire on the president’s critics.

While House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic leaders are struggling to tamp down the impeachment chatter, others — including 2020 candidates such Warren, Sen. Kamala Harris and former HUD secretary Julian Castro — are all fired up.

Just look at the Mueller Report! they say.

Well, sure. Even the redacted version paints Trump as a lying, bullying, petty, paranoid child who would have done anything to shut down the special counsel’s investigation.

If such high-level interference or intimidation of the Justice Department had occurred during President Barack Obama’s third year in office, he would have been tried, convicted and gavelled out of a job by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in a nanosecond.

And, yes, a Congress faced with evidence of obstruction of justice or other offenses by a sitting president is constitutionally empowered to proceed, without political considerations.

That sounds very high-principled, but so do the words engraved on the Statue of Liberty, which are, at this point, basically



Miami Herald  
**Carl HIAASEN**

decorative.

Liberals who know how to add numbers also know that the president won’t be vanquished from office by impeachment. So, setting aside their available constitutional mission, what would be the point of hauling the country through a lengthy, ultimately fruitless prosecution?

Here’s the blockbuster news we would learn from House impeachment hearings about the Trump presidency:

1. The White House is a dysfunctional madhouse where the job turnover is higher than your average Papa Johns.
2. Trump is incapable of speaking the truth. A man who casually thrice lies about his father’s own birthplace (it was New York City, not a town in Germany) isn’t only unfit to govern, he’s ungovernable.
3. Trump tests the loyalty of his anxiety-ridden staff members by their willingness to defend his dumb lies at the cost of their own integrity.
4. Before the election, there were numerous contacts between Putin-connected Russians and Trump loyalists and

campaign operatives. However, because Trump’s campaign was so comically plagued with amateurs, it’s conceivable that those who cozied up to the Russians were too stupid to know they were breaking the law.

Sure, impeachment investigators might dig up additional details about the sleazy antics of Paul Manafort, Mike Flynn, Michael Cohen and the other greedy boneheads Trump surrounded himself with.

It’s also possible that House will nail down more incidents in which the president tried to thwart Mueller’s work, or jeopardized national security to benefit his private business deals.

None of it matters to Trump’s devoted core base of supporters, currently hovering around 37 per cent. There’s nothing about his blowhard, back-tracking persona that they don’t already know, and probably nothing they would learn will change their minds.

The portrait of volatility and incompetence painted by the Mueller Report mirrors what’s been described in all the insider accounts already published about this presidency.

Trump’s tremulous tweet storms are destined for future psychiatric textbooks, and you could compile a three-hour speech reel of him spouting one lie after another. The folks who

support him don’t much care.

Some Democrats who concede that impeachment will probably end in acquittal by the Senate insist it’s still worth the effort. They say the hearings will keep the issue of Trump’s diarrheal dishonesty at the top of the debate, energizing their voter base and fundraising for the 2020 race.

That’s the same strategy tried by then-Speaker Newt Gingrich two decades ago, when he knew the GOP in the Senate didn’t have the votes to remove Bill Clinton. Clinton’s presidency was

damaged and distracted by the circus, but he left office with higher popularity ratings than the Republicans that went after him.

Is impeaching Trump justified under the Constitution? Of course. Duh. He’s the most venal, lawless, infantile boob who ever sat in the Oval Office.

But he’ll survive a Senate trial, and the extravaganza will only feed his crybaby narrative about “presidential harassment.”

The pending Congressional investigations, if clearly focused, could be important and break some actual news. Impeachment would just

be a show.

And, seriously, is there a functioning adult in this whole nation who needs further illumination about the current goat rodeo in the White House? Everyone knows what Trump is capable of, and you either love his act or you hate it.

Only a fool would wait for Congress to get rid of him. A better way — also a gift from the Constitution — is to get off your butt and vote him out.

Carl Hiaasen is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132.

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3000



NOTICES

3112 FICTITIOUS NAME

05/02/2019  
**Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **CPR and More Training Classes LLC** located at P.O. Box 494001 in the County of Charlotte in the City of Port Charlotte, Florida 33949 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated at Port Charlotte, Florida, this 26th day of April, 2019.  
 CPR and More Training Classes LLC  
 Publish 05/02/19  
 110833 3677619

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3122 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE No. 18000868CA

NEW PENN FINANCIAL, LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff

vs.

UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DE- VISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIM- ING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST CHRISTINE DAVIS AKA CHRISTINE ROSE DAVIS, DECEASED, et al, Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pur- suant to an Order or Final Judg- ment entered in Case Number 18000868CA of the Circuit Court of the 20th Judicial Circuit in and for CHARLOTTE County, Florida, wherein, NEW PENN FINANCIAL, LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORT- GAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, and, UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DE- VISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIM- ING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST CHRISTINE DAVIS AKA CHRISTINE ROSE DAVIS, DECEASED, et al., are De- fendants, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at [www.charlotte.realforeclose.com](http://www.charlotte.realforeclose.com), in accordance with Chapter 45 Florida Statutes, at the hour of 11:00 AM, on 05/29/2019, the following described property:

LOT 22, BLOCK B, GULF WIND SUBDIVISION, UNIT 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGE 44 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person Claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.  
 DATED this 04/22/2019.

ROGER D. EATON  
 As Clerk of said Court  
 By: R. Tillman  
 As Deputy Clerk

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 Publish: 04/25/19, 05/02/19  
 146548 3675726

3126 NOTICE OF MEETING

CHARLOTTE COUNTY HEALTHY START COALITION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc., Board of Direc- tor's Meeting will be held at the Coalition office, 17940 Toledo Blade Blvd., Unit A, Port Char- lotte, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednes- day, May 8, 2019.

The meeting is open to the pub- lic. Phone 764-9700 for more information.  
 Publish: 05/02/2019  
 128405 3677948

3130 NOTICE OF SALE

On 05/16/2019 at 8:00 AM an auction will take place at 3017 Cooper St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950. The vehicles which will be auctioned include:  
 1C4GJ45383B183923  
 2003 CHRYSLER Voyager  
 Publish: 05/02/2019  
 406353 3678269

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Darrells Wrecker Service gives No- tice of Foreclosure of Lien and in- tent to sell these vehicles on 05/17/2019, 10:00 am at 663 S BREVARD AVE ARCADIA, FL 34266-4260, pursuant to subsec- tion 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Darrells Wrecker Service reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.  
 1FMZU73K83ZA72173  
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 4T1BG22K1VU142626  
 1997 TOYOTA  
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 140912 3677740

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Cops arrest man who allegedly posted 'now hiring' sign  
 Suspect told cops he was on a meth binge

By ANNE EASKER  
 STAFF WRITER

PORT CHARLOTTE — The man who allegedly broke into Custom Pools by



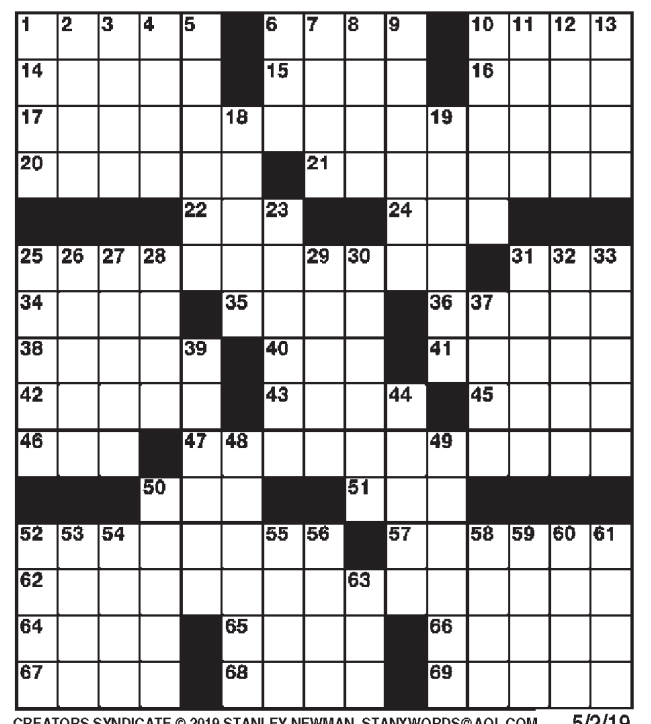
BELLOMO

Precision in Port Charlotte to watch porn, drink beverages from the refriger- ator, and post a fake hiring sign for a sec- retary has been iden- tified and arrested, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office report- ed Wednesday. Jeffrey Bellomo, 28, was identified by an anonymous tipster af- ter the agency posted a photo from sur- veillance footage on Facebook, according to an arrest affidavit. The incident oc- curred on Saturday between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. Bellomo al- legedly stole the keys to a truck parked at the back of the busi- ness and left a broken key in the ignition. He also took two drinks, a Mike's Hard Lemonade and a Diet Coke, which he left near the computer, the affidavit stated. The videos of por- nography he watched were still up when the owner came to check the business the following day. The "now hiring" sign made with a pad and marker and hung in the window stated the business was hir- ing a secretary with no experience starting at \$17 an hour. Bellomo was found in a homeless camp on Kenesaw Avenue and told a deputy he was on a meth binge from Friday to Sunday, according to the affidavit. He said about two hours after he got high, his face began to peel off, which is why he is seen on surveillance video using cloths and towels on his face. He did not recall entering the vehicle or the business, he told the deputy, but he reportedly iden- tified himself in a photo taken from the video surveillance. He had been in the county for about six days, he said. Bellomo was also found to be a convict- ed felon and had not updated his registra- tion with Charlotte County, according to the affidavit. He was last registered in Sarasota County in 2016. He was charged with burglary to an unoccupied structure, grand theft auto, petty theft, and failure to register as a convicted felon.

Newsday Crossword

NOT OPPOSITES by Mark McClain Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**  
 1 American in Paris, for short  
 6 Pulverize  
 10 Cannon contents  
 14 Minor card  
 15 Not snowed by  
 16 Mister Rogers  
 17 Not safely situated  
 20 Parlor purchase  
 21 Keeps in the loop  
 22 Budgetary excess  
 24 Careless  
 25 Not easily found  
 31 Café shaker contents  
 34 "On the double!"  
 35 "Take this"  
 36 Strong gripper  
 38 Maryland collegians  
 40 American Hunter publisher  
 41 Heat carriers  
 42 Lake around Mackinac Island  
 43 Young zebra  
 45 "Beat it!"  
 46 Intel gatherer  
 47 Not in one's prime anymore  
 50 "Prior to" starter  
 51 Evil spell  
 52 Language variants  
 57 High pt. of Sicily  
 62 Not feeling well  
 64 Uninformed guess  
 65 Sea predator  
 66 Knotted rope  
 67 Heavy volume  
 68 Daily grinds  
 69 Flanged hardware
- DOWN**  
 1 Tighten for publication  
 2 Warrior Princess of TV  
 3 Short stroke  
 4 Aachen octet  
 5 Enrage  
 6 Facetious "Who, me?"  
 7 Author Quindlen  
 8 Assembly instructions part  
 9 Big stir  
 10 Stick on  
 11 Diagnostic scans  
 12 Insubstantial  
 13 Keats creations  
 18 Reluctant  
 19 Began to unravel  
 23 From that place
- 25** Serious promises  
**26** Exhaust  
**27** Stick around  
**28** The other side, for short  
**29** Mistaken opinion  
**30** Great holdings  
**31** Russian Winter Olympics city  
**32** Praise profusely  
**33** Alternative to Glade  
**37** Entryway instruction  
**39** One saying "SKNXX-X!"  
**44** Subject under discussion  
**48** Airplane's course
- 49** Still around  
**50** Annapolis newbie  
**52** Check for fingerprints  
**53** Division preposition  
**54** Guy on the Sistine Chapel ceiling  
**55** Drive-\_\_  
**56** Offshoot group  
**58** School near Windsor  
**59** "You" of yesteryear  
**60** Source of tweets  
**61** Hawkish Olympian  
**63** "There once \_\_ a..."



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/2/19

Look for a third crossword in The News Wire section.

Answer to previous puzzle  
 BOLTS GAZE WISH  
 UBOAT OMEN ASIA  
 DOWNABLINGALLEY  
 SEESRED SLEEVE  
 LAMB ESSES  
 STOPIT ALAS  
 OHGOD SCUD ANNA  
 WORDONTHESTREET  
 SUES IRIS KMART  
 CLAN BOSTON  
 SENSE PEAR  
 ALIENS BASEMAN  
 TAKETHEFASTLANE  
 ITEM EMIT ELITE  
 NESS DUNE PALED  
 5/2/19

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**  
 1 Radio letters  
 5 Oust  
 10 Overly submissive  
 14 Composer Schifrin  
 15 Where one might find shade on a 16-Across  
 16 Tropical spot  
 17 Ceremonial promises  
 18 Explosion  
 19 Bread with vindaloo  
 20 San Sebastián beachgoer?  
 23 Doorbell ringers' response  
 24 Joshua tree habitat  
 25 CPR specialist  
 27 Copy, in a way  
 31 "Blue Bloods" network  
 34 Really cranky folks in Prague?  
 39 Only state whose entire east and west borders are rivers  
 41 "Mythology" author Hamilton  
 42 Word with day or year  
 43 Majestic Nairobi native?  
 46 Like many Pinterest projects, for short  
 47 Inking  
 48 Young Dickens hero  
 50 Birthplace of Marie Curie  
 55 PlayStation player  
 59 End of a Helsinki marathon?  
 62 Wielder of the hammer Mjöl- nir  
 63 Gate fastener  
 64 Chip in chips  
 65 See 66-Across  
 66 With 65-Across, Susan Lucci role  
 67 Like some dorms  
 68 Was in the red  
 69 Disintegrate  
 70 Blunders
- DOWN**  
 1 Cover story?  
 2 Really upset with  
 3 Dentist's advice  
 4 The Hagia Sophia, once  
 5 Dresden's river  
 6 Still in effect  
 7 Cockamamie  
 8 Throws out a line  
 9 Church donation  
 10 Faire performer  
 11 First son of Isaac  
 12 Lust for life  
 13 "Inception" actor Watanabe  
 21 "Semper Fi" org.  
 22 Tight end Zach who scored the go-ahead touchdown in the Eagles' only Super Bowl victory (2018)  
 26 Tough journey  
 28 Cruised through  
 29 Indian spiced tea  
 30 Best Breakthrough Athlete Award, for one  
 31 Smokes, briefly  
 32 Drag  
 33 Ugly duckling, as it turns out  
 35 Tribute piece

By Hoang-Kim Vu 5/2/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B A L I S T E M P U T U P  
 O P A L L U A U O T E R I  
 I N D E C O R U M T I E I N  
 N E Y H A N S E L L  
 G A L V A N I C P U E B L O  
 I S R P A N I C E E G  
 S A B O T S I C K L I L  
 C R E P E W H A D O L C E  
 H E R R O T C I N B A D  
 E A T S W O O P N E O  
 D R Y I C E W H Y N O T M E  
 A H S O O R E T A L  
 A L A M O A F T E R W O R D  
 B I L B O H O O K A M I E  
 S N A I L U R S A T S A R  
 ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 5/2/19

- 36 Confession in confession  
 37 Hog heaven?  
 38 "I say, old \_\_"  
 40 Got back to  
 44 Unable to hear  
 45 Approaching  
 49 Royal home  
 51 Irritated  
 52 It's a trap!  
 53 Caper  
 54 Neopagan practice
- 56 Like the key of Beethoven's Fifth  
 57 Stage direction  
 58 Some woodwinds  
 59 Become less aloof  
 60 Give a fine edge to  
 61 Grammy-winning country duo Dan + \_\_  
 62 Fight-ending letters





HERE'S THE GIG

## Is that plant an annual or perennial?

The answer isn't as easy as you might think

Those of us in the horticulture industry try our best to help the gardening community and the public in general by diagnosing plant and landscape problems and answering an array of gardening questions that come up on a daily basis. Sometimes we know the answers and sometimes we don't. But it can feel a little like being a doctor but without the benefit of X-rays, MRIs and blood tests.

Second opinions are helpful and very often necessary but trust me, no one, whether they

are an amateur gardener or a horticulture professional, knows all the answers. As with most sciences, horticulture can be quite confusing at times. I try to stay on top of trends in the industry by monitoring emerging insects and diseases as well as newly discovered invasive plants that command our immediate attention, but there's plenty that takes me by surprise.

I also follow new plant introductions, and there are some super cool plants out there. Some can be a permanent part of your landscape (perennials) and others are temporary (annuals). With so many new selections of plants on the market each year, it can be hard for even seasoned Florida gardeners to figure out the

difference between an annual and a perennial and how to effectively use them.

I think we all understand that an annual in Ohio is sometimes a perennial in Florida, and occasionally the other way around. But wouldn't it be nice to understand the real differences between them? Since annuals are the shorter-lived plants in these two classifications, I'll start with them.

The true definition of an annual is a plant that completes its life cycle in a single growing season. They grow from seed, mature, bloom, produce seeds and die. Sounds simple enough, and it is. Good examples of true annuals are cosmos, zinnias, marigolds and sunflowers.

For the most part, these

beauties are sown as seed. Plants then emerge and soon our yards and vases are overflowing with amazing color. And then, sadly, they're gone. But the cycle does not stop there. As a matter of survival, they throw seeds that will become new plants in the next growing season. Learn to recognize annual seedlings in your yard so they aren't mistaken for weeds.

Impatiens are annuals, right? Here's where it can get a little confusing when giving advice, because impatiens are not really annuals by definition, we treat them like they are. Impatiens are technically tender perennials. They are planted, then grow and bloom like crazy. They set seeds throughout the blooming process but they don't die after seeding. They just keep on blooming. The survival of impatiens depends

upon their environment.

My husband is from Ohio, so I'll use that as my northern state example. In Ohio, impatiens are treated as annuals because they would never survive the winter. Not speaking from experience, I assume that impatiens are planted in late March or early April there and grow to the delight of all until around late September or so. This process is then repeated year after year and for good reason, maximum color impact — which they sure deliver!

But in southern Florida, we plant impatiens in full sun or part shade beginning in November if it's a mild fall or December if it's been warm. A cool winter rewards us with beautiful bursting color, but a warm one can frustrate us

BECKY | 2B

BILL DUNSON'S WILD WORLD

## A bug's life

Peeking into the insect world

One of my favorite local coastal natural areas is one that you may never have heard about is Manasota Scrub Preserve (<http://bit.ly/2Y5D599>). The trails west of Bridge Street are off-limits to dogs and you will encounter very few people, which explains why I find it a great place to both study and commune with nature. In several visits from early to middle April, I found an abundance of interesting insect life, divided among butterflies, flies and dragonflies.

Bill DUNSON  
COLUMNIST

The zebra swallowtail is well named for its black and white stripes and depends on paw paw plants for a larval food source. They fly quite fast, and it's possible that the long tails and red spots at the hind end confuse predatory birds about where to strike, protecting vulnerable areas of the head and body. It is a treat to see them near the coast.

The little yellow is one of the smaller sulphur butterflies that is common in the deep south region. Its delicate beauty has to be magnified to be fully appreciated. As is the case with most yellow sulphur butterflies, its caterpillars eat cassias, partridge pea and other legumes.

The common buckeye is a widespread butterfly seen throughout the southern and central U.S. Its habit of basking with outspread wings makes it a common sight in open ground and even driveways. Its many larval food plants include common weedy lawn plants such as toadflax and plantains. Its conspicuous eye spots are believed to direct the strikes of birds away from important body parts and possibly scare some away.

You may not usually consider flies worth studying, but there are many interesting and important species. For example, the deerfly, which is normally hated for its sharp bite to obtain blood, is here shown apparently pollinating a rare and beautiful



SUN PHOTOS BY BILL DUNSON

Bold stripes make the zebra swallowtail stand out, and yet are also confusing to predators.



BILL | 8B Boys wear blue — at least, eastern pondhawk boys.



A deer fly visits a pink spiderwort flower.

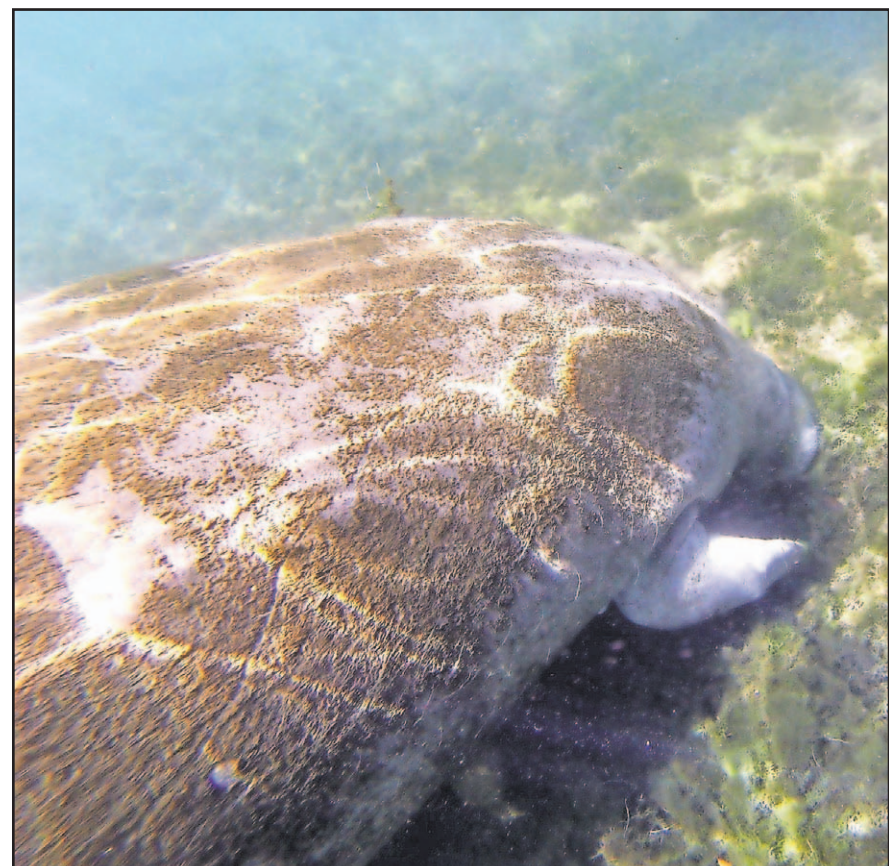


PHOTO BY JENNIFER A. HUBER/SOLOTRAVELGIRL.COM

A manatee grazing in Crystal River.

DAY TRIPPER

## Snorkel with the manatees

'Munch, crunch, munch,' was the sound I heard while floating like Superman over a manatee. The gentle giant slowly drifted inches above the river bottom. I watched in awe as her



Jennifer A. HUBER  
COLUMNIST

prehensile lips sucked up the grassy vegetation in her path. It was almost like watching my iRobot Roomba whisk up cat fur along my living room floor — but much, much cooler.

She was one of at least half a dozen sea cows I observed during a manatee snorkeling trip in Crystal River on a Saturday morning in April.

The three-hour, semi-private trip included two stops, with the first being less than 10 minutes from the dock of Plantation Crystal River Resort. The water in the first location was a bit turbid from a few, uh, "romantic" manatees, making it challenging to see them. I spotted one inches from my face mask and snorkel. While I was finding my bearings, one bumped into my thigh.

Manatee season is defined by the migration

of sea cows seeking warmer waters and is roughly mid-November through the end of March. When water temperatures are cooler than 68 degrees Fahrenheit, these gentle giants, which can weigh between 800 and 3,000 pounds, are susceptible to hypothermia which may be fatal. Because of this, they seek warmer waters. There are several places warm enough for them to live year-round. Crystal River is one of those destinations, and it is synonymous with manatees.

Manatee snorkeling and viewing tours take place in Crystal River's Kings Bay, which is 600 acres with a two-mile diameter. It has the largest concentration of West Indian manatees in the world. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates about 600 manatees migrate to that area during the winter months, and about 30 stay year-round.

Upon arriving at the Plantation Adventure Center, I signed a waiver and dressed in a 5-mil wetsuit provided by the operator. It was like shimmying into a pair of size-too-small, full-body Spanx.

Before hopping on the pontoon, the six

JENNIFER | 8B













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Second, the class will donate any additional funds raised during our fundraising campaign to continue to help spread literacy throughout the community via an application process for other qualified non-profit community organizations in Charlotte County.

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## Sun writer wins environmental award

PROVIDED BY  
THE FLORIDA DEP

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's South District recently recognized Becky Copenhaver for her commitment to environmental awareness. Becky's articles and field work increased public education about the vital role native species serve in our local ecosystem.

In an effort to partner with local communities and businesses to protect natural resources, the South District initiated an Environmental Stewardship Recognition Program to recognize corporate and nonprofit partners and other stakeholders who go above and beyond to protect Florida's natural resources.

"Becky's educational articles provide clear and concise information for new and longtime residents in her community. Her dedication and passion for the environment embodies



SUN PHOTO BY CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Florida DEP's Jon Iglehart (left) presents Sun columnist Becky Copenhaver with an Environmental Stewardship Award as Charlotte County Extension Service Director Ralph Mitchell stands by.

the state's commitment to Protecting Florida Together," said Jon Iglehart, director of DEP's South District.

Becky is a Certified Horticultural Professional, Certified Landscape Designer, and a Charlotte County Master Gardener. Her commitment and passion for plants and outdoors led her to open

and operate Becky's Garden Shoppe in Punta Gorda.

As a Master Gardener volunteering at the UF/IFAS Charlotte County Extension Service, she has led several environmental projects for the county. She writes a garden column in the Sun's Outdoor Living section, which featured her column "Learn to Love Your Mangroves."

## BILL

FROM PAGE 1B

pink spiderwort or roseling. Other kinds of insects, such as the ferociously predatory robber fly, actually kill other insects and help in controlling obnoxious species.

Dragonflies or odonates are famous for their insect-eating habits and important role in controlling populations of other insects including mosquitoes. The Halloween pennant is especially attractive in coloration and is widespread in the eastern U.S. As is the case for most dragonflies, the larvae are aquatic predators and propel themselves with jets of water from the abdomen.

The eastern pond hawk, which seems to be a migrant as well as a local resident, is common here. The coloration of the greenish females is quite different from the bluish males. Such sexual dimorphism is common



SUN PHOTO BY BILL DUNSON

This little yellow butterfly is actually properly called the little yellow.

among dragonflies and illustrates the complex reproductive behavior in even such primitive and ancient insects, which are estimated to be 300 million years old as a group.

If you learn some of the common local insects, you will observe an amazing and fascinating world wherever you walk.

Bill Dunson is Professor Emeritus of Pennsylvania State University, thanks to a career spent entirely at that institution, teaching and doing research. Always curious about nature, Bill has dedicated his life to learning and sharing his knowledge with others. Contact him at [WDunson@comcast.net](mailto:WDunson@comcast.net).

## JENNIFER

FROM PAGE 1B

of us watched a video and learned about passive observation, the lawful and proper way to snorkel with manatees. The species is protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and Endangered Species Act of 1973 due to their threatened status, and Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. This means it is unlawful to capture, harass, hunt or kill one, and doing so can result in hefty fines and imprisonment.

Some of the forbidden activities include reaching out and touching, riding or stepping on a manatee. There is a lot to remember about what you can and cannot do, but a guide keeps you in check. In my case, it was Adventure Center tour guide, Capt. Misty.

"Show me your Superman," Capt. Mark, who manned the pontoon, called to each of us after climbing down the ladder and into the 70ish degree water.

What he was referring was posing for passive observation. This consisted of extending arms and legs out, like the superhero, with a masked-face in the water while breathing through the snorkel. Fins were not used, except for the guide, and wetsuits are buoyant. For anyone not comfortable in relying

## PLAN YOUR VISIT

### Plantation Adventure Center

9301 W Fort Island Trail, Crystal River  
352-95-5797  
[PlantationonCrystalRiver.com](http://PlantationonCrystalRiver.com)  
Daily tours (\$65 per person), semi-private (\$99 per person, up to 6 people), and private (\$500 per boat) manatee snorkeling tours are offered. I booked the semi-private tour which accommodates up to 6 people and offered twice a morning. Tour length is about three hours. Included in my \$99 price: Wetsuit,

mask and snorkel; towel service; hot chocolate or coffee; showers; a heated changing room; and no parking fee.

Tours are offered year-round. Keep in mind, manatees are wild animals, which means they are somewhat unpredictable. I am told no matter the time of year, this tour sees manatees. November to March is the prime time to view them. There is no age requirement to participate but keep in mind, all participants need to be able to be quiet and calm in the water. Children must be accompanied by an adult

## WHERE TO STAY

### Plantation Crystal River

9301 W Fort Island Trail, Crystal River  
352-795-4211 or 800-632-6262  
[PlantationonCrystalRiver.com](http://PlantationonCrystalRiver.com)  
Where to Eat  
Kelly's Off Shell Pub  
390 N Suncoast Blvd.,

Crystal River  
352-228-8366  
[KellysHalfShell.com](http://KellysHalfShell.com)  
Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Dining is also available at Plantation Crystal River.

on the suit, foam swim noodles are available to keep a snorkeler afloat.

The second location we spotted manatees was at the entrance to Three Sisters Springs in the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. The water was clear and I observed three beautiful sea cows innocently grazing, swimming, and surfacing for air. They seemed unbothered by the dozens of snorkelers and kayakers who gathered to watch them.

Being in the manatees' natural habitat is unpredictable and something a theme park cannot recreate. I was so

enthralled and tuned into the encounter. I heard the munching of grazing manatees. Reflecting on the entire experience, it was another reminder to slow down, live in the moment, and enjoy what life has presented me — even if it is a half-ton mammal eating breakfast.

Jennifer A. Huber is just your average 40-something-year-old gal living life solo and writing about her travels on her blog, [SoloTravelGirl.com](http://SoloTravelGirl.com). Listen to her adventures near and far on the award-winning Solo Travel Girl podcast.





**Florida man guilty of leaving threatening voicemails for Bernie Sanders**

See Page 3



## White House wants \$4.5 billion in emergency border funding

Money would be used to increase shelter capacity and care for migrant families

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Wednesday asked Congress for an additional \$4.5 billion in emergency funds for the U.S.-Mexico border as it grapples with a surge of Central American migrant families seeking refuge in the U.S.

Most of the money requested would be used to increase shelter capacity and care for

the migrant families who have been fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries. Department of Homeland Security officials said they would likely run out of money without the extra cash.

“DHS projects it will exhaust resources well before the end of the fiscal year,” read the administration’s formal request letter to Congress, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The request is just the latest in

a flurry of efforts by the administration to cope with what it calls a “crisis” that officials say has overwhelmed federal resources and capacity. President Donald Trump has railed against aides and Congress for failing to do more to address the situation, but has also made clear he believes his hard line on immigration was key to his 2016 victory and intends to continue to hammer the issue to motivate his base heading into his 2020

reelection campaign.

It also comes a day after a 16-year-old Guatemalan boy in the care of U.S. Health and Human Services died after falling ill with a fever and chills. His death is under investigation. Two other children died in Customs and Border Protection custody late last year.

The 2019 fiscal year budget already contained \$415 million for humanitarian assistance at the border, including \$28 million

in medical care, senior administration officials said Wednesday.

But the White House now wants an extra \$3.3 billion to increase shelter capacity for unaccompanied migrant children and for the feeding and care of families, plus transportation and processing centers.

Of the new request, \$1.1 billion would go toward operational support, including personnel

**BORDER | 8**

## Barr, Mueller trade barbs as Russia probe rift goes public

Barr objects to Mueller’s ‘snitty’ letter of complaint

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Private tensions between Justice Department leaders and special counsel Robert Mueller’s team broke into public view in extraordinary fashion Wednesday as Attorney General William Barr pushed back at the special counsel’s “snitty” complaints over his handling of the Trump-Russia investigation report.

Testifying for the first time since releasing Mueller’s report, Barr faced sharp questioning from Senate Democrats who accused him of making misleading comments and seeming at times to be President Donald Trump’s protector as much as the country’s top law enforcement official.

The rift fueled allegations that Barr has spun Mueller’s findings in Trump’s favor and understated the gravity of Trump’s behavior. The dispute is certain to persist, as Democrats push to give Mueller a chance to answer Barr’s testimony with his own later this month.

Barr separately informed the House Judiciary



AP PHOTO

Attorney General William Barr testifies during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, on the Mueller Report.

Committee that he would not appear for its scheduled hearing on Thursday because of the panel’s insistence that he be questioned by committee lawyers as well as lawmakers. That refusal sets the stage for Barr to possibly be held in contempt of Congress.

At Wednesday’s Senate Judiciary Committee session, Barr said he had been surprised Mueller did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump had tried to obstruct justice, and that he

had felt compelled to step in with his own judgment that the president had committed no crime.

“I’m not really sure of his reasoning,” Barr said of Mueller’s obstruction analysis, which neither accused the president of a crime nor exonerated him. If Mueller felt that shouldn’t make a decision on whether to bring charges, Barr added, “then he shouldn’t have investigated. That was the time to pull up.”

Barr was also perturbed by a private letter Mueller,

sent him last month complaining that the attorney general had not properly portrayed the special counsel’s findings in a four-page letter summarizing the report’s main conclusions. The attorney general called the note “a bit snitty.”

“I said ‘Bob, what’s with the letter? Just pick up the phone and call me if there is an issue,’” Barr said.

The airing of disagreements was all the

**BARR | 8**

## Lawmakers into overtime with Florida budget’s late arrival

Florida’s legislative session is headed to overtime

By CURT ANDERSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida’s legislative session is headed into overtime.

Negotiators reached a deal Tuesday night on an \$89.9 billion budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. But it was not distributed to lawmakers until just after 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, meaning the required 72-hour review period was only triggered then.

So instead of adjourning the 60-day session on Friday as scheduled, it will spill into a 61st day on Saturday. The issue was not items in dispute but simply allowing time for staff to get the voluminous document added up and in order, lawmakers said.

Still, the deal is done on the one bill the legislature must pass.

Public schools, which make up a large chunk of the spending, would see an overall increase of more than \$782 million or about 3.7% in the main account compared with last year, according to budget documents. That translates to a little over \$242 additionally per student for the coming school year.

The agreement also calls for a nearly 2% increase in discretionary money that Florida’s 67 school districts can use for a variety of purposes, including raises for teachers and school staff.

“In a nutshell, we’ve been very good to schools this session,” said Republican Rep. Travis Cummings of Fleming Island, chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

**OVERTIME | 8**

## Julian Assange gets 50 weeks in prison for bail breach

British judge sentenced WikiLeaks founder for jumping bail in 2012

By BILL SMITH  
DPA

LONDON — A British court sentenced WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to 50 weeks in prison on Wednesday, seven years after he breached bail conditions by fleeing to the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid arrest.

“The seriousness of your offense, having taken into account the mitigation, merits a sentence near the maximum,” Judge Deborah

Taylor told Assange at London’s Southwark Crown Court on Wednesday.

Taylor said she had taken into account medical evidence on “the mental and physical effects of being in the embassy for a prolonged period” and a letter of apology in which Assange expressed regret for his actions.

Last month, the 47-year-old Australian was dragged out of the embassy and found guilty of failing to surrender to British authorities

over a 2010 warrant linked to sexual assault charges in Sweden.

Assange fled to the embassy in 2012 after he lost a legal battle against his extradition to Sweden. The charges were later dropped, but Assange remained in the building for seven years amid fears he would be handed over to U.S. authorities for WikiLeaks’ publication of top-secret U.S. diplomatic cables.

**WIKILEAKS | 8**



AP FILE PHOTO

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures to supporters outside the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he has been in self imposed exile since 2012.



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# Florida lawmakers pass bill to create 3 new toll highways

## Construction would begin before Dec. 31, 2022, with a goal of opening to traffic by 2030

By **CURT ANDERSON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida is on the fast track to building three new major toll highways in mostly rural areas under a bill sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis by the state House on Wednesday despite concerns over their potential negative impact on the environment.

The bill, passed on a 76-36 vote, creates task forces to study the potential routes and commits tens of millions of dollars for eventual construction of the highways. Supporters say the roads will spur rural job growth, relieve congestion on Interstate 75 and Interstate 4 — the main tourist road to Walt Disney World and other Orlando theme parks — and create new hurricane evacuation routes.

Republican Rep. Jay Trumbull of Panama City, the chief House sponsor,

invoked the interstate highway system's creation by President Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s and the building of Florida's Turnpike as examples of essential and economically successful projects.

“Could you imagine today if you were driving through Florida without the turnpike system?” Trumbull said. “We have the ability today to push our state forward.”

One highway would connect Collier County in the southwest to Lakeland, located between Tampa and Orlando. Another would extend the Suncoast Parkway from Citrus County to Jefferson County at the Georgia border. The third would extend from the north end of the Florida Turnpike to the Suncoast Parkway.

All would be toll roads. Construction would begin before Dec. 31, 2022, with a goal of opening all three highways to

traffic by Dec. 31, 2030. The task forces would select the exact routes.

Opponents said a financial commitment to the roads should await studies on whether they will harm wetlands and wildlife and spur urban sprawl. They also said the bill amounts to a handout to the highway construction industry.

“The bill before us today is the most massive expansion of our highway system since the 1950s. Let's not green-light a project without having the proper facts,” said Rep. Bobby DuBose, a Fort Lauderdale Democrat. “We are basically handing over a blank check.”

The legislation, however, was a top priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, a Bradenton Republican, and was destined to pass from the beginning of the 60-day legislative session. Galvano said the bill requires the task forces to evaluate wildlife crossing design features that would

protect endangered Florida panthers and other habitat, as well as measures that would safeguard water quality and agricultural land use.

“These new infrastructure corridors will help Florida strategically plan for future population growth, revitalize rural communities, and enhance public safety, while at the same time protecting Florida's unique natural resources and habitats,” Galvano said in a statement.

That did not sit well with groups who say the money could be better spent on greater needs.

“This is why Floridians are so cynical about government,” said Jonathan Webber, deputy director of Florida Conservation Voters. “Just imagine the amount of good we could do if this money was spent on cleaning our water, building more parks, or finding solutions to the growing climate crisis.”

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

### House passes ban on child-like sex dolls

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Possessing, selling or displaying a child-like sex doll would be illegal in Florida under a bill passed unanimously by the state House.

The bill was sent Wednesday to Gov. Ron DeSantis on a 113-0 vote, and the Senate previously passed it unanimously.

A legislative analysis of the bill said that child-like sex dolls imported from China, Japan and Hong Kong are becoming increasingly prevalent in the U.S. They are part of what has become a \$15 billion sex toy industry, according to the analysis.

The bill would make it a first-degree misdemeanor in Florida to possess, give away, advertise, sell or display the dolls. A second offense would be a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

### Florida prepares to pass a massive criminal justice bill

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Legislature is preparing to pass a massive criminal justice bill that would revise laws ranging from selling horse meat for human consumption to raising the threshold for committing felony theft to \$750.

The Senate made amendments to a bill Wednesday to come in line with a House criminal justice proposal and is expecting to pass the measure Thursday. Republican bill sponsor Sen. Jeff Brandes said the two chambers are now in agreement on what he calls one of the largest criminal justice packages Florida has seen in decades.

### Florida man guilty of leaving threats for Bernie Sanders

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A Florida man has been convicted of leaving threatening voicemails for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Court records show that a federal jury in Orlando found 57-year-old Robert Francis Pratersch guilty Tuesday of threatening a federal official and interstate transmission of a threat to injure. He faces up to 15 years in prison at a July 16 sentencing.

Federal prosecutors say Pratersch left three profanity-laced, anti-Semitic voicemail messages last fall at Sanders's office in Burlington, Vermont. Authorities say Pratersch threatened to behead Sanders, “ISIS-style,” and videotape the execution. The remark was a reference to the Islamic State militant group.

Pratersch was indicted by a federal grand jury in February and arrested later that month in St. Cloud, Florida.

Sanders is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

### Homeowner opens fire when masked men break into home

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Authorities say a homeowner shot at two men during an attempted home invasion, injuring one of them.

St. Petersburg police say the shots were fired around 11:40 p.m. Tuesday after the two masked men entered the home.

Police officers found 26-year-old Randy Stanley in the middle of the road. He had been shot multiple times. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

### With tropical disturbance, more rain here is likely

BY WINK NEWS

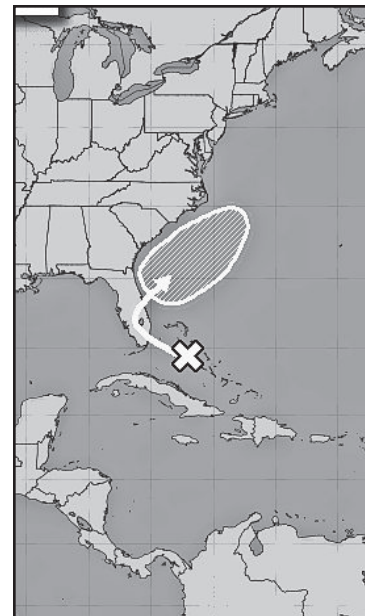
A low pressure trough over northwest Bahamas has a low chance of becoming a tropical cyclone once it moves over the western Atlantic this week, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Locally, heavy rains are possible over portions of the Bahamas and Florida during the next couple of days, the National Hurricane Center reported on Twitter Wednesday.

The chance of development in southwest Florida is low, according to WINK News Meteorologist Matt Devitt, but it could increase rain chances.

Devitt said Wednesday the tropical low pressure trough will likely “bump up rain chances by Thursday.”

“The (current) small chance of development would be as it moves away from Florida,” he added.



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

# Florida massacre defendant's attorneys to remain for now

## Judge to determine if Parkland shooter remains indigent

By **TERRY SPENCER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A judge ordered the public defenders representing the former student charged with the Florida high school massacre to stay on his case Wednesday while she determines if he remains legally indigent as he may be eligible for a large payout from his late mother.

Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer ordered Broward County public defenders to keep representing Nikolas Cruz while she determines if he'll collect about \$432,000 before taxes from Lynda Cruz's annuity and whether that would be enough for him to hire private attorneys.

His public defenders argued that simply by being eligible for that payout, he is no longer poor enough to be represented by them on charges that he murdered 14 students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018, and wounded 17 others. Both prosecutors and victims' families objected, saying he will never get the money because of lawsuits and a change of attorneys would delay his trial, scheduled for early next year.

Assistant Public Defender Diane Cuddihy told Judge Scherer that under state law, her office can only represent those who are too poor to hire private attorneys. She said given that he is entitled to the money, she and her colleagues believe they can no longer represent him.

Cruz, 20, has said he wants any money he receives from his mother or her estate be given to the victims' families, but Cuddihy cited a previous court ruling that said it would “be a fraud on the courts and taxpayers” to allow a defendant to voluntarily transfer money in order to remain indigent. Sitting at the defense table, Cruz once vigorously shook his head when it was suggested he might get the annuity money.

Attorney Jeannine Jacobson, an attorney for MetLife, said the sides have mischaracterized Lynda Cruz's policy as life insurance. She said it is an annuity worth more than \$863,000 as a lump-sum payment that Cruz would split with his younger brother if they file a claim, which neither has done.

Because it is annuity, any payout would be taxed — online calculators indicate Cruz would net about \$300,000 — and he can waive his share, giving it to his brother. Lynda Cruz died about three months before the attack of pneumonia and the Cruz brothers could have accessed the annuity before the shooting. Cruz's father died more than a decade earlier.

Prosecutors and victims' families opposed the public defenders' removal, saying Cruz will lose any money he gets to the victims' families. Assistant State Attorney Joel Silvershein told Scherer she also needs to consider the time and money already spent that would be wasted if Cruz gets new attorneys.

# IS leader outlines path forward for his group post-caliphate

By **JON GAMBRELL and ZEINA KARAM**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — No longer burdened by territory and administration, Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi outlined the new path forward for his group: Widen your reach, connect with far-flung militant groups and exhaust your enemies with a “war of attrition.”

The deadly Easter attacks in Sri Lanka a week before his video appearance underscored this message in blood. It also highlighted the ease with which IS, like al-Qaida before it, can inflict chaos through a loosely defined brand of global jihad in the most chilling way. That's even after losing the relative safety of its so-called caliphate across stretches of Iraq and Syria.

“Al-Baghdadi was letting his followers know that he was prepared to lead a guerrilla insurgency in Iraq and Syria, while not forgetting that ISIS is a global organization,” said Colin P. Clarke, a senior research fellow at the Soufan Center, using another

acronym for the group.

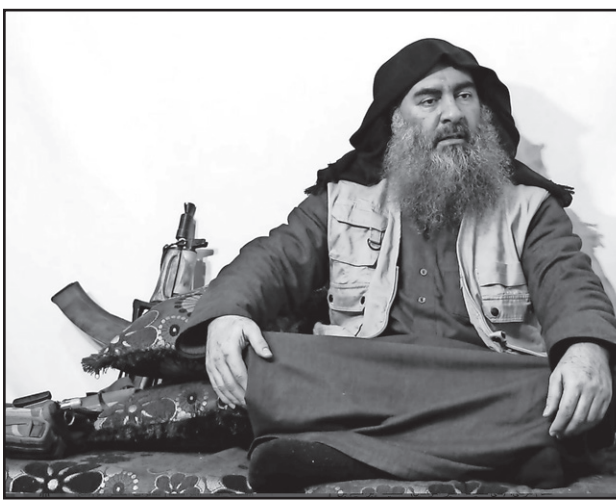
Though disheveled and never standing up in the video released Monday, al-Baghdadi's appearance alone contradicted past Russian and Iraqi claims the militant leader had been killed during the long war targeting the militants. It was the first time he has appeared in public since June 29, 2014, when he delivered a sermon from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of al-Nuri.

The contrasts in the appearances are glaring.

In 2014, he wore an expensive-looking watch and a neatly trimmed beard and urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to the group's self-proclaimed caliphate and obey him as its leader.

In Monday's video, he sat on the floor, with an AK-74 assault rifle at his side like the one Osama bin Laden took in Afghanistan during the mujahedeen's fight against the Soviets and always carried with him. He had a big bushy beard and wore a black tunic and a military-style beige vest over it.

No longer an administrator, al-Baghdadi wants to be seen as an insurgent



AP FILE PHOTO

This file image made from video posted on a militant website Monday, purports to show the leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

leader. Analysts say that both glosses over the loss of territory the militants claimed would spark an apocalyptic confrontation with the “crusader” West and ensures he maintains his status in the extremist world.

“We believe it is really an attempt to divert attention from the core group's heavy losses and to ensure that the franchise groups and grassroots supporters remain loyal to the Islamic State pole of the jihadist universe,” the Austin, Texas-based private

intelligence firm Stratfor said in an analysis. “Many are saying that the video is a show of strength, but we believe it is more likely an act of desperation.”

The loss of its territory cuts both ways, however. Foreign militants once part of the “caliphate” now have scattered, like they did at the end of the 1980s war against the Soviets in Afghanistan and after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban government sheltering al-Qaida.

Al-Baghdadi barely

mentioned Iraq and Syria in the 18-minute video, except to praise the steadfastness of his fighters there. Instead, he congratulated militants in Libya, “brothers” in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and the Western Sahara for pledging allegiance.

The group also recently claimed numerous attacks around the world, including in Saudi Arabia, Congo and Libya. Jihadi propaganda by IS supporters online recently threatened India and Bangladesh, where IS claimed an attack for the first time in some two years this week.

Sri Lankan police late Wednesday made public the names and photographs of nine suicide bombers who carried out the series of Easter Day explosions, including the locations where their bombs were detonated.

The list of eight men and one woman included the man officials say led the attack, extremist preacher Mohamed Zahran, also known as Zahran Hashim, who was one of two attackers at Colombo's Shangri-La Hotel. The woman who was identified was the wife of another bomber who

triggered an explosion in front of her children at her spice trader father-in-law's Colombo villa, killing herself and three police officers investigating the earlier near-simultaneous blasts at three churches and three hotels.

While some IS claims of late have been exaggerated or outright bogus, its focus on expanding outward follows the same pattern of al-Qaida, which grew to have dangerous franchises in areas like Yemen.

“This is part of the vengeance that awaits the crusaders and their henchmen,” al-Baghdadi said in the video.

He extolled militants in Sri Lanka for “striking the homes of the crusaders in their Easter, in vengeance for their brothers in Baghouz,” a reference to the Islamic State group's last bastion in eastern Syria, which was captured by U.S.-backed fighters in March. The militants involved in the attacks that killed more than 250 people followed a local extremist leader, but more than 30 Sri Lankans are believed to have once been Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq.

# Stocks sink after Fed appears to dash hopes of a rate cut

By **ALEX VEIGA**  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

U.S. stocks sold off late in the day and ended broadly lower Wednesday after the head of the Federal Reserve appeared to play down the possibility of an interest rate cut this year, something some investors had been hoping for.

The Fed's decision to leave its benchmark interest rate alone was widely expected and came amid signs of renewed economic health, but unusually low inflation. The announcement reaffirmed a message that has reassured investors since the start of the year: No rate hikes are likely anytime soon.

The low-rate policy is helping to keep borrowing costs down and supporting an economy that's been growing steadily since late last year.

Still, some investors who saw inflation trending below the Fed's preferred target of 2% thought Chairman Jay Powell might signal a rate cut to spur economic growth,

a notion that Powell dashed during a press conference and that some market watchers dismissed as wishful thinking.

"I don't think investors who were anticipating a rate cut were being very realistic," said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management.

Cavanaugh said that a rate cut wouldn't be an appropriate move against the backdrop of the U.S. economy that grew 3.2% in the first three months of this year and a national unemployment rate below 4%.

The S&P 500 index fell 22.10 points, or 0.8%, to 2,923.73.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 162.77 points, or 0.6%, to 26,430.14. The Nasdaq composite dropped 45.75 points, or 0.6%, to 8,049.64. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up 14.83 points, or 0.9%, to 1,576.38.

The U.S. stock market has been riding high this year as it's made its way back from a nosedive at the end of 2018. The Fed spurred the market's

recovery earlier this year when it signaled that it would take a patient approach to raising interest rates.

On Wednesday, the central bank once again reassured investors that it is unlikely it will hike rates in coming months. The Fed raised rates seven times over 2017 and 2018.

The Fed also expressed a more upbeat view of the economy, saying "economic activity rose at a solid rate." In March, the Fed had said it appeared that growth had slowed from the fourth quarter of last year.

"The Fed action is a positive, because it means that rates are going to remain low," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Global Investments. "And if there was anything that looked like it could be harmful, the Fed is standing ready to consider more accommodation."

Soon after the Fed issued its statement, stock prices rose modestly. And the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which influences mortgages and some other loans, fell slightly.

# Hearing winds down as judge orders Kraft to appear in court

## Attorneys argue surveillance video inside a massage spa should be suppressed

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — Attorneys for Robert Kraft wound down a three-day hearing Wednesday by arguing surveillance video capturing the New England Patriots owner inside a Florida massage spa should be suppressed in his prostitution case because a warrant allowing it should never have been granted.

The judge in state court in South Florida didn't immediately issue a ruling, but he did order Kraft to appear later in the month at a hearing on whether both sides are ready for trial.

Kraft's attorneys said the warrant had no instructions on how to protect innocent people, detectives didn't try to use less intrusive investigative methods and the lead detective was reckless in his statements in the warrant.

"You had people looking at these videos who had no idea what they were doing ... none of the criteria made sense," said Kraft attorney William Burck. "That's not because they are bad people. They didn't have instructions. If you have no instructions, the warrant has to go."

Prosecutors said the warrant was justified, and detectives testified

that they switched to a different video feed if an innocent customer was getting a legitimate massage.

Jupiter Police Detectives Danielle Hirsch and Troy Jenne, who monitored the surveillance video on tablets in real time, said they typically were able to spot whether customers were there for illicit sex acts or legitimate massages based on whether customers kept their underwear on or took it off upon entering the massage rooms.

If the massages appeared legitimate, the detectives said they minimized the screens capturing that video feed and switched to watching other video feeds from four massage rooms.

In several cases where lights in the massage room were turned off, no charges were filed against the patrons even though the detectives strongly suspected sex acts were going on, they said.

Kraft's attorneys are trying to convince Judge Leonard Hanser that Jupiter detective Andrew Sharp illegally obtained a warrant to install hidden video cameras in the Palm Beach County, Fla. spa and Kraft's constitutional right to privacy was violated.

# 16-year-old migrant dies in government custody

## Boy from Guatemala fell ill, died in Texas shelter

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A 16-year-old unaccompanied migrant boy from Guatemala fell ill after he was transferred to a government shelter in Texas and later died, officials said Wednesday.

The boy crossed the border near El Paso, Texas, on April 19, and was taken to a shelter in Brownsville a day later, according to Guatemala's Foreign Ministry.

He did not appeal ill when he was transferred to the care of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, according to a statement from the Administration for Children and Families, the division within HHS that cares for migrant children who cross the border alone. But the next

morning, he had fever, chills and a headache and was taken to a hospital, where he was treated and released that day.

When the teen didn't recover, he was taken to a second hospital and transferred to a children's hospital. Guatemalan officials said he had a severe infection in his brain and had emergency surgery, but never stabilized and died Tuesday. The cause of death was under review, as was the incident. His name was not released.

The boy's brother and Guatemalan consular officials visited him while he was hospitalized, and hospital staff frequently updated his family in Guatemala, according to Evelyn

Stauffer, a spokeswoman for the Administration for Children and Families.

It was the third death in government custody since December, as the U.S. deals with a surge of unaccompanied children and Central American families arriving at the southern border.

The 16-year-old was from the municipality of Camotan in the eastern area of Chiquimula. The Guatemalan Consulate in McAllen tried to get humanitarian visas so the parents could be with their son, but they were too old to travel, the foreign ministry said. The boy's body will be repatriated, but it's not clear when.

# Slain student hailed as hero for confronting campus gunman

## One of the people killed in a shooting in college classroom saved lives by tackling shooter



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Authorities say Riley Howell, 21, was killed after he tackled a gunman who opened fire in a classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Police said a few students, including Howell, died and several others were injured.**

By **TOM FOREMAN Jr. and SARAH BLAKE MORGAN**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — A North Carolina college student tackled a gunman who opened fire in his classroom, saving others' lives but losing his own in the process, police said Wednesday.

Riley Howell, 21, was among the students gathered for end-of-year presentations in an anthropology class at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte when a gunman with a pistol began shooting students. Howell and another student were killed; four others were wounded.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Howell "took the assailant off his feet," but was fatally wounded. He said Howell did what police train people to do in active shooter situations.

"You're either going to run, you're going to hide and shield, or you're going to take the fight to the assailant. Having no place to run and hide, he did the last. But for his work, the assailant may not have been disarmed," Putney said. "Unfortunately, he gave his life in the process. But his sacrifice saved lives."

The father of Howell's longtime girlfriend said news that he tackled the

shooter wasn't surprising. Kevin Westmoreland, whose daughter Lauren dated Howell for nearly six years, said Howell was athletic and compassionate — and would have been a good firefighter or paramedic.

"If Lauren was with Riley, he would step in front of a train for her if he had to," Westmoreland said. "I didn't realize it might come to that for somebody else."

In a statement, Howell's family remembered him as a big-hearted person who was friends with everyone.

"He always was able to put others before himself and never hesitated to help anyone who needed it," the statement read.

The motive wasn't immediately clear. Suspect Trystan Andrew Terrell had been enrolled at the school but withdrew during the current semester, UNC-Charlotte spokeswoman Buffy Stephens said. Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said Terrell had not appeared on their radar as a potential threat.

"I just went into a classroom and shot the guys," Terrell told reporters Tuesday as officers led him in handcuffs into a law enforcement building.



TERRELL

Terrell, 22, was charged with two counts of murder, four counts of attempted murder and other charges.

Putney said the suspect didn't appear to target any particular person but did deliberately pick the building where it happened. He wouldn't elaborate on why. Authorities said the anthropology class was fairly large, without being specific about how many students were present. Putney said the handgun used in the shooting was purchased legally.

Terrell is under observation in police custody, and his father and attorney haven't been allowed to speak to him, his grandfather Paul Rold said Wednesday.

# Google workers protest 'culture of retaliation' with sit-in

By **SUHAUNA HUSSAIN**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Google employees staged a sit-in Wednesday to protest what they call a "culture of retaliation" at the company — the latest in a series of demonstrations by tech industry workers.

It's unclear how many employees participated in the sit-in, but organizer Meredith Whittaker tweeted that hundreds of people protested at the New York office Wednesday morning.

The demonstration comes six months after thousands of workers at Google offices around the world walked out to protest how the company allegedly mishandled sexual misconduct claims.

Whittaker and Claire Stapleton, longtime Google employees and organizers of November's walkout, accused the company of retaliating against them for holding that protest in a message posted to internal Google mailing lists on April 22, Wired reported.

Whittaker wrote that she was informed her role at the company would be "changed dramatically," and that she would have to abandon her

outside work on artificial intelligence ethics at AI Now Institute, an organization she cofounded.

Stapleton alleged in the internal Google message that she was told she would be demoted and one of her projects was nixed two months after the walkout. She said that after taking her concerns to the company's human resources department, her manager started ignoring her and her work was delegated to others. Her position was restored after she hired a lawyer who prompted management to investigate, Stapleton wrote in the message obtained by Wired.

"Our stories aren't the only ones. Google has a culture of retaliation, which too often works to silence women, people of color, and gender minorities," Whittaker and Stapleton wrote. "Retaliation isn't always obvious. It's often confusing and drawn out, consisting of icy conversations, gaslighting, project cancellations, transition rejections, or demotions."

Since April 22, the employee activists have promoted a social media campaign #NotOKGoogle to gather other stories of alleged retaliation against Google workers.

The company denied allegations of retaliation last week.

On Thursday, Google said it released a new site for employees to report concerns and publicly shared its policies on harassment and retaliation.

The protests at Google on Wednesday — which coincide with International Workers Day — appear to have taken many shapes. One Google software engineer tweeted that she is attending work but boycotting emails and meetings, and created an auto-response email explaining that she is unavailable because she's participating in the protest. Some employees, she tweeted, plan to take a sick day — riffing off an allegation that Stapleton was urged to go on medical leave by the company after organizing the walkout.

The protests have had some impact. Soon after the walkout, Google stopped requiring arbitration in sexual misconduct cases. The company also scrapped its AI ethics council after backlash over controversial appointees and let go of a deal with the military to build object-recognition tech for drones.

# Missouri man accused of Trump threat sentenced in W.Va.

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)** — An armed Missouri man accused of threatening President Donald Trump during a traffic stop in West Virginia was sentenced Wednesday to 90 days in jail.

Eric Leonardo Charron of Kansas City, Missouri, pleaded guilty in Preston County Magistrate Court to reckless driving and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm. He was given credit for 36 days served.

State police said Charron was going 130 mph on Interstate 68 when he was pulled over March 27 near Bruceon Mills.

Trooper D.W. Satterfield said in a criminal complaint that the 42-year-old Charron claimed to be running late to a dinner with Trump and also wanted "to meet with the leader of the Army to return a phone."

When he asked Charron

whether he had any explosives, the suspect replied, "not a whole lot."

Charron was then asked to exit the vehicle, and Satterfield said the remote key for the trunk did not work. Charron said that he had tampered with the fuses in an effort "to keep the CIA from listening to him through the radio," the complaint said.

A vehicle search turned up a handgun, 300 rounds of ammunition and gunpowder. Also found were manuscripts written by Charron containing subjects ranging from levitating watercraft and time travel to mythical creatures.

Charron also said he received his invitation to the White House through "special hearing" which "would tell him to do bad things once he arrived at the White House or The Pentagon," according to the complaint.

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

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

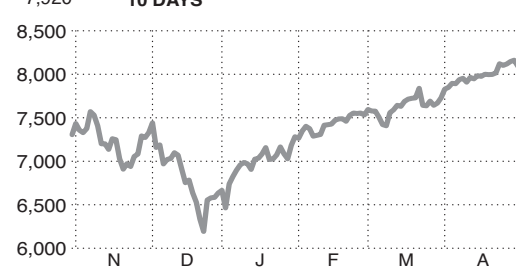
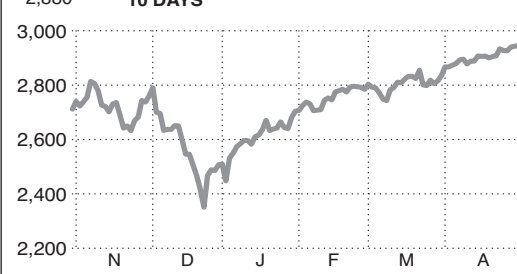
our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com, or call 941-206-1138. You can leave the stock name and symbol on voice mail. If you reach voice mail, please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

Market indicators: DOW 26,430.14 -162.77, NASDAQ 8,049.64 -45.75, S&P 500 2,923.73 -22.10, 10-YR T-NOTE 2.51% +0.01, 30-YR T-BOND 2.92% -0.02, CRUDE OIL \$63.60 -0.31, GOLD \$1,281.40 -1.40, EURO \$1.1194 -0.0027

Money&Markets

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

Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like A-B-C, B-E, F-H, I-L, M-N, O-P, Q-R, S-T, U-V, W-X, Y-Z.



StocksRecap

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

Table of stock listings under 'StocksRecap' with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg.

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Table of stock listings with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg.

Interestrates section with a graph and text: 'The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.51% on Wednesday. Yields affect rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.'

Table of interest rates with columns: TREASURIES, LAST, PVS, NET CHG, 1YR AGO.

Foreign Exchange section with text: 'The dollar rose Wednesday versus the Japanese yen, euro, Canadian dollar and Mexican peso. The U.S. currency fell against the British pound and Swiss franc.'

Table of foreign exchange rates with columns: MAJORS, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, 1YR AGO.

Commodities section with text: 'Energy futures finished mixed Wednesday. Benchmark U.S. crude and wholesale gasoline fell. Heating oil and natural gas rose. Gold, silver and copper closed lower.'

Table of commodity prices with columns: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE, CLOSE, PVS, %CHG, %YTD.

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

# Demerol no longer in regular use due to its side effects

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Have any studies been done on Demerol to check its effect on older people? I know of four people who were out of their minds with hallucinations for three or four days after being given Demerol. — B.L.

**ANSWER:** Meperidine (Demerol) is no longer commonly used, for several reasons. One is the side effect you note: Hallucinations and confusion are more frequent with this drug than with other kinds of pain drugs, including morphine. It has a short effective duration of action in the body, needing to be dosed every three hours. It is particularly dangerous in people whose kidneys don't work well, and this often includes older people.

Meperidine is broken down by the body into a compound called normeperidine, which increases seizure risk. So, being on the drug a long time puts people at risk for seizures. Meperidine is now mostly



**Dr. Roach**

used for very acute pain, and for a short duration, such as around the time of a surgical procedure. I no longer prescribe meperidine at all.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** Is it no longer true that 81 mg aspirin is harmful for babies? In a recent article you printed "baby aspirin" instead of "low dose aspirin," as I was told to say. — M.P.

**ANSWER:** Aspirin is a major risk factor for Reye's syndrome, an inflammation of the brain in children, especially when given to a child or teen with chickenpox or

influenza. Aspirin should not be used in this situation. "Low dose aspirin" is indeed a better term.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I was interested in your column on essential thrombocytosis, as my husband had the same problem for about eight years until his death from heart failure (at age 90). His platelets had moved close to a million, and he was put on hydroxyurea for a number of years, which provided pretty good control. He eventually was switched to anagrelide. He had no problems with either of them, but was watched carefully and the dosage was adjusted occasionally.

I had the impression from your article that, since a person is not born with this problem, it may not be genetic or inherited. I'm hoping that is true, but in the meantime, I've told our two sons to be aware.

— B.L.  
**ANSWER:** Most cases of essential thrombocytosis, a blood disorder of excess specialized blood

cells called platelets, are acquired, probably through mutations during a person's lifetime.

People with very high platelets are at risk for both bleeding and clotting, and are often treated with hydroxyurea.

Anagrelide is an effective treatment as well, but it does predispose a person to heart disease, including heart failure.

There is a rare, familial form of essential thrombocytosis, described in only a handful of cases. Your sons are at low risk, but being aware is always a good idea.

**DR. ROACH WRITES:** I made a typographical error in a recent column on essential thrombocytosis, calling it essential thrombosis. A thrombocyte is a platelet, so thrombocytosis is excess platelets. A thrombosis is a clot. The names are similar, but the conditions are very different. I appreciate the many people who wrote in with the correction.

# 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

- 1 putting the kibosh on (6)
- 2 Beverly Cleary character (6)
- 3 member of US upper chamber (7)
- 4 2nd-largest Hawaiian island (4)
- 5 Batman and Robin wore them (5)
- 6 aqueous mixture (8)
- 7 movie star Leonardo (8)

### SOLUTIONS

PR	NIX	RA	SO	OR
UI	TI	AT	CA	MO
DI	NA	LU	ING	ES
SEN	IO	CAP	MA	ON

Wednesday's Answers: 1. JOGS 2. POSTURED 3. REUBEN 4. INDICATED 5. DRILLED 6. PERSIAN 7. GALLONS

# Invitations from friend are declined for safety reasons

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently did a DNA test using a kit through a genealogy company that advertises nationally and internationally. I received my results and discovered that one of the features is that the website shows people with whom I share DNA, along with predictions of my relationship to them.



**Dear Abby**

I'm interested in trying to strike up conversations with people to whom I am distantly related, but I'm at a loss for how to begin. I have tried mentioning common family connections, but haven't gotten anywhere with that approach. Do you have any advice you can share with me about how to start a conversation with someone I'm related to, but don't know? — Curious In Canada

**DEAR CURIOUS:** What you should do is tell these people that your DNA test results showed that you may be related, and ask if the person is willing to share information. However, if they do not respond, take the hint and don't follow up.  
**DEAR ABBY:** We have a dear friend, a widower, whom we invite to dinner frequently because he is alone. Usually these

invitations include other guests.

Our articulate friend has the most annoying habit of blowing his nose at the table into one of my cloth napkins. It is disgusting, not only to me, but to the other guests as well. What can I do to make him stop? I tried placing a small box of tissues next to his dinner plate, but he ignores them and uses his napkin anyway. I don't even like to re-use the napkin after it has been washed, particularly for guests. — Turned Off At The Table

**DEAR TURNED OFF:** Because you tried the subtle approach and it didn't work, TELL this impolite widower that you placed the box of tissues near him so he would stop using your napkins as handkerchiefs. Frankly, it is considered rude to blow one's nose at the table AT ALL.

# Hot or cold running water

**Dear Heloise:** Please save our marriage. Does one use hot water or cold water when washing/throwing things down the GARBAGE DISPOSAL in the sink? Thank you for your counseling. — Rick E., via email



**Hints from Heloise**

Rick, in the interest of marital bliss, I'm happy to answer your question. You already (hopefully) pour off bacon grease, frying oils and other fats into an old can or plastic bag, freeze and put in the trash on trash day.

Even in doing so, small amounts of fats and grease will still get down the drain. A leading manufacturer of garbage disposals agrees: A

thin stream of cold water is the correct choice when using your disposal. Hot water can encourage the grease to melt and conform to the pipes. This will, as you can imagine, eventually create a big problem in your pipes. Cold water is the way to go. — Heloise

# WHATZIT?

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

**CROSS COUNTRY**

SOLUTION: Cross country run

# JUMBLE

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

VACHO  
 O O O O O

GREME  
 O O O O O

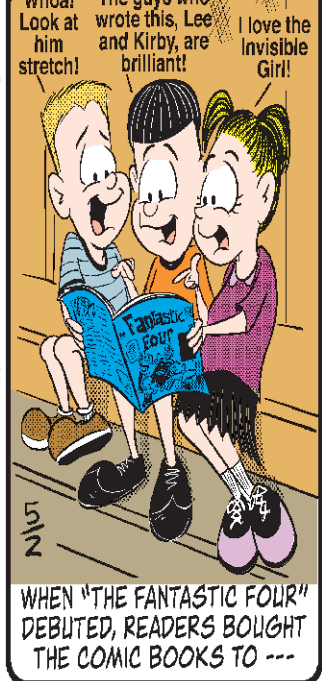
TTREEH  
 O O O O O

MOSLAN  
 O O O O O

O O O O O O O O O O

# THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

O O O O O O O O O O

(Answers tomorrow)  
 Yesterday's Jumbles: LARVA GRUNT BANTER SMOOCH  
 Answer: The crow who considered herself to be in charge of roosting was the — BRANCH MANAGER

# KEN KEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

2÷		24X	2-
3-			
	3	8+	
3	3-		

**CHALLENGING**

3÷		24X	5-	40X	3
3-					6+
11+			3		
2÷	2-	4-		3÷	
		1-		3	2-
2-		6	2÷		

**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**

1-	3+	2	4
3	3	12X	2÷
2	3	4	1
3-	2-	3	2
		2-	
4	2	1	3

# MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"You can have the last lick. If I give you firsties, there won't be any left."

# Cryptoquip

5-2

HDXC GKV AKAVFWEX WC  
 XIAEG IXWQKH HNEF FKEL KT  
 IWFX LDXXA, N'Q BKCLNQXU  
 EDWE UWI-NTNBWENKC.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** BOVINE LEATHER THAT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MIXED WITH METAL TO GIVE IT MORE STRENGTH: IRON OXIDE.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals P

# SPORTS SLEUTH

KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: ROI.I.S

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

Affirmed	Citation	Nyquist	Swale
Alysbeba	Go for Gin	Orb	Swaps
Barbaro	Justify	Ponder	Tim Tam
Big Brown	Needles	Sea Hero	

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**HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). What gives the others a right to command your time? It's not a "what," it's a "who, and the "who" is you. Your time is yours and, arguably, among the most precious things you own. You'll deliberate before giving it away.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Where you want to be is not so different from where you stand, but great courage is still needed to rise up and make the few key changes necessary to get there.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Maybe it's not fair that people expect more of you than they do of others, but it's only because you keep doing such a fantastic job, raising that bar to new levels.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Happy relationships seem to come so easily to some. Then again, who really knows? Everyone has a public and private face. The only way to really find out what's going on inside of a relationship is to tend to your own.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Clutter isn't just a little mess to be cleaned up whenever; it's a representation of disorder and wonky

alignment. Cleaning it up, even a little, will cause seemingly unrelated and magical good fortune.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're starting to think of things in their broader context. You're seeing how they relate and affect their environment, what they are connected to and what they cannot do without. New insights come from this big-picture thinking.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Ask a scientist — the act of observing changes what's observed. You can't interact without influencing the situation. But with a quiet, neutral approach, you might glimpse the version that was there before you arrived.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One way to stop worrying is to write things down. Make lists. Make a list of things you can control about the situation and, just to remind yourself, another list of things you can't.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You made your choice. Or did you? It felt like a semiautomatic response to your environment motivated by basic human needs like survival, identity and belonging. Can you really be credited or blamed for that?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like an elevator in a high rise, you have many buttons to push. And people who push a lot of buttons are going to have a very slow ride to where they need to go.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because you're so creative, you can make sense of the illogical, find links between seemingly unrelated things and weave together disparate ideas — all skills that will serve you well over the next three days.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not always inclined toward the spiritual advice to meditate, pray or seek enlightenment. There are practical ways to get to the same place. Anything that helps you grow as a person also expands your spirit.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 2). You'll heal your pain, overcome fear and create a different sort of daily flow. All this helps you manage the things that used to hold you back. By July, you'll feel so successful that you won't crave any exterior trappings to prove it, and yet they'll show up anyway. You'll get family together for fun and memory-making. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 46, 6, 7, 38 and 44.

Thursday, May 2, 2019

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH BOB JONES

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**PLAYING FOR MONEY**

East-West vulnerable, North deals

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A K Q J  
 ♥ J 10  
 ♦ Q J 9 7 6  
 ♣ 7 6

**EAST**  
 ♠ 5 2  
 ♥ K Q 7 6 4  
 ♦ A K 8  
 ♣ 8 5 2

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 7 6 3  
 ♥ A 9 8  
 ♦ 10 4 2  
 ♣ A Q J 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ 10 9 8 4  
 ♥ 5 3 2  
 ♦ 5 3  
 ♣ K 9 4 3

The bidding:  
 NORTH 1♦ EAST 1♥ SOUTH 2NT WEST Pass  
 3NT All pass

Opening lead: Three of ♥

Today's deal is an example of the difference between duplicate bridge and rubber bridge. A heart lead to the queen is routine after this auction, and we would expect declarer at either form of the game to win the first trick with his ace. A spade to dummy would be followed by a club to the queen. A good defender sitting West would duck his king and allow the queen

to win the trick. At this point, the two declarers would probably go different ways. The duplicate declarer, dreaming of an overtrick or two, would likely cross back to dummy with a spade and repeat the club finesse. West would win with his king this time and lead the five of hearts. East should duck and allow dummy's jack to win this second round of hearts. Declarer would not be able to get back to his hand and the defense would come to three hearts, two diamonds, and a club for down two. At rubber bridge, where the goal is nine tricks and overtricks don't matter as much, the play should go differently. After winning the first club finesse, declarer should continue with the ace of clubs and then the jack of clubs, discarding dummy's jack of hearts. Should the defense play on hearts, declarer would have an entry to his hand and nine tricks. Should they never play on hearts, declarer will have time to set up dummy's diamond suit to get nine tricks that way.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

**BORN LOSER** By Art and Chip Sansom



**BLONDIE** By Dean Young and John Marshall



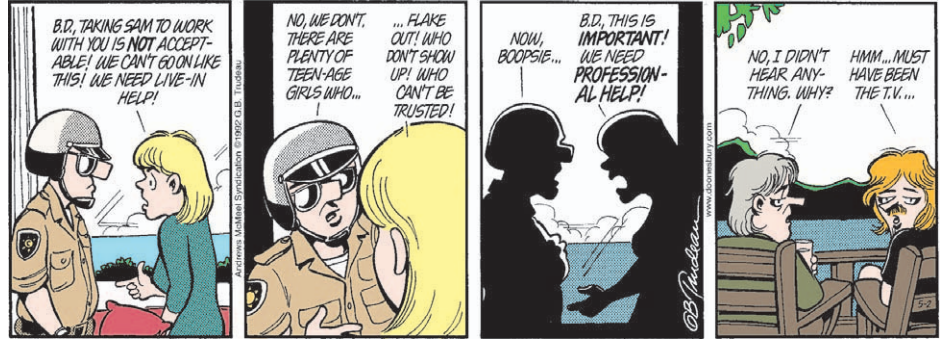
**MUTTS** By Patrick McDonnell



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



**DOONSBURY** By Garry Trudeau



**TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Hollow stem</p> <p>5 Lobster pot</p> <p>9 Sharp</p> <p>14 Economist — Greenspan</p> <p>15 Herr von Bismarck</p> <p>16 Put out bait</p> <p>17 Grime</p> <p>18 Onion relative</p> <p>19 Antler branches</p> <p>20 Abate</p> <p>22 Draws close</p> <p>24 Capture</p> <p>26 Stonehenge frequenters</p> <p>29 Show appreciation</p> <p>31 Limited</p> <p>33 Loan figure</p> <p>36 Tartness</p> <p>38 Dice throw</p> <p>39 Novelist — Levin</p> <p>40 Politeness</p> <p>42 Pharmacist — Lilly</p> <p>43 Woolen fabric</p> <p>45 Look-alike sibling</p> <p>46 Scrooge's nephew</p> <p>47 Lovers oneself</p> <p>49 Indira's father</p> <p>51 Unconscious</p> <p>53 Coldest or wettest</p>	<p>57 Top story</p> <p>59 Sympathize</p> <p>60 Page or LuPone</p> <p>63 Answers</p> <p>65 They're easily bruised</p> <p>66 From square one</p> <p>67 Singer — Brickell</p> <p>68 Mailed out</p> <p>69 "Nothing —!"</p> <p>70 Cleave</p> <p>71 Card after deuce</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Skilled force</p> <p>2 Sci-fi thriller</p> <p>3 DEA agents</p> <p>4 Political alliance</p> <p>5 Allow</p> <p>6 I-90</p> <p>7 Ra's symbol</p> <p>8 Prodded</p> <p>9 Large-heartedness</p> <p>10 Style of cooking</p> <p>11 Samovar</p> <p>12 Road sign symbol</p> <p>13 Bradley and Asner</p> <p>21 Telegraph syllable</p> <p>23 Rover's greeting</p> <p>25 Pass, as a bill</p> <p>27 Scuba enthusiast</p>	<p><b>PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED</b></p> <p>TAIL AHEM THOR</p> <p>AMMO PILED ROSY</p> <p>MOPS ANGRY AGUE</p> <p>PROTECTIVELY</p> <p>SAS THEN JASPER</p> <p>LEANED LOB AVE</p> <p>BAS WEBSITES</p> <p>LAMB DAD CENT</p> <p>AVIATORS WEE</p> <p>VOLIRS WALDEN</p> <p>ENSUED GINS LOU</p> <p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>SWAP RUNTS ACDC</p> <p>LONE SNORT GILCA</p> <p>YEAR KAYO STEP</p> <p>28 Stone pillar</p> <p>30 Recognized</p> <p>32 Wife of Geraint</p> <p>33 Take a chance</p> <p>34 Stadium</p> <p>35 Weight deductions</p> <p>37 Deep distress</p> <p>40 Erasing</p> <p>41 Got unseated</p> <p>44 Quivering dessert</p> <p>46 Least empty</p> <p>48 Harden, as plaster</p> <p>50 Feel remorse</p> <p>52 Stingy person</p> <p>54 Gung-ho</p> <p>55 Fruit pit</p> <p>56 Irritably impatient</p> <p>58 Grant territory</p> <p>60 Walk barefoot</p> <p>61 Back when</p> <p>62 Mai — complement</p> <p>64 Yang</p>
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**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).

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

Rating: **BRONZE**

Solution to 5/1/19

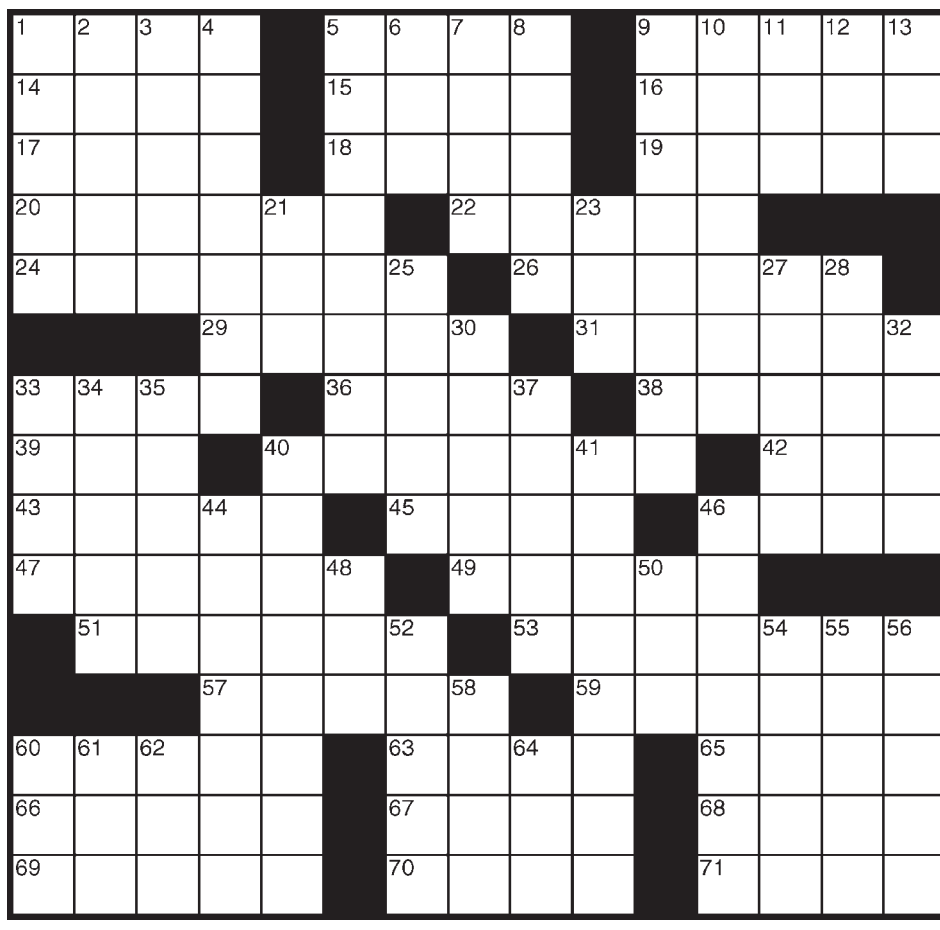
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8	3	6	5	7	4	1	2	9
5	9	7	8	2	1	4	3	6
3	1	5	2	9	8	6	7	4
2	6	8	4	1	7	5	9	3
9	7	4	6	3	5	8	1	2
1	8	3	9	5	6	2	4	7
7	4	9	1	8	2	3	6	5
6	5	2	7	4	3	9	8	1

**WORDY GURDY**

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

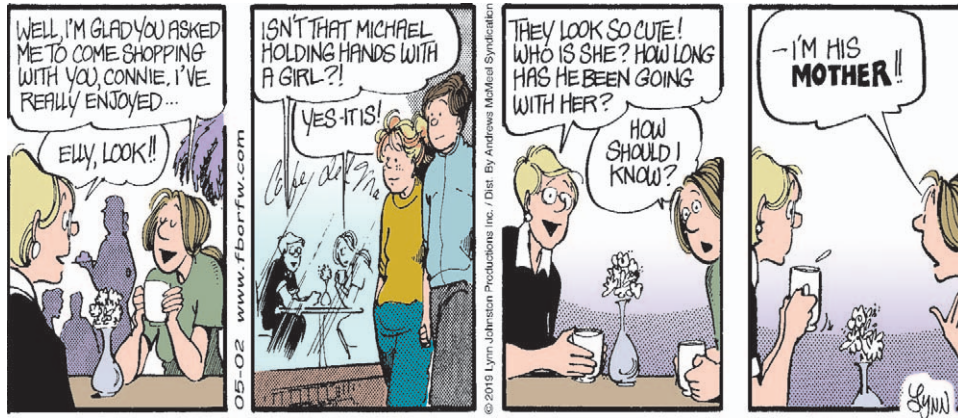
- Food blender repairer (2)
- More pleasing egg-cutting gadget (2)
- Apple-boring gadget stower (2)
- Cheese-shredding gadget appraiser (2)
- Flour sieve raiser-upper (2)
- Potato-skin-removing gadget thief (2)
- Dutchman's bowl-shaped strainers (3)

ANSWERS  
 1. MIXER FIXER 2. NICER SLICER 3. CORER STORER 4. GRATER RATER  
 5. SIFTER LIFTER 6. PEELER STEALER 7. HOLLANDERS COLANDERS

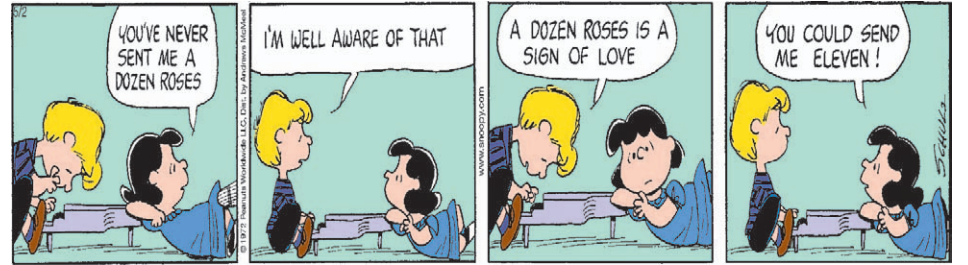


Want more puzzles?  
 Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books  
 at QuillDriverBooks.com

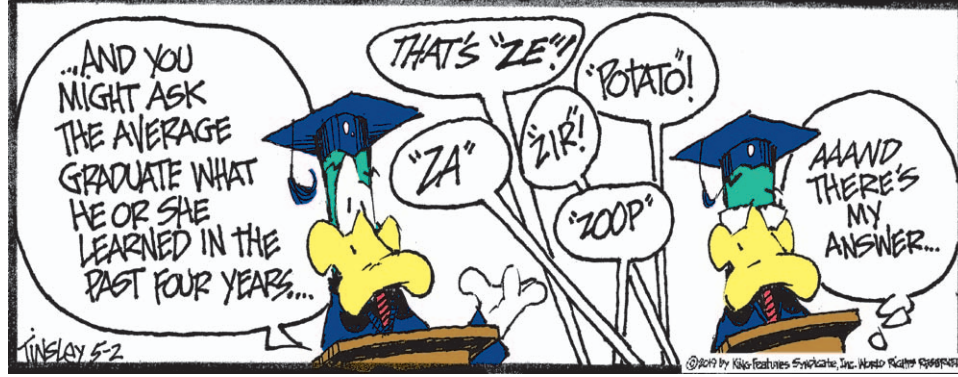
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



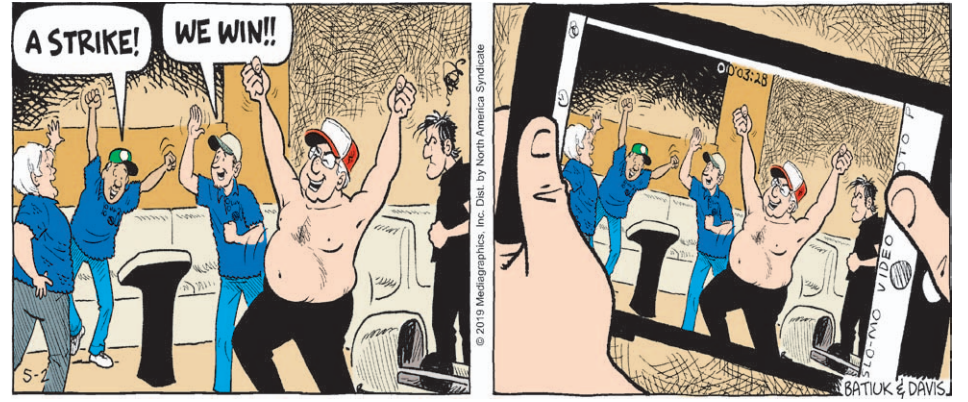
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



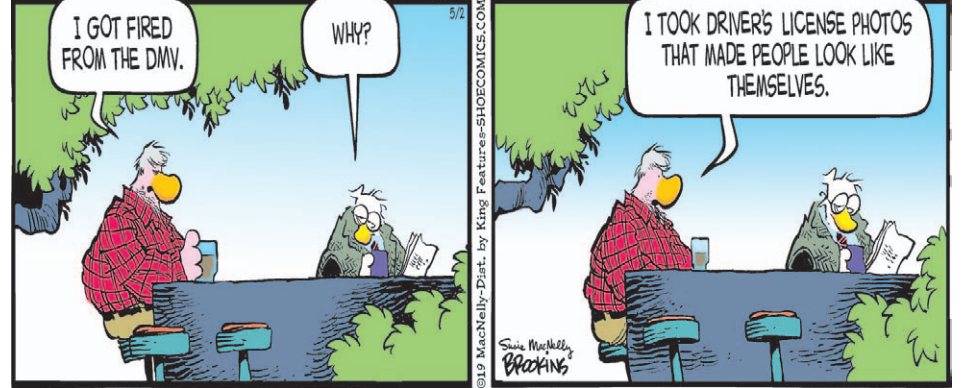
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



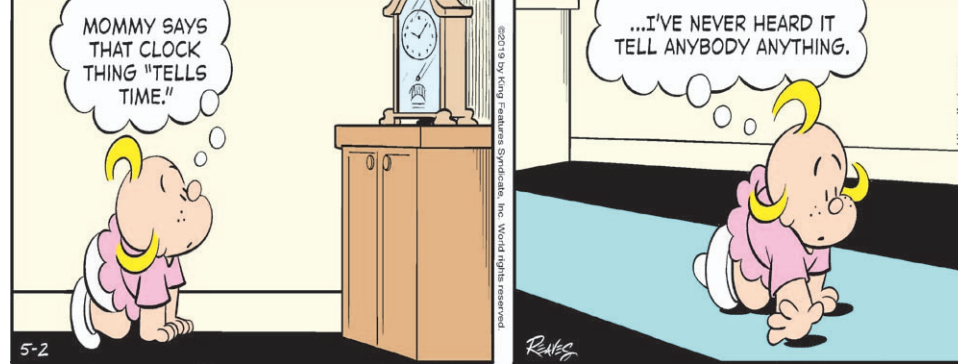
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



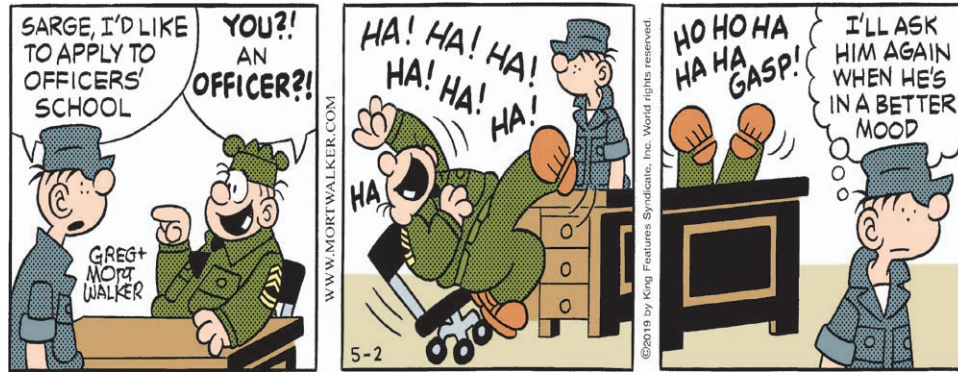
HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



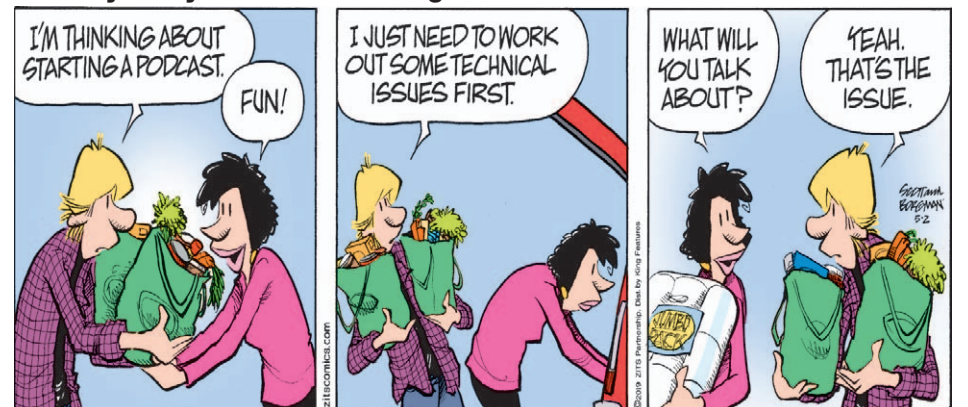
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



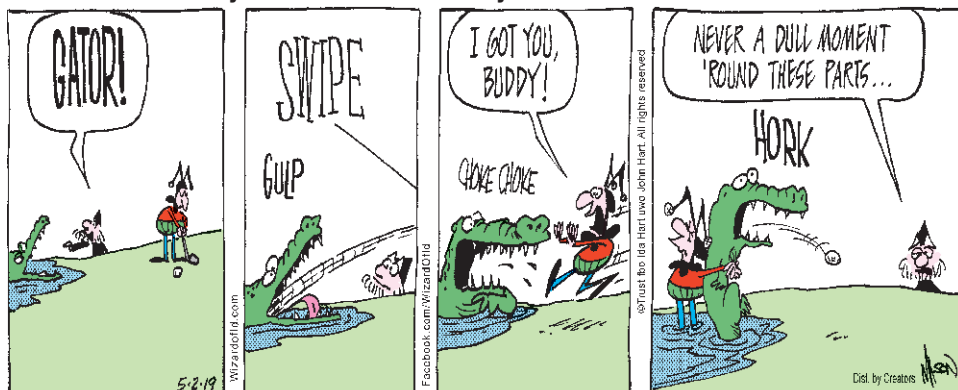
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



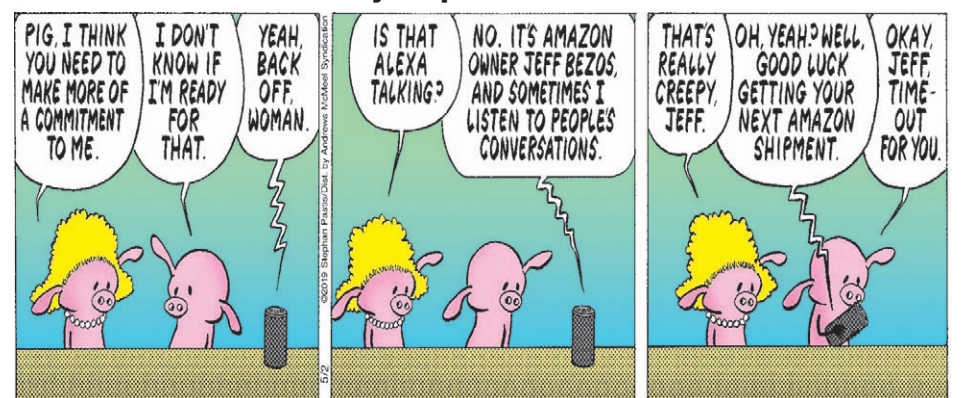
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



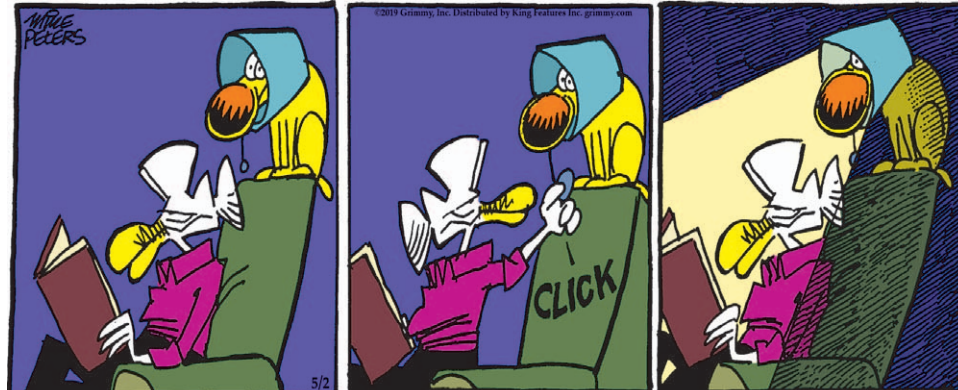
THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



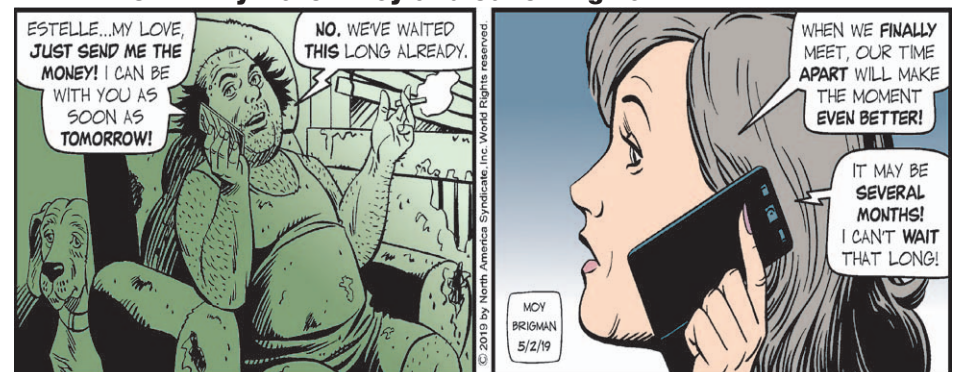
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



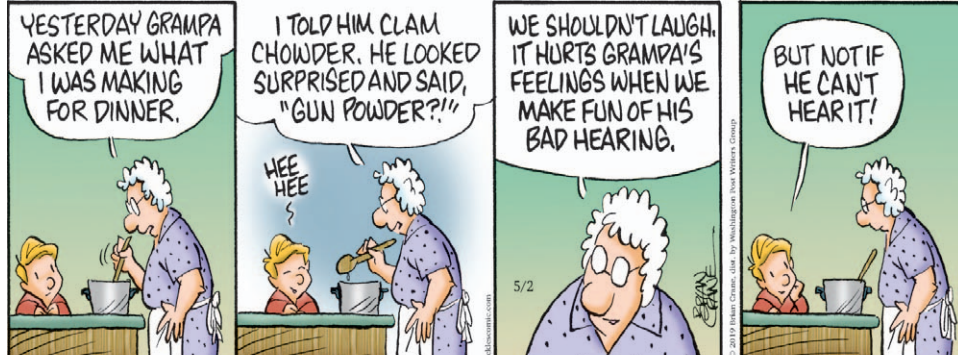
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



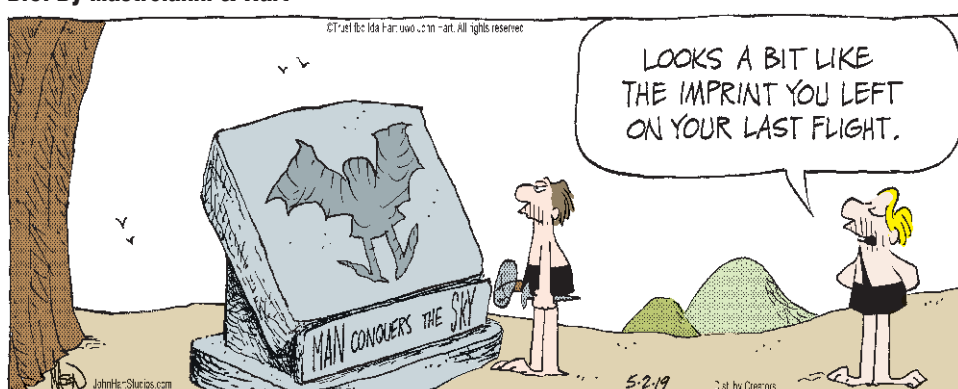
PICKLES By Brian Crane



DILBERT By Scott Adams



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart









## NASCAR changes qualifying

Format will revert back to single-car qualifying after group qualifying was exposed by drivers for structural flaws.  
See the story on page 7.

Thursday, May 2, 2019

www.yoursun.com | www.facebook.com/SunPreps | @Sun\_Preps

■ **MLB: Royals 3, Rays 2 (Game 1); Royals 8, Rays 2 (Game 2)**

# Lowly Kansas City sweeps doubleheader

Snell shelled for second straight game since return as Rays fall to AL Central cellar dwellers

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Glenn Sparkman and Kelvin Gutierrez were hanging out at Triple-A Omaha last weekend, the career reliever and young third baseman eagerly awaiting a call from the Kansas City Royals.

They both got it. And they both made the most of it.

Sparkman was recalled on Wednesday to start the

second game of a doubleheader against Tampa Bay, and he merely breezed through seven innings of three-hit ball while outpitching reigning AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell in an 8-0 victory. Gutierrez hit his first homer in the second game to go with an RBI in the first, which Kansas City took by a 3-2 score.

“My focus today was just trying to stay relaxed. Don’t let the game get too big,” said Sparkman, who

arrived in town about 1 a.m. and proceeded to earn his first major league win. “I knew I had to go out there and do my thing to get the sweep.”

In the opener, Adalberto Mondesi hit a two-run homer to highlight a three-run first inning for Kansas City, and Jacob Junis and the bullpen held on the rest of the way. Mondesi also drove in a run in the second game to cap a big afternoon, while

Gutierrez’s homer off the foul pole helped him match a Royals record with seven RBIs in his first five games.

It was the first time the Royals swept a doubleheader since July 7, 2015, when a team that would reach its second straight World Series also accomplished the feat against the Rays.

“The first game we scored three runs in the first and just could not tack on, and fortunately

we were able to tack on in the second,” Royals manager Ned Yost said. “We broke the game open.”

The sweep was especially eye-opening given Tampa Bay was coming off a club-record 19 wins through April, and the Royals had stumbled into the day having lost eight of their last 10.

“I mean look, doubleheaders are tough to begin with. I think you’ve got to give a lot of credit to the Royals,”

Rays manager Kevin Cash said. “They came out and ready to go, two ballgames, sweep the doubleheader — whether you’re at home or on the road, that’s a difficult thing to do in baseball, and they just did it to what we would consider a good team.”

Junis (3-2) won his second consecutive start, both against the Rays, by allowing two runs on

**RAYS | 6**

■ **HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL DISTRICT 6A SEMIFINALS: North Fort Myers 10, Port Charlotte 1**

# Lady Pirates’ season ends

Stetson-bound Emma Johnson proves too tough to overcome

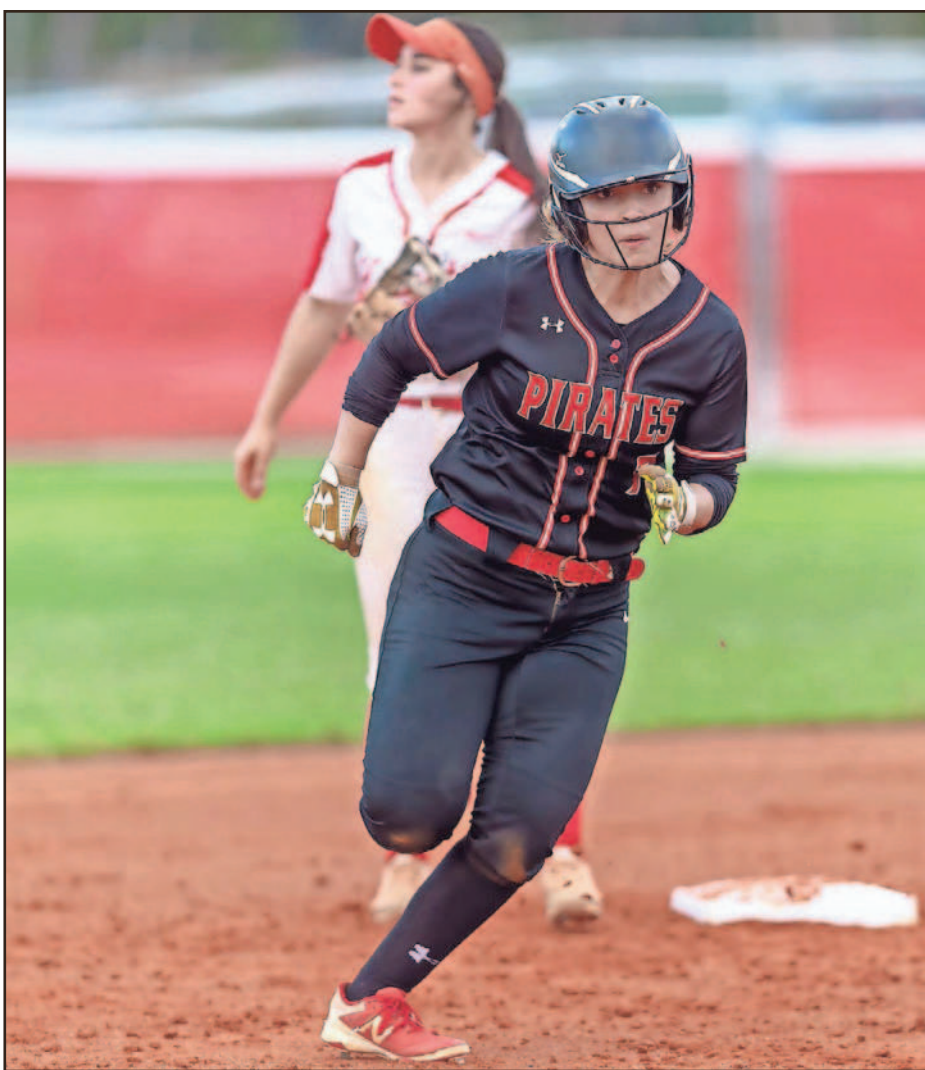
By **STEPHEN MCKAY**  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

After the Port Charlotte Pirates’ softball team concluded the final game of their 2019 season, there were understandably some long faces and few tears shed after the final out. But when coach Ryann Baker gathered the team in a circle afterwards, it wasn’t long before the tears stopped and the laughter began.

The Pirates season came to its end at North Fort Myers’ Bobbie Dewey Field in the semifinals of the District 6A-11 semifinals by the count of 10-1.

“This group was different for us this year. There was just a different aura around this team,” said Baker. “They were family, they were sisters and they bickered like family and that’s a good thing. Because you knew they cared about each other.”

The Pirates entered the night with a tough challenge in front of them. They had to hit against Stetson University bound



SUN PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER G BLAKE

Port Charlotte’s Jazlyn Embury heads to third base for a triple during the Pirates’ district semifinal loss to North Ft. Myers High School. Embury would score the lone run for Port Charlotte.

**PIRATES | 3**

■ **BUCS**

# Partially blind pass rusher signed by Tampa Bay

By **FRANK PASTOR**  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

Kahzin Daniels gets off the line and around the edge so smoothly, University of Charleston defensive line coach Zack Santolla recently told NFL.com, it looks like “he can probably do it with his eyes closed at times.”

The defensive end, signed by the Bucs last week as an undrafted free agent, is partially blind, the result of a childhood accident.

It hasn’t held him back, as his 34-1/2 sacks over four seasons at Division II Charleston (W. Va.) attest.

“I knew when we got him he had a little bit of an issue with his right eye, but didn’t realize it was to the extent it was until he said something, or else I would’ve never known,” Charleston head coach Pat Kirkland said. Daniels lost sight in

his right eye when he collided with a pole that was sticking out of an abandoned building while riding a scooter at age 5.

He was knocked off his feet and believes he did a full flip before falling to the ground.

Daniels said he felt no pain. The hardest part for him was being teased by classmates afterward while he had to wear an eye patch for a few months.

“Kids are vicious. I feel like everybody goes through that, to an extent,” he told NFL.com. “My reaction to it was it only made me stronger. I didn’t look at it like I was any different from anybody else. Going through something like that at an early age, it cemented who I was. It created that introvert in me and that lock-it-down, focus-in attitude.”

■ **HORSE RACING**

# Omaha Beach, Kentucky Derby favorite, scratched

Entrapped epiglottis led Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella to pull horse from Saturday’s race



AP PHOTO

Trainer Richard Mandella grooms Kentucky Derby entrant Omaha Beach before a workout at Churchill Downs Wednesday. Omaha Beach, the morning-line favorite for Saturday’s Kentucky Derby, was scratched from the race due to a breathing issue.

By **BETH HARRIS**  
AP RACING WRITER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Suddenly, the Kentucky Derby is wide open.

Favorite Omaha Beach was scratched because of a breathing problem Wednesday night, leaving a pair of Hall of Famers on the sideline — trainer Richard Mandella and jockey Mike Smith.

Churchill Downs oddsmaker Mike Battaglia revised the morning line to make Game Winner the 9-2 favorite for the 1 1/4-mile race Saturday.

Improbable and Roadster were installed as the co-second choices at 5-1, giving five-time Derby-winning trainer Bob Baffert the top three choices in the 20-horse field.

Mandella told The Associated Press that Omaha Beach developed

a cough and a subsequent veterinary exam showed the colt has an entrapped epiglottis. It’s generally not life- or career-threatening and is typically corrected with minor surgery.

“It’s been a devastating thing, but we have to do what’s right for the horse,” said Mandella, who has never won the Derby with six previous starters.

The trainer said Omaha Beach will have surgery in Kentucky in the next few days and will be sidelined for two to three weeks. The ordeal will knock him off the Triple Crown trail.

“It’s such a disappointment, but we’ll fight again,” Mandella told the AP. “We won’t be out a long time.”

The scratch was another blow to cancer

**DERBY | 6**





MLB ROUNDUP

Arizona's Kelly wins debut over New York Yankees

PHOENIX (AP) — Ketel Marte homered, Merrill Kelly won his first start against the Yankees and Arizona beat New York 3-2 Wednesday to sweep a two-game series. New York dropped to 0-5 this year against teams that currently have winning records and is 17-8 against clubs that started the day under .500.

failed to make it out of the inning after giving up five hits and walking two. Baez led off the second with a homer to deep right-center field — his 10th of the season — and later added an RBI double just inside third base. Lester (2-1) cruised after the early run support, allowing one hit in seven innings.

MARLINS 4, INDIANS 2

Kelly (3-2) allowed one run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings as Arizona won for the seventh time in nine games. Masahiro Tanaka (2-3) allowed three runs and five hits in four innings.

Corey Kluber's arm was fractured by a line drive, and the Cleveland Indians right-hander took the loss as the Miami Marlins broke a four-game losing streak with a 4-2 victory. Kluber (2-3) was hit by Brian Anderson's comebacker. Kluber allowed eight hits and three runs in 4 2/3 innings. Caleb Smith (3-0) pitched seven innings and allowed only one run to get the win for the Marlins. Miami center fielder Rossel Herrera, had a career-high three RBIs.

RED SOX 7, ATHLETICS 3

Mitch Moreland homered and drove in another run on a sacrifice fly after a lucky hop off the second base bag moved the runners along as Boston completed a three-game sweep.

PIRATES 7, RANGERS 5

Rookie Bryan Reynolds hit a three-run double as Pittsburgh completed a two-game sweep. A day after his first career home run put the Pirates ahead in the 11th inning of a 6-4 win, Reynolds extended his career-opening hitting streak to nine games. Jameson Taillon (2-3) allowed five hits and four runs — three earned — in 6 1/3 innings for the win.

CARDINALS 5, NATIONALS 1

Miles Mikolas outpitched Max Scherzer, Marcell Ozuna had three hits and St. Louis beat Washington. The Cardinals touched up Scherzer (1-4) for three runs in the first.

PHILLIES 7, TIGERS 3

Maikel Franco hit a bases-clearing double in the seventh, Rhys Hoskins homered and Philadelphia beat Detroit. Aaron Nola pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball, helping the Phillies earn a split of the two-game series. The ace right-hander allowed seven hits and struck out six.

Max Fried gave up one run in seven innings, Dansby Swanson homered and Atlanta spoiled Cal Quantrill's major league debut. The Braves led 2-1 before scoring three runs in the seventh off Luis Perdomo, including Swanson's two-run homer. Fried (4-1) allowed four hits.

ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 4

Jonathan Villar hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth Kelvin Herrera (0-1) after Richie Martin's leadoff triple, and Baltimore won a doubleheader opener to stop a four-game losing streak.

RED SOX 7, ATHLETICS 3

Jon Lester and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Javier Baez homered and doubled during Chicago's six-run second inning, and the Cubs beat the Seattle Mariners 11-0. The Cubs handed Seattle starter Marco Gonzales his first loss of the season, thanks to the big second inning when 12 batters came to the plate. Gonzales (5-1)

BRAVES 5, PADRES 1

Jon Lester and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Javier Baez homered and doubled during Chicago's six-run second inning, and the Cubs beat the Seattle Mariners 11-0. The Cubs handed Seattle starter Marco Gonzales his first loss of the season, thanks to the big second inning when 12 batters came to the plate. Gonzales (5-1)

CUBS 11, MARINERS 0

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ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 4

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Mets' reliever Familia lands on injured list

By Ryan Gerbosi NEWSDAY

Jeury's Familia is headed to the injured list. The struggling Mets reliever is being placed on the 10-day IL with a sore shoulder, said manager Mickey Callaway before Wednesday's game against the Reds. Callaway also said Familia received an injection in the shoulder earlier in the day. The Mets called up left-handed reliever Ryan O'Rourke to replace

ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 4

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ORIOLES 5, WHITE SOX 4

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table: Royals 3, Rays 2 (Game 1). First Game Tampa Bay AB R H BI BB SO Avg. B.Lowe 2b 4 0 2 0 0 1 .298...

Scoreboard table: Baltimore 000 300 110 — 5 11 3 Chicago 103 000 000 — 4 7 2

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Scoreboard table: Second Game Tampa Bay AB R H BI BB SO Avg. B.Lowe 2b 4 0 1 0 0 2 .296...

Scoreboard table: Royals 8, Rays 2 (Game 2). Tampa Bay AB R H BI BB SO Avg. B.Lowe 2b 4 0 1 0 0 2 .296...

Scoreboard table: Red Sox 7, Athletics 3. Oakland AB R H BI BB SO Avg. Semien ss 4 0 0 0 0 2 .302...

Scoreboard table: Pirates 7, Rangers 5. Pittsburgh AB R H BI BB SO Avg. Frazier 2b 5 0 0 0 0 0 .245...

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## ■ NFL



AP PHOTO

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver John Ross read reports that the Bengals were going to trade him during the draft. Not only did they keep him, they chose not to get any more receivers.

## Bengals keep WR Ross, give him important role

By **JOE KAY**

AP SPORTS WRITER

CINCINNATI — John Ross read the reports that the Bengals were trying to trade him ahead of the draft.

Not only did they keep him, they decided not to add any receivers, leaving Ross with an even higher profile heading into his third season.

Still here, still waiting for that breakout season.

“They’ve put a lot into us, a lot of trust,” Ross said after a voluntary workout at Paul Brown Stadium.

They believed in Ross enough to make him the ninth overall pick in 2017 even though he was recovering from a shoulder injury. Ross ran a combine-record 4.22 seconds in the 40-yard dash, and Cincinnati envisioned lining him up across from A.J. Green to provide another deep threat.

The shoulder injury and a knee injury limited him to three games as a rookie, when he didn’t catch a pass. Ross

suffered a groin injury last season and played in 13 games. He had 21 catches for 210 yards and seven touchdowns.

Several reports in the offseason said the Bengals were shopping him to other teams for draft picks. Ross was at the dentist when the first report came out, and his phone quickly was flooded with texts and calls that added to the confusion.

“My agent called me,” Ross said. “He didn’t know what was going on. He thought I was actually going to get traded.”

First-year head coach Zac Taylor then called to reassure him that he was staying in Cincinnati.

“That was a sigh of relief,” Ross said. “For him to call and let me know, I appreciated that just because you never know. You could be here one day and go the next.”

Even so, the Bengals were expected to add at least one receiver in the draft. Green is back after missing nearly half the season with a toe injury. Tyler Boyd had a breakout

season, leading the team with 78 catches and 1,028 yards receiving. No other wide receiver had as many as 200 yards. The passing game finished 24th in the league.

Instead of a receiver, the Bengals drafted run-blocking tight end Drew Sample and two running backs among their 10 picks.

Taylor said the Bengals wanted to add a receiver, but players at other positions were more enticing when it came time to pick. They got left tackle Jonah Williams in the first round and guard Michael Jordan in the fourth, looking to upgrade the line that has been a longstanding problem.

Ross watched some of the draft, curious whether the Bengals would bring in another receiver.

“I see the same thing happening in the future but as of right now, there was no one else taken,” Ross said.

“We definitely still have a lot to do in order for them to put more trust in us, especially the young guys.”

good support.”

Omaha Beach had been the 4-1 early favorite.

Mandella’s dry sense of humor came out when he said, “My wife has my leg tied down so I can’t jump out of the window.”

Smith had chosen to ride Omaha Beach instead of Roadster and now he won’t have a chance to win the Derby for the second straight year. He rode Justify to victory

last year.

“I’m a little bummed out, but the horse is OK and we’re going to be all right,” Smith told the AP by phone. “The good news is it wasn’t anything that is life-threatening.”

Smith has three mounts on Friday’s card at Churchill Downs and five Saturday.

“I’ll be rooting for Roadster’s connections big-time,” he said. “I’ll be a glorified cheerleader.”

Omaha Beach galloped

Wednesday morning without problem and Mandella said everything was fine. But that changed by late afternoon when the exam showed the cough was more than a minor irritation.

The condition can indicate the start of a virus, a sore throat or a sore in somewhere in the horse’s soft palate.

Omaha Beach’s scratch moves Bodexpress into the field in the No. 20 post.

Mandella said he would likely return to Southern California before the Derby.

“I didn’t lose interest,” he said, “but I don’t want to be here and watch it.”

It’s not the first time the Derby has lost a favorite leading up to the race.

In 2009, I Want Revenge became the first morning-line favorite to scratch the day of the race because of a hot spot on his ankle.

## Raiders lose RB Crowell to torn Achilles’ tendon

By **JERRY McDONALD**  
EAST BAY TIMES

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Running back Isaiah Crowell, who signed a one-year contract with the Raiders a month ago to help offset the potential absence of Marshawn Lynch, sustained an Achilles’ tendon tear during a team workout Tuesday and is out for the season.

Not long after the Raiders were confronted with the reality of being without the man they expected to be one of their primary ballcarriers, the NFL Network reported Doug Martin would return to the fold.

Crowell, 26, signed a one-year contract worth \$2.5 million contract on March 28, the same day the Raiders signed linebacker Brandon Marshall.

The Raiders drafted Alabama running back Josh Jacobs last Thursday in the first round of the NFL draft,

No. 24 overall, and he is expected to assume the role of lead back.

However, Jacobs played in more of a part time role at Alabama, carrying 120 times for 640 yards as a junior before declaring for the draft. That was good for third on the Crimson Tide in rushing behind Damien Harris (150 carries, 876 yards) and Najee Harris (117 carries, 783 yards).

While Jacobs is eager to prove he can step up in terms of work load, Crowell offered valuable experience and is the kind of no-nonsense, move-the-chains back at 5-foot-11, 225 pounds that coach Jon Gruden has long sought.

Crowell gained 685 yards on 143 carries last season for the New York Jets, averaging 4.8 yards per carry with a long run of 77 yards. He played four seasons with Cleveland from 2014 through 2017 and was a 16-game starter his last

two seasons with the Browns.

In his five-year career, Crowell has 880 yards on 3,803 carries with 27 touchdowns and 117 receptions for 922 yards.

Martin led the Raiders last season with 723 yards on 172 carries and four touchdowns in 16 games and nine starts. Lynch started six times and had 376 yards on 90 attempts and three scores before missing the rest of the season with a groin injury.

While Martin current remains on the market, ESPN reported March 24 that Lynch had retired.

Other running backs on the Raiders roster include Jalen Richard, who has been primarily a receiving backs, DeAndre Washington and Chris Warren III. The Raiders released running back James Butler on Tuesday.

Washington hasn’t averaged four yards per carry since his rookie year in 2016.

## ■ TENNIS

## Sharapova sidelined with lingering shoulder injury

ROME (AP) — Three-time champion Maria Sharapova has withdrawn from the upcoming Italian Open as she continues to recover from a right shoulder injury.

Rome organizers announced Wednesday that Sharapova’s spot in the draw for the May 13-19 tournament will be taken by 45th-ranked Viktoria Kuzmova of

Slovakia.

Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam champion, hasn’t played since pulling out of a tournament in St. Petersburg, Russia, in late January after winning her first-round match. She won three matches at the Australian Open and is ranked 28th.

Sharapova said in February that she had undergone a “small

procedure” on her right shoulder that would need a few weeks to heal. She added that she has struggled since midway through last year with shoulder pain caused by a fraying tendon and small labrum tear.

Missing Rome puts Sharapova in doubt for the French Open, which begins at the end of the month.

## DERBY

FROM PAGE 1

survivor Rick Porter, the colt’s 78-year-old owner. He has twice finished second in the Derby, in 2007 with Hard Spun and the following year with filly Eight Belles, who broke her ankles past the finish line and had to be euthanized.

“He’s a great sport,” Mandella said. “I’ve got very



AP PHOTO

Blake Snell is taken out by manager Kevin Cash in the fourth inning at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Wednesday. Snell was hit hard for the second straight game since returning from a toe fracture.

## RAYS

FROM PAGE 1

six hits in 6 1/3 innings in the opener. The young pitcher walked two and struck out two.

The Royals jumped on Rays opener Ryne Stanek (0-1) when Whit Merrifield led off with a double and stole third before Mondesi drilled his fourth homer this season to right. Alex Gordon walked and later scored as the first four batters reached safely.

Ian Kennedy worked two scoreless innings for his second save in three chances.

The Royals kept rolling in the second game, getting the first of two RBI singles by Jorge Soler and Gutierrez’s homer to stake them to a 3-0 lead against Snell after the first inning.

Kansas City added another run in the third before a four-run fourth inning sent Snell to the clubhouse. The first six batters reached base in the frame on four hits and a pair of walks.

Billy Hamilton chased Snell (2-3) with an RBI single in the fourth, the third straight batter to reach to start the inning. By the time all three scored, Snell had allowed seven runs on six hits and three walks in his second start since a 10-day layoff for a broken toe.

“It was uncharacteristic,” Cash said. “He just never could get it right, for whatever reason.”

## DOUBLE DIPPING

The doubleheader was caused by a rainout Tuesday night. The Rays don’t return to Kansas City, so with more rain looming on Wednesday night, the decision was made to start early and play a traditional doubleheader rather than a day-night set.

## STATS AND STREAKS

The last time the Royals swept a traditional doubleheader was Sept. 13, 2008, at Cleveland.

The Royals stole two bases in each game, giving them a league-leading 33 this season.

The seven runs Snell allowed were a career high. He had allowed just eight earned runs in his previous 28 1/3 innings.

The Rays’ Daniel Robertson and Ji-Man Choi homered in the ninth in the second game.

## UP NEXT

Rays RHP Charlie Morton (3-0, 2.76) tries to remain unbeaten when the teams conclude a four-game set Thursday. LHP Danny Duffy (0-1, 5.40) is on the mound for the Royals.

■ **NBA PLAYOFFS: NBA Western Conference Semifinals**

# Harden played with blurred vision

Houston guard still feeling effects of injured eye after contact with Golden State's Green

By **JANIE MCCAULEY**  
AP SPORTS WRITER

OAKLAND, Calif. — James Harden's eyes were still red and stinging well after the final buzzer.

He could barely see on the court let alone read the box score after the game.

The reigning MVP hopes he will feel better with a few days off before the Rockets' Western Conference semifinal series against Golden State resumes Saturday in Houston with his team trailing 2-0 following a 115-109 loss Tuesday night in Game 2.

Harden scored 29 points on 9-for-19 shooting to go with seven rebounds, four assists and six turnovers. Eye drops he received only helped so much to relieve the discomfort.

He injured his eyes with 6:39 left in the first quarter, grabbing at his face after he and Green fought for a loose rebound and Green's left hand got Harden in the face.

"I can barely see. Just tried to go out there and do what I can to help my teammates," Harden said. "It's pretty blurry right now. Hopefully it gets better day by day."

When Harden went to the locker room with 6:27 remaining and a towel over his left eye for a cut, Green patted him on the back and checked

to make sure he was OK. Harden returned at the 7:09 mark of the second.

"We were fighting for a rebound. I made a mistake and hit him in his eye," Green said. "It's not about hurting anybody out here. So many times people forget, when a guy has an injury, you live with that every day, every second of every day. It's not just about this game. If his eye is messed up, he's got to live that every day. Just want to check on the guy. At the end of the day it's bigger than basketball when it comes to injuries."

Harden scored seven straight Houston points during one stretch midway through the fourth, including a 3 at 7:25 that got the Rockets within 92-89. Stephen Curry then connected for a key 3 at the 6:31 mark.

"He fought through some stuff. The guy looked like he was not in great shape the first half, I think it might have cleared up a little bit," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"But he got raked pretty good in the eyes. But that's him. I didn't have a doubt he was coming back unless it was something catastrophic. I'm sure he would have loved to have played better. Under the circumstances, I thought he played great."



AP PHOTO

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (right) guards against Houston Rockets' James Harden in Game 2, Tuesday, in Oakland, Calif..

■ **NASCAR**

# Group qualifying will come to an end



AP PHOTO

Austin Dillon leads the start of a NASCAR Cup Series race at Talladega Superspeedway, Sunday, in Talladega, Ala. NASCAR will switch back to single-car qualifying this weekend in Dover.

## This weekend's Dover meet will return to single-car laps after failure of current format

By **JENNA FRYER**  
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR has dropped its fight to add excitement value to qualifying and will return to single-car laps after the current format became a laughingstock.

All three NASCAR national series will return to single-car qualifying at all oval tracks starting this weekend at Dover. NASCAR for more

than five years has used a group qualifying format, but a new rules package this season created an unintended consequence: drivers could game the system.

Most waited until the very last moment to pull off pit lane for their qualifying run; all 12 drivers in the final round at California in March missed the cutoff point to even register a lap.

NASCAR was adamant it was trying to keep qualifying

entertaining for fans because single-car runs are tedious, but teams continued to find loopholes that made the format a farce.

NASCAR was furious and for the past month considered various options, but the emphasis on aerodynamic draft created through the new rules package backed the series into a corner.

Race teams wanted an aero pull and waited for another driver to go first, and they

showed no intention of stopping the practice despite several NASCAR attempts to tighten the rules.

In Wednesday's rule change, elimination-style rounds were also cut. Television partners Fox Sports and NBC Sports are tasked with showing qualifying, which had been knockout rounds completed within an hour.

Both TV partners indicated to NASCAR they could still produce an interesting

show with the single-car qualifying, which played a part in NASCAR's decision to go back to a format most find technical and rather boring.

NASCAR said the single-car qualifying format will be in effect for the rest of the season, though group qualifying format will remain in place at road courses.

The qualifying order draw will be determined by the previous race's starting lineup.







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NYSE

Main table containing NYSE stock data with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, 1000s Last, YTD %Chg. Includes sub-sections for C, D, and E.

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NYSE

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Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including Drax, Drax Energy, Drax Financial, Drax Industrial, Drax Materials, Drax Other, Drax Real Estate, Drax Insurance, Drax Financial Services, Drax Energy Services, Drax Energy Infrastructure, Drax Energy Distribution, Drax Energy Generation, Drax Energy Retail, Drax Energy Wholesale.

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X-Y-Z

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like :VBI Vac n VBIV, :VEON VEON, :VOXX Intl VOXX, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like :WCF Bcp n WCFB, :WFC WSF, :WFS WFS, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Name, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like :Wheelr rs WHLR, Wheelr pFD WHLRD, Wheelr pFD WHLRD, etc.

Money Market Funds

Table with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Includes entries like Cash Account Tr, Gov, Cash Account Trust, etc.

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Money Market Funds

Table of Money Market Funds with columns for Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, and Fund details. Includes categories like Tax Exempt and various government and institutional funds.

Toronto stocks

Table of Toronto stocks with columns for Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, and Fund details. Lists various public companies and their stock performance.

Treasury bonds

Table of Treasury bonds with columns for Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, and Fund details. Shows various government bond yields and prices.

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. Includes a table of mutual fund performance metrics (Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk) and a detailed guide explaining the symbols and abbreviations used in the tables.





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Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Continued on next page



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Main table containing mutual fund data with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtrn/Rk, and a corresponding set of columns for a second list of funds.

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Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

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**May is magical:**

There's no better month to be out on our local waters.

— PAGE 5 —

**Get your clam on:**

Clams with linguine is a classic and oh so easy to make.

— PAGE 11 —

**Funny face:**

Meet the odd-looking cownose ray, one of our coolest fish

— PAGE 15 —

**Hidden danger:**

We know guns are dangerous, but do you think about lead?

— PAGE 18 —

May 2, 2019

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**PUBLISHER**  
**CAPT. JOSH OLIVE**

941-276-9657  
Publisher@WaterLineWeekly.com

**MARKETING**

**Advertising Sales**  
**Chuck Terrell**

941-258-9527  
Sales@WaterLineWeekly.com

**Advertising Manager**  
**Stacie Goldberg**

941-206-1006  
SGoldberg@sun-herald.com

**Boaters' Bargains**  
941-429-3110

**CONTRIBUTORS**

- Capt. Ralph Allen**
- Abbie Banks**
- Greg Bartz**
- Kimball & Les Beery**
- Capt. Karl Butigian**
- Billy Carl**
- Capt. Rex Gudgel**
- Capt. Van Hubbard**
- Robin Jenkins, DVM**
- Robert Lugiewicz**
- Jenny Malone**
- Capt. Mike Myers**
- Capt. Steve Phillips**
- Chef Tim Spain**
- Betty Staugler**
- Capt. Cayle Wills**

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**ON THE COVER**

Photo provided

Alex Benard went to Ponce de Leon Park after work. That's where she caught and released this sunset snook.

# One more time, with feeling



Photo provided

Sure, we all want our trophy shots — but this is no way to handle a tarpon.

**FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE**

Those of you who listen to Radio WaterLine (7 to 9 a.m. Saturdays on KIX Country 92.9 FM, or anytime at RadioWaterLine.com) are familiar with Googan Man. For those not listening, Googan Man is a Southwest Florida on-the-water superhero. Whenever someone is about to make a googan mistake, Googan Man — I mean, Googan Man (inside joke) — shows up to try steering them down a better path.

Googan Man was born out of my frustration with people making the same mistakes over and over and over again. One of the great joys of my position here at WaterLine is that I get to contribute to the education of thousands of local anglers. It's also a millstone around my neck, because while I truly love teaching and making a difference, I realize that there are always going to be more people showing up to make the same old mistakes.

Among the things people get wrong most frequently is fish handling. I see it all: Fish wrapped in slime-removing towels, fish gaffed through the body, fish dangled by just the lower lip, fish so dry their scales are starting to flake off, fish laid on dry hot sand. These are all terrible things to do to a fish that's going to be released.

When you put a towel on a fish, you're going to remove slime. You're doing it because

you don't want to get your hands slimy. I understand — but what you don't get is how vital that fish's slime is to its health. To a fish, that slime is like your outer layers of skin. Removing it is the equivalent of a deep scrape on your skin.

Over a small area, that's OK. You'll live. But if you get deep scrapes over half your body, you have a real problem. You're likely to get an infection, which might be fatal if untreated. Fish have no doctors to go to, and only one antibiotic: Their slime coat!

If you can't stand the slime, wear plastic gloves. Wet them before you handle the fish. Hold on good — it's going to be slick, and dropped fish are even worse off than those with slime scraped off.

Gaffs are strictly for killing fish. Don't make more holes in fish that are going back. A deep puncture wound is highly likely to eventually kill the fish. Gaffing in the gills will do the same but faster. Lip-gaffing, which used to be common with tarpon but has thankfully mostly disappeared, causes injuries not from the little hole but from the unnatural angles the fish can be forced into and the weight of its body held by the head.

Hanging by the lower lip kills fish insidiously. They swim away fine and then die when no one is watching. The damage is to the tendons in

the throat, and it's worst with fish that catch prey by suction feeding. Snook are the prime example here.

A big, heavy snook will end up with stretched or torn tendons every time. Stretched tendons cause the mouth to open more slowly, so more prey escapes. Torn tendons can prevent suction feeding entirely. Ever caught a snook that was really skinny while the rest were fat and sassy? Often that's the result of tendon damage. And it's so easy to prevent: One hand on the jaw, the other under the belly — from the moment the fish comes out of the water until the moment it goes back in.

Dry fish have the same problem as deslimed fish, plus an extra one, which is suffocation. A redfish can't breathe air any more than you can breathe water. You want photos. I get it. Take a photo, put the fish back in the water. Give it 30 seconds. Pull it out again, take another pic. Your photos look better with water running off the fish anyway.

For those of you who are tired of reading variations on this theme, trust me when I say I'm tired of writing it. But this is the burden of Googan Man: He will always live among googans, who he will always try to help. And he will never, ever run out of them.

Contact Capt. Josh Olive at 941-276-9657 or Publisher@WaterLineWeekly.com.

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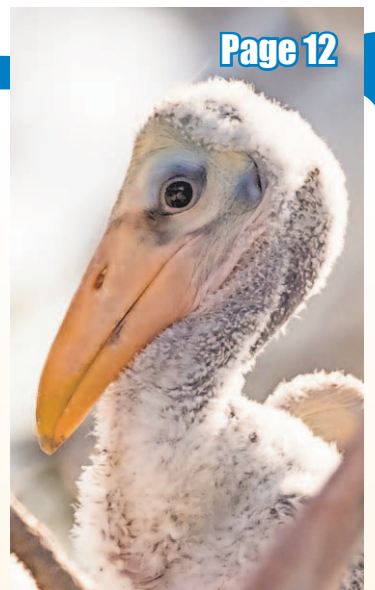
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**NOTICING NATURE**  
**MARY LUNDEBERG**

**Wood storks on parade**

Because they're highly selective and won't nest under conditions that aren't ideal, wood storks have had some tough years. But they may be making a comeback.



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# Reader Photos



Kathleen Granning enjoys every catch, no matter if it is just a puffer.



Clem Poteran got this 25-pound African pompano with Capt. Eric White.

**SEE MORE READER PHOTOS ON PAGES 19-20 & 22-23**

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ANGLING 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ

# The best time

## There's no better month to get out fishing than May

Photo provided

Ashley Little with a huge permit caught and released off Sarasota. This is the time of year to be ready for anything.



May is my favorite month of the year. The days can be hot but it is not yet as humid as it will be soon. Mornings are still a bit cool, but most afternoons are in the upper 80s or low 90s. All of nature is coming to life, in the woods and on the water.

Being on the water this month is even more amazing than any other time. Charlotte Harbor is as clear as it will ever be. Once the rains start in June, the water will start to turn to a darker coffee color. You can drift the flats and see so much life — but even more importantly, you can see the bottom.

Seeing the bottom allows you to figure out where you can run your boat. Look for and identify where the sandbars, troughs, sandholes and small patches of grass are. These are important to know for your future fishing and boating. Store them someplace, whether in your memory or your GPS.

The clear water can also be very useful for offshore and nearshore fishing. Visibility is unreal out there. You can actually see the shadows of reefs such as the Palm Island Ferry, which is in 55 feet of water. When running offshore, pay attention to shadows. Some are clouds but some are not, and you may be amazed at what you can find.

The weather is still a bit unsettled. Watch the sky this month; thunderstorms are not yet unpredictable. Our springtime afternoon storms can be powerful, with lots of lightning, and the wind can take the Harbor from glass calm to 3-foot whitecaps about as quick as you can turn around. Be safe.

The best part of May is the diverse fish that are available and all the different types of fishing you can do in a day. I know I sound like a broken record, but Frank said it best: Be a Boy Scout and be prepared for anything.

You might plan on flats fishing for snook but come across pompano skipping over the flats. You could go out to sightfish the outside bars for cobia and end up finding schools of tarpon. Maybe you're targeting Spanish macks in the lower Harbor but the small fun-size sharks cooperate better. Heading offshore for snapper, you may run into schools of mackerel, little tunny and even schoolie mahi. Permit turn into yellowtail and mangrove snapper. The list goes on and on.

Make the most of the opportunities. Bring light rods and heavy rods rigged various ways. Stuff your tackle bag with all the essentials: Heavy and light leader, wire, weights and hooks of all sizes, swivels, planers, floats, etc. Bring it all. This is the time of year when all the stuff that takes up corner space in your garage proves itself to be really useful. And don't forget the net!

Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle, located at 4425-D Tamiami Trail in Charlotte Harbor and at 14531 N. Cleveland Ave. in North Fort Myers. Call 941-625-3888 for more information about the shop or for local fishing info, or visit them online at FishinFranks.com.

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# Protect our waters: Manatees



## SLACK TIDES NEWS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

### TOO BIG A MOUTHFUL



A fisherman posted on Facebook photos of a 4,500-pound great white shark that he said he found dead with a large sea turtle jammed in its mouth. Fisherman Greg Vella posted on Facebook: "I was out commercial 'ken ken' style fishing for tuna (Japan, Pacific Ocean side) when I heard chatter on the radio that there was a white shark swimming around with a big sea turtle in its mouth. People started to joke about it, so I did not pay it any more attention. Then next day, it was found dead, near the bait receivers, tangled in some netting. The captains I interviewed who saw the mighty shark the day before, said it looked close to death, as it could not dislodge the giant turtle. The commercial guys were bummed, as white sharks do not bother their commercial fishing, and most certainly do bother the things that eat our catch. The shark weighed 4,500 pounds." Vella posted the photos April 19 on the Commercial Salmon, Albacore & Crab Fishers Facebook group.

### FARMING REEF FISH

Researchers in Florida, helped by donations from SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, are behind a successful and growing effort to breed aquarium fish in captivity. Once almost impossible, captive breeding of colorful reef fish is quickly growing in scope and variety at a University of Florida research station near Tampa and in a few other research facilities around the world. The key to success has been finding the right type of plankton -- microscopic crustaceans and other tiny marine life -- that the fish can eat when they are just tiny specks themselves with microscopic mouth openings. Scientists have to pay close attention to water quality, temperature, light and other factors. This year, they even are experimenting with different kinds of green or brownish algae that might help the tiny fry see their food. Fish raised in captivity actually are better suited to living in an aquarium, he said. Commercial aquarium companies like Segrest Farms, also based near Tampa, are partners in the work. Sandy Moore, president of Segrest, said many people would prefer to have tank-raised fish, which allows breeding for specific colors or other characteristics. "We think the work is really critical to the sustainability of the marine ornamental trade. The hobby demands a shorter supply chain," Moore said.

### SMALL WOUNDS CAN KILL

A Florida man who contracted a rare flesh-eating bacteria while fishing is

sharing his story in hopes to prevent someone else from suffering a similar experience. During a recent fishing trip in the Gulf, Mike Walton accidentally impaled his hand with a fish hook, Bay News 9 in St. Petersburg reports. What the fisherman believed was a minor injury turned into a life-threatening illness that kept him in the hospital for nearly two weeks, leaving doctors searching for answers. Since the incident, Walton has been released from the hospital but is now hoping that his story will encourage other fishermen to use precaution with any fishing-related injuries. On the weekend of April 13, Walton was fishing with some friends when the fish hook got stuck in his hand. Because the Ozona native had experienced similar cuts before, he carried on with his trip, thinking nothing of the minor injury. The next day, however, things turned serious when Walton noticed that his hand had gotten drastically worse. A trip to urgent care and antibiotic prescriptions didn't make his condition any better, as the blistering, bruising, swelling, and black-colored skin started spreading towards his thumb, according to the news outlet. It was then that the fisherman opted to go to Tampa General Hospital where doctors determined that Walton had contracted an extremely rare, life-threatening, flesh-eating bacteria that spread from his hand into his arm. Luckily, it was discovered just in time, as doctors told the Florida resident that if he had waited any longer, there was a chance he could have lost his arm — or worse, according to the GoFundMe page. "They said in a few hours, this would have gone up my arm into my chest and I wouldn't have been here," he told Fox News. "There was no saving me." Walton is now home recovering and once he's healed, looks forward to participating in his next fishing event. He also hopes that by sharing his story, other fishermen will be more careful while on the water by wearing gloves and cleaning any cuts immediately after they occur.

### NO OIL, JUST WEEDS



Marco Island police said they received multiple reports of a possible oil spill along the coastline Saturday morning. Police did some digging and realizing what may have looked like oil was just dead aquatic vegetation believed to have been pushed onto the shoreline by westerly winds.

### DON'T BOAT IN THE SNOW

HELENA, Mont. — A Missouri man died

and five people were treated for hypothermia after two fishing boats capsized at the Gates of the Mountains marina during a snowstorm. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Capt. Alan Hughes said six people were in the water clinging to boats Sunday morning when rescue teams responded to Upper Holter Lake about 20 miles north of Helena. Sheriff Leo Dutton says 63-year-old Craig Bristle of Pacific, Missouri, died. Pacific is approximately 35 miles outside of St. Louis. An autopsy was planned. He was not wearing a life jacket. Dutton says the anglers were in two boats with fishing guides when strong winds caused one to capsize. A second group tried to help and their boat capsized, too. Officials say another fishing party had to be rescued after grounding their boat on the Missouri River, south of the marina.

### CORAL LOVES ... BIRD POOP?



When marine biologist Candida Savage was collecting samples of nitrogen and other nutrients in the coastal waters of Fiji, she was jarred by what she found at one horseshoe-shaped coral reef: The nitrogen levels were off the charts. It was the last thing she had expected to find in a pristine environment, far from the farming activities and polluted wastewater that typically accompany high nitrogen levels. Scrambling for an answer, Savage, who is based at the University of Otago in New Zealand, hit upon the nitrogen-rich feces produced by a large colony of seabirds nesting on forest-covered Namena, the island encircled by the reef. Seabird excrement, or guano, is known to have a fertilizer effect in tropical marine ecosystems. In contrast to nitrogen sources like fertilizer runoff, guano contains a balanced ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus and traces of other elements important for growth, such as iron. While it was known that corals absorb these guano-derived nutrients, Savage discovered that corals in the guano-enriched areas grew up to four times faster than those in waters with lower nutrients. The findings, published in Scientific Reports in March, point to the need to better understand how land and marine ecosystems interact; doing so could help managers determine which coral reefs will respond well to restoration and preservation efforts, Savage says.

### A CAUTIONARY TALE

What happened to the sardines when they showed up late for work? They all got canned!

### WHY IT MATTERS

Manatees are the stewards of our seagrass beds. Their highly selective grazing helps to keep the grass healthy and in optimal condition.

### HOW WE HARM IT

Since they have no natural predators, manatees are slow to respond to threats such as boats heading in their direction. Most adult manatees have scars caused by propeller strikes.

### MAKING BETTER CHOICES

Avoiding manatees is usually fairly simple — you just have to watch where you're going. Follow these tips to lessen your chance of running over one of these gentle giants:

- Pay attention to manatee zone signs. Most manatee zones are set up in areas of ideal habitat where manatees are likely to be found.
- Outside manatee zones, watch for them anyway — especially in shallow grassy areas.
- Watch for manatee prints. If you see a circular slick patch on the surface of the water, it's probably a manatee track. These are caused by the animal's broad, rounded tail. Manatee tracks are usually between four and eight feet across and usually are in a line eight to 12 feet apart.
- Don't approach manatees. By law, you are not allowed to approach a manatee. However, if one approaches your boat, shut off your engine to avoid hitting it with the propeller.
- Petting manatees or offering them food or water are also illegal. Avoid these activities.

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# Time to get serious

A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD



Shutterstock photo

Down the drain — but then where? Our wastewater eventually becomes the rivers, the Harbor and the Gulf.

## If we can't save our waters, no one's going to do it for us

Easter came and went. Season is over, and it's time for us locals to enjoy local fishing.

What is the state of our fisheries? I'm interested to know how local anglers feel about our fish populations. I've been asked to meet with industry leaders in July about the health and concerns for the fishing/boating worlds. Feel free to contact me directly or any way you like. I don't want fishing stories. My concern is how locals feel about fish stocks, water quality, seagrass and anything good or bad we need to consider.

Many guides and anglers have enjoyed some good snook action recently. I'm hearing of some redfish as well. Most of these catches were inside the Harbor. As fish move out from their winter haunts, we will better understand our stocks.

I'm also hearing too many horror stories from longtime experienced local guides. Many area guides I network with are far below their usual bookings for this time of year. Why has the fishing business changed so dramatically? The national economy is excellent, and people have money to spend. Is this because of red tide? My fellow guides: How far below average was your last year?

Wind has hurt us so far in 2019; it seems we have a front come through every weekend. Red tides and negative press killed us last year. Anyone have an idea how many water-related business failed last year because of red tides? Are people not coming back here because of water quality issues or bad press?

Personally, my trips were off by about 50 percent last year. I've lost a third of my bookings this year due to windy days. I expect to deal with weather, but because of red tide fish kills Lemon Bay fishing is depressing. I'm also hearing about below-average fishing from Gasparilla Sound down to Pine Island Sound. Charlotte Harbor had some fish; let's see what is left now with fish moving around. I'm not comfortable taking inside trips until the catching improves. Yes, there are fish in Charlotte Harbor, but that's too far a run from Stump Pass for a half-day trip.

I'd like to hear some real thought-out opinions on what our problems are and how we might deal with them. I'm looking for first-hand observations, anecdotal experiences and ideas we all can consider. Don't just whine and throw out impulsive thoughts. Consider the impacts and repercussions of any actions taken. Everything we do affects things around it. Many courses of

action can do more harm than good.

There are numerous groups tossing around all sorts of ideas: Build fish hatcheries. Restore oyster beds. Plant more seagrass. Replace septic tanks with sewers. Send wastewater underground. How do you feel about these? Which ones appear to be real and attempting to fix things, not just get press?

We have lost much of our seagrass. Why aren't we hearing anything from the Save The Manatee folks? What will our manatees eat with algae covering seagrasses? I don't want to run over manatees with my boat, but if they starve to death how is that better?

With fish stocks down, we have hungry animals. What's going on here? Notice how many pond birds you see in ditches seeking food. Dolphin are a bigger problem than ever. They are stealing fish from our lines. Don't tell me to just move, because they have followed me for miles! Yes, miles, and multiple moves attempting to get away. When something is missing in the food chain, it affects everything after it. We are going to have problems for a long time.

Our governing bodies are pitifully unaware of the importance of our water quality. At last week's county commission meeting, one of the commissioners made a sarcastic joke to everyone: He said he could just quit construction and go fishing. They have no idea how important fish and water quality are to our coastal communities.

Look around at how many local businesses depend on clean, healthy waters. It's not just fishing guides. It's also boat dealers, resorts, restaurants, marinas, marine repair, and yes, even real estate. All require healthy waters and good press for our area. If large segments are hurting, this affects everything else. This isn't Wall Street — our local economy is based on the water.

It's time — past time, really — to dig in and make the sacrifices necessary to reclaim our dominant place in tourism. I understand it's going to be expensive and hurt our wallets now, but we must salvage our economy. People won't move to an area with a reputation for poison water and dead fish on the beaches. The deeper the hole we dig, the more money it will take to climb out, if we can at all.

Share your thoughts and save our county. Are we going to be better off next year or deeper in the hole? Time matters. Educate those controlling our future. Raising impact fees to max and using the funds to fix


our infrastructure is a good place to start. Charlotte County had another sewage spill last month, right into the Myakka. How much more can we take?

*Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected*

*outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.*

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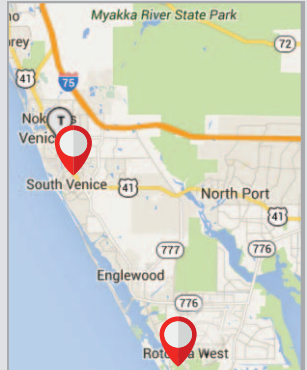


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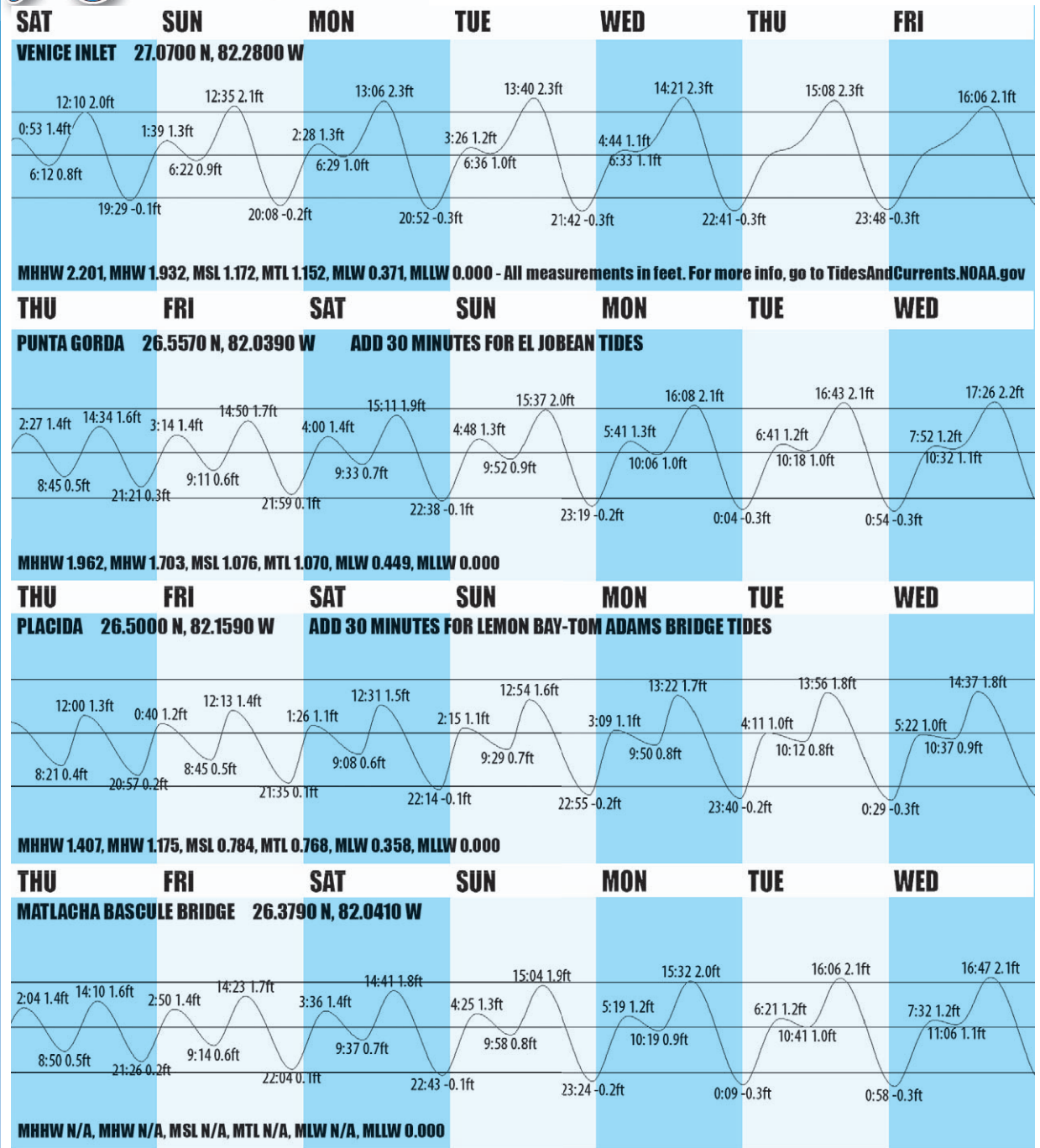
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# WaterLine TIDE CHARTS



VENICE INLET			PUNTA GORDA			PLACIDA			MATLACHA		
Saturday	High Tide	0:53 1.4	Thursday	High Tide	2:28 1.4	Thursday	Low Tide	8:21 0.4	Thursday	High Tide	2:04 1.4
	Low Tide	6:12 0.8		Low Tide	8:45 0.5		High Tide	12:00 1.3		Low Tide	8:50 0.5
	High Tide	12:10 2.0		High Tide	14:34 1.6		High Tide	20:57 0.2		High Tide	14:10 1.6
	Low Tide	19:29 -0.1		Low Tide	21:21 0.3		Low Tide	21:35 0.1		Low Tide	21:26 0.2
Sunday	High Tide	1:39 1.3	Friday	High Tide	3:14 1.4	Friday	High Tide	0:40 1.2	Friday	High Tide	2:50 1.4
	Low Tide	6:22 0.9		Low Tide	9:11 0.6		Low Tide	8:45 0.5		Low Tide	9:14 0.6
	High Tide	12:35 2.1		High Tide	14:50 1.7		High Tide	12:13 1.4		High Tide	14:23 1.7
	Low Tide	20:08 -0.2		Low Tide	21:59 0.1		Low Tide	21:35 0.1		Low Tide	22:04 0.1
Monday	High Tide	2:28 1.3	Saturday	High Tide	4:00 1.4	Saturday	High Tide	1:26 1.1	Saturday	High Tide	3:36 1.4
	Low Tide	6:29 1.0		Low Tide	9:33 0.7		Low Tide	9:08 0.6		Low Tide	9:37 0.7
	High Tide	13:06 2.3		High Tide	15:11 1.9		High Tide	12:31 1.5		High Tide	14:41 1.8
	Low Tide	20:52 -0.3		Low Tide	22:38 -0.1		High Tide	22:14 -0.1		High Tide	22:43 -0.1
Tuesday	High Tide	3:26 1.2	Sunday	High Tide	4:48 1.3	Sunday	High Tide	2:15 1.1	Sunday	High Tide	4:25 1.3
	Low Tide	6:36 1.0		Low Tide	9:52 0.9		Low Tide	9:29 0.7		Low Tide	9:58 0.8
	High Tide	13:40 2.3		High Tide	15:37 2.0		High Tide	12:54 1.6		High Tide	15:04 1.9
	Low Tide	21:42 -0.3		Low Tide	23:19 -0.2		Low Tide	22:55 -0.2		High Tide	15:32 2.0
Wednesday	High Tide	4:44 1.1	Monday	High Tide	5:41 1.3	Monday	High Tide	3:09 1.1	Monday	High Tide	5:19 1.2
	Low Tide	6:33 1.1		Low Tide	10:06 1.0		Low Tide	9:50 0.8		Low Tide	10:19 0.9
	High Tide	14:21 2.3		High Tide	16:08 2.1		High Tide	13:22 1.7		High Tide	15:32 2.0
	Low Tide	22:41 -0.3		Low Tide	23:48 -0.3		Low Tide	23:40 -0.2		Low Tide	16:06 2.1
Thursday	High Tide	15:08 2.3	Tuesday	Low Tide	0:04 -0.3	Tuesday	High Tide	4:11 1.0	Tuesday	Low Tide	0:09 -0.3
	Low Tide	23:48 -0.3		High Tide	6:41 1.2		Low Tide	10:12 0.8		High Tide	6:21 1.2
				Low Tide	10:18 1.0		High Tide	13:56 1.8		High Tide	10:41 1.0
				High Tide	16:43 2.1		Low Tide	0:29 -0.3		High Tide	16:06 2.1
Friday	High Tide	16:06 2.1	Wednesday	Low Tide	0:54 -0.3	Wednesday	Low Tide	0:29 -0.3	Wednesday	Low Tide	0:58 -0.3
				High Tide	7:52 1.2		High Tide	5:22 1.0		High Tide	7:32 1.2
				Low Tide	10:32 1.1		Low Tide	10:37 0.9		Low Tide	11:06 1.1
				High Tide	17:26 2.2		High Tide	14:37 1.8		High Tide	16:47 2.1

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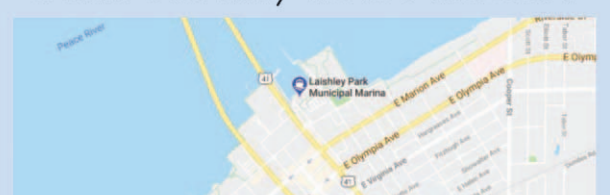
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# The seasons are a-changin'

**AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN**

Weather, people and fish are all impossible to predict with certainty, but there are seasonal patterns associated with all three of them. People always surprise us, sometimes in a good way and sometimes not so good. The weather ... well, we'll probably never be able to predict the weather. And fish won't bite when they should, and bite when we don't think they will. But the seasonal patterns which affect weather, people and fish — those are very predictable, at least on a large scale.

First, let's talk weather. Is winter over? Technically it is, but courtesy of our subtropical climate we can still get cold fronts into June. Subtropical refers to the fact that our pattern flip-flops with the seasons.

Our weather patterns are temperate during the winter, driven by cold fronts that sweep across the Gulf from the north and west. Then during the summer, our weather switches to tropical, influenced mainly by trade winds and tropical weather systems which travel east to west across the Atlantic.

It's impossible to predict tomorrow's weather with certainty, but it is absolutely certain that these large-scale patterns will occur. Which means that the odds of us having blustery, chilly mornings are dwindling fast. This is good for us fishermen, because big northwest winds and wild swings of the barometer make fishing difficult.

If you watch the news, you know that individual people are completely unpredictable and are capable of doing just about anything, including stuff that is unimaginable for most of us. But there are clearer patterns in the way that groups of people behave. Many ER staffers and first responders that I've talked to have held the opinion that people act differently during the full moon. Could this really be true? Maybe.

But here is a pattern that is definitely accurate: There are fewer people in Southwest Florida today than were here 30 days ago. And there will be fewer yet in another 60 days, in spite of the efforts of the tourism bureau to attract more off-season visitors.

People flock here in hordes during the winter, but not so much during summer and fall. I understand that our summer heat is not attractive to people who hail from cooler climates, but I have never understood why we don't get more visitors here in October and November. The weather is great, the fishing is great,

traffic is light and hotels are charging off-season rates. But those facts don't change the pattern which controls how large groups of people behave.

Then there's fishing. It's impossible to predict how well the fish will bite on any given day, no matter how intently we study weather, tides, bait movement or anything else. But there are patterns which always, always, always hold true.

For example, Charlotte Harbor is now filling up with sharks. Not all are need-a-bigger-boat monsters (though there are some big girls around), most are small or medium sized animals. Blacktips, blacknoses, lemons, hammerheads, sharpnoses and others arrive here each spring, then by summer's end they disperse, going to wherever they go.

Tarpon are on a similar come-and-go pattern. Some years tarpon may arrive earlier or later and they may stay a little longer or leave a little sooner, but the overall pattern never changes.

There are many other fishy patterns. Permit are gathering in schools above many offshore wrecks and artificial reefs. Goliath grouper are congregating at those same wrecks and reefs as they head into their summer spawning season.

Snook and redfish, which relocated upriver for the winter, are now moving downstream into the Harbor. And snook take it a step further: Many of them will soon be on the Gulf beaches, where a trained eye can spot them just outside the surf in spite of their near-perfect camouflage.

Large schools of sardines and herring are showing up in Charlotte Harbor. They will soon produce hatches of baby bait, which will keep ladyfish, jacks and mackerel happy all summer.

Our annual summer hatch of baby pinfish will take place pretty soon too and we'll get to watch as untold millions of these little porgies grow on the grass beds, providing prey for just about every predator in the Harbor. Did you know that pinfish are among the most common prey for Charlotte Harbor's dolphins? That must be the equivalent of a human eating popcorn or M&Ms.

Let's go fishing!

*Capt. Ralph Allen runs the King Fisher Fleet of sightseeing and fishing charter boats located at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda. He is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer, and is a past president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Contact him at 941-639-2628 or Captain@KingFisherFleet.com.*

Photo provided

One of the surest bets in Southwest Florida fishing is that there will be a time when the sharks show up.

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WaterLine photo  
by Chef Tim Spain

A proper presentation with the clam shells goes a long way toward making this dish something really special.

# Clam up



FROM HOOK TO TABLE • CHEF TIM SPAIN

If you have ever been to Cedar Key, then you probably had a clam dish at one of the restaurants there. Just about all of them offer linguine with clam sauce. I thought I'd explain how I make that dish. It's very easy, and that's probably why it's on menus all over the world.

There are many kinds of clams in Florida. The most popular are the northern and southern quahogs (say "KOH-hog"). They can be found around here, but not as densely as they are up around the Big Bend area of the Florida coastline. Quahogs can live up to 20 years, according to the FWC website, and they grow their shells about a half-inch per year.

Cedar Key is of the main areas where clams are raised and harvested. When I went to Cedar Key, it made me wonder if this was what Key West was like a hundred years ago. It seemed to me like a place that progress had forgotten about. It's a sleepy little fishing town with the same drinking problem that every other place the in the world has.

When I decided to do a column on clams, I thought I would make clams casino. But I decided to prepare the one dish that I think most everyone who likes clams has probably had at some point in their lives.

I find the key to this dish is timing. You don't want to simmer your sauce too long or overcook your clams. So, make sure you have everything in front of you before you begin.

You can use canned chopped clams if you want, but I don't. I like to see the shells in the dish and prefer the texture of whole clams over the chopped ones. Also, the canned clams are much saltier than the whole clams. I do use a can of clam juice, which has a little less sodium than the juice in a can of chopped clams. The chopped clam can that I read before writing this indicated that more sodium is added to retain flavor. I think clams have plenty of flavor and you can always grab the salt shaker on your table and add more if you think it needs more salt.

Speaking of salt, usually I salt the water that I will cook my pasta in to add flavor to the pasta. In this recipe, there is already enough salt for my palate, so I just add a small amount of oil to help it keep from sticking together during cooking. I add a little more oil to the pasta after I strain it to make sure it doesn't adhere.

As for the wine I use for this dish, I want to make sure it's dry and crisp, like an unoaked Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc. I want bright acidity and certainly don't want any sweetness, so don't use a Moscato to make this dish.

*Chef Tim Spain is a Florida native and has years of experience cooking professionally, both in restaurants and in private settings. He offers private catering and personal culinary classes. For more info, visit [ChefTimSpain.com](http://ChefTimSpain.com) or call 406-580-1994.*

## LINGUINE WITH CLAMS

- 1 pound linguine pasta
- 3 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tsp chopped parsley
- 2 pounds hard clams in shell
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 cup clam juice
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 tbsp fresh chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

Boil the pasta and toss it with a small amount of oil after strained and keep it warm. Next, on medium heat, melt the butter with the oil and then add the onions and pepper flakes and sauté for about a minute. Now add the herbs, Old Bay, clams, lemon juice, clam juice and wine. Simmer until the clams have opened. Add the garlic and simmer for 30 seconds. Remove from heat and divide your pasta into four portions and do the same with your clams and sauce. Pour the clams and sauce over your pasta and garnish with a small amount of Parmesan. Serves 4.

— Recipe by Chef Tim Spain, [ChefTimSpain.com](http://ChefTimSpain.com)

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# Wood storks and wetlands

## NOTICING NATURE BY MARY LUNDEBERG

The only stork that nests in the U.S., the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) has specific nesting criteria. These stocky birds stand over 3 feet tall with a 5-foot wingspan. Although gangly on land, they are elegant in the air, gliding high on thermals. Adults are somewhat homely-looking, but their chicks are adorable. The presence of wood storks indicates the health of a wetlands environment. Restoring the Everglades could encourage wood stork nesting to reoccur in South Florida.

Due mostly to water management problems, the number of wood stork nesting pairs in the Everglades plummeted in the past decade. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary was once the most productive colony in the nation, with an estimated 100,000 storks, but has experienced severe decline. Storks only nested twice in the 10 years between 2007 and 2017, and in far fewer numbers.

More than 43 square miles of wetlands were lost to agriculture and development between 1996 and 2010 in the Big Cypress Swamp watershed (which includes Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary). An extensive network of canals and roads brought widespread drainage and fragmentation of wetlands.

For wood storks to be successful in reproduction, they need a wet/dry cycle created by an intense four-month rainy season followed by eight months of drying conditions. Storks capture their prey by swishing their bill through water 6 to 10 inches deep. When their bill touches a small fish, it snaps shut. This happens within 25 milliseconds — one of the fastest reflexes known in nature. Because wood storks are tactile feeders, they require concentrations of prey in shallow water.

Some storks fly as far as 80 miles from their nesting grounds to feeding areas. Each nesting pair requires about 450 pounds of fish for the breeding season.

Storks breed in colonies that often include other wading birds, such as roseate spoonbills, ibis, egrets and herons. They prefer cypress swamps with 1 to 3 feet of water. Flooded trees bring patrolling alligators, which prevent-predators such as raccoons and snakes from swimming to the nest trees. Both parents share nesting duties.

Although nesting pairs of wood storks have declined in Florida, overall wood storks are a success story. In June 2014, after 20 years on the endangered species list, storks were down-listed to threatened because the population increased to over 10,000 nesting pairs. Florida wood storks have migrated to Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

In Southeast Florida, a water-reclamation project, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, demonstrates that we can build cypress swamps to promote wetlands for wood storks to breed. Moreover, because 2017 was such a wet summer (thanks in part to Hurricane Irma), fresh water flowing south replenished the shallow wetlands in Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and brought 400 nesting pairs of storks back last year. This year, however, nesting in Corkscrew is dismal.

If we can restore hydrology systems to get the water right, we may be able to bring back the thousands of wading birds that once characterized the Everglades and South Florida. In the meantime, smaller numbers of wood storks continue to raise chicks in rookeries on the Peace River and elsewhere.

Mary Lundscratching tarpon itcheberg is a local photographer and nature writer. Contact her at [MaryLundeberg@gmail.com](mailto:MaryLundeberg@gmail.com). See more of her photos at [MaryLundeberg.com](http://MaryLundeberg.com).



A wood stork eats a tilapia at Ollie's Pond in Port Charlotte.

## Being so picky about where you choose to nest has its downside



A wood stork rearranges sticks around its nest.



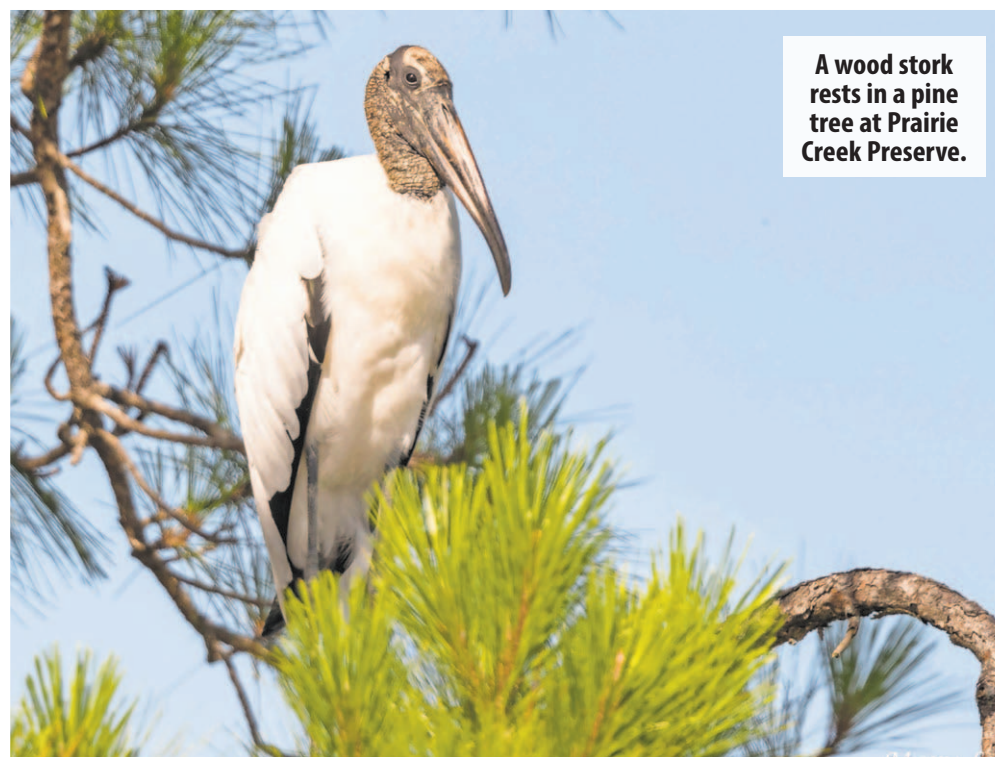
WaterLine photos by Mary Lundeberg  
A baby wood stork finds protection under its parent.



A wood stork brings a stick to its nest on the Peace River



A wood stork pair stands close together at Wakodahatchee Wetlands.



A wood stork rests in a pine tree at Prairie Creek Preserve.



Two chicks cry with anticipation when their parent moves closer towards them.

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**YOUNG NATURALISTS • BETTY STAUGLER**

Photos provided  
A small school of cownose rays swims through shallow water.



An up-close look at the bizarre face of a cownose ray.



# That's one funny-looking nose

It's cownose ray mating season! This is the time of year when I'm frequently asked "What kind of fish is that swimming at the surface with two fins out of the water?"

That fish is a female cownose ray. If one looks carefully, they will see at least one male (often several) following her at a slightly deeper depth. When a female cownose ray displays her pectoral fin tips above water, she is ready to mate.

In Charlotte Harbor, cownose ray mating behavior can occur between October and June, but actual mating usually takes place from April to June.

Female cownose rays have two ovaries, but only the left one is functional. Males have modified pelvic fins called claspers that they use to deposit sperm when mating. During mating, the male bites the female to hold onto her. This often leaves visible wounds along the pectoral fins. Sharks and other rays also exhibit this biting behavior. Don't worry; the wounds heal quickly.

Unlike the related skates, which lay eggs

**FUN FACTS:**  
**Cownose rays get their name from their unique forehead, which resembles the nose of a cow.**  
**The largest cownose ray ever recorded was 7 feet from wingtip to wingtip.**  
**Cownose rays form schools based on sex and age.**

commonly called mermaid purses, rays give live birth. The gestation period for cownose rays is 11 to 12 months, after which time just one pup is born. Very rarely, a female may produce two offspring.

The cownose ray (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) is found in coastal and estuarine waters from southern New England to Brazil. In northern climates, cownose rays migrate south beginning around October each year.

Cownose rays can be observed in Charlotte Harbor year-round. This is probably due to our warmer climate. Cownose rays do not do well when the water temperature dips below 60 degrees.

In addition to our year-round population, we also likely see a population increase as migrating cownose rays from the northern Gulf make their way south for the winter. This may explain the very large aggregations

we sometimes see.

Cownose rays are pelagic swimmers and can cover considerable ground. However, many tagged individuals from a Charlotte Harbor study exhibited small home ranges and could be observed in these areas for months at a time. This is a good indication that they were finding ample prey items to feed on within their limited home range.

What causes cownose rays to move is unclear, but it's probably related to prey availability and predator avoidance. If you have nothing to eat or something is trying to eat you, it's best to leave. This is good life advice for all of us.

Speaking of prey, cownose rays have a diverse diet of invertebrates including bivalves, marine worms, urchins, sand dollars, and a host of other things. Cownose rays eat during the day and at night.

Betty Staugler is the Charlotte County extension agent for the Florida Sea Grant Program. Contact her at [staugler@ufl.edu](mailto:staugler@ufl.edu) or 941-764-4346.



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THE FISH COACH • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

# How to fish whitebait (and why you shouldn't)

Whitebait is the hottest thing going right now. It seems like every inshore fisherman is talking about: What they're catching on it, where to find it, and just how great it is.

And there you are, wondering how you can get in on this deal. Let's say you want to be a whitebaiter. You want to be just like the pros. OK, here's how.

First, you need a big livewell. If yours only holds 10 or 20 gallons, rip it out. The serious whitebait guys will laugh at that. You want at least 50 gallons, and it needs to be rounded in shape. If it's got corners, your bait will get crushed in those. Keep them swimming in a circle.

Your well needs lots of water exchange to keep your baits lively, but strong current is bad as it will weaken the baits. Wide inlets and outlets are the key to solving that problem. Aeration is also a good idea, since when you're flats fishing you'll often be in warm water. Warm water is lower in oxygen. Knowing when to pump outside water and when to just recirculate is often the difference between live and dead bait.

Now to find bait. This used to be easy: Drive up to where the baitfish gather in large numbers, throw the net a couple times and fill the well. Nowadays, whitebait is scarcer and more scattered — hence the tackle shop discussions of where to find it. Since all fishermen are liars (except you and me), you're probably better off going in search yourself that relying on tips. Some good places to start: Hobb's Point, Jug Creek Shoals, and between Alligator Creek and Cockroach Mound.

Of course, that bait's not gonna catch itself. Early in the season, we see a lot of smaller whitebait. To catch them, you need a smaller mesh size. A quarter-inch mesh is good; anything larger and the baits get caught by the gills (aka a Christmas tree, aka

you just killed all your baits). A 6- to 8-foot radius is usually big enough, though bigger is always better.

As they grow, they get faster and more wary. That quarter-inch net doesn't sink fast enough, so you bump up to a 3/8-inch model. And a large radius is no longer an option. Whitebait will scoot out from under a smaller net too fast. A 10-foot net is sometimes too small, especially if the water is more than 3 feet deep. Better learn to throw a 12. Many die-hard whitebaiters own a half-dozen or more nets for use in different situations.

To corral the baitfish, you need chum. Back in the day, the recipe of choice was Kozy Kitten cat food or jack mackerel mixed with bread and tossed out. Now, all the cool kids use powdered chum (actually commercial tropical fish food). Some guys use it dry, others mix it with menhaden oil or secret ingredients. Either way, the goal is to get the whitebait feeding in a tight group. That's when you toss the net.

Having loaded your well with as much bait as it can hold (to the point you can't see the bottom for all the bait in there — that's called "blacking out" the well), you're now ready to find some fish. Got your chum bat? It's a kid's toy baseball bat with the end cut off.

Here's the plan: Position the boat near a mangrove shoreline. When you see a spot that might hold fish — an overhang, a stump, a creek mouth — dip up a few baits and squeeze them hard enough to damage them but not so hard you kill them. These are live chum. Drop them into the chum bat and then sling them into your chosen spot.

If there are fish there, they'll often come out to eat your live chummers. Now you can put a bait on a hook and cast it into the same area. Since the fish are already

looking for food, the strike is usually quick. If the baits go uneaten, simply move on to the next spot. You can see how this style of fishing requires a lot of bait, which is why there's so much focus on gathering as many as possible.

Now, let me explain why I don't do any of this stuff, and why I think you'd be better off if you didn't either.

This style of whitebait fishing was developed for a specific reason: To allow tourists who don't know the first thing about fishing to have a Florida fishing experience. And it works — but mostly on young, stupid fish. Look at what the whitebait guides catch: Lots and lots of snook from 16 to 24 inches long, with an occasional bigger one tossed in. Redfish and trout are bycatch every now and then.

Those tourists never see the real work of locating and netting bait. They don't have the headaches of trying to keep it alive. For them, it's nothing but the fun part. But if you want to imitate what these guides do, you get the whole experience. Plan to start at 4 a.m. — sometimes you find bait fast, but don't expect to.

And then there's the massive waste of bait, which has been hard to find in most recent years. If you want to use whitebait, that's fine. But catch what you need, and forget blacking out the well.

You should also skip the chummers, or at least keep them to a bare minimum. The weakest ones out of the well and your worn-out baits as you switch them should be plenty. Treat them like they're shrimp and cost 35 cents apiece. You don't see anyone tossing out handfuls of live shrimp as chum, do you?

By the way, shrimp are still fine bait in summer. Whitebait move in when it gets warm and leave when it gets chilly, but shrimp are here and feeding fish 365 days a

year. Fish get burned out on whitebait sometimes and will often pounce greedily on a shrimp. Fried chicken is great, but if that was all you'd had for three weeks straight, you'd probably be about ready for a steak.

You can also use artificial lures. There are many good whitebait imitations. Live Target and MirrOlure make lures that look a lot like whitebait. Before we had those, soft plastic shad in the appropriate size range worked well. Before we had those, small silver spoons and white bucktails did a great job of faking out the fish. For the fly crowd (many of whom would kick their own grandmothers before using live bait), there are numerous whitebait-specific patterns, or a plain white streamer will do.

Whitebait is great for catching fish, but using it doesn't make you a great fisherman. It can easily become a crutch. Witness the whitebait fiends in November, interrogating each other about their recent bait finds as they scratch themselves like crackheads: "You got any more of that whitebait?"

If you want to use whitebait, that's fine. It's a pain to get and a hassle to keep alive, but it does get fish to hit. Moderation is the key here. Don't become reliant on it. Don't use it as a shortcut. Keep using other methods as well, because when you can't get whitebait, you're going to still want to fish. A one-trick pony doesn't have other options. You do.

As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on how and where to fish in Southwest Florida. Whether you're a complete beginner or just looking to refine your techniques, he can help you get past the frustration and start catching more fish. Lessons can be held on your boat, on local piers or even in your backyard. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.

## CRAB PANINI

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp prepared Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1 pound crab meat
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds
- Salt and pepper to taste
- French bread, split and sliced diagonally
- Olive oil

Combine mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, Worcestershire, onion and celery in a medium bowl. Gently add crab and almonds and add salt and pepper to taste. Brush cut sides of French bread with olive oil and top one slice with crab mixture. Top with additional French bread slice. Heat a stove top grill or panini press over high heat. Grill each sandwich for 2 minutes per side, pressing down with a metal spatula to flatten. Cook until browned and warm through. Cut into halves or quarters to serve. Yields 4 servings.

— Recipe from FL-Seafood.com

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



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ASK THE GUN GIRL • JENNY MALONE

Photo provided

When you shoot, not all the lead ends up downrange. Some ends up in you.



# The hidden danger of shooting: The lead

Shooting guns for recreational purposes is a lot of fun. Of course, safety is always a priority. I hope everyone knows the four rules of safe firearm handling:

- All guns are loaded. Even if you know the gun is unloaded, always treat it as if it is loaded.
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger unless you are in the process of taking a shot.
- Always know your target and what's beyond your target.

With that being said, there is still another hidden danger of shooting. It is something you cannot see, and it can lurk undetected. It's lead exposure.

Most bullets are made of lead, and anyone who frequently shoots or handles ammunition may be at risk of elevated lead levels in their blood. Exposure to lead occurs through ingestion, inhalation and dermal contact, and can accumulate in the body over time. Lead bullets release lead dust when fired and when making impact.

I don't want to scare anyone. The occasional shooter who visits the range a few times a year is at no risk. This applies more to the very active shooter, anyone who reloads ammunition, and those working at firing ranges. For the average gun owner, your exposure is quite minimal.

Lead accumulates in the body over time

with frequent repeated exposure. A simple blood test from your doctor can determine your blood levels. The average person should have less than 5 mcg/dL (micrograms per deciliter, a measurement of the amount of a substance in a specific amount of blood).

At elevated levels of 10 to 25 mcg/dL some exposure is occurring. Minimizing the source of the lead exposure is recommended. At 25 to 40 mcg/dL there are moderate risks and you may start showing symptoms of lead poisoning. Medication in the form of a chelating agent is recommended for reducing the levels of lead in your body.

A reading of 40 to 80 is considered seriously elevated, and significant health damage may be occurring, even if there are no symptoms. Seriously elevated levels require medical attention and possible hospitalization.

Symptoms of lead poisoning may include: Loss of memory and difficulty in concentration (frequently the first symptom seen); fatigue; irritability and aggressiveness; a loss of sexual interest or impotence; high blood pressure; abdominal pain; constipation; joint and muscle pains; pain, tingling, twitching, or numbness in extremities; headaches; and mood disorders.

There are simple steps you can take to reduce your risk of lead absorption. Immediately wash your hands thoroughly with cold water after shooting and handling any ammunition — especially before eating,

drinking or smoking to avoid ingestion. You may also purchase D-Lead or Lead Off wipes, which are like wet hand wipes but remove lead and heavy metals from the skin after participating in shooting.

Use copper coated ammo, or FMJ (full metal jacket), to avoid direct contact with the lead. You can also switch to non-toxic lead-free alternative ammo. However, lead-free and non-toxic ammo is typically more expensive than regular ammunition and may not be available in all calibers.

Wear latex or nitrile gloves when you clean your firearms. This will keep any lead residue off your skin. Clean your firearms in a well-ventilated area when possible. Avoid using your dining room table or eating areas when doing this task. Use the lead-removal wipes after cleaning your firearms as well.

If you are shooting at an indoor range, inquire about their ventilation systems. A well-ventilated range will have a separate "push/pull" ventilation system that delivers fresh air from behind the shooting area and moves air downrange from the firearm towards a HEPA filtered exhaust area. Obviously, an outdoor range will offer the best ventilation. If your local indoor range does not have the proper ventilation system, I would find somewhere else to shoot.

A rubber backstop at the range also helps to minimize exposure. When the lead bullets hit a steel trap, they disperse lead dust into the air. A rubber system, such as chopped-up

pieces of old tires, softens the impact and catches the bullets in its layers.

Some ranges demand you to buy their ammunition to use in their range. This may be because they do not have the "push/pull" ventilation system and they require you to purchase their lead-free ammunition. However, they may just be trying to monopolize on the ammunition sales, charging more than average retail prices. Don't assume that they use lead-free ammo. Always ask about their ventilation system.

Like I said earlier, I am not trying to scare anyone from enjoying the shooting sport. Your average shooter has nothing to worry about. Most shooters who are exposed to the dangers of lead on a regular basis are already aware of the dangers and have their blood levels tested periodically. I am just trying to make sure those who do not know are well-informed.

Just for the record, the range when I am employed, J&J One Stop Gun Shop in Port Charlotte, does have the proper ventilation system in place, and we change our HEPA filters regularly. So please, continue shooting and having a good time. And as always, be safe and respect your range officers!

Jenny Malone grew up in the Charlotte County area and is an NRA-certified pistol instructor and range safety officer. You can talk guns with her at J&J One Stop Gun Shop at 2324 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

## PAN-FRIED PANFISH

You can use any panfish for this recipe: Bluegills, crappie, grunts, sand bream — even pinfish in a pinch!

- 4 panfish, cleaned and heads removed
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk, undiluted
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground white or black pepper
- Shortening or vegetable oil for frying
- 1/4 cup slivered blanched almonds
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup dry sherry

Dip cleaned fish into evaporated milk. Combine cornmeal, flour, salt, and pepper. Roll fish in cornmeal mixture. In a heavy skillet, heat enough oil to cover the bottom of the pan. Fry fish in hot oil for about 5 to 6 minutes on each side, adding more shortening or oil if necessary. In another skillet, melt 1/4 cup of butter over low heat; add almonds. Cook almonds until lightly browned; add sherry and heat through. Remove fish to a hot platter; spoon sauce over fish. If desired, garnish platter and fish with lemon wedges and parsley sprigs. Serves 4.

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



— Recipe adapted from About.com

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# Reader Photos



Tristan, Kaidyn and Zane Stehlin had a blast fishing Port Charlotte. They caught and released around 50 fish and kept the bait shop happy during their stay!



Johnny Nolin from Alabama caught his largest fish ever — an 8-pound, 12-ounce bass — while visiting friends in Venice.



Glen from Boston caught this grouper in 65 feet of water on Ernie's boat.



Bill Stroh of Mahopac, N.Y., caught this 40-pound cobia about 30 miles off Boca Grande.



Jeff Cardis from Port Charlotte caught these Mayan cichlids in the canal. Both fish were nearly 12 inches.



The Pittsburgh crew with a red grouper limit from 40 miles off Boca Grande: Carl Leicher, Mike Newman, John Newman, Cape Cod Schmittty the fishin' musician, and Gerry Fallon.

## WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead will not be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.



# Reader Photos



Cindy Madison came from Virginia to visit her dad Richard and caught the biggest red grouper of the day, a fat 29-incher.



Cutie Pilon caught her 21-inch red grouper 12 miles off Venice. The towel is OK because the fish went in the cooler.



Chris Garlasco with a 23.5-inch red grouper caught 35 miles west of Stump Pass with DJB Charters.



Glenn Olson caught his first red groupers with Duane Jackson.



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# Bill to conserve forage fish will boost gamefish too

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Under current management guidelines, commercial netters are able to take entire schools of forage fish like these herring.



## BY THE AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

The sportfishing industry expressed its support for a bill in Congress to ensure the smaller fish in the ocean that serve as the food source for most marine sportfish, known as forage fish, will be sustainably managed. Introduced by Reps. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Brian Mast (R-Fla.), Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.), Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Billy Long (R-Mo.) and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), the Forage Fish Conservation Act would require that the role forage fish play in the marine ecosystem be accounted for when federal fisheries managers set catch limits on them.

"Recognizing the important relationship between healthy forage fish populations and healthy sportfish populations, the recreational fishing community has long advocated for forage fish conservation," said Mike Leonard, vice president of Government Affairs for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA). "We are grateful to Reps. Dingell and Mast for their bipartisan commitment to marine fisheries conservation through the science-

based forage fish measures included in the Forage Fish Conservation Act."

In 2014, the Commission on Salt-water Recreational Fisheries Management, chaired by Bass Pro Shops Founder and CEO Johnny Morris and Maverick Boats President Scott Deal, released a report identifying key policy changes to the federal marine fisheries management system to benefit fisheries conservation and public access. One of the six key recommendations of that report was improving management and conservation of forage fish.

"The Forage Fish Conservation Act is consistent with the Morris-Deal Commission's recommendation, by incorporating important considerations for forage fish into the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act," said Leonard. "Because these integral parts of the marine food web are becoming increasingly targeted for commercial exploitation, it is important that forage fish management accounts for their role in marine ecosystems."

Forage fish provide food for nearly all recreationally important fish species, as well as seabirds and other marine

life. Meanwhile, human demand for these nutrient-rich species continues to increase.

However, the Magnuson-Stevens Act is not currently designed to account for the unique role of forage fish in the marine ecosystem, instead relying on traditional single-species management approaches. The Forage Fish Conservation Act would require that the impacts on fish populations and the marine ecosystem be considered before allowing harvest on any currently unmanaged forage species, and that predator needs be accounted for in existing management plans for forage fish.

The American Sportfishing Association is the sportfishing industry's trade association committed to representing the interests of the sportfishing and boating industries as well as the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry and anglers a unified voice when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business or sportfishing itself. ASA also gives America's 49 million anglers a voice in policy decisions that affect their ability to sustainably fish on our nation's waterways through Keep America Fishing, our national angler advocacy campaign.

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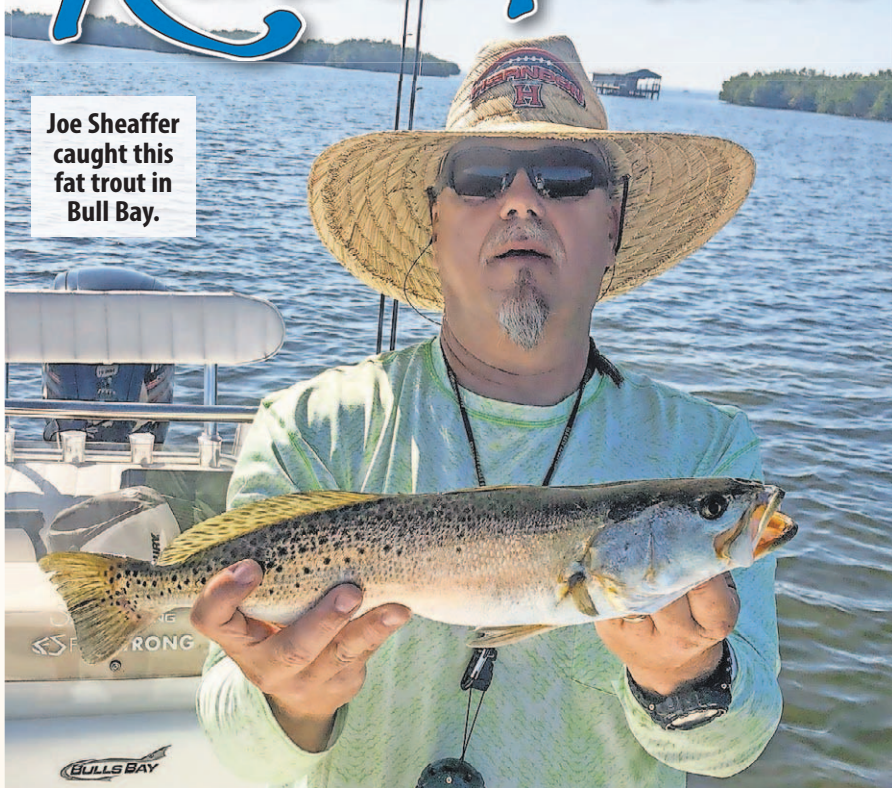
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# Reader Photos



Joe Sheaffer caught this fat trout in Bull Bay.



Steve Loureiro caught this monster kingfish in Boca Grande Pass while drifting a bucktail. (That's Dad helping hold it up.)

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— Provided by Dave Nielsen



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# Reader Photos



Hunter Carpenter of Hibbing, Minn., with his first tripletail, caught on the Harbor.



Joe Barbata caught and released this gag while night fishing at Useppa Island.



Terry Huffman got his red grouper with Capt. Bob.



Ben Milburn from Winnebago, Ill., with a 14-pound bull red he caught and released on Shell Creek.

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##### INSHORE & FRESHWATER

###### ASHLEY L.

ECONOMY TACKLE  
Sarasota  
941-922-9671

The **tarpon** reports are picking up around Sarasota, but it's not on fire yet as fish trickle in. The **snook** bite is good around Perrico and Terra Ceia, especially at night. Many of the fish have been slot size. The night bite has also been great for big **redfish**, with some around Longboat. **Trout** reports have also been improving.

##### GULF & OFFSHORE

When the wind allows, there are huge numbers of **permit** on the reefs. Lots of sargassum has been bringing in the pelagics, including flying fish and a few **sailfish**. Big **amberjack**, **barracuda** and **sharks** have also been on the reefs. The **kingfish** bite is still hot as well.

##### BEST BET

Take little crabs out to the reefs and hunt for **permit** and **cobia**. If you have any left, use them for **tarpon**.

###### MALCOLM

COOKS SPORTLAND  
Venice  
941-493-0025

The beach has been churned up, but is hopefully settling down right about now. El Jobean has been hot, with **tarpon**, **sharks**, **snook** and **whiting**. The Venice jetties have had a few **Spanish mackerel**, **bluefish** and **ladyfish**; if the water clears up, the action will improve. The freshwater **bass** bite has been decent. Dropping water levels are concentrating fish, and they'll hit any kinds of soft plastics. **Catfish** are good on the big lakes.

It's been too windy. The kite fishing ought to be good, anyway.

If the wind allows, hit the beach for a mixed bag. If not, stick to the ICW.

###### JIM

FISHERMAN'S EDGE  
Grove City  
941-697-7595

The **snook** and **redfish** are both eating in the backcountry, and bait has been fairly abundant. **Pompano** are on the beaches, especially around Stump and Gasparilla passes. **Sheepshead** are dwindling but still around. The ponds along Winchester have been producing both **largemouth bass** and smaller **snook**.

Winds have kept most anglers in, but some **permit** and small **cobia** have been reported around the Power Poles Reef.

**Tarpon** fishing has gotten good, with fish in the Harbor, on the beach and in the Pass. Small fish and crabs are good.

###### JEFF

CAPT. TED'S TACKLE  
Port Charlotte  
941-627-6800

Mixed schools of **permit** and **pompano** have been around and taking jigs, flies or bait. **Snook** have begun appearing on the beaches and are scattered all the way back to the rivers. Many lures are doing well, but the Lil Johns and Stick Shads are near the top of the list.

There's a mixed bag of **snapper** on the reefs in 50 to 80 feet, and some decent **cobia** have been caught out there as well.

There are **tarpon** in the Harbor on the bars and in the 20-foot holes, and they're also in the Pass. Offer them DOA Bait Busters, crabs and handpicked shrimp early in the day.

###### ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S  
Charlotte Harbor  
941-625-3888

There are some **snook** and **redfish** coming from Bull and Turtle bays, but the better reports are from the north end of Pine Island Sound. Decent **snook** are also in Lemon Bay. **Spanish mackerel** are thick from Cape Haze out to 15 miles, and there are a few farther up the Harbor (but mostly small). **Black drum** action has been better in PGI, with a few on the Port Charlotte side as well.

Those who could get out report good **yellowtail** and **mangrove snapper** at 20 to 30 miles. The **red grouper** bite has been crappy except off Venice and points north. **Permit** are showing up randomly on the reefs; luck will play a role here. A handful of **cobia** have also showed up.

**Tarpon** or **sharks**, your pick. Both are in Boca and Captiva passes and along the beaches. Smaller fish are around Cape Haze, the 20-foot holes, Matlacha Pass.

###### CAMERON

RIO VILLA  
BAIT & TACKLE  
Punta Gorda  
941-639-7166

**Snook** are in Bull Bay around the points taking live whitebait. Throw a few chummers to get the action started. **Tarpon** are scattered about the Harbor. Live threadfins, ladyfish and silver mullet are working well slow-trolled around bait schools. The early morning **bass** bite has been good in Port Charlotte canals and local lakes on small swimbaits and 10-inch black Culprit worms rigged weedless.

No reports.

Keeper **snapper** up to 15 inches are in the canals and canal mouths eating small live whitebait. Expect juvenile **snook** as bycatch.

###### CAPT. JOHNNY

D&D MATLACHA  
BAIT & TACKLE  
Matlacha  
239-282-9122

The **tarpon** have been stacked up in Boca, but there are also some on the flats of Pine Island Sound. The **shark** bite is still incredible, as some tarpon fishermen are learning the hard way. Our **trout** bite is improving, with consistent if not amazing catches. The **redfish** bite is slow, though. We're seeing some jumbo **sheepshead** hanging out around the oyster bars still. A few big **permit** have showed up inshore as well.

Some big **red grouper** and fat **yellowtail snapper** have been on the deeper reefs, but the reports are fewer because everyone is tarpon fishing.

Big **snook** are still piled into Matlacha. They're liking the threadfins that have been showing up and will also hit live ladyfish. Pitch along the treelines.

###### JACK

BAIT N WAIT  
Fort Myers Beach  
239-466-8737

The bite has been a bit slow overall, but there are lots of **snook** in the ICW and the back bays. A few **redfish** have been caught around the oysters. Pier fishermen are still catching some **sheepshead**.

No reports.

Head to the backwaters behind Lovers Key and fish shrimp for **snook** and **sheepshead**.

**THE FISH COACH'S TIP OF THE WEEK:** There are few things more annoying to a flats fisherman than to snag grass while trying to work an artificial lure. It ruins your presentation and keeps fish from biting. Good news: It's not that hard to avoid. Many spoons come with weedguards, but most are only partially effective. The Aqua Dream weedless spoons are my pick. Soft plastics on jigheads constantly get hung up. I have two tricks here: First, the T's Tackle Wedge Heads, which are rigged swimbait style but with the weight in the front, so the lure moves like a jig. I use this with shad tails. Second, the standard Texas rig used for bass, which is a weedless hook and a bullet weight. This works beautifully for jerkbaits and grubs. If you want to fish plugs or hard baits, the best thing is to go to single hooks. Since the hooks can swing on split rings, they rarely hold onto grass, and you'll poke fewer holes in the fish. — *As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on fishing techniques. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.*

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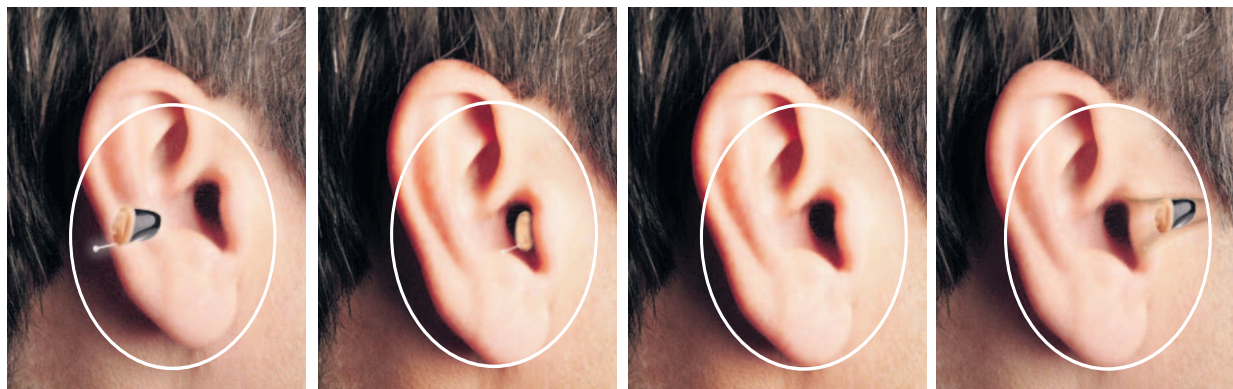
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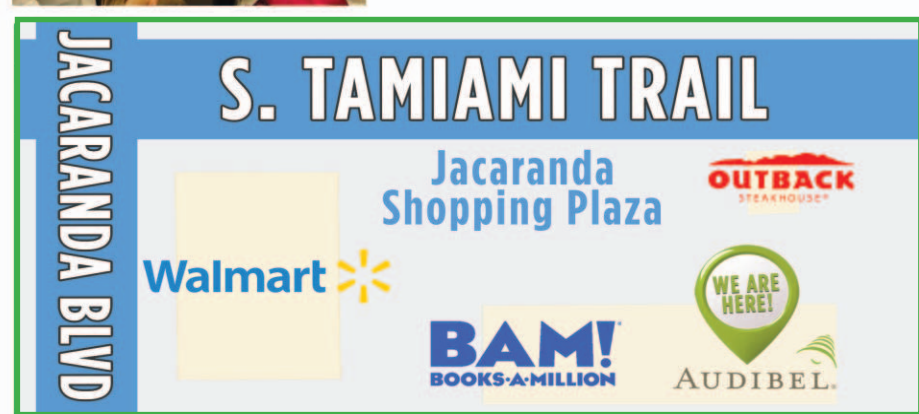
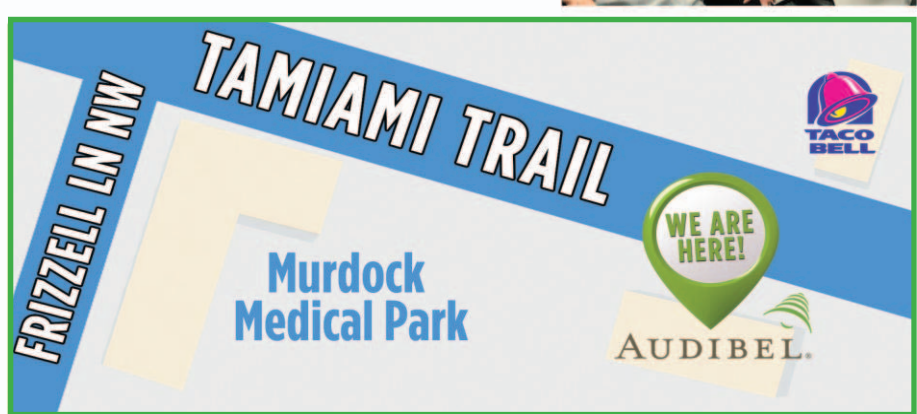
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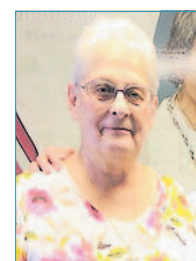
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**James Hoyt**

"I first began wearing Audibel hearing aids when I was a professor and traveled internationally to teach. Audibel provided me an international number and representatives in many nations to help me if I encountered issues while travelling and teaching abroad. I have found all staff members to be helpful and accommodating."



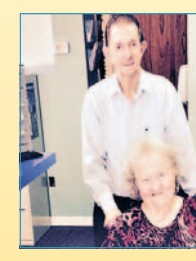
**Brent Tharp**

"Losing some of my hearing was devastating and depressing for me. I was plagued at an early age – running into my adulthood with chronic ear problems. I thought that was just how life was supposed to be. Until, I met the professional staff at Audibel!"



**J. Michelle Cianfarra**

"I lost a great deal of my hearing in a vehicle accident ten years ago. This new set of Audibel wireless, Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids have given me a better hearing experience with greater variety than I had with my last pair (which were not Audibel's). I feel refreshed since wearing my new Audibel hearing aids. I don't feel as if I'm relying on other means of communication as I was before. They have enhanced my living experience as I come in contact with others every day and can communicate better all because I hear so much better than I did before. The friendly staff are customer-service oriented and help me with my hearing challenges. Thank you for this experience."



**Evelyn Straughn**

"I am so glad I have Audibel Hearing Aids. I now know I have missed a lot by not hearing what goes on. I would recommend them to anyone and I'm very pleased with the ongoing help with any questions or concerns."

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