



Final home-game blowout against Frostproof, 80-48, on their feet for Maybell's slam dunk.

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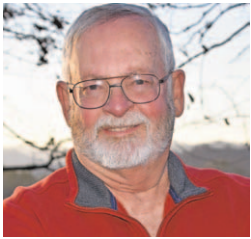
INSIDE



MEET ARCADIA'S MARGARET WAY

City Hall named in her honor
Certain people define our town, 67-year career, 'havin fun when I was devil'n.'

PG 2



DE SOTO GRAD'S NEW BOOK

Author Clint Johnson releases "Tin Cans & Greyhounds"

History of naval destroyers, Mrs. Sydney Anderson "taught me how to write a news story."

PG 8



FIREFIGHTERS DRILL AT FORMER WINN-DIXIE

How hard is it? These people are nuts
When things hit the fan, there they are, professional and prepared.

PG 12

INDEX

- Viewpoint..... 4
- Calendar..... 6
- Police Beat..... 7
- Obituaries..... 10
- Sports..... 14
- Classifieds..... 19

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Nuco green-lighted; DeSoto gets \$115 million project

By CRAIG GARRETT
ARCADIAN EDITOR

The name fits with what's happening in DeSoto County. Nuco Citrus LLC — Nuco an abbreviation for New Company — got a special exception on Tuesday to operate on land zoned for agriculture. With the unanimous vote by the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners, Delray Beach-based Nuco is readying to shovel on a \$115-million citrus processing plant along State Road 72 west of Arcadia.

Nuco in a 25-acre complex will

convert citrus peels and juice leftovers to pectin, a thickening fiber used in products from buns, beverages and Burt's Bees. It is a nearly \$1 billion market run mostly in South America. Nuco would be the first such American pectin processor in decades, according to company officials. The company will own nearly 200 acres.

That Nuco's production plant will be in Florida seemed to push decisions in the company's favor Tuesday. A "Made in DeSoto County" label rang the bell for Commissioner Elton Langford and commission Chair Judy Schaefer,

for instance, both favoring the land exception with conditions such as noise-limiting berms and strict safeguards of water discharges from the 137,000-square-foot processing plant. The final vote was 5-0.

Schaefer also congratulated Nuco for its guarantee to seek

NUCO | 3

PHOTO BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

Arcadia real estate broker Mac Martin spoke in favor of bringing Nuco Citrus to DeSoto County. He represents property owners in the land sale along State Road 72.



Happy Valentine's Day! Meet three life partners

By CRAIG GARRETT
ARCADIAN EDITOR

Happy Valentine's Day! For some, romance on this special Thursday is about a life-long partner. It has brought many great joy. It's also hard work and some sacrifice, according to three couples introduced in today's *Arcadian*, our Champion Lovers.

Meet Bob and Paula Wald Block, Yojaida and Jorge Hernandez and Kathy and Jimmy Peters, all locals and all happily together for combined bliss of more than 125 years.

Read their stories and secrets for a lasting relationship.

Yojaida and Jorge Hernandez, 35 years

Jorge and Yojaida work well together. Literally ... right down the hall from one another. Jorge is a DeSoto County Code Compliance director with 17 years in code enforcement. Yojaida Hernandez is a legal secretary with 15 years at DeSoto County.

Question: How did you meet? Was there an immediate attraction ... or did it simmer awhile?

Yojaida: "We met many moons ago. In 1978, I attended a school dance. I went to an all-girls Catholic school in Chicago and Jorge went to an all-boys Catholic school. The schools often had functions together like dances, sports, band recitals and other school events. Well, we both attended this dance and

he took notice of me ... but I didn't notice him until a friend pointed him out to me.

"In a short amount of time, Jorge and I became friends and so did our families, as both our fathers were businessmen in the same area. We were both 15 years old when we started dating in 1979 ... and have been together ever since. In 1982, Jorge joined the U.S. Marine Corps and left for boot camp. I was working as a teacher's assistant and attending college. After a four-year relationship, two of those years being long distance, Jorge and I

were married on April 14, 1984. Jorge was in the Marine Corps and doing well ... and I instantly became a military wife."

Question: Bumps in the road?
Yojaida: "Oh wow, we have had our fair share. Our first son, Jorge, was born just one year after being married. Then in 1987 our daughter, Jessica, was born. At that time Jorge was deploying a lot, as most Marines do. Some deployments were as long as eight to 10

months. I still remember when Jorge deployed to the Middle East during 'Operation Desert Storm.' He was deployed for 10 months. When he left the children were very little, when he returned it was a joyous celebration. Jorge had so many deployments all

PARTNERS | 3



Yojaida and Jorge Hernandez married April 14, 1984.



Robert "Bob" and Paula Wald Block married July 7, 1980.



Kathy and Jimmy Peters will have been married 52 years.



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History's mysteries: Smith-Brown gym, former dairy site

By CAROL MAHLER

ARCADIAN HISTORY EDITOR

In 1957-1958, a gymnasium was finally built offsite for the new Smith-Brown School, 340 S. Orange Ave., which had been constructed in 1946. Students walked between the two sites. Under Florida's "separate but equal" segregation laws, Arcadia's African-American students attended this school until it was closed in 1970.

At a special meeting on Feb. 2, 1956, the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County approved the purchase price of \$6,000 for the subdivision known as "Farley Park" offered by Edgel Farley. He and his wife Bonetta—a nurse's aide at G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital—lived in the rear of 814 S. Orange Ave., and his mother Martha D. lived in the front of the house with her son Tift B., a grove worker, and his wife Virginia B. Farley.

On June 23, 1953, Bonetta and Edgel W. Farley recorded the "Farley Park" subdivision, as surveyed by M. E. Albritton, in Plat Book 6. They named the east-west street dividing lots 1 through 20 from lots 21 through 34 "Carver Drive," presumably to honor George Washington Carver; however it was never constructed.

On Feb. 28, 1944, Alfred O. "Al" Carnahan and Beulah Marie Carnahan had sold the property to Edgel Farley plus his parents Charles L. and Martha Farley, as recorded in Deed Book 245.

Born in Michigan in 1902, Al Carnahan moved to Arcadia in 1927. He owned and operated a barber shop at 22 N Polk Ave. In 1943, he leased the shop to E. J. Hood and started a dairy near his home on S. Orange Avenue.

The May 3, 1945, Arcadian reported "a new Arcadia institution" near the intersection of State Roads 70 and 31—Carnahan Dairy. The article details that "the building is a modern one in every respect. In the front are rooms for the various operations in handling milk, cooling, bottling, etc., with a 6' x 10' refrigerating room, a feed room large enough to hold feed in carlots, a wash room, shower baths, and in the back is a milking room with stanchions to hold twenty cows at a time."

On his way to a meeting of the dairy association, Al Carnahan was killed in a car accident in 1950. His obituary, published in the Aug. 17 Arcadian, stated that he owned "DeSoto County's only commercial dairy."

Plans for the new "gymnasium"—a combination gymnasium and auditorium—were approved at the board meeting of April 10, 1956.

At their July 20, 1956, meeting, the Board of Public Instruction for DeSoto County announced that Richard Bowers had been hired to teach physical education. At the Jan. 29, 1957, meeting his request to be released from his contract was approved, although the reason was not given until the May 12, 1959, meeting: he returned from military leave and was reappointed to the staff in 1958.

To provide access to the Smith-Brown gym, a complicated property trade was explained at the Feb. 2, 1957, meeting. Lot 6, Washington Park, was "owned by the Morrisons, and they will not sell unless it is possible to secure a lot of the same size which is near to their present one. The Martins, owner of Lot 9, Washington Park, agreed to sell for \$600 Therefore, Lot 9 was purchased from the Martins with the deed being written to the Morrisons and the latter issued their deed to the Board."

Deed Book 266 records that on Feb. 11, 1957, Ozel Martin and his wife Ludell Martin sold Lot 9, Washington Park, to Henry Morrison and his wife Tommie Mae Morrison, and page 217 records that Henry Morrison and his wife, Tommie Mae Morrison, sold Lot 6, Washington Park, to the board. Lot 6 became School Avenue, but was not listed in the Arcadia city directory until 1972.

In the 1956 Arcadia city directory, the Morrisons lived at 341 S. Orange Ave., and Henry is listed as a "fruit picker." The Martins lived at 20 Watson Ave., and Ozel is listed as a "helper" at Arcadia Motors.

On Dec. 7, 1943, Washington Park had been subdivided by Elsie P. and M. A. Rosin, according to Plat Book 6. Washington Park lots 1 through 26 are south of Harris Street, and lots 27 through 48 are divided from lots 49 through 70 by a north-south street the

Rosins named "Booker T. Washington Road." The street was the namesake of Booker Taliaferro Washington, born 1856—an educator, reformer, president and main founder of Tuskegee University, and an African-American leader until his death in 1915.

At the March 12, 1957, meeting, the board approved an additional site for the Smith-Brown School purchased from Oscar E. Herren and his wife Betty M. Herren, as recorded on Dec. 14, 1957, in Deed Book 267. Now known as Louis C. Anderson Park, the property's southern border is Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Charles Washington remembered that he learned to play baseball at the diamond located there.

On Dec. 16, 1957, the Herrens bought the property from Beulah Marie Levsky, formerly Beulah Marie Carnahan, and her husband Morris H. Levsky, according to Deed Book 267. The sale include "20 head of Jersey Dairy cows." The Herrens are listed in the 1956 city directory with their home and a dairy at the intersection of W. Hargrave (now Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd.) and S. Orange Ave. Sometime before 1960 they closed the dairy, as Oscar is listed as a "factory worker" at the Central Transformer Corp.

At the Aug. 11, 1959, meeting, the Board of Public Instruction "approved cooperation with the City of Arcadia in efforts to provide recreational facilities in south-west Arcadia and approved placing of recreational facilities on the board-owned site at Smith-Brown High School."

This "cooperation" was formalized on Nov. 18, 1963, in Deed Book 25, when the board sold the Smith-Brown gym and access to the structure to the city. Fifteen years later, on March 16, 1978, the District School Board of DeSoto County sold the rest of the property to the city, as recorded in Official Record Book 139.

On March 23, the city was sued by "Hinton Johnson, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated." Johnson charged that "the services and facilities provided to the black residents of Arcadia with respect to street paving, parks and recreation, and water supply



Edgel W. and Bonetta Farley: A Florida native, Edgel Farley (1914-1992) moved to DeSoto County when he was nine years old. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked as an automobile mechanic. He and his wife Bonetta Neel Farley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1991. She was the daughter of Ben Neel Sr., and Emma Williams Neel, who arrived in Arcadia in 1920, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970.

system are substantially inferior to the provision of these facilities and services to white residents ... [and] these inequalities are the result of systematic racial discrimination against the black residents of the town."

The city was judged guilty and forbidden "from initiating any major service or improvement program in the white residential community until such time as the improvements ordered by this Court for the black residential community are completed."

In the May 3, 1979, Arcadian, Max Hackney reported the "open house ceremonies at the New Smith-Brown Community and Recreation Center." The work was complete except for restroom renovations and lighting for the baseball field. "As soon as these final tasks are finished, [City Administrator Bill] Terry said he will ask Federal Judge Ben Kretzman to make a final inspection of the premises to verify the center conforms to a court order that mandate the improvements."

In 1998, the Smith-Brown Community Foundation, Inc., was registered with the state of Florida "to benefit the youth of DeSoto County." Since 2014, the organization's mission is "to work collaboratively with individuals and community organizations to provide experiences that will improve the quality of life and foster a sense of neighborhood and family for all people."

Meet Margaret Way, City Hall named in her honor

By JIMMY PETERS

ARCADIAN HOMETOWN EDITOR

There are certain people in our town whose career helps define who we are as a community today. One of those people is Margaret Way. As you turn north onto Polk Street from Oak Street and looking to the left, you'll see the Way Building. That's City Hall and this is a story about a woman who worked for the city for 67 years. It's about the lives and hearts she touched.

Miss Way was born in Arcadia in 1923 in the house that her grandparents built. She still lives in the same house. When I asked her if there was a doctor present when she was born, her reply was, without hesitation, "I was too young to know at the time."

As a youngster, she was a girl about town. Her father was involved with the community, so young Margaret followed in his footsteps. She worked in the candy store and the movie theater. Then in December 1941 she was hired as a temporary employee by the city of Arcadia, and in 1942 she was put on as a full-time employee—she was 19 at the



time. In 1959, Margaret ran for and was elected to the office of City Recorder, a job which she held until 2002. She continued her employment with the city as a special advisor until her retirement on Dec. 31, 2008 ... 67 years later. When asked about her fondest memories, she replied, "Everything, I loved everything I did; it was not like going to work." I was not surprised to hear that.

Margaret Way fills her days with all sorts of adventures. She has a 1971 Snapper lawnmower, and up until five years ago she enjoyed mowing her own lawn. She used to mow the lot next door with a pushmower. At 6 p.m. on first Tuesdays of the month you will probably find her at City Hall.

This whole story was brought to light by our City Clerk Penny Delaney. Penny holds a special affection for Miss

Way, along with just about everyone who has known her. As a young girl, Penny worked with Margaret, whose sense of humor and open personality allowed a friendship to flourish. Penny affectionately tells the story: "When I was working at Parks and Recreation, I would come over to City Hall and get the money bag out of the vault. Miss Way would pick on me every time I came in, and soon we were playing jokes on each other. One day I was in the hallway minding my own business and Miss Way came out and said 'who did that.' I didn't know what she was talking about, so I said, wasn't me it was some girl named Bertha. From then on my name was Bertha."

When we finished laughing, Margaret's friend Candy Reid chimed in: "She went to church every Sunday of her life and she can still tell the biggest whoppers in town." Margaret ended our interview with a confession: "I enjoyed whatever it was that I was doin', and that must be because I was havin fun when I was devil'n."

Margaret Way is one of those rare individuals whose humor dares you



PHOTOS BY JIMMY PETERS

Miss Way worked for Arcadia for 67 years. City Hall is named in her honor.

to challenge her wit, and her work ethic was contagious to those around her. I had the privilege of spending an afternoon with her and getting to know her. I now know why when looking to the left on North Polk Street at City Hall, you see the name Way Building above the door.

But I never did get her to tell me what "devil'n" meant.



The Hernandezes celebrate 35 years together in April.



The Blocks celebrate 39 years together in July.



PHOTO BY KERRY BOWERS
Romance comes in every species. A fortunate few survive a lifetime together.

PARTNERS

FROM PAGE 1

over the world including Spain, Okinawa, Philippines, Norway and South Korea ... but we always kept the home fires burning. Jorge served 20 years in the Marines and retired in 2002. In 1994, our second son, Johnathan, was born, a preemie—2 pounds, 14 ounces. The military did a great job caring for Johnathan and he became a very strong, well-adjusted little boy.

"Now Johnathan is a Marine himself, he started boot camp in January 2018 and is serving proudly. The bumps in life have been many, but so have the joys. Like all families, we have had to endure family deaths and illnesses, and all that goes with it, but we have also had many joyous occasions, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and all of God's blessings."

Question: How are you planning to spend your Valentine's Day?

Yojaida: "We always have so much to take care of and so much we both want to achieve in a day. As long as we know our family and animals are well, the rest is easy. Maybe a nice dinner together"

Question: Secret to a long relationship? And any advice to young couples.

Yojaida: "The secret to a long relationship ... love and compromise. If there is love, you will find the compromise. As far as advice to young couples, wow, I don't know. After 35 years of marriage, we are still figuring it out, one day at a time. You never know what life is

going to throw at you ... but with love and a positive outlook, you can almost always find compromise."

Bob and Paula Wald Block, 38 years

Question: How did you meet?

Paula: "Bob came back from California and I moved from South Bend, Indiana, to Miami Beach ... and I needed a job. I started working for his stepmom in Miami Beach at the Oceanside Plaza, selling condos. Bob, his dad and brother were all doing the refurbishing of Miami Beach buildings going from apartments to condos."

"When all apartments were sold, the family went to the next condos. Bob then went with his family to Atlantic City to refurbish apartments to condos and sell them. I stayed in Miami ... and Bob then called me three weeks later ... and he couldn't live without me. He had me move to Atlantic City to be with him."

"He went every Friday to the mall after he got paid, and I used to be jealous, till I found out his trips on Friday ... he had my engagement ring on layaway. Got married July 27, 1980."

Question: There was an immediate attraction ... or did it simmer awhile? And how do you know?

Paula: "I know it was pretty immediate the attraction ... and my future stepmother-in-law and Bob's father at the time were really trying to push us together. Always had butterflies in my stomach ... and I dated a few people. For me it was so different of a feeling, I knew he

was for me. Bob felt the same way."

Question: Bumps in the road?

Paula: "There are always bumps in the road. Quite a few bumps, but nothing we couldn't handle. I felt they only make you stronger. It was like the fairytale, once upon a time and happily ever after."

Question: Secret to a long relationship?

Paula: "Move to Arcadia and live happily ever after..."

Question: And any advice to young couples?

Paula: "Something we have always done is never go to bed angry. Kiss before you go to sleep. Holding hands. If someone is leaving the other for work or a trip to the store, always kiss each other. Never having to say sorry to each other."

Kathy and Jimmy Peters, 51 years

Question: How did you meet? Was there an immediate attraction ... or did it simmer awhile?

Jimmy's version: "At Kent State University in psychology class. I thought she was the prettiest girl I had ever seen. I asked her to have a Coke with me at the gas station across the street during our class break ... I was so cool."

Kathy's version: "I thought his name was Dave, he was the smart one in the class. I fell in love with him very fast, right after our first one-on-one conversation. For me, that was that!"

Question: Bumps in the road?

Arrington, a Mosaic mine permitting manager living within Nuco's radius, at first had strong reservations about the citrus processor locating in his backyard.

But after closer reviews of Nuco's plans, Arrington spoke in favor Tuesday. However, he added that firms in DeSoto County seeking special terms and that have some public disapproval such as Nuco had, should receive a balanced analysis. "Human existence requires risk," he said.

of Nuco, and that it will produce odors and noise, didn't sit well with some. Yet supporters paraded before commissioners to welcome Nuco, which estimates a 125-member workforce and some \$2 million in annual tax returns to DeSoto's parched coffers. "I believe our commissioners did listen to our concerns," said Darvy Pedin, a Nuco neighbor initially speaking against the special exception.

The rich irony of a Mosaic Fertilizer executive speaking against Nuco wasn't lost on the very man complaining. Bart

NUCO

FROM PAGE 1

DeSoto workers and for a partnership with South Florida State College in skills training, to "keep our young people staying here," she said.

While Tuesday's hearing was nothing like the angerfest in July over rezoning farmland to industrial mining for Mosaic Fertilizer, there were concerns. That 200 or so neighbors live within a radius

Jimmy's version: "Of course there were bumps in the road, that's what life is about. The key is to pick yourselves up and start over, and over, and over..."


Kathy's version: "Oh for sure, bumps is a good word—but sometimes it can be a hole—and when it's a hole, you grab onto faith and stretch for its light. Surprise! Surprise! One candle lights the darkest space."

Question: Secret to a long relationship? And any advice to young couples.

Jimmy's version: "I think the key to a long relationship is forgiving the small irritations that come up 20 times a day. When two people get married, their personalities blend together, and this change is normal, sometimes difficult, but love makes it tolerable."

Kathy's version: "I believe that there is a word that is ignored today—and it's sacrifice. Sometimes it was Jimmy's turn and sometimes mine, and sometimes we held hands and sacrificed together. My advice to young people is to hold on to love ... because it is forever and it grows and runs deep ... it is a swift flowing river."

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Dr. Jeremy Bonjorno

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DeSoto

Viewpoint

Craig Garrett — Arcadian Editor

E-mail letters to cgarrett@sun-herald.com

OUR VIEW

'Tis the season in SW central Florida

OUR POSITION: Population surge brings stress

Maybe you've noticed the uptick in traffic in the past week or so? Big, big uptick?

Maybe you've tried to drive from Anywhere to Somewhere Else in what you might think of as a Reasonable Amount of Time!? And it takes Two, Three, FOUR times longer than it should???

And, for God's sake, you're stuck in a very, very long line of traffic just waiting to make a left turn?

A simple left TURN!

And ...

... Maybe you've noticed.

Welcome to the winter season — Snowbird Season — when you realize just how much the coast of Southwest Florida is a seasonal economy dependent on visitors/tourists.

Bigly. And the crowds can create stress, even for a place such as small-town Arcadia.

To all our visitors: God bless you. We really do welcome and appreciate your presence. Y'all kick back and set a spell. Soak in the sun. Get up early and golf. Enjoy lunch or dinner (or, heck, breakfast, lunch and dinner) at any of our fine restaurants. Go fishing. Sit on the lanai and sip your morning coffee while reading one fine local community newspaper. (Customer service operators standing by right now to take your call!)

Welcome. Enjoy.

But also recognize this area is far less busy in, say, June or July, when the southern sun is directly overhead, glowing red hot and large as a medicine ball.

It's a lot less busy then. And the simple car trip that takes all of 45 minutes today can be executed in a mere 20. A person can exceed the speed limit by a modest amount without being blocked by a convoy cars from (Another Place) in both right and left lanes. Quick trips to Publix are in-and-out simple. If you want to dine out on your brother's birthday, no need to wait an hour for a table, or settle for fastfood.

Please, recognize that year-round residents, accustomed to an off-season of relative ease, may become a tad testy at times. All apologies (what are we, Democrats?), but the aforementioned testiness may, unfortunately, lead to less-than-admirable expressions or behavior. Actual rudeness.

All apologies, and, yes, really, no excuse. Except, we are also frail and flawed human beings, as are ye.

To all our year-rounders: Come on. Chill.

Come up for air, for God's sake. It's really busy right now, so plan accordingly and chill the heck out.

Recognize that we live in a seasonal economy. Winter snowbirds support our year-round economy.

They buy newspapers, gasoline, lunch, T-shirts and tomatoes.

They create jobs. They pay rent. Sometimes they like it here so much, they buy houses. And then they

EXTRA! EXTRA!
YOU, THE READER,
ARE EXTRA SPECIAL!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just wanted to ask

Just want to ask why the Mosaic interviews Part 1 and Part 2 (Jan. 17/Jan. 24 Arcadian) were highlighted on the front page, top of fold, while the rebuttal (Feb. 7 Arcadian) by well known and respected Suncoast Waterkeeper Andy Mele was on page 21? There was not even a blurb on the front page directing readers that it was inside. This placement does not look fair and impartial.

Candace Lawless
Arcadia

Problems, requests and considerations

Problem: Mosaic, a giant chemical company (\$12.1 billion/Fortune 500),

who is going county by county to get land rezoned. Small Florida counties can't fight Fortune 500 companies alone. Floridians must stick together protecting our natural resources. In August 2018, DeSoto County commissioners voted 4-1 against Mosaic's application seeking to rezone more than 14,000 acres from farmland to industrial mining. One month later, Mosaic requested dispute mediation, which is not typical for corporations or situations of this scale and magnitude. Now, Mosaic is scheduled for a public mediation session, April 3, 2019, in DeSoto County.

Request: All of Florida's government officials take action by working together. All actions be approved by governor down to local entities.

Considerations:

A) Accountability — Repair current damages to natural state.

B) Mining — How are they going to repair and restore wetlands?

C) Waste — They can't handle their waste. We have massive waste piles (gypstacks) like mountains containing waste byproducts (mildly radioactive) of phosphate mining.

D) Mosaic hasn't met its own goal of reducing freshwater use increases over the years. Usage is at 70 million gallons a day.

E) Mosaic has a significant violation history in our state.

F) Red tide feeds on blue-green algae from Mosaic's waste products.

G) Significant loss of tourism dollars ... current and future.

H) How much can our aquifer take?

Patti Jones
Englewood

GRITS & PIECES

Let your smile be a valentine (a much cheaper route)

You may be seeing red today. No, I don't mean that you'll be mad, I'm talking about it being Valentine's Day! Of course, if your sweetie doesn't lavish you with flowers, candy and a card, you might actually be mad after all. But love conquers all.

Valentine's Day was a major event when we were in grade school. I remember making those pouch thingies out of construction paper and that nasty paste that came in the little jar that you smeared around with the stick that was attached to the inside of the lid. That paste was discontinued, I think, because too many kids were eating it. Talk about something sticking to your ribs! Then along came Elmer's Glue,



Luke Wilson

troubador55@embarqmail.com

which was fun to cover your hands in, then let it dry so you could peel it off. We were poor but we had imagination.

Then one by one, we'd all go up and match our carefully filled out valentines with the names on everyone's pouch thingies and collect them when everyone was finished. Usually we'd get the same kind of valentines that we'd sent

out. And once in a blue moon there'd be that one valentine in your pouch thingy from a secret admirer. Cupid must've been lurking nearby.

You'd quickly look all around the room to see if you could find someone making goo-goo eyes at you, hoping beyond hope it was the one you'd had a crush on but were too scared to show it because: 1) you were too shy, or 2) they were of the opposite sex and therefore must have cooties.

Right about then I'd peer into my pouch thingy and wonder how many cards in there had cooties on them. Young love—it's a wonder we

LUKE | 21

LETTER SUBMISSION POLICY

Letters are welcome on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters must be received no later than noon on Tuesday. Letters will be edited to length as well as grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name - not initials. An address and telephone number must be included; they are not for publication, but must be provided so we may verify authorship if necessary. Due to the number of letters received, we reserve the right to run only one letter per person per month. The Letters to the Editor section is intended as a public forum for community discourse and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The Arcadian takes no responsibility for the content of these letters. Please send or bring correspondence to the Arcadian, 108 S. Polk Ave., Arcadia FL 34266, or fax to 863-494-3533. Readers with access to the internet may e-mail Letters to the Editor to cgarrett@sun-herald.com or arcadian.editor@gmail.com.

Twentieth Century Lit Club, life members, White Rose history

By IRENE POOSER

20TH CENTURY LITERARY CLUB

The Twentieth Century Literary Club met at the beautiful country home of Cynthia Mizell on Jan. 28. Ladies were welcomed by hostesses Sue Ellen Smith, Ruth Dunn, Marcia Brown and Cynthia Mizell; hostess Michelle Potter was absent due to a family emergency. An assortment of beverages and appetizers were enjoyed. Cynthia's mother, Sue Carol Lane, was introduced and welcomed as our guest.

Following a blessing given by Sue Ellen Smith, a delicious meal of chicken-and-rice casserole, broccoli salad, mustard carrots and rolls was shared, followed by desserts of sour-cream poundcake and pina-colada cake made by Cynthia, and a chocolate-cherry crunch made by Sue Ellen Smith.

President Jolaine Konstantinidis opened the meeting by expressing gratitude to the hostesses. The roll call, treasurer's report and reading of

the minutes followed. Happy January wishes were extended to Rosanne Collins and Happy New Year wishes were extended to one and all. Favors of assorted magnet bookmarks were distributed.

An unanimous election as Honorary Life members followed for longtime, faithful members—Betty Aaron and Phyllis NeSmith—on a motion by the club officers and a second by the club members. Both members are so deserving of this honor.

Jolaine Konstantinidis, following the year's theme of "The Heroic Women of World War II," presented a program on Sophia Scholl, a German student and anti-Nazi political activist born in 1921 and executed in 1943. Her father was the mayor of her hometown and recognized as a Nazi critic. Sophia was brought up in the Lutheran church, was an excellent student and led a carefree childhood. She actually was a member of the League of German Girls, a youth group supporting the

Nazi Party; her brother, Hans, at first felt as she did. She and her father discussed frequently their varying views. Her feelings changed when her brothers were arrested in 1937 for participating in anti-Nazi groups and her father was sent to prison for making a critical remark about Hitler. She was a talented artist and a prolific reader who was increasingly opposed to the actions of the government. She and six other core members began writing and circulating the White Rose, six pamphlets telling of the inhumane treatment of Jews and Soviet POWs. She and her brother were both found guilty of treason. No testimony was allowed for them and they were both beheaded in 1943.

Jolaine was at first interested in Sophia Scholl because Scholl was also her maiden name. She chose Sophia Scholl for her presentation as she read of her courage and her willingness to stand up for others, even as she lost her own life. It was an appropriate evening

for this program on Jan. 28, because Jan. 27 was International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 74-year anniversary of the closing of Auschwitz, the main Nazi death camp. Our club members shared amazement at the number of people in today's world who do not believe the Holocaust actually occurred.

Jolaine distributed momentos of rose bookmarks as a remembrance of her program.

Books suggested for reading were "The Light Over London" by Julia Kelly and "Trust Your Eyes" by Linwood Barclay.

Ladies present were Pam Ames, Marcia Brown, Rosanne Collins, Ruth Dunn, Debbie Hackney, Michele Keen, Jolaine Konstantinidis, Stephanie McAnly, Cynthia Mizell, Pat Moore, Irene Pooser, Heather Prevatt, Sylvia Reinhart, Sue Carol Lane, Lynn Shelfer, Olivia Shelfer, Sue Ellen Smith, Linda Waldron, Linda Williams and Terry Womack.

Quilt show 101: Behind the scenes, blanketing SW Fla.

By KAREN SMOKE

ARCADIAN CORRESPONDENT

The Peace River Quilt Festival opens next Thursday (Feb. 21) at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center in Punta Gorda. Quilt show season is underway in Florida. If you've never been to a quilt show, don't know why you would want to go to one, here's a rundown of what you will find at a typical quilt show, what goes on behind the scenes; and why you might just get your socks blown off if you go expecting not to get bitten by the quilting bug.

A quilt, the noun, is defined as two layers of fabric with a filler material in between with stitching to hold the layers together. To quilt, the verb, refers to the process of stitching, but has come to mean any of the hundreds of processes used to create quilts today. Quilters are the artists who create the masterworks you will see at a quilt show. If the word quilt conjures up an image of a tattered assemblage of well worn scraps, you really need to take in a show to see what quilting has become today.

Quilting is a multibillion-dollar industry, and at a quilt show you will see some of the paraphernalia that goes into the making of quilts. Quilters gather in groups, often referred to as guilds, and the guilds put on the shows as a way to appreciate and share the efforts of their members. Quilters are giving people, and most groups have a community service project to which members donate quilts.

Guilds typically do a raffle quilt as a fundraiser to help put the show on. Plus there may be a silent auction or raffle of handmade items or baskets packed with quilting or other goodies. Some of the displayed quilts are for sale, and usually there's an area of consignment quilts and a boutique area selling various projects the ladies have made. If you're a quilter, at minimum you will take home lots of ideas. If you aren't crafty at all, it's a good place to shop for a special hand-crafted gift. And because most of the makers are usually in attendance, you can meet the maker and learn the story behind the creation. Vendors selling a variety of quilt material—plus all the gadgets and tools so necessary for putting it all together—come from near and far to tempt you with their wares. Workshops



Sandy of The Fabric and Sewing Shop in Sebring readies her booth at the recent Highlands County Quilt Guild show. Vendors tempt show-goers with a rainbow of colors and avalanche of machines and supplies.

or demonstrations of tools are popular with show goers. Shows often engage the services of a professional appraiser who can put a value on that antique quilt you have stashed away.

The displayed quilt projects are grouped in categories according to their size, construction and quilting techniques. There's even a category for novices who have not entered a show before. An accredited judge from the National Association of quilt show judges is engaged and the judge uses a scoring system to evaluate the entries on things such as composition, use of color, construction, and a myriad of other details. Typically, no monetary awards are given, the ribbons and honor of having your quilt on display is reward enough for these gals (and guys). From the first place winners in each category, a best of show award is chosen.

A few weeks ago I dropped in at the Highlands County Quilt Guild show in Sebring the day before it opened to get a behind-the-scene look at what goes into putting on a show. Instead of the organized chaos I expected to find, most everything was in place, the quilts had been judged, a team with a list was putting up the award ribbons, while commercial vendors readied their booths.

It was their 25th anniversary show, and the members were honoring their founding member, Shirley "Dee Dee"

Bedard, owner of Crafty Quilters in Sebring. Before I could get to ask any of my questions, they made certain to introduce me to Julie Johnson and her special project. Julie coordinates quilters both in Florida and back in Illinois to make quilts for warriors being treated at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a triage center where injured military personnel are treated and stabilized before returning to the states. It's her own take on the "Quilts of Valor" project, inspired when her son-in-law, a military doctor, was stationed there. He suggested quilts sized to fit the gurneys the soldiers are transported on, and in red, white and blue for their journey home. Last year, she shipped 52 quilts, and the gals are busy making more. You can reach Julie at quiltingforwarriors@gmail.com, 863-370-7260.

I met co-presidents Linda Downen and Nylene Henry. Linda is also show co-chair, along with Carolyn Ritze. Elaine Huff handles a lot of the details of keeping track of entries and award recipients. About two dozen other ladies each are assigned specific tasks, and the show goes together with the precision of a well made quilt.

This group of about 100 quilters puts together a show of about 220 quilts. The show is held biennially—every other year—so while you'll have to wait two years to catch this show, there are more quilt shows coming up in the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

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Upcoming shows

Feb. 22–23, Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. www.peacriverquilters.org.

Feb. 27–March 2, AQS Quilt Week- Daytona Beach, Wed.-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ocean Center, 101 North Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach. www.quiltweek.com.

March 8-9, Sarasota's Robarts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. www.friendshipknotquilters.com.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Groundhog Day |
| 3 Super Bowl | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Presidents' Day | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | |

All phone numbers are in Area Code 863 unless stated otherwise. To add, remove or change any listing in the Community Calendar, email arcadian.editor@gmail.com or call 494-0300. Listings are free for nonprofit and noncommercial organizations.

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TODAY

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and other Relations Raising Relations**, second Thursdays, 9-11 a.m. at the Friendship Center, 219 W. Oak St.
- **DeSoto County Veterans Council**, second Thursdays, 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, Ron Jones, 941-806-7108.
- **TEAM Arcadia**, second Thursdays, January, April, July and October, 4:30 p.m. Watch The Arcadian for the meeting location. TEAM Arcadia is to unite community organizations and coordinate community improvement efforts.
- **DeSoto County Historical Society**, noon, second Thursdays, Family Service Center annex, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia. Lunch \$6, 11:30 a.m.
- **Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity**, 5:30 p.m., second Thursdays, Habitat ReStore, 114 N. Polk Ave. 494-4118, desotohabitat@embarqmail.com
- **Free blood pressure screenings**

- administered by DeSoto Memorial Home Health at the Friendship Center, 219 W. Oak St., second and fourth Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **The Friendship Centers**, 219 W. Oak St., daily coffee and conversation, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., crafts 9:30 a.m., second and fourth Thursdays free blood-pressure screenings by Desoto Memorial Home Health. Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Donations appreciated but no one turned away. Assorted games, puzzles, cards, crafts, books, movies, discussion groups and guest speakers.
- **All Faiths Food Bank**, free food 9 a.m. to noon, Thursdays, Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St., Arcadia.
- **DeSoto Public Library**, Adult Coloring sessions, Thursdays at 1 p.m. Bring your own work or see what the library has for you to color.
- **Kiwanis**, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Beef O' Brady's, Arcadia.
- **Narcotics Anonymous**, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., St. Edmund's Church, Arcadia. Curtis, 244-2884.
- **All Faiths Food Bank**, free food, 6-10 a.m. Monday through Friday, Center for the Needy, 161 S. Orange St., Arcadia.
- **DeSoto County Library**, story time, 3:30 p.m., 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. 993-4851
- **Faith Mission** provides free lunches for

anyone in need, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition**, 7 p.m., St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, 327 W. Hickory St., Arcadia.

FRIDAY

- **DeSoto County Literacy Council**, volunteer tutor training workshop, Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia, to train volunteers to teach adults conversational English and basic literacy on Friday Feb. 15 at 8:30 a.m. To attend or for more information, call Susan Barnes at 993-1333 and leave a message.
- **DeSoto County Literacy Council**, Friday, Feb. 15, noon in Room 15, Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia. Anyone interested in volunteering to teach adults basic literacy and English can come at 10 a.m. for more information or call 993-1333 and leave a message.
- **Coffee with the Mayor**, Friday, Feb. 15 at 9 a.m. at the Arcadian newspaper, 108 S. Polk Ave., Arcadia. Public invited.
- **MAPP committee and VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)**, 9 a.m. third Fridays, Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden St., Arcadia.
- **Senior Friendship Centers**, 219 W. Oak St., daily coffee and conversation 9 a.m.-1 p.m., low-impact exercises start at 10 a.m., Bingo 10 a.m., 50 cents to play two cards — additional cards 25 cents. Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Donations appreciated but no one is turned away. Assorted games, puzzles, cards, crafts, books, movies, discussion groups and guest speakers.

• **All Faiths Food Bank**, free food, 6-10 a.m. Monday through Friday, Center for the Needy, 161 S. Orange St., Arcadia.

• **Arcadia Quilt Club**, 9-11:30 a.m. Fridays, Palace Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, Arcadia.

• **DeSoto Public Library**, free movie for seniors every Friday, 1 p.m.

• **iPads and eBooks**, instruction and assistance with questions about using your digital devices, 3 p.m. Fridays, DeSoto Public Library.

• **Walk & Talk**: gentle exercise and conversation, 8 a.m. Fridays, DeSoto Public Library.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Hispanic**, 7 p.m., 426 N. Brevard Ave., Arcadia, next to El Charro rest.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Second Tradition**, 8 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 900 W. Oak St., Arcadia.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Arcadia/Nocatee Group**, 7 p.m., Nocatee Methodist Church, 4502 S.W. Welles Ave.

• **Faith Mission**, free lunches for anyone in need, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1109 S.E. 9th St., Arcadia. Donations gratefully accepted.

• **Square dancing classes**, Palace Square Dance Hall, 1627 N.E. Floridian Circle, 7-9 p.m., Fridays. Robert, 813-601-1834, Mary, 941-380-5336/494-2749

• **All Faiths Food Bank**, free food, 6-10 a.m. Monday through Friday, Center for the Needy, 161 S. Orange St., Arcadia.

• **All Faiths Food Bank**, free meals, Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St., Arcadia. 494-2543

• **Women of Worship "WOW" Women's ministry**, 6:15 p.m. Mondays, Freedom Fellowship Christian Ministries, 1528 N.E. Turner Ave., Arcadia. All welcome.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Brown Baggers Group**, noon, Mondays, Trinity United Methodist Church, 304 W. Oak St., Arcadia.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Group**, 8 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 900 W. Oak St. (State Road 70), Arcadia.

• **Hispanic Alcoholics Anonymous**, 7 p.m. Sunday, 426 Brevard Ave., Arcadia, next to El Charro restaurant.

SUNDAY

movies, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 993-4851

• **Bicycling Adult Group Ride**. Winn-Dixie parking lot, 7:45 a.m. Ride departs at 8 a.m. Must wear an approved bicycling helmet and obey all Fla. traffic safety laws. Moderate level ride—12 to 15 m.p.h.—10 to 30 mile rides. Faster riders may ride at their own pace if desired, slower riders will not be left behind. Have fun, meet and talk with other riders, enjoy the ride. Contact: gypsygirlrides513@gmail.com.

• **AMVETS**, 7 p.m., third Mondays, Post 60, 2846 S.W. Highway 17, Arcadia. Tim Martin, 990-0185.

• **DeSoto Amateur Radio Club**, 6:30 p.m. third Mondays, DeSoto County Emergency Operations Center, 2200 N.E. Roan St., Arcadia.

• **DeSoto County Fair Association**, 7 p.m. third Mondays, fair office Heard Street, Arcadia.

• **Senior Friendship Centers**, 219 W. Oak St., daily coffee and conversation, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Low-impact exercises start at 10 a.m. Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Donations appreciated but no one is turned away. Assorted games, puzzles, cards, crafts, books, movies, discussion groups and guest speakers.

MONDAY

• **All Faiths Food Bank**, free food, 6-10 a.m. Monday through Friday, Center for the Needy, 161 S. Orange St., Arcadia.

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• **Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Group**, 8 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 900 W. Oak St. (State Road 70), Arcadia.

• **Hispanic Alcoholics Anonymous**, 7 p.m. Sunday, 426 Brevard Ave., Arcadia, next to El Charro rest.

TUESDAY

• **Arcadia City Council**, 6 p.m., Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia.

• **Vietnam Brotherhood/Echo Company**, 7 p.m., first and third Tuesdays, Post 60, 2846 S.W. Highway 17, Arcadia. Tim Martin, 990-0185.

• **DeSoto Public Library**, monthly Library Book Club, 3 p.m. Group book discussion open to everyone.

• **DeSoto Memorial Hospital**, free blood pressure screenings, 3-4 p.m., McSwain Room, Arcadia. 494-8432

• **AA District 5 committee business meeting**, 8 p.m., third Tuesdays, St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church, 4200 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port. Visit <http://aadistrict5.org> for details.

• **Republican Party of DeSoto County**, 6:30 p.m., third Tuesdays, Beef O' Brady's, Arcadia. Come find out what is going on in the DeSoto County political community.

• **Charlotte Sierra Club**, monthly meeting, third Tuesdays (except during the summer). Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Bldg., 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte. 941-423-2713.

• **AA District 5 committee business meeting**, 8 p.m., third Tuesdays, St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church, 4200 S. Biscayne Dr., North Port. Visit <http://aadistrict5.org> for details.

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SATURDAY

• **Come help clean up downtown Arcadia** on Sat., Feb. 16, 8 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Arcadia Main Street Office, 17 N. Polk Ave. Help pick up trash, pull weeds, sweep and plant new flowers. 494-2020, email arcadiamainstreet@yahoo.com.

• **Democratic Women's Club of DeSoto**, 11:30 a.m., third Saturdays, Beef O' Brady's, 1703 E Oak St., Arcadia.

• **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast**, Arcadia Airport in hangar A-5, 9 a.m. Great pancakes, sausage, OJ & coffee only \$6. Bring the kids for a great time at the airport. Sponsored by Friends of Arcadia Airport.

• **DeSoto County Library**, children's

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Portrait of a Community

Don't Forget Our Community Partner

The Peace River Woodcarvers Show

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Arcadia, FL 2019 DAHC

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"The right choice for all the right reasons"

Deputy charged with transporting “shanks” between inmates

A DeSoto County Sheriff’s deputy was arrested last Thursday after he was alleged to have given a jail inmate two homemade knives, or “shanks.”



RAYA

According to the arrest report, a detainee reported to one of the jail officers there were two large shanks wrapped in a jail uniform and hidden in Cell B2 beside the toilet. The inmate became aware of them because another inmate was allegedly bragging about them.

When jail officers searched Cell B2, they found two shanks, one 7 inches and the other 6-3/4 inches long.

Review of security footage from the jail reportedly showed Corrections Deputy Alfredo Raya, 29, taking a dark-colored rectangular item from Cell Block B to Cell C8. Almost two hours later, Raya reportedly carried a large white item from C8 to B2. (Because the video system in B Block was apparently down for several hours, the particular cell in B Block was not depicted.)

One of the inmates in Cell C8 allegedly admitted to a jail officer he had made the two shanks from some metal pieces he removed from around the toilet. (He also showed the officer a third shank he had made.)

When asked if Raya had transported the shanks to another cell, that inmate said he did not want to get Raya in trouble.

The inmate to whom the shanks were allegedly delivered was angry about receiving a disciplinary report after the shanks were discovered, and refused to cooperate. The original detainee, however, reportedly told jail staff that the man who received the shanks showed them to him and said Raya had brought them to him from C Block. That detainee told officials reportedly because he was concerned about the size of the shanks and didn’t want to be hurt or killed.

When questioned, Raya said he sometimes transports things between cells for inmates, acknowledging he was not authorized to do so. He reportedly admitted transporting a bag of coffee from B2 to C8. He said he checked the bag by feeling it.

Raya then said he brought a shirt and bowl, tied together, from C8 to B2; he said he first untied the bundle to check it. He said he was not aware the shirt/bowl bundle contained two shanks.

Food and clothing are considered contraband and may not be transferred among inmates without the Sheriff’s approval.

Raya was charged with introducing contraband into a detention facility. He was released later that day on \$1,500 bond.

Raya is no longer employed by DCSO.

Two charged with armed robbery

Two men were arrested on charges of armed robbery and are being held in the DeSoto County Jail on \$100,000 bond each.



JENKINS

According to records from the Arcadia Police Department, DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office and Clerk of Court, on Feb. 5 a man reported that he had been robbed by four men with a gun.



SLAUGHTER

Two of them were identified as Javin De’R’Shea Jenkins, 18, of the 300 block of N. Monroe Avenue, and Walter Shane Slaughter Jr., 19, of the 2800 block of S.W. U.S. Highway 17, both in Arcadia. (The other two men with them were not listed as having been charged.)

The victim said he was visiting a friend when he saw four men approach the house and take his bike. As he ran after the four, Jenkins allegedly pulled out a gun, pointed it at him and said, “We are gonna

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.

pop a cap in your ass.” The victim backed off, letting the four take the bike, and later called police.

Police soon found four men, including Jenkins and Slaughter, who met the descriptions and the victim positively identified them.

Jenkins said he did have a gun but that he never pointed it at the victim, saying he had only moved it from his backpack to his waistband. Slaughter said one of the other two men also had a gun.

The two weapons were found; they were both BB guns with bullets that looked like real bullets.

Both Jenkins and Slaughter were charged with robbery with a firearm; Jenkins was additionally charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

Court records indicate Jenkins was also arrested in December on a charge of burglary with assault or battery. According to the DCSO arrest report, two men said they went to a friend’s house; one went inside while the victim waited in the car. The man then started to argue with the resident, and later came back outside and started hitting the victim. Jenkins, a friend of the other man, also started hitting the victim.

The resident got in the driver’s seat and started the car as a third man came out of the house, attacking the resident with a metal object, then bashing the car with it. The two drove off and went to the hospital with various wounds. Jenkins was charged with burglary with assault or battery.

Slaughter reportedly was arrested in November when he and Jenkins were sitting in a car in the parking lot of the police department. When an officer came out to the lot to see what they were doing there, Slaughter, the driver, said they were waiting on someone who was being interviewed. The officer noticed what looked like marijuana cigarette in the ash tray. Slaughter said it was not marijuana but K2, a type of synthetic marijuana.

He was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Probation ordered for burglary, robbery

Logan Daughtrey, 18, was sentenced to five years of probation on charges of unarmed burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, grand theft between \$300 and \$5,000, and possession or use of drug paraphernalia.



DAUGHTREY

According to records from the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office and Clerk of Court, on Nov. 14, 2018, a homeowner noticed a bike at the back door of her residence that did not belong there, so she called her son to check things out. Her son entered and reportedly found Daughtrey inside, collecting items that belonged to the owner.

Daughtrey had a pile of electronic items such as a laptop, iPad, DVR player, Playstation, and a webcam, along with some jewelry. Daughtrey was the nephew of the homeowner’s brother.

When deputies arrived, Daughtrey said he entered the house using a key he knew was there, and that he decided to take things to sell because he wanted money to buy food. When he was taken into custody, Daughtrey told deputies he had a bowl in his backpack he used to smoked marijuana. He was arrested and held on a \$9,500 bond.

Daughtrey pleaded no contest and was sentenced to five years of probation, including a curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., 50 hours of community service annually for five years and no contact with the homeowner.

Arcadia woman charged with check forgery in Charlotte

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office reported the arrest of Madisyn Patricia Kovitch, 20, on Feb. 9 on charges of uttering altered bills or checks, and grand theft between \$100 and \$300 from a dwelling. Her bond was set at \$10,000 bond. Kovitch listed an address on S.W. Shores Avenue, Arcadia.



KOVITCH

According to records from the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, the owner of an auto body business discovered a check for \$500 had been written over a weekend. When he went to the bank he discovered it had been made out to his daughter, Kovitch. Because he had not written the check and she was not authorized to do so, he wanted to pursue charges.

Kovitch used to work at the shop and still had keys.

The bank confirmed the check had been deposited in Kovitch’s own account by mobile deposit. A warrant was issued and she was arrested on Feb. 9.

She had been arrested in Charlotte County on Jan. 20 on charges of trafficking more than 14 grams of amphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell and possession or use of drug paraphernalia. Her bond was set at \$37,000 and she was released the following day.

Following her Feb. 9 arrest, her bond for the January arrest was revoked.

The DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office reported the following arrests:

- Frank Joseph Belardo, 54, Bradenton, FL. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Dusty Lamar Chaney, 35, 6300 block of S.W. Wilcox St., Arcadia. Charges: criminal mischief with under \$200 property damage and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. Bond: \$620.
- Beth Ann Keenan, 39, no address, Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$7,000.
- Jose Guitierrez Lopez, 30, 1500 block of 3rd Ave., Arcadia. Charges: openly carrying a prohibited weapon, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession or use of drug equipment and driving without a valid license. Bond: \$1,240.
- Carrie Louanne Lyons, 40, 2400 block of S.W. Brandy Drive, Arcadia. Charges: trespass on property other than a structure or conveyance and petty theft. Bond: \$620.
- Richard Lewis Mink, 37, Gibson St., Arcadia. Charges: three counts of trespass on property other than a structure or conveyance. Released on recognizance.
- Roberto Morales, 20, 100 block of Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Charge: domestic battery by strangulation. Bond: none.
- Jonathan Fitzgerald Bloom, 48, 100 block of S. Alabama Ave., Arcadia. Charges: two counts of out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$1,250.
- Stacy Darlene Bryan, 49, 5600 block of N.W. Scout Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$120.
- Terence Devon Calhoun, 33, 100 block of S. Jordan Ave., Arcadia. Charges: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill and battery. Bond: \$10,500.
- George Luis Chanza, 39, 1300 block of N.E. Sunset Ave., Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Released on recognizance.
- Shalana Paulette Cook, 32, 1200 block of N.E. Cross Ave., Arcadia. Charge: aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. Bond: \$10,000.
- Stephanie Marie Geyer, 32, 4500 block of Holly Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$500.
- Fernando Faydeli Guzman Sargento, 25, Lake Wales, FL. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$120.
- David George Hart, 2600 block of N.W. Garvin St., Arcadia. Charges: trespass at property other than structure or conveyance and petty theft. Bond: \$620.
- Nikia Carvais Hatcher, 34, 200 block of S. Alabama Ave., Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Purge: \$630.
- Quillan Leche Maybell, 18, 400 block of N. Monroe Ave., Arcadia. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$2,000.
- Mariadela Carrera Ramirez, 24, 6400 block of N.W. Algar Terrace, Arcadia. Charge: driving on a suspended license. Bond: \$500.
- Clinton Harry Reid, 62, 100 block of S. Orange Ave., Arcadia. Charge: trespass by failing to leave upon order of property owner. Bond: \$500.
- Victor Santos, 35, 600 block of Hickory St., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,000.
- Brandon Joseph Smith, 26, 700 block of W. Pine St., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$500.
- Joc’Quez Thomas, 19, 200 block of S. Alabama Ave., Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$1,000.

- James Clarence Williams Jr., 40, 1900 block of S.W. Martin Luther King Blvd., Arcadia. Charge: driving on a suspended license. Bond: \$120.
- Kenneth Carter, 34, Indian Town, FL. Charge: lewd or lascivious behavior in the presence of a correctional facility employee. Bond: \$1,500.
- Marcy Ann Edwards, 38, 9700 block of S.W. Hull Road, Arcadia. Charge: contempt of court by violation of a domestic protective order and violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Rainer Sage Incitti, 24, 100 block of N. Monroe Ave., Arcadia. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and driving on a suspended license. Bond: \$2,000.
- Shawn Michael Sours, 36, 4700 block of S.E. Apache Drive, Arcadia. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$2,000.
- Jose Monroy Zavala, 24, 700 block of N. Johnson Ave., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$1,000.
- Amberrose Amer, 29, 1200 block of S.W. ML King Jr. St., Arcadia. Charge: failure to appear. Released on recognizance.
- Joseph Wayne Denney, 27, Port Charlotte. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: none.
- James Wesley Worth, 56, 1600 block of S.W. 1st St., Arcadia. Charge: driving on a suspended license, third or subsequent instance. Bond: \$120.
- Tony Eugene Young, 54, Port Richey, FL. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$1,013.
- Jamaal Tremayne Blanden, 30, 1900 block of S.E. Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession or use of drug equipment and driving on a suspended license, second instance. Bond: \$1,500.
- Henry Ricky Morales Jr., 30, S. Dade Ave., Arcadia. Charges: three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$5,000.
- Jeremy James Broughton Sr., 43, 3400 block of W. Bragdon St., Nocatee. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$2,000.
- Elisse Marie Dager, 33, 1300 block of Childress St., Arcadia. Charges: four counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession or use of drug equipment and driving on a suspended license. Bond: \$6,620.

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

- Luis Enrique Sanchez, 21, 1400 block of S.E. Baker St., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.
- Demitrio Bautista-Velazquez, 37, 1700 block of Camahan Ave., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$2,000.
- Nathaniel Milburn Downing Jr., 38, 1400 block of S.W. Holiday Lane, Arcadia. Charge: driving on a suspended license, third or subsequent instance. Bond: \$5,000.
- Kevin Peter Biener, 24, 1500 block of N.E. Whidden St., Arcadia. Charges: two counts of violation of probation or community control. Bond: \$1,853.

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

- Christopher Leonard Faulkner II, 30, Zolfo Springs. Charges: grand theft between \$300-\$5,000, and dealing in stolen property. Bond: \$9,000.
- Ernesto Javier Enriquez, 36, first block of Winifred St., Arcadia. Charge: DUI with alcohol or drugs. Bond: \$120.
- Justine Michelle Vankleef, 48, 1000 block of S.W. Fletcher St., Arcadia. Charges: two counts of violation of probation. Bond: none.

The Hardee County Sheriff’s Office reported the following arrests:

- Ashley Shade, 25, Zolfo Springs. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- Austin Todd Nellis, 20, Zolfo Springs. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.
- Johnathan Scarbrough, 45, Zolfo Springs. Charge: failure of sex offender to register change of address. Bond: \$1,000.
- Sherry Nathaniel Lee, 20, Zolfo Springs. Charge: possession of marijuana and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$1,500.
- Nathaniel Hunter Albritton, 20, Zolfo Springs. Charges: two counts of violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.
- Tiana Paz, 21, Zolfo Springs. Charges: possession of methamphetamine, possession of less than 3 grams of synthetic marijuana, possession or use of narcotics equipment and smuggling contraband into a detention facility. Released on recognizance.
- Marty Wayne Evans, 42, Zolfo Springs. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.
- Charles Austin Wright, 29, Zolfo Springs. Charges: battery causing bodily harm and contempt of court. Bond: none.
- Jose Fidencio Garza, 46, Zolfo Springs. Charge: failure to appear and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. Released on recognizance.
- Terry Dyal, 56, Ona. Charge: battery by strangulation. Bond: \$5,000.
- Erika Lynn Cothorn, 31, Zolfo Springs. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$1,120.

DeSoto grad's new book, teachers sparked interest

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

Clint Johnson, a 1971 graduate of DeSoto County High School, has published his 14th history book with a major publisher. "Tin Cans & Greyhounds: The Destroyers That Won Two World Wars" was released Tuesday by Regnery History of Washington, D.C. The book traces the history of naval destroyers of four nations; United States, Great Britain, Japan and Germany from the creation of the ship class through the end of World War II.

Johnson credits his teachers at DeSoto High with helping create the foundation he needed for his writing career.

"I owe my writing skills and interest in history to the DeSoto County teachers I had in the 1960s and early '70s," he said. "Miss Margaret Hays was my first- and third-grade teacher. She gave our class stability as we went through two other teachers in the first-grade. Miss Frances Pooser instilled in me a love of history in the fourth-grade. Mrs. Joy Barnard Tinsley was my seventh-grade English teacher who taught me the basics of writing. Mr. Sam McDowell was my eighth-grade composition teacher who taught me how to put a story together. Later, Miss Sydney Anderson was my journalism teacher who taught me how to write a news story.

"Several years ago," he added, "I gave a talk and signed books at the DeSoto County Library.

Miss Hays, Miss Pooser and Mrs. Barnard Tinsley came out to hear me. I had dedicated one of my books to them and apologized in the dedication to 'still dangling my particples, not being able to diagram a sentence, and still not understanding what a gerund is.' Mrs. Barnard stood up and started reciting the textbook definition of a gerund. She was still trying to teach me something all those decades later."

Johnson is the son of Clinton Johnson Sr., a farmer in Hardee County, and Laura Hartsfield Johnson, who spent decades teaching in Hardee and DeSoto counties. Today he lives in Ashe County, N.C.

Johnson graduated with a degree in journalism from the University of Florida in 1975. He spent the next several decades writing for newspapers and magazines. He wrote his first book in 1996. Most have been about the American Civil War. He also ghosted the autobiography of famed basketball coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines. www.clintjohnsonbooks.com.

About "Tin Cans & Greyhounds: The Destroyers That Won Two World Wars"

The battleships may have been the targets of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, but those were the wrong targets. Instead of bombing pre-World War I vintage battleships, the Japanese should have gone after

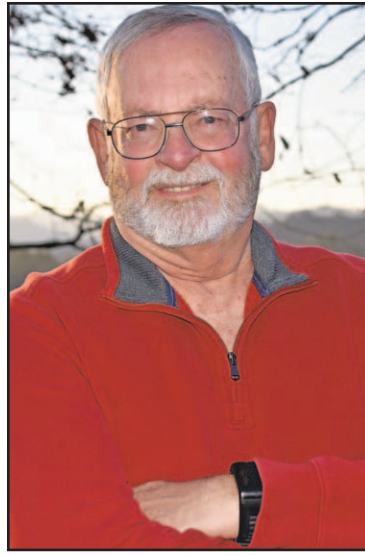


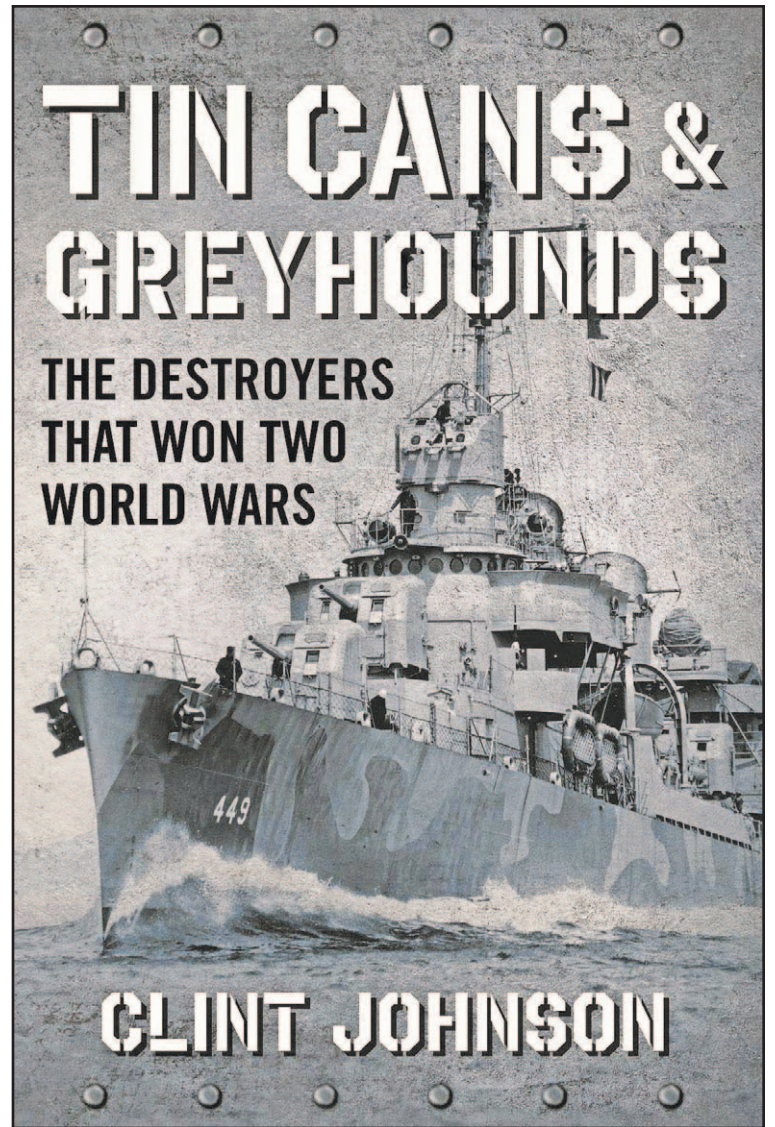
PHOTO PROVIDED

DeSoto High grad Clint Johnson has published a book on naval ships from four nations. From the Class of '71, the writer today lives in Ashe County, N.C.

the 55 destroyers based at Pearl. The six battleships refloated at Pearl Harbor won only 32 battle stars for the rest of the war. The Pearl-based destroyers won 432 battle stars, meaning they were engaged in 432 battles.

It was disarmament talks in the 1930s that ironically allowed the U.S. to modernize its aging WWI-era fleet of destroyers. Still, those remaining WWI-era destroyers played major roles in winning WWII when many were converted to fast attack transports, mine layers, mine sweepers and seaplane tenders.

Clint Johnson details the history of destroyers from 1874 through the end of World War II.



Johnson credits DeSoto High teachers for sparking an interest in history.

He covers the destroyers of Great Britain (which developed the ship type), as well as Japan (which refined the type in the 1920s), United States (which

perfected it with the Fletcher and Allen M. Sumner classes) and Germany (which designed lousy destroyers that failed in their first major battle).

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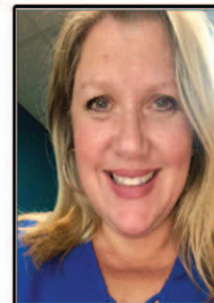
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DeSoto Fair's Small Animal Costume Contest



PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

The Small Animal Costume Contest at the DeSoto County Fair is a big deal ... and always fun! Kids placing in the 2019 contest are: (First-fourth place) Soleil Lempenau (left), Sorrel Anderson, Austin Henning (fourth place), and Addison Baker.



Taylor Baker and her "cake" Wobbles.



Aiden White is the matador with his "bull" bunny.



Mason Rioux and Ocean in their neat flower and bee costumes.

Real horsepower, Florida Pulls at Turner Center



PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

Southern Draft Horse Association Florida Pulls ran Saturday at the Turner Center. Photographer Priscilla McDaniel captured a few images of these wonderful animals and their owners.



A Belgian Heavy Draft horse will weigh more than a ton and stand seven feet tall. The world's largest Belgian Draft weighed 3,200 pounds.

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... And Make Your Choice from our Church Directory

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Life Groups - 9:30am
Contemporary Worship - 10:45am
Wednesdays
Adult, Youth & Children's Ministries - 6pm
863-494-4345
www.cbcarcadia.org

North Hillsborough Baptist Church
(253 N. Hillsborough Ave.)
Pastor Ellis Cross
863-494-3455
Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday 6:30pm
Thursday Youth Group 6pm

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SO LOVED THE WORLD
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SON, SO
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JOHN 3:16

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Rev. Anthony Arias
Pastor
Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
All Welcome!

See your Church in this spot
Contact Tami
494-5201
for more information

Oak Hill Baptist
Arcadia, Florida
5104 NW Oak Hill Ave.
863-494-6224
REV. JERRY WATERS
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am and 6:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm for Prayer Group, Youth & Children

See Your Church in this spot
Call Tami at **494-5201** for more details.

Fort Ogden United Methodist Church
6923 SW River St.
863.494.3881
Sunday Worship 10:00AM
Nursery & Children's Church Provided
Monday AA & AL Anon 7:30PM
Wednesday Bible Study 11AM-6PM

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Contact Tami
494-5201
for more information

PINE LEVEL UNITED METHODIST
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9596 Pine Level St., Arcadia
863- 494-0044
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9am Contemporary Service
10am Sunday School
11am Traditional Service
Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children's Programs 7 PM
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www.pinelevelumc.com

Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church
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SUN. SCHOOL 9:45AM
WORSHIP 11:00AM
EVENING 6:00PM
WEDNESDAY 6:30PM
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ARCADIA, FL 34266
863-993-5568

St. Edmund Episcopal Church
327 W. Hickory St.
Arcadia
863-494-0485
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Misa en espanol Dom 7:00 pm
www.EpiscopalArcadiaFl.com

Trinity United Methodist Church
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Sunday School 10:45 am
Sun. 4:30 p.m. UMYF
Wed. 6:30 pm Bible Study
Nursery Available
Pastor Louie Mabrey
View Service at: trinityarcadia.com

See your Church in this spot
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494-5201
for more information

OBITUARIES

Shane Coker Stikeleather



Shane Coker Stikeleather, 55, of Clayton, Ga., passed away on Feb. 9, 2019. Mr. Stikeleather was born June 24, 1963, in Arcadia, Fla., the son of Sonja Ann Coker Stikeleather and the late Lovick Haldon Stikeleather.

Throughout his life, Shane had various hobbies that he loved and mastered, including cycling, golfing, sea kayaking, riding motorcycles, playing guitar and watching football. He was a visionary and innovator during his career as a building contractor and land developer. When he had a goal, he pursued it endlessly and with passion. He had a keen wit to match his lyrical, infectious laugh. He had a fervent faith in and a genuine, personal relationship with God. He felt God's love and peace most when in the outdoors doing the things he loved in the sunshine and especially at the beach. He was a devoted son and brother, and most of all he was a loving and caring father and grandfather.

Shane is survived by his mother, Sonja Stikeleather, of Clayton, Ga.; two daughters, Rachel Stikeleather Briones of Tiger, Ga., Julia Stikeleather Bearden of Dillard, Ga.; two sisters, Carrie Summerlin Tatro (George) of Atlanta, Laurel Erin Ramey (Michael) of Franklin, N.C.; two grandchildren, Maia Dawne Bearden, Landon Charles Briones; one niece, Cheyenne Brantley; two nephews, Justin Colbert, Jared Colbert.

A memorial service was held in the Chapel of Beck Funeral Home on Feb. 12, 2019. The family asks in lieu of flowers that donations be made in Shane's memory to The National Alliance of Mental Health: 4120 Presidential Pkwy., Suite 200 Atlanta, Ga. 30340.

Beck Funeral Home, Clayton, Ga., handled the arrangements. An online memorial register book is available, www.beckfuneralhome.com.

Ruthie Lee (Williams) Edwards

The angels came lovingly and peacefully for Ruthie Lee (Williams) Edwards at her home on Dec. 17, 2018. Ruthie



was born in Wauchula, Fla., on Feb. 18, 1935, and graduated from Hardee High School. She moved to Arcadia with her family in 1958 and worked at G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital, retiring after 37 years.

Ruthie and her husband, James, moved to Okeechobee and spent many wonderful years of retirement fishing and enjoying time with family and friends. Ruthie is preceded in death by her parents, J. W. and Edith Williams; husband, James Edwards; daughter, Linda Gayle Butts; and her brother, Edward C. Williams.

Ms. Edwards is survived by her son, Keith Edwards; siblings, David (Alice) Williams and Margaret (Vaughn) Aiken; sister-in-law, Doris Williams; granddaughter, Mindy Butts, and grandson, Jamie Butts; and great-grandchildren, Alexis Backer, Haylee Butts, Alexis Campbell and Destiny Campbell; numerous nieces, nephews and great/great great nieces and nephews, along with extended family members, Joe Barfield, Doris Barfield, Beckie Pearce and son, Lawrence.

Ruthie was a blessing to her family and friends and her love and kindness will be missed by all who knew her.

A family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Words of Comfort

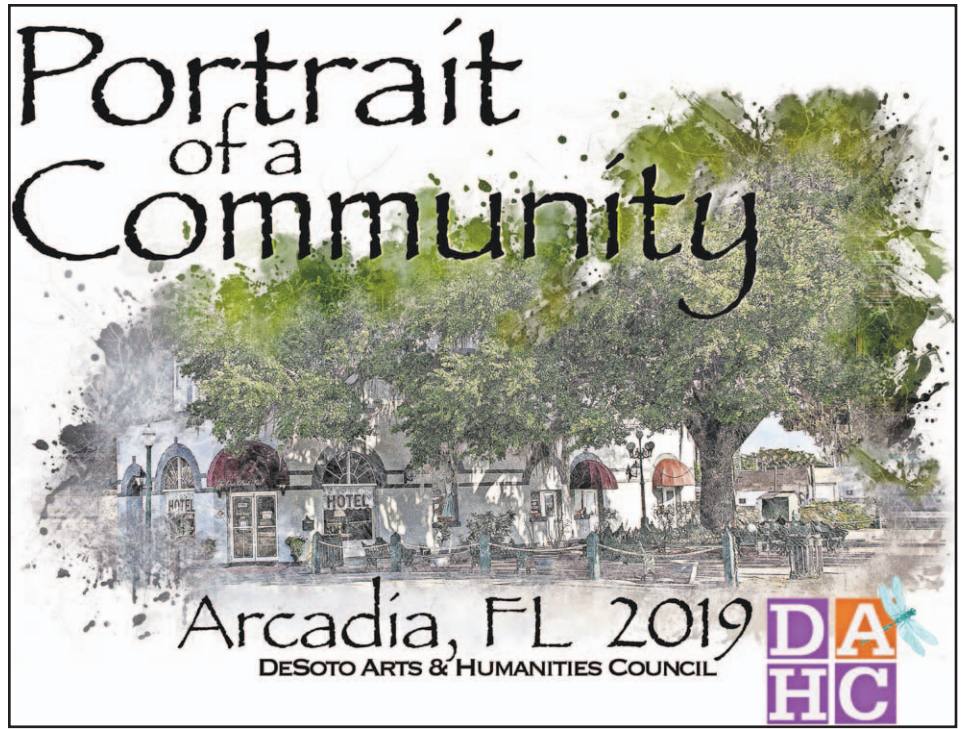
Death is the end of a lifetime, not the end of a relationship.

- Mitch Albom



OBITUARY POLICY

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



'Portrait of a Community,' Feb. 23 at SFSC

ARCADIAN STAFF

How artists see a town is the focus of "Portrait of a Community," a new art show that "Captures Life in Arcadia."

Paintings, photography and writing will be displayed at the DeSoto campus of South Florida State College. The work in their mediums is how artists interpret Arcadia. They had visited sites around the city since June, writing, painting or using cameras to translate their visions. The project originated from and is hosted by the DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council.


The exhibit begins with a 6-8 p.m. public reception at the SFSC campus on Feb. 22, with musical entertainment by Matt Nipper and Linda Reesor. That Saturday, Feb. 23, the show opens at 10 a.m. and runs till 3 p.m. "Taste of a Community" will be held outside on Saturday with tapas selections from Mary Margaret's Tea & Biscuit,

MyShelley's Kitchen and Azul Tequila. Everything on the menu will be \$5 or less. Musical entertainment on Saturday is sponsored by Mac Martin.

"Portrait of a Community" is a project of the DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council. Nearly 40 community partners, from businesses to government agencies, hosted the artists and will be featured in a special photo exhibit. The artists will have work available for purchase. Admission is free to the exhibit.

This is just the beginning of the new DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council. In March, the council hosts the Second Annual "Mac Martin" Florida Cowboy Art Championship. We invite you to join our art community, learn more about the arts, and come see the work of our talented artists. The SFSC DeSoto campus is at 2251 NE Turner Ave. "Portrait of a Community" and DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council details are at www.desotoartscouncil.org.

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



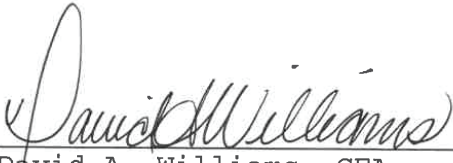
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Notice of Certification of Tax Roll


Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, David A. Williams, Property Appraiser for DeSoto County, Florida hereby gives notice that the final certification for the 2018 DeSoto County Tax Roll was made to the Tax Collector on February 12, 2019.



David A. Williams, CFA
DeSoto County Property Appraiser

adno=3656190-1

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adno=3651478-1

Nocatee Old Timers Reunion welcoming



Becky Roberson Johnson (left), Colleen Donaldson and Carol Purdy share good times, and that Becky had once served as Nocatee's Halloween Queen, Little League Queen and as Pony League Queen. Hard to top that list, her friends agreed.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

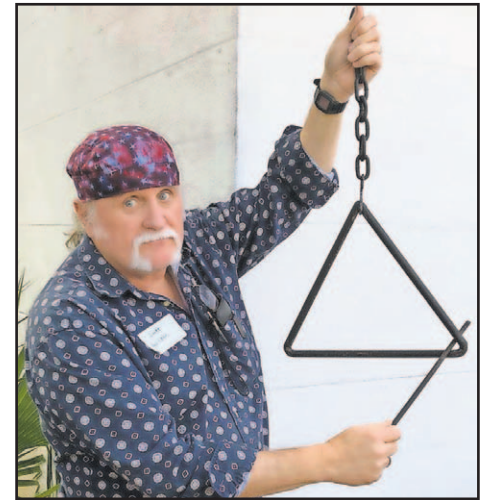
The Nocatee Old-Timers Reunion on Saturday included BBQ chefs Dustin Goss (left), J.W. Wilson, Carl Wiley and Doug Tanner. The annual event brings happy memories, great food and plenty of catching up in the heart of central Florida.



DeSoto Sheriff Jim Potter (left) and Michelle Apadoca serve lunch to Geri and Gibby Sullivan.



Above: Nocatee buddies Cliff Roberson (left), Tommy "Buck" Osteen and Royce Mott played Little League and Senior League baseball together in their hometown.



Right: Luke Wilson sounds a dinner bell for the big BBQ lunch.

Arcadia Woman's Club, Feb. 11 meeting minutes

By **CAROLYN ADAMS**
ARCADIA WOMAN'S CLUB

Our clubhouse for the Feb. 11 Arcadia Woman's Club gathering was beautifully decorated by Linda Gromen, with red Valentine's Day placemats and red plates with white tablecloths and pretty red flowery centerpieces. Linda Waters introduced the five new members — Assmeth Devine, Linda Reisor, Rosemary Hayes, Kay Barrow and Linda Talley, welcome to the club. A birthday wish went to Betty Miller, who was unable to be present, and anniversary best wishes to Linda.

Lunch was served and was enjoyed by all 17 present. Guest speaker this month was Jerry Waters. He and his wife have been Florida residents for over 44 years. Jerry and has a degree in photography and zoology. His presentation was on local varieties and migrating birds. All the beautiful bird pictures are his originals. He explained all the different habits and showed the eating processes of many species. Of course we all knew males have the prettiest feathers. It was very interesting and informative; thank you, Jerry Waters.

The meeting was called to order by Linda Waters, and a treasurer's report was given by Iris Varner. The board asked Carolyn Adams to fill in temporarily. It was also reported the Fashion Show was a great success and some members were sporting their beautiful new garments. We also discussed the coffee brunch we had Feb.9. It was a fun get-together, visiting with new ladies from many parts of our country. The breakfast brunch was great!

New business is the upcoming strawberry shortcake sale at Pioneer

Day, our fundraiser on March 16. Members bake cakes and donate bowls in which to serve shortcake. This is one of our favorite community events, working together and having fun. Looking forward to Pioneer

Day & BBQ in Veterans Memorial Park; hope to see you all!

Make plans for your next party at the Arcadia Woman's Club — birthdays, weddings, showers and family reunions. It is a nice location

with security. Call to reserve: Ashley Westberry, 863-558-4178, 863-558-4178

God bless all of our service members, keep them safe. And happy spring!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service (FFS) and the Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group announce two (2) public meetings and a public hearing to which all persons are invited.

DATE & TIME: Organizational Public Meeting – Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group, February 21, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: County Commission Chambers, 201 East Oak Street, Suite 103, Arcadia, FL 34266

PURPOSE: To allow the Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group to prepare for a public hearing later in the day which will provide recommendations to the FFS to help in preparation of a management plan for the Peace River State Forest.

DATE & TIME: Public Meeting/Hearing – Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group, February 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: County Commission Chambers, 201 East Oak Street, Suite 103, Arcadia, FL 34266

PURPOSE: To solicit comments on management of the Peace River State Forest. Comments may be presented orally or in writing at the hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to FFS's Peace River State Forest Office at Myakka River District, 4723 53rd Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34203 to the attention of Eric Strickland and should be mailed so as to arrive at the office prior to the date of the public hearing.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Remarks
2. Summary of Draft Ten-Year Land Management Plan
3. Question / Answer on Plan Content
4. Public Comment
5. Process Summation and Adjournment

DATE & TIME: Workshop Public Meeting - Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group, February 21, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: County Commission Chambers, 201 East Oak Street, Suite 103, Arcadia, FL 34266

PURPOSE: To allow the Peace River State Forest Management Plan Advisory Group to review comments from the public hearing and provide recommendations to the FFS to help in preparation of a management plan for the Peace River State Forest.

Copies of a working draft of the plan and the management prospectus are available before the date of the public hearing online at http://www.freshfromflorida.com/public_notices/; by contacting the Peace River State Forest in writing at Myakka River District, 4723 53rd Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34203; or contacting Eric Strickland at (941) 213-6983.

Special accommodations for persons with a disabling condition should be requested in writing to the FFS's Peace River State Forest office at the above listed address at least 72 hours in advance of these proceedings. Any request for special accommodations can be made by writing to the FFS's Peace River State Forest Office at the above listed address.

You are hereby notified in accordance with Chapter 286.0105, Florida Statutes, should you decide to appeal any decision made as a result of, or take exception to any findings of fact with respect to any matter considered at the hearing and meeting referred to above, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. Such record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



Practicing firefighters, how hard is it? These people are nuts

By CRAIG GARRETT
ARCADIAN EDITOR

No one wants to see a firefighter. Until they're needed. Suddenly, they're superheroes.

But it's not magic they perform. Firefighters, paramedics and the commanders, they drill like crazy, workshop and network, bubblegum and rubberband old trucks, radios and pumps, juggle schedules as new hires run away for better pay, do anything short of selling Girl Scout cookies to stay tuned for battle.

And when things hit the fan, there they are, professional and prepared.

DeSoto County's fire-rescue workers on Friday circled up at the former Winn-Dixie complex on State Road 70, the veterans and a few fresh hires and their equipment in mock-drill mode for a giant blaze that under real conditions could be tragic if not checkmated.

Under warm morning skies and the drone of SR-70 traffic, DeSoto Fire-Rescue Chief Chad Jorgensen gave a 45-minute refresher, some in the acronyms and jargon of a professional firefighter. Such things as offensive firefighting, collapse zones, IDHL, or In Danger of Life and Health, attack teams and other terms got shared with his team. To an outsider, it's dull, like a doctor using medical terms to

describe bypass surgery. You drift, burning time, watching a wire-thin man on a kid bike jet by, planes like bees buzzing around, orange trucks spilling citrus on sharp turns.

But then Jorgensen starts the war stories, the combat tours, the suddenly collapsing roofs, the hanging wires that trap a firefighter in black mazes, the empty oxygen canisters, the fear of traps, of finding expired civilians just feet from fresh air, the yearly list of dead or injured fire crews. It sinks in this work is dangerous and can be sad, that these firefighters wrestling death and paramedics almost like doctors, these kids in the circle who are flexing their muscles and kidding around like high-schoolers, are crazy.

The whole scene, though, suddenly is clearer when paying attention to them, to their intensity, to the realism of a combat-like unit, the gallows humor public safety will use to soften a violent car wreck, the regard each has for the other, age, gender or race aside, the dignity each possesses and the respect they have earned, that's when you understand why they're in a circle preparing for the worst.



Water gives life in more than a few ways.



Pre-exercise briefing at the former Winn-Dixie complex in Arcadia.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG GARRETT



DeSoto Volunteer Fire Chief Tim Backer (left) and DeSoto Fire-Rescue Chief Chad Jorgensen hash details before crews simulated a building fire in Arcadia.



DeSoto crews worked Friday to refine their skills.



Firefighters get water moving in practice drills. The real deal is far more stressful and involves hyper-awareness of such things as collapsing walls/collapse zones, hidden flames and rescue strategies.



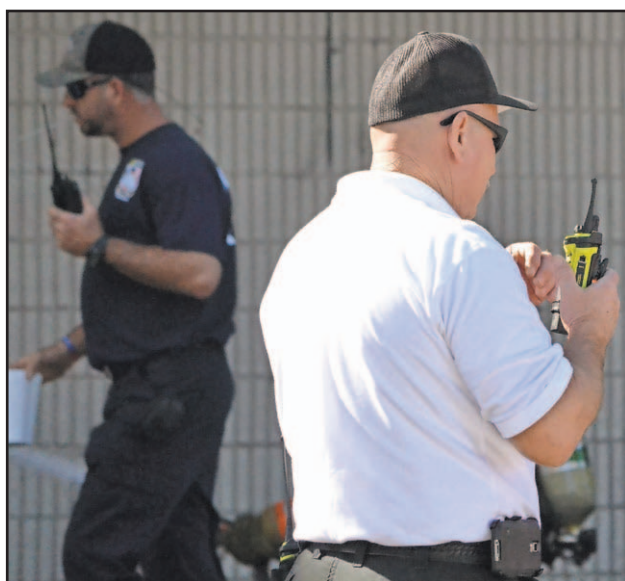
Racing to secure a hose clamp.



The job is physical, hot and sometimes dangerous. Reeling a firehose and getting cold water on hot flames begins the process.



Firefighters stacked their equipment before Friday's drill kicked into second gear.



Communication is critical in emergencies.



Readying for fire exercises to begin.



Practice refines important lessons.



Planning is key to containing a fire and keeping rescue workers safe.

DeSoto SPORTS EXTRA

Bulldogs win big on Senior Night, 80-48

By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS EDITOR

The final regular season home game for the DeSoto County boys basketball team turned out just as if they had written up the script themselves.

They scored a big win over Frostproof, 80-48—and everyone on the team scored.

Arnold Mele led the team with 22 points that included six three-pointers. Four of those shots from outside the arc came in the first half, as Mele had 16 points by half-time. Nate Maybell finished with 19, including a dunk that brought the players and fans out of their seats.

With Mele breaking loose on a fast break, he looked over his shoulder just as he entered three-point land. He saw Maybell just a few yards behind him, so Mele intentionally bounced the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Fred Fields hauls in a rebound and feeds it off to Kawassmi Wilson for another bucket in the 80-48 win over Frostproof on Senior Night.

ball off the glass and into the waiting hands of Maybell. Skinny did what he has done all season, as he slammed the ball through the strings and hung on the rim for a little after-effect.

Players and the crowd loved it.

Nehemiah Hillard navigates traffic for two of his nine points in the win over Frostproof.



Rosario's last-second shot ... Bulldogs win on Senior Night

By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS EDITOR

"When I let it go, I felt like it was going to go in ... and it did. It was crazy. I couldn't believe it went in, so I'm happy now," said Jas'Juan Rosario.

Chris Harris was the defensive star of the game and he saw it differently. "To be honest, I was a little scared. He's kind of tilted a little bit and I said 'please make this' and it went in ... and I was just so happy."

They were talking about the three-pointer from the corner that gave the JV Bulldogs a 51-49 win over Frostproof on Senior Night. The thing that made it even better was that Rosario hadn't made a three-pointer throughout the entire game but felt confident enough to fire it up with just four seconds left on the clock.

The southpaw said, "I had missed every one that I tried tonight, but I knew I could make it."

DeSoto took a 14-7 lead after the first period, but were outscored 22-8 in the second period to trail 29-22 at the break. Frostproof lead by as many as nine points, with the majority of the damage being done by Frostproof's eighth-grader AJ Cobb. The big man scored 15 of the team's 22 second-period points.

The Bulldogs were missing two of their big men, though, one to an injury and the other to a DeSoto Fair commitment. They could have shut Cobb down, but he took over the boards and dominated the game in the paint as the Bulldogs tried unsuccessfully to stop him.

DeSoto came out of the break with a nice 7-0 run to tie the game and a strategy to stop Cobb. Harris, who stood several inches shorter than Cobb, played him closer than paint on a parkbench.

"Nobody was able to guard number 15 (Cobb) because he was so big, but I didn't see his height," Harris said. "I just



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jas'Juan Rosario gets physical for two of his seven points. His three-pointer with four seconds left gave the Bulldogs a 51-49 win over Frostproof.

took the opportunity to guard him so we could stop him and come back to win the game."

Harris held Cobb to just two points in the second half, a freethrow in each period was all he could come up with against Harris. Once Harris fouled out of the game with 2:45 left to play, Antonio Watson took over and continued to stymie Cobb. Watson fouled out with 1:17 left to play and the Bulldogs up by just three points, Chris Sanders finished what Harris and Watson had started.

DeSoto led by two going into the final frame. There were plenty of big shots to go around. Jaheiman Hillard hit another of his patented three-pointers from the corner to break the 37-all tie. Garrett Leath drove to the hoop for another two points and Tony Blanding had a layup to

ROSARIO | 15

Bulldogs eliminated at regional game

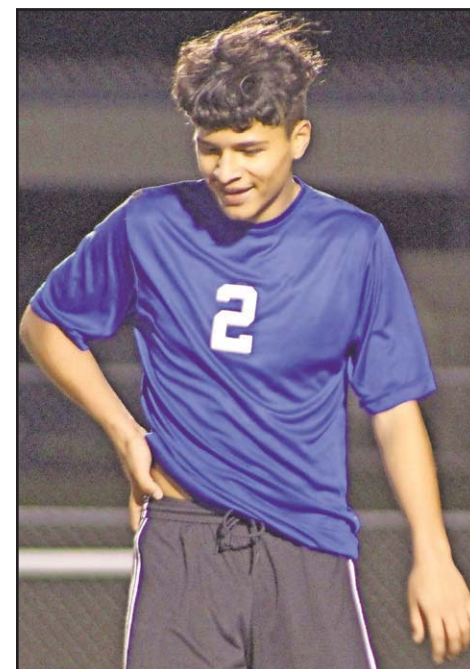
By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS EDITOR

The DeSoto County boys soccer team got into the regional round of the post-season tournament before their season ended with a loss at Clewiston.

The Bulldogs had to beat Sarasota Military Academy to get into the district championship game. In the district semifinals, they trailed SMA 1-0 at the half. Alejandro Garcia got the tying goal for DeSoto. With 13 minutes left in the game, Eduardo Maldonado put a header in the net to give the Bulldogs a 2-1 lead.

The Bulldogs played a solid defense for the rest of the game and took home the 2-1 win. They traveled to Cardinal Mooney for the district championship, but were turned back 5-0, giving DeSoto a second-place finish in the districts.

They then traveled to Clewiston, where their season came to an end with a loss to end the season.



Freshman Alejandro Garcia scored the game-tying goal against Sarasota Military Academy. The 2-1 win put the Bulldogs into the district championship game.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Eduardo Maldonado is congratulated by teammates Noel Maldonado (5), Leandro Luna and Daniel Villafuerte after his game-winning shot gave the Bulldogs a 2-1 win over Sarasota Military Academy.

Way the ball bounces



PHOTO PROVIDED

DeSoto County basketball coach Darrel Nicklow (left) and Port Charlotte coach Kip Rhoten talk before the season finale last week. The longtime friends and former coaching team at DeSoto started their season against each other and ended it the same way. In the opener the Pirates won by three points, and then went on to win every game during the season to end up 23-0. Port Charlotte's 68-44 win capped the perfect season.

Cross Creek pickleballers rock, gold for doubles pair

By NEIL SIMPSON
HEARTLAND SENIOR GAMES

Some 120 pickleballers on Saturday dinked balls over the net gently, playing a finesse game, or drilled them at their opponents feet in a power game in the Heartland Senior Games doubles pickleball tournament. Forty-two women and 84 men competed in five-year age brackets, from 50 to 54 up to 80 to 84.

DeSoto County was well represented at the competition. A large contingent of spectators

PAIR | 17

PHOTO BY NEIL SIMPSON

Pickleballers from DeSoto County include Cross Creek's winning doubles pair, Gisele (Grasshopper) Boyes (center) and her (60-64 bracket) doubles partner Alex Pavao. Heartland Senior Games are hosted by South Florida State College and run through the month.



ROSARIO

FROM PAGE 14

complete the 7-0 DeSoto run to give the Bulldogs a 44-37 lead.

Frostproof kept coming back like a broke cousin. They tied the game at 46 with exactly one minute to play. Blanding's jumper gave DeSoto the lead 48-46, but Frostproof hit a trey to

give them a 49-48 lead with 11 seconds left. That set the stage for Rosario's game-winner.

Blanding led the Bulldogs with 18, Watson had 11 with Hillard at eight and Rosario adding seven more points.

An emotional coach Joe Davis thanked the players after the game for a very good season.

He said, "You grew up tonight. You found a way to win. You played together

and worked as a team. Everyone did their part, you knew what your roles were in the game and you did it. When the bell rings after school next week, I won't know what to do. I am going to miss not being here with you in the gym. Thank you for this season. I'm so proud of all of you."

Sometimes a coach will tell a team that everyone contributed to the win, but the players think of just the scoring leaders as being the ones who led the team to the

win. It was important to have every single point that the Bulldogs earned, that's for sure.

In the locker room Harris' teammates were slapping him on the back and congratulating him for a great defensive game. He was just as big of a hero as Rosario who made the game-winning shot.

How many points did Harris score? None. He made his contribution on defense ... and that's what wins games too.

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Tiny Changes: Getting the right start

...I said to the sun, "Good mornin' sun
Rise and shine today...
'Cause it's a good day for payin' your bills
And it's a good day for curin' your ills
So take a deep breath and throw away your pills
'Cause it's a good day from mornin' to night."

David M. Barbour/Peggy Lee
Getting off to the right start can have a significant impact on the quality and effectiveness of your entire day. We've all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. I say that's true for a variety of reasons, and that is why breakfast is the third important element that needs to be included in your everyday morning routine:

"First thing" water, (1-2 bottles) and water throughout the day totaling at least 85 ounces.

5-10 minutes of "in bed" deep-breath stretching (gratitude list, praying, talking to God)

Metabolism enhancing breakfast (30g of protein; eggs, meat or shake)

If you are a person who has historically eaten doughnuts and coffee on the run, a quick bowl of cereal or skipped breakfast entirely, this recommended morning routine



Marilyn McConnell

may seem complicated or a bit of a pain in the neck at first. However, I assure you it is well worth making it a habit. It will save you from two evils, hurry and indecision. Believe in the routine and stick to it. Think of food as fuel. Stoke the furnace and oil the pistons.

When you eat the correct amount of protein, your brain sends the signals to repair and regenerate your muscles. While the muscles are repairing, a happy side effect is that they're also burning excess fat and becoming healthier. Muscle health is the single greatest indicator of vitality and longevity. Nourished muscles will help you feel and move better.

We all know a hundred ways to indulge and fall off the "diet" wagon, but it's actually how we deal with it that is most important. Not reacting appropriately costs us precious time.

There is a mind game people play with themselves. Let's say they slip.

Maybe it's a trip to the dessert bar at lunch. Instead of jumping right back into their "discipline shoes", they say to themselves, "Oh well, I already blew it so I'm just going to go to town and have a sundae, half a pizza, three pieces of raisin toast with PB & J." You know your personal favorites. Of course, this is followed by, "I'll start fresh another day,"... all this instead of an immediate course correction.

Consistently putting off what we know we should be doing, making excuses and kicking the can down the road, is an overall energy drain and a dose of self-sabotage that none of us needs. "I'll just start tomorrow or Monday or at the first of the month or after Valentine's Day or after my birthday." etc., does not serve anyone well. Action is too often deferred or delayed. People quilt together a pattern of poor choices that can lead to a weight gain every year which can be devastating to both physical and emotional health. So let's not do that! Instead, I invite you to start anew with my three-step morning routine.

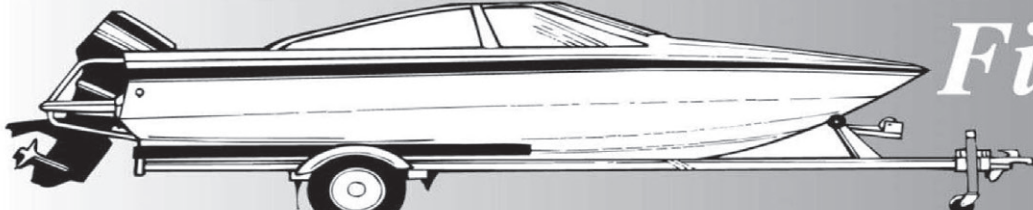
How would you like to have a delicious, guilt-free omelette for breakfast any morning you'd like to? My 82-year-old father does most mornings, and lost 44 pounds of fat in five months. Not only can you lose

the fat, you can keep it off, as he has for over three years. He said, "Now that I understand how to choose food and do the protein requirement math, it makes it incredibly simple! I would never go back to my old way of eating which made me so fat and uncomfortable."

Give it a go! You make my easy "Good-Day" omelette with ingredients from any grocery store. Throw two eggs in a greased pan, pour in carton egg whites to cover the bottom of the pan, stir, put in two slices of chopped boiled ham, and cover. Wait until it's cooked through, place 1 slice of swiss cheese on one side and then fold eggs over to cover. Serve with 1 piece of toast with cottage cheese and salsa on top if desired. This recipe delivers 30 grams of protein to feed and repair your hungry, fat burning muscles. Enjoy!

Make it a great day. Be kind to one other, and to yourselves.

Marilyn McConnell is a wellness expert who, over three decades in Toronto and Chicago, has helped people with personal presentation, weight loss, longevity, organization, downsizing and related lifestyle design. She now lives in Arcadia, much closer to her immediate family. 312-659-2424



Fish for a great deal in the classifieds!

VETERAN'S STAND DOWN COURT 2019



**SATURDAY, April 13, 2019
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PAIR

FROM PAGE 15

was on hand from start to finish, watching some exciting action on the courts at Tanglewood in Sebring. The day started out fine but a blast of chilly air soon blew through. When the clouds lifted there were strong winds which played havoc with the lightweight plastic pickleballs. Fortunately, the rain held off until the final match of the day.

The doubles pickleball tournament, the largest event on the Heartland Games calendar, attracted players from Arcadia, Lake Placid, Sebring, Avon Park, Frostproof, Lakeland, Kissimmee, The Villages and beyond.

The Arcadia contingent, all from Cross Creek RV Resort, had Andre and Jacques Charlebois plus Bill Monnon and Alex Pavao competing in the men's 60 to 64 year old group. Frank Rossano and Marcel Marquis, as well as Sandy Williams and Apolo Starr, played in the 70 to 74 age bracket.

The Charlebois brothers lost in round one, moving them into the consolation bracket where they won their first game, 16-14, against a team from Tanglewood. They then met up with a tandem from Sun n Lake, Sebring, and were knocked out of

the tournament, losing 15 to 9.

Bill Monnon and Alex Pavao formed a strong partnership that carried them to a bronze medal. In the first round they defeated a team from Frostproof, 11-6, 11-4. In round two they won the first game, 11-2, then lost a close one, 14-10, before taking the victory over their opponents from Sun n Lake, 11-2. Round three saw them pitted against a pair from Lakeland where they suffered their first loss of the day, 13-11 and 11-6, to the eventual gold-medal winners. This put them into a battle with the tournament's silver medalists which they lost, 15-6.

Sandy Williams and Apolo Starr played all three of their matches against teams from the host Tanglewood. After moving to the consolation round, they won their first game, 15 to 11, but were knocked out of play with a 15-7 loss in the next game.

Frank Rossano and Marcel Marquis also faced teams from Tanglewood, losing in the first round with scores of 11-5 and 12-10. Second round play saw them eliminated after losses of 11-5 and 11-3.

On Sunday, fifty mixed-doubles teams took over the courts, with both temperatures and competition heating up considerably through the day.

Once again, wind played a factor in the games.

Two of the men from Cross Creek returned with female partners to compete in mixed doubles. Bronze-medal winner from Saturday, Alex Pavao, returned with his partner Gisela (Grasshopper) Boyes, and the defending tournament champions didn't disappoint their fans. Frank Rossano was also back with Louise Vermette at his side.

In the first round, Vermette and Rossano met up with a team comprised of a man from Tanglewood and a woman from The Villages who is a veteran of numerous competitions across the nation. The locals lost both games and moved to the "opportunity" bracket where they lost a hard fought battle, 15-11, against a duo from Avon Park.

Boyes and Pavao traveled a long path to get to the championship game in their 60-64 age group. They started off with a two-game win in the first match against a team from Buttonwood Bay, Sebring. That was followed by another straight-set victory over a tandem out of Lake Ashton in Lake Wales. The third round pitted them against last year's silver medalists, but the locals dominated with wins of 11-7 and 11-2 over the Tanglewood pair. Next up was a team from



PHOTOS BY NEIL SIMPSON

Pavao and Boyes crushed the competition in doubles play.

Avon Park that went on to take the bronze medal. This was the first real challenge of the day, but Pavao and Boyes came out on top with a 13-11 loss, combined with wins of 12-10 and 11-7. On to the gold-medal match against the Sebring duo they had destroyed in round three. Once again, the Cross Creek couple crushed the competition with convincing wins of 11-6 and 11-2.

Pickleball is reported to be the fastest growing sport in North America. In Highlands County it has taken off like wildfire in the past few years with several communities installing courts. Cross Creek has an active program and other DeSoto communities are sure to find a need to build courts in the near future to meet



Charlebois brothers Andre and Jacques play in the 60-64 age bracket.

the demand.

If you have never seen a game of pickleball, you must do so. It is played

on a smaller court than tennis and is much faster paced. Those who try it are quickly addicted.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Toyota's Sequoia rolls forward with powerhouse

By **LEN INGRASSIA**
ARCADIAN AUTOMOTIVE
CORRESPONDENT

There are just a handful of large SUVs that can tow the big stuff people move from point A to B. In the marketplace, you can make the journey with powerhouse V8s, fully optioned interiors and room for eight, with luggage.

After an extended review with Toyota's Sequoia, we experienced its athleticism and comfortable ride ... as well as a few quirks.

Pros:

Massive interior
Powerful engine
7,000-pound towing

Cons:

Infotainment system lacking
Poor fuel economy
Dated interior

Because of its size, there is a commanding view of the road only bettered by 18-wheelers. While it is hard to lose in a parking lot, we found the need to plan exit routes carefully since it is easier to drive forward than reverse, even with the backup camera.

For 2019, Sequoia is available in four trim levels; base SR5 (\$48,700) with standard

emergency braking, TRD Sport, Limited and Platinum. Our test of the TRD, equipped with three-row seating and captain's chairs, was ideal for family trips to the beach.

While its sheetmetal is unchanged dating to 2007, its powerhouse V8 comes through for heavy towing and highway travel. You may want to look elsewhere if your commute is laden with city streets.

TRD exterior badging adds a sporty touch, including blackened grille with chrome surround, black satin side-door markers, black alloy wheels, tuned Bilstein shocks and anti-sway bars, the latter of which came in handy on interstates.

Mated with a six-speed automatic transmission, the Sequoia moves with strength and some level of poise. With all this power, however, the downside is its 14 combined EPA tested miles per gallon, although we managed 15.5. Rival Ford Expedition and Chevy's Suburban and Tahoe fare better.

We do recommend springing for the \$3,500 Premium package to dress up an otherwise dated interior. It includes full leather stitched seating, heated

and power adjustable driver and passenger seats, power fold-flat, third-row seating and updated audio. For a few thousand more, the Platinum trim adds wood-grain panels and more amenities.

We took issue, however, with its tiny touchscreen that is difficult to see and navigate during daytime hours due to constant glare and awkward touch capability. On the plus side, there are lots of storage areas inside, including a giant center-console compartment, strategically placed large cupholders in all three rows, and adult room in the third row.

Keep in mind this is ladder-on-frame truck underpinnings, not SUV based, and as such does not have low loading for cargo or easy entry and exit from seats.

We think the Sequoia's biggest asset is its build quality and a safety suite that includes radar cruise control (*not* full stop), pre-collision system with pedestrian detection and rear cross-traffic alert, blind-spot monitors, front and rear parking assist, lane-departure alert and automatic high beams. Rivals charge additional bucks for similar technology.



PHOTOS BY LEN INGRASSIA

Toyota's 2019 Sequoia TRD Sport features black alloys, a redesigned grille and special badging.

If your travel requires the need for big power and a level of ride comfort, be sure to include the Sequoia in your test-drive shortlist.

Contact independent automotive columnist Len Ingrassia at lenscarcorner@comcast.net

2019 Toyota Sequoia TRD

Engine: 5.7-liter V8, 381 hp, 401 lb.ft. torque

EPA estimated fuel economy: 13 city, 17 highway, 14 combined.

Assembled: Toyota manufacturing facilities

in Princeton, Ind.; U.S./Canadian parts content, 60 percent; major source of foreign parts, Japan, 25 percent; country of origin for engine, U.S.; transmission, U.S., Japan and Thailand.

Crash test ratings: Neither The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) nor the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has tested the Sequoia as of this writing.

Warranty: 3-year/36,000 bumper to bumper; 5-year/60,000 mile powertrain; 2-year/25,000 mile scheduled maintenance

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Name change at Arcadia bank

First State Bank of Arcadia is undergoing a name change. Starting on Tuesday, the bank will be known as **Crews Bank & Trust**. The new name echoes that of the owner, Crews Banking Corp., a privately held bank holding company that operates three other Central and Southwest Florida financial institutions.

"Everything about who First State Bank of Arcadia is at its core will remain the same," said CEO Jake Crews, a fourth-generation Crews family member whose great-grandfather, J.W. Crews Sr., started it all at Wauchula State Bank in 1929. "There's no change in ownership, no change in the way we do business."

Wauchula State Bank was followed by First State Bank of Arcadia in 1973. The two other banks under the Crews umbrella are Charlotte State Bank & Trust and Englewood Bank & Trust, established in 1987 and 1988, respectively.

There will be updates to the First State/Crews Bank brand's look and feel, which Crews and bank President Kevin Hagan said were designed to help modernize the bank and help it continue to thrive in an era of growth and expansion. The bank operates a satellite loan-production office in Manatee County and will open a full-service office in Sarasota County soon.

Sunnybreeze concert Feb. 23

A musical event at Sunnybreeze featuring The

Punches is Feb. 23 starting at 7 p.m. Bruce and Bobette Punches and their children come from Fredericton, Missouri. This is an exciting family group that loves to share bluegrass/gospel in song. The family plays the mandolin, guitar, bass, banjo, dobro and violin. They have been performing nationwide at churches, festivals, fairs and special events since 2009. \$10, at the door. Sunnybreeze Christian Fellowship, two miles south of Fort Ogden, 11682 Welcome Ave., Arcadia. 863-494 3273

Country legend at Turner Center Feb. 26

Country performer **Moe Bandy** brings his multiple chart-toppers and hits to the Turner Agri Civic Center on Feb. 26. The Steaks & Country Concert offers several ticket packages/meet-and-greet and backstage opportunities. DeSoto Automall is the event sponsor. The Turner Center is at 2250 NE Roan St., Arcadia. General admission tickets run \$15. 863-494-9362, www.sunevents.com

15th Annual Pioneer Day & BBQ

DeSoto County Historical Society seeks businesses, churches, clubs, families and schools in showcasing the history and heritage of Arcadia and DeSoto County during its **15th Annual Pioneer Day & BBQ**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., March 16, at DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park, State Road 70, just west of Arcadia. The Society also seeks people



Edward Lowe Foundation In addition to the 50 second-stage businesses honored at the Florida Companies to Watch gala on Saturday night, Darlene Lowe, CEO and chairman of the Ed Lowe Foundation with roots in DeSoto County, became the inaugural recipient of GrowFL's "Hail Entrepreneur!" award in tribute to the work the Lowes have done to advance the support and advocacy of entrepreneurs nationwide. Pictured are Paul Bowles (left), Joy Kitamori, Darlene Lowe, Tom O'Neal, Kathy Browning and Colleen Killen-Roberts.

to demonstrate traditional skills or old-fashioned crafts such as caning chairs, carving wood, weaving baskets and more. A booth is free for those who provide information only. www.historicdesoto.org, 863-266-5774.

Ed Lowe Foundation honors

In addition to the 50 second-stage businesses honored at the Florida Companies to Watch gala Saturday, **Darlene Lowe**, CEO and chairman of the Ed Lowe Foundation with roots in DeSoto County, became the inaugural recipient of GrowFL's "Hail Entrepreneur!" award in tribute to the work the Lowes have done to advance the support and advocacy of entrepreneurs nationwide. Pictured are Paul Bowles (left), Joy Kitamori, Darlene Lowe, Tom O'Neal, Kathy Browning and Colleen Killen-Roberts.

Free-will offering to support local missions

A concert to support **Pine Level United Methodist Church** mission work is March 2. The event is a free-will offering to hear **Scarborough Fair: A Simon & Garfunkel Experience**, entertainers Jeb and Jock Guthrie who perform music from the legends Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. The Guthries tour nationally. 9596 NW Pine Level St., Arcadia. www.pinelevelchurch.com, 863-494-0040

Modern orb artist in Arcadia

Glass artist **Tanner Castle** brought his wares to the Tater Hill Show on Saturday. The 25-year-old Fort Myers man has gained recognition around the world for his glass art, what some call orbs, or "adult marbles," he said. "It probably translates to childhood," Castle, who apprenticed at the Zen



CASTLE

Glass Studio in St. Pete before striking out, said of his work, which includes experimental use of electrical currents and wood. Castle's Glass Lama art is available at **Old World Antiques** in Arcadia, 134 W.Oak St.

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(F/L A CDL w/Air brake & Tanker endorsements) \$12.01-\$16.55/hr + ben. pkg

Equipment Operator
(F/L DL-preferred B CDL) \$11.41-\$15.73/hr + ben. pkg

Bridge Worker I
(F/L B CDL) \$11.41-\$15.73/hr + ben. pkg

Positions includes, 100% paid Health Insurance for Employee Coverage Job Descriptions @ www.hardeecounty.net...

2100 GENERAL

INSTRUCTOR VACANCIES
•Biology (9-month)
•Chemistry (10-month)
Positions are full-time. Application review begins 4/7/19...

2100 GENERAL

MAINTENANCE TECH (Professional Handyman) WellPath/FCCC F/T
Maintenance service & repairs of plumbing, carpentry, painting, plastering...

THERAPEUTIC SECURITY TECH (TST) Wellpath/FCCC
NEW RATES. Front-line support to residents in living units by continuously monitoring residents & unit activities...

CUSTODY TECH (CT) Wellpath/FCCC
NEW RATES. This position assists C/O's in maintaining custody, safety of residents. Assist with other duties...



13619 SE Hwy. 70, Arcadia

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We are currently Hiring in the Following Departments Registered Nurses
Med Surg, FT Days and Nights. Any Exp. Level. ICU, FT Nights ER, FT Days
Experience preferred Clinical (Non-Nursing) MedSurg, CNA, FT Nights OR, Scrub Tech, FT Days...

Apply online or in person: www.dmh.org
Fax Resumes to: 863-494-8400
DeSoto Memorial Hospital 900 N Robert Ave Arcadia, FL 34266

3112 FICTITIOUS NAME

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: Southwest Pro Wash located at 1758 NE Mike Dr. in the County of Desoto...

3116 NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12th JUDICIAL COURT, IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2017-DR-135

Ruth M. Serna, Petitioner,
Hugo A. Rodriguez, Jr., Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)

TO: HUGO A. RODRIGUEZ
Address: 4390 Waco Rd., Brownsville, TX 78521

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defense...

The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: None

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.)

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of doc-

3116 NOTICE OF ACTION

uments and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: 01/28/2019
Clerk of The Circuit Court
By: Nadia K. Daughtry
Publish: 02/07/19, 02/14/19, 02/21/19, 02/28/19
395956 3652428

Advertise Today!

IN THE 12th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. 2018-CA-000591

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs

ANY UNKNOWN PARTY WHO MAY CLAIM AS HEIR, DEVISEE, GRANTEE, ASSIGNEE, LIENOR, CREDITOR, TRUSTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANT, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST MARTHA ROTHLEUBBER; and UNKNOWN TENANT Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ANY UNKNOWN PARTY WHO MAY CLAIM AS HEIR, DEVISEE, GRANTEE, ASSIGNEE, LIENOR, CREDITOR, TRUSTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANT, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST MARTHA ROTHLEUBBER; last known address, 2683 SW Lois Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266,

Notice is hereby given to ANY UNKNOWN PARTY WHO MAY CLAIM AS HEIR, DEVISEE, GRANTEE, ASSIGNEE, LIENOR, CREDITOR, TRUSTEE, OR OTHER CLAIMANT, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST MARTHA ROTHLEUBBER, that an action of foreclosure on the following property in Desoto County, Florida:

Legal: LOT 34, ORANGE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 81, PUBLIC RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A 2006 NOBILITY KINGSWOOD MODEL 66 X 28 MODEL MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING VIN/SERIAL NO.'S: N8-12896A AND N8-12896B.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Leslie S. White, Esquire, the Plaintiff's attorney...

on or before 02/18/2019

and file the original with the clerk of the court either before service on the Plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or pe-

3116 NOTICE OF ACTION

tition.
DATED ON 1/18/2019.

Nadia K. Daughtry
County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bridgette Rios
Deputy Clerk
Publish: 02/07/19, 02/14/19
380808 3652937

3120 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM P. HUBERT
Deceased.

File No. 2019CP000017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Summary Administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of William P. Hubert, deceased, File Number 2019CP000017, by the Circuit Court for DeSoto County, Florida, Probate Division...

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is February 14, 2019.

Eugene E. Waldron, Jr.
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 794971
EUGENE E. WALDRON JR., P.A.
124 North Brevard Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266
Telephone: (863) 494-4323
Fax: (863) 494-6790
E-Mail: EWaldron@eewj.com
Secondary E-Mail: Service@eewj.com

Person Giving Notice:
Mary E. Hubert
101 School House Ct.
Turnersville, New Jersey 08012
Publish: 02/14/19, 02/21/19
121980 3655718

3120 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL D. ENCKE, a/k/a CAROL D.M. ENCKE, a/k/a CAROL DAWN ENCKE, Deceased

File No. 2019-CP-000016-AXMA
Division PROBATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Carol D. Encke, a/k/a Carol D.M. Encke, a/k/a Carol Dawn Encke, deceased, whose date of death was December 17, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for DeSoto County, Florida, Probate Division...

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 14, 2019.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Forrest J. Bass
Florida Bar Number: 68197
Farr, Farr, Emerich, Hackett, Carr & Holmes, PA
99 Nesbit Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Telephone: (941) 639-1158
Fax: (941) 639-0028
E-Mail: fbass@farr.com
Secondary E-Mail:
bapice@farr.com and
probate@farr.com
Personal Representative:
Jennifer J.E. Canar
327 West Harvest Moon Drive
Saratoga Springs, Utah 84045
Publish: 02/14/19, 02/21/19
114849 3655674

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3120 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF FREDERICK ERWIN BLAIR, Deceased.

File Number: 2019-CP-000004

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of Frederick Erwin Blair, deceased, File Number 2019-CP-000004, is pending in the Circuit Court for Desoto County, Florida, Probate Division...

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is February 7th and 14th, 2019.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Laurie B. Sams, Esq. Florida Bar #136001 3859 Bee Ridge Road, #202 Sarasota, Florida 34233 (941) 923-1685 Personal Representative: Lisa J. Lancaster 2048 Cramer Avenue Akron, OH 44312 Publish:02/07/19, 02/14/19 125788 3654166

3138 OTHER NOTICES

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR HOMELESSNESS

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless Inc. is committed to reducing homelessness in our six - county area (Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Hendry and Glades counties).

We currently administer two grants, from the Department of Children and Families, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Challenge Grant.

We are requesting proposals from Not-for-Profits (501c3) organization providers in our Continuum of Care (CoC) or providers planning to become members of our CoC to partner with us in utilizing these funds from these grants to provide services to our target population (Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Hendry and Glades counties).

The period of service will commence July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Interested entities can either get a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) from

3138 OTHER NOTICES

our office at 1535 State Road 64, Avon Park or download a copy from our website at www.heartlandhomeless.com or call us at (863)453-8901 for a copy to be mailed to you.

For further information, you may contact Brenda Gray, Executive Director at 863-453-8901 or email at info@heartlandhomeless.com.

Publish: 02/14/2019 405756 3655050

6001 ARCADIA AREA GARAGE SALES

CRAIGS RV PARK BAZAAR

February 23 9am - 1pm Lunch served

Beautiful merchandise available Also enjoy Blue Grass Show!

MOVING SALE FRI-SAT 8AM-4PM

2692 NE Hwy. 70 Lot 618 (Sorrento Circle)

SATURDAY 16TH 8 am-12 pm

Little Willies RV Resort 5905 NE Cubitis Ave. Trash & Treasure Sale

SATURDAY 23RD 8 am - 2 pm

DeSoto Village 4810 NW Hwy. 72

Lots of tables with good stuff in the clubhouse and at homes, baked goods (some sugar free), lunch available, funnel cakes, coffee & soda

6030 HOUSEHOLD GOODS

WHIRLPOOL REFRIGERATOR

White, 14 ft. cubic \$150 863-494-3652

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Wood, great cond. \$65 863-697-8062

TABLE/4 CHAIRS

White plastic \$25 863-697-8062

6035 FURNITURE

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Wood on coasters, w/20" TV w/remote & lamp \$125 863-494-3652

MATTRESS & BOX QUEEN \$175 ALSO HAVE KING 941-629-5550

6038 ELECTRONICS

15" PASSIVE SPEAKERS

Great for karaoke (2) \$150 863-494-3652

6131 FIREARMS

.22 LR HEITAGE

Cowboy style revolver New in box!! \$150 941-235-2500

.380 BERSA THUNDER

SA/DA, concealable, like new \$265 941-235-2500

6135 BICYCLES/TRICYCLES

FUJI SARATOGA

Men's bicycle, w/ helmet & extras \$200 484-650-0139

6195 FARM EQUIPMENT

QUAIL FEEDERS

Heavy duty, galvanized \$50 each 863-444-0414

6236 PET SUPPLIES & SERVICES

10 GALLON FISH TANK

3 way colored light, filter, & misc. decorations \$40 863-494-3652

6260 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

ROOF RACK

Locking crossbars \$200 484-650-0139

6260 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BARNYARD ROOSTER

Free to good home! 863-444-0414

GE HOT-WATER TANK

220 - 62 gallon \$50 863-444-0526

TRUCK BOX

Diamond plate \$100 863-494-5918

NEW FLOORING

Wood like, 90 sq. ft., 3 boxes \$25 863-697-8062



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SUDOKU

9x9 grid with numbers for a Sudoku puzzle

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box.

Completed 9x9 Sudoku grid

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

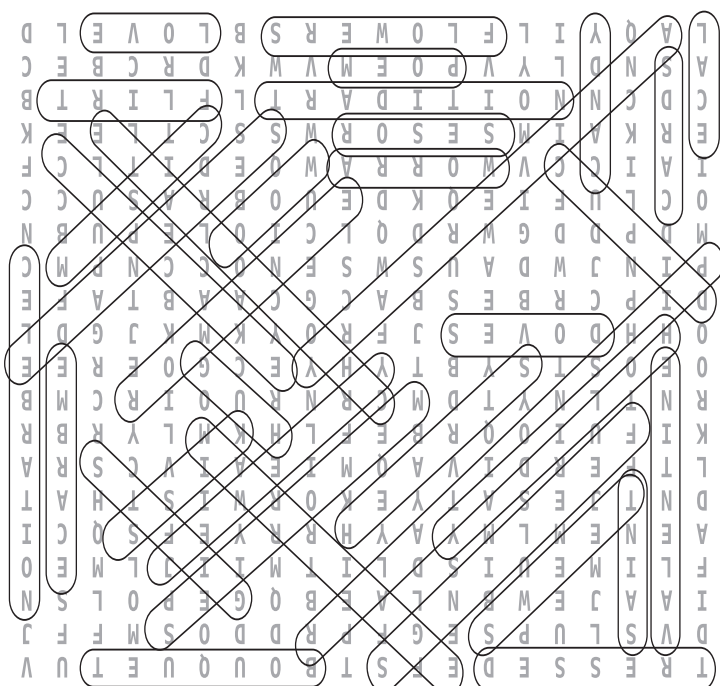
VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Grid of letters for a Valentine's Day word search

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANNIVERSARY
ARROW
BOUQUET
CANDY
CARDS
CELEBRATION
CHOCOLATE
CUPCAKE
CUPID
DESSERT
DOVES
EMBRACE
FEELINGS
FLIRT
FLOWERS
GIFTS
HEARTS
HOLIDAY
HUG
JEWELRY
KISS
LACE
LOVE
MARRIAGE
MEMORIES
MUSIC
POEM
RELATIONSHIP
ROMANCE
ROSES
SAINT
SERENADE
SWEET
TRADITION
VALENTINE
WOO



Spiritual awakening — the fire of the Spirit

Over fifty years ago the fire of the Spirit exploded, something mainstream Christianity had not experienced for a long time. Called the Charismatic Movement, it brought a spiritual awakening to millions of people around the world.

According to historian Eddie L. Hyatt, by the mid-1990s this movement claimed 450 million adherents worldwide and was adding over 23 million every year. It encompassed 8,000 different ethnic groups speaking 7,000 different languages. (“2,000 Years of Charismatic Christianity”)

These people all shared a basic single event that crystallized for them the reality of a living, personal God and the power of the *charismata* (spiritual gifts) — a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit. But this dynamic form of Christianity occurred on the heels of a great upheaval in Western culture.

Crisis of Western culture

In the years following WWII, we entered into a time of crisis as our social structures began to collapse. The demise of the family, with its attendant support system and values, produced a moral and spiritual void, resulting in an incredible growth of social disorders: suicides, child abuse, violent assaults, homicides, substance abuse, and alcoholism.

Unable to help the alcoholic and the drug addict, religious institutions no longer met the real needs of people. By the 1960s, the church had become institutionalized, rigid, and hierarchical. Using merely formulas and techniques,



Judith Doctor

it was devoid of redemptive power and authority.

Few leaders claimed vital personal experience or a transformative religious encounter. Bible teachers schooled only in the *sitz-im-leben* (life situation) of the gospel stories could not help students encounter something that would affect their souls in the here and now (Wallace B. Clift, “Jung and Christianity”).

Stuck in these structures, people failed to grow, remaining immature and dependent upon the leaders. Thunderous voices of great preachers from earlier in the twentieth century were largely unheard. An eerie silence settled upon the land a land that had lost its God.

The demise of God

As a result, something incredible happened in the consciousness of modern Americans: God died. Not really, but in effect God had no meaning or relevance for many people. They could no longer detect anything of the Divine in their experience.

In 1966 a landmark Time magazine cover proclaimed the demise of God — dead in the way we had once known Him. This was a cultural event where we recognized and admitted our poverty of

spirit and soul. No longer could we sing the songs of God with faith. Old symbols and creeds no longer had power to touch us.

A light appears

Abruptly a flickering flame of hope emerged in the spiritual darkness. Time magazine carried the story: An Episcopal priest announced he’d been baptized in the Holy Spirit and had spoken in tongues. In the midst of our great spiritual vacuum, a lonely voice boldly proclaimed that modern man could still experience God and the fire of His Spirit.

This event marked the beginning of a spiritual awakening. Like a wildfire before a mighty wind, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit quickly spread to most of the historic Protestant denominations.

Then in 1967 Duquesne University professors and students gathered for a retreat. Their pre-retreat assignment: read the book of Acts and David Wilkerson’s “The Cross and the Switchblade.” As they gathered in the chapel, they too experienced a mighty outpouring of the Spirit, sparking the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Prayer gatherings sprang up across the country. People rejoiced and sang praises to a living God, witnessed to His power, and ministered to one another in the gifts of the Spirit.

They were doing the things Jesus said: heal the sick, cast out demons, and proclaim the kingdom of God—miracles, healings, deliverances were common place for a while.

Then the age-old conflicts over

authority and doctrine rose up. Control was re-established and the dynamic work of the Holy Spirit in churches slowly ceased—except in the lives of individuals who were touched by the fire of the Spirit.

Individuals changed by the power of God

Today a host of ordinary people bear witness to the reality of the power of God working in their families and their personal lives. They speak with the voice of vital personal experience, *I know because I know because I know*. This is the one voice people still listen to today.

“On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me,’ as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.” (John 7:37-39).

To learn more about the Holy Spirit, download my free notes: <https://judithdoctor.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/The-Holy-Spirit-Will-Lead-You1.pdf>

Judith Doctor, RN, MSW, is an Arcadian author, speaker, and spiritual life mentor. President of Kairos Ministries, Inc. her live broadcasts can be heard monthly on Radio Horeb in Europe. Her books on dreams and forgiveness are available on Amazon and other online booksellers. www.judithdoctor.com|doctorj@judithdoctor.com.

Budget disaster kit in 20 weeks: Week 6

Not that many years ago, getting information out to the public during an emergency was dependent upon TV and radio announcements. Now, in addition to traditional mass-media, there is social media, specialized apps, email, and text messages, all of which you can access from the smartphone that is probably in your hand as you read this. These advances in mass communications technology are being leveraged by emergency managers with the goal of educating the public when skies are blue and keeping them safe when dangerous conditions exists.

In DeSoto County, we use a FREE system called **DeSoto Alert**, powered by Everbridge, to disseminate information. It is completely free to you, the public, through a partnership between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners. This system is now



Brian Newhouse

active in 64 of the 67 counties in Florida and has been widely used over the past three years during hurricanes and other incidents and planned events to provide lifesaving information.

By signing-up for DeSoto Alert, you will be able to receive potentially lifesaving information, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, wherever you may be located. DeSoto Alert allows you, the end user, to choose some of the alerts you will get, while others are set by default. You can choose between calls to your home phone, texts and calls to your cellphone, emails and

social-media alerts, or a combination of all the above. You can also set times when you don’t want to receive messages of lesser importance, but the system can override that if dangerous situations are eminent.

You can get emergency alerts by email, text or directly to your phones by signing up for “DeSoto Alerts” on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DesotoEM/>. Click on the blue SIGN UP button to register and “Like” our page while you are there. You can also download the free Everbridge app for your phone. It’s easy to do and may save your life.

For questions or more information about the Emergency Management programs available in DeSoto County, please call 863-993-4831, or email eoc@desotobocc.com.

Remember, the 2019 hurricane season is only 14 weeks away. Do not wait until there is another storm coming to start your preparations, because

disasters can occur at any time.

Here is this week’s shopping list for your kit. Shopping lists are just a guide. Please adjust to your family’s needs. Always check expiration dates. Make the item last as long as possible (at least through Nov. 30) and be sure to check in next week for our next shopping list.

Items to purchase:

- 1 box heavy-duty garbage bags
- 1 box large plastic zip-type food bags
- 1 package disposable cups
- 1 package disposable plates
- 1 package disposable utensils
- 2 rolls paper towels
- Aluminum foil

This list was adapted from a series by Candi Kelly, Manatee County Emergency Management.

Brian Newhouse is emergency management coordinator for DeSoto County Emergency Management

LUKE

FROM PAGE 4

survived it.

In later years you might’ve graduated to passing notes. That was foolish. Often the notes were intercepted and read by fellow students who wouldn’t give them back and would threaten to let everyone read it unless you gave them the moon pie your mom had packed in your lunchbox. And if the teacher ever intercepted one, you may as well have crawled in a hole

and pulled it in after you because you knew they were going to read it out loud to the rest of the class. I think it’s a mandatory part of college for becoming a teacher. You have to learn note interception skills and be able to read mushy puppy love stuff with a straight face. That’s gotta be tough.

You know the rest. You “go steady,” even though you never actually go anywhere together. You carve your initials on trees or leave them behind in wet cement. That one can haunt you for awhile, believe me. In fact, they last longer than most marriages

do these days.

You can wish on a star, toss a penny into a wishing well, have your fortune read, consult the Magic 8 Ball, or play with one of those spooky Ouija boards and I still don’t think your chances at love are any greater. Remember this, many flower has been plucked baldheaded with that old “she loves me, she loves me not” routine and still nothing has been proven.

Love is a many spendored thing, love is a burning thing and love is what makes the world go ‘round. Love

is in the air, love is never having to say you’re sorry and love even blind. Love is love, so accept it when it’s real and appreciate it.

Wear red today and show some love wherever you go. This world needs it and it’ll do you some good as well. Open up your heart and be somebody’s valentine. You can’t give everyone flowers and candy and cards, but at least give them a smile. And I hope you get some valentines back, in the form of a smile. Or maybe even some real ones in your construction paper/paste pouch thingy.

OUR VIEW

FROM PAGE 4

pay property taxes that support your kids’ schools while not actually filling those schools with their own kids. They

fork over sales taxes that pay for the new recreation center you can use in September when they’re back north in (Another Place).

Sometimes — get this — they may even invite us over for drinks and dinner. We have a very pleasant evening,

thank you very much.

We all depend on one another. We should appreciate one another. It’s stressful, yes. The population surge challenges our infrastructure and our patience.

But it best serves all to be mindful of

our common interests. To be polite. To be respectful. We can all get through this together and, soon as you know it, the roads and restaurants will clear out again. It will be hot and quiet and dull as all get-out, which is the way some people like it.

Family Album

FAMILY ALBUM PHOTOS

Send us a photo to celebrate a birth, birthday, engagement, wedding, anniversary, etc. The Arcadian will run it free. We must have it no later than noon on Monday. Bring your photo to the office or e-mail to Arcadian.editor@gmail.com

Meet Kayla Patton, DeSoto's Teacher of the Year

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

The DeSoto County Education Foundation recently hosted its annual A Night Among Stars for employees of the School District of DeSoto County. From the six nominees picked for 2020 Teacher of the Year, West Elementary's Kayla Patton was chosen. The fourth-grade instructor was presented with a \$5,000 check from the MIDFLORIDA Credit Union.

One of the more involved people in DeSoto County, Kayla gave us a few seconds in answering questions.

Arcadian: Most challenging part of teaching, most rewarding?

Kayla Patton: "The most challenging part of teaching would have to be finding creative ways to help motivate students who lack motivation and school interest. However, the most rewarding is quite the opposite, it's seeing a student realize they are good enough and they can do the work. We call it the 'ahhh-haaa' moment, where students display self-recognition for their success."

Arcadian: The public's perception is that today's kids don't care all that much about education. What's the reality?

Kayla: "I believe that it's not so much an 'I don't care attitude' for most things, but instead it's more about being frustrated with their weaknesses."

Arcadian: It's tough finding teachers. Advice for those thinking about



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kayla Patton gets a hug after being named DeSoto County school district's 2020 Teacher of the Year. Most kids care about education but are frustrated with their weaknesses, she said.

teaching?

Kayla: "I would tell those considering the profession to have tough skin, but don't take things too personal (constructive criticism helps build you), be innovative, find tricks to help the class and day flow smooth, and last of all rely on your team for help. They are the ones who are experts in the field and have plenty of knowledge and experience to assist a new teacher when there is a need."

January-February academic achievers



DeSoto Middle School students of the month for January and February are Faith Iverson, Noah Iverson, Holly Croy and Andres Hung.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

DeSoto County High School students of the month for January-February include Garrett Leath, Allison Cash, Carolyn Nieto, Aleaha Richardson, Ruben Sanchez-Gonzalez, Kevin Herrera and Jessica Kilgore. These academic achievers are recognized at the DeSoto Chamber's monthly early bird, this last held at DeSoto Memorial Hospital.

How do you plead? Let's ask the expert

Columnist

**Curtis
HONEYCUTT**

I'm sure pleats will eventually come back into style. I still remember the pleated khakis I wore to church in the mid-1990s. My Dockers brand double-pleated pants complemented my penny loafers to perfection in order to create that "nice-Baptist-guy-all-the-girls-just-want-to-be-friends-with" look I was going for. When pleats became passe, I traded my Dockers for blue jeans, much to my parents' chagrin.

Today I'm not talking about pleats. I'm talking about the words pleaded and pled. With high profile political court cases in the news (and perhaps more to come in the near future), I thought it would be a great time to brush up on the different ways people claim their innocence while under oath.

Back in December, former personal lawyer to President Trump, Michael Cohen, said, "I take full responsibility for each act that I pled guilty to—the personal ones to me and those involving the president of the United States of America." Yet at the end of January, a New York Times article led with this line: "President Trump's longtime adviser Roger J. Stone Jr. pleaded not guilty on Tuesday..."

Is it possible both usages are correct? If the past tense of "lead" is "led," and if "bleed" becomes "bled," shouldn't the past tense of "plead" be "pled?"

Not so fast! What about "bleat" and "bleated" or "knead" and

"kneaded?" There's no pattern to this word construction, so let's seek an expert opinion. According to both the AP Stylebook and the Chicago Manual of Style, "pleaded" is always the acceptable past tense form of "plead." They assert that "pled" is considered a colloquialism, which is a really nice way of saying "bless your heart, you don't know any better."

When it comes down to it, "pled" isn't incorrect, but it's certainly losing in the popularity polls. According to Google Books' Ngram Viewer, pled has gained considerable popularity in recent years when it comes to appearances in books, but pleaded still outpaces pled by a steep margin. So, while AP and Chicago Manual of Style would like you to believe that "pled" = "dead," people like Michael Cohen use "pled" perhaps more often than we think. And, if the federal investigators keep handing out subpoenas, we'll all be paying attention to how each individual pleads (and also if his/her pants have pleats).

Curtis Honeycutt is an award-winning, nationally syndicated humor writer. Connect with him on Twitter (@curtishoneycutt), or at curtishoneycutt.com.

Tiger tales: Cassie's happy story

Cassie is a Bengal tiger weighing in at 500 pounds. She turns 19 on April 1. Typical lifespan of a tiger in captivity is about 15 years. Despite her age, Cassie is still very active and every day plays with her large red ball in her pool. Cassie lives at Lions, Tigers & Bears in DeSoto County, came to the rescue from a facility that bred white tigers, and when she came out orange, they didn't want her.

Lions Tigers & Bears is not a breeding facility, but is home to over 30 different species with a total of over 100 animals. It provides educational tours on a Florida natural upland habitat. On tours the public learns how these animals arrived, the habits of each species, and how they impact the environment.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Cassie turns 19 on April 1.

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Great American Spit Out is Feb. 23

BY ARCADIAN STAFF

The Tobacco Free Partnership of DeSoto County and the Florida Department of Health's Tobacco Free Florida program are raising awareness about the dangers of smokeless tobacco such as chew and dip during Through With Chew Week, which runs Feb. 19-25, with the Great American Spit Out—a day when smokeless tobacco users join together to quit—on Feb. 23.

To raise awareness about the dangers of smokeless tobacco use, the Tobacco Free Partnership of Clay County is hosting informational tables and activities at DeSoto Middle and DeSoto High through Students Working Against Tobacco, or SWAT, Clubs in DeSoto County.

At least 28 cancer-causing chemicals have been identified in smokeless tobacco. Smokeless tobacco users have an 80 percent higher risk of oral cancer and a 60 percent higher risk of esophageal

cancer and pancreatic cancer compared to non-users. Currently, there is no scientific or medical evidence that proves smokeless tobacco use is an effective method to help people quit smoking. Floridians who want to quit any form of tobacco have access to the state's free and proven effective resources. www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 159,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla.



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TAX PREPARATION

Answers to worries
about tax reform, refund
size and refund delays

Ready or not, tax season is here and this year is going to present unique challenges. From tax reform to refund delays and big swings in refund size, it's going to take some work for people to untangle their tax situations. The good news is that H&R Block is ready to help and has been preparing since the moment tax reform passed.

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A YEAR AFTER PARKLAND TRAGEDY

Parkland moms now divided over guns



AP PHOTOS

Mechelle Boyle, right, embraces Cathi Rush as they wait for news after reports of a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14, 2018.

Tragedy didn't unite parents or community as many hoped

By **KELLI KENNEDY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARKLAND, Fla. — It's an image that has become emblematic of the Parkland school massacre: two terrified moms outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, one of them a tall, weeping blonde with the black smudge of Ash Wednesday on her forehead, the other a petite redhead crying in despair on her shoulder.

But the bond in that widely seen photograph didn't survive long. The two women soon found themselves at odds — like the nation itself — over gun control.

The redhead was Cathi Rush, who was desperately waiting on Feb. 14, 2018, to find out whether her 14-year-old son Brandon was OK. The blonde was Mechelle Boyle, whose three children did not attend the high school and were safe. The women comforted each other in a moment of anguish captured in a searing Associated Press photograph.

"My heart just started breaking," Boyle recalled in an exclusive interview with the AP as the anniversary approached. "Oh, my God, she doesn't know if her son is alive or dead. She's here crying and can't reach him."

Brandon made it out alive. But on that day, Rush was desperately trying to get in touch with him, knowing only from a few texts



Cathi Rush, left, says "In that moment it was just two moms comforting each other, scared for their kids. Not only for their kids, but their kids' friends, their kids' teachers." Mechelle Boyle, right, says "The terror that we felt, I see it on my face every time I look at the picture."



"This community has fractured into two factions now, those who are trying to turn schools into 'fortresses' and those who want to crack down on guns."

that the freshman was hiding under a table. She hadn't heard from him in nearly an hour as she stood there amid crying parents, the wail of sirens and the chop of helicopters.

Overcome with agony, Rush fell to the ground, screaming. Boyle, a longtime acquaintance, pulled

her up and into an embrace — the image that was snapped by AP stringer Joel Auerbach and would appear on websites, front pages and broadcasts around the world as details emerged of the 17 students and staff members killed.

MOMS | 8

Former Air Force intelligence specialist charged with spying for Iran



AP PHOTO

This image provided by the FBI shows part of the wanted poster for Monica Elfriede Witt.

US says she revealed classified information to Tehran government

By **ERIC TUCKER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A former U.S. Air Force counterintelligence specialist who defected to Iran despite warnings from the FBI has been charged with revealing classified information to the Tehran government, including the code name and secret mission of a Pentagon program, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The Justice Department also accused Monica Elfriede Witt, 39, of betraying former colleagues in the U.S. intelligence community by feeding details about their personal and professional lives to Iran. Four hackers linked to the Iranian government, charged in the same

indictment, used that information to target the intelligence workers online, prosecutors said.

Witt had been on the FBI's radar at least a year before she defected after she attended an Iranian conference and appeared in anti-American videos. She was warned about her activities, but reassured agents that she would not provide sensitive information about her work if she returned to Iran, prosecutors say. She was not arrested at the time.

"Once a holder of a top secret security clearance, Monica Witt actively sought opportunities to undermine the United States and support the government of Iran — a country which

IRAN | 8

FEMA head Brock Long, investigated over vehicle use, resigns

Long was appointed by Trump to run the agency in April 2017

By **COLLEEN LONG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency resigned Wednesday after a two-year tenure in which he managed the response to historic wildfires and major hurricanes but was dogged by questions over his use of government vehicles.

Brock Long said in a letter to FEMA employees that he was resigning to spend more time at home with his family. His last day is March 8.

He did not mention the investigation by the agency's watchdog



AP PHOTO

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Brock Long

that found he had used government vehicles without authorization, costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars.

FEMA | 8

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Florida moving to allow smokable medical marijuana

Legislature getting closer to meeting DeSantis' demand that the state repeal ban

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida House began moving a bill Tuesday designed to comply with Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' demand that lawmakers repeal a ban on smokable medical marijuana by mid-March, but there remain differences with a similar bill moving in the Senate.

The House Health and Human Services Committee approved a bill on a 14-2 vote that would allow doctors to prescribe smokable marijuana. The bill restricts its use to pre-rolled, filtered marijuana cigarettes. A similar Senate bill was unanimously approved by the Innovation, Industry and Technology Committee later in the afternoon.

Voters approved medical marijuana in 2016, but lawmakers banned smokable forms of the plant in a bill signed by then-Gov.

Rick Scott in 2017. The state was sued over the issue and a judge declared the ban unconstitutional. Scott, now a Republican U.S. senator, appealed the ruling. DeSantis said last month that the current law doesn't represent the will of the voters and said he'd drop the appeal if lawmakers didn't repeal it as one of their first actions when their annual session begins next month.

Even though Republicans implemented the ban, Republican Rep. Ray Rodrigues, who chairs the Health and Human Services Committee, said after the meeting that they have to take action. If not the smoking ban could be removed without restrictions if DeSantis drops the appeal.

"What we'd be facing, essentially, would be the wild, wild West when it comes to the use of medical marijuana. We believe there should be guardrails around that," Rodrigues said.

The bill has other restrictions. Doctors would have to report other forms of marijuana that patients tried and state that the benefits of smoking outweigh the risks. Smokable marijuana couldn't be prescribed to anyone under 18.

A Senate bill to allow smokable medical marijuana nearly died last week after language was added that would have require two doctors to say it is the only form of marijuana patients can use. Bill sponsor Republican Sen. Jeff Brandes stripped that language out of the bill before it was approved by its second committee Tuesday. Brandes' bill doesn't limit smokable marijuana to pre-rolled, filtered cigarettes.

The differences between the bills will have to be worked out soon to meet DeSantis' deadline.

"It's a tight timeline, but our goal is to meet it," Rodrigues said.

Migrant detention facility allows a glimpse inside gate

150 teenage migrants sleep in rows of bunk beds in a large windowless room and use portable toilets housed in adjacent tents

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Journalists were given a glimpse Wednesday of a newly expanded south-Florida detention facility where nearly 150 teenage migrants sleep in rows of bunk beds in a large windowless room and use portable toilets housed in adjacent tents.

The sleeping area in a converted Job Corps building in Homestead, Florida, is just part of the growing detention center operated by a private company for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

With a high, steel-framed ceiling and exposed ducts, the large room has an industrial feel, in contrast with smaller dorms where children slept up to 12 per room that reporters saw on a similar tour of the facility last June.

Journalists were not permitted to interview the children Wednesday, and no cameras or recorders were allowed inside the tightly controlled compound surrounded by a chain-link fence. The children wore badges and walked in groups of 10 to 15 in a straight line, usually led by a uniformed employee who would frequently order them to stop and not to gather near building entrances. Some said "hello," and a group of girls in pink sweat shirts offered a "good morning" in English and Spanish, but others avoided eye contact.

Comprehensive Health Services, which runs the facility, has hired 230 new employees and received 225 more children since December, when federal officials announced the expansion. Health and Human Services spokesman Mark Weber said none of the children

were transferred from a controversial facility that shut down in January in Tornillo, Texas.

The Tornillo facility had opened in June in an isolated pocket of the Texas desert with capacity for 360 children. It expanded into a guarded detention camp that in mid-December held more than 2,700 largely Central American teens in rows of canvas tents. Politicians and advocates for immigrants and human rights protested at the site over the seven months it was open, with some even taking up vigils.

Since the Tornillo tent city closed, the Homestead center is the only temporary facility in use, Weber said. Lawmakers and immigrant rights advocates are fighting to shut this one down too, saying it does not comply with state child welfare laws.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Cop impersonators try to pull over wrong guy — former cop

MIAMI (AP) — Two men impersonating police officers tried to pull over a South Florida commissioner who is a former officer and now they are in police custody.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Joe Martinez grew suspicious Wednesday when he saw the sports utility vehicle with flashing lights that came up behind him on the Florida Turnpike.

Martinez says the vehicle was too spiffy to be a police vehicle and he noticed a temporary tag.

Martinez refused to pull over and was able to flag down an officer in a squad car who was on the roadside. The officer radioed for help.

Endangered panther killed by another panther

GOLDEN GATE ESTATES, Fla. (AP) — An endangered Florida panther appears to have been killed by another panther.

It's the third death reported this year.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says the remains of the 9-month-old male panther were collected Monday on private land in Hendry County. Experts say the

suspected cause of death was intraspecific aggression.

Florida panthers once roamed the entire Southeast, but now their habitat mostly is confined to a small region of Florida along the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 230 Florida panthers remain in the wild.

Lawmakers want constitution revision commission repealed

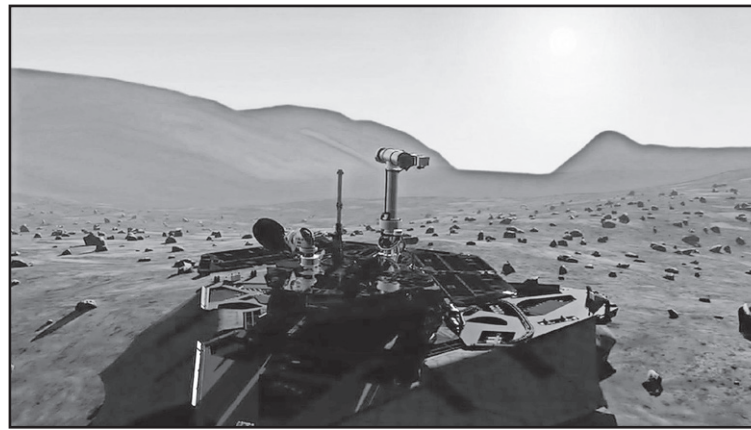
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida lawmakers are seeking to get rid of a commission that meets every 20 years to suggest changes to the state constitution.

The House Civil Justice Subcommittee voted 13-1 on Wednesday to ask voters to repeal the Constitution Revision Commission, which met last year and placed seven items on the 2018 ballot.

Voters approved all seven. They included bans on dog racing, oil drilling in state waters and vaping in workplaces. It also included a measure that extends new rights to crime victims.

Rep. Brad Drake sponsored the bill and said the commission has become a political body proposing major policy changes rather than a body that revises outdated language in the constitution.

Sixty percent of Florida voters would have to approve the proposal in order to repeal the commission.



AP PHOTO

NASA's longest-running rover on Mars, Opportunity, is no more. Officials declared the 15-year-old rover Opportunity dead Wednesday, eight months after by a ferocious dust storm in June.

Florida legislator suggests shutting down university

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A top Florida legislator suggested shutting down one of the nation's largest universities due to improper spending.

Rep. Randy Fine sharply criticized the University of Central Florida on Wednesday. In his remarks, Fine threw out the idea of shutting down UCF for five to ten years.

In an interview, the Space Coast Republican said he wasn't going to push to close the school. But he said he has been frustrated with how school officials have responded to revelations that the school

used millions intended for operations on construction.

While the school fired four administrators, the university president has remained in his job. None of the school's trustees have resigned.

Prosecutor: No Pulse clubgoers hit by officers' bullets

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — More than two-and-a-half years after 49 people were massacred at a gay nightclub in Florida, a prosecutor said Wednesday that no clubgoers were hit by responding officers' bullets and each time responding officers fired their weapons was reasonable and justified.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

5 dead, 40 still trapped in collapsed Liberian gold mine

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberian officials say five bodies were recovered Wednesday and 40 are still trapped in a collapsed gold mine.

Officials fear those still in the pit mine in northeastern Liberia, which collapsed on Saturday, may also be dead.

Nimba County superintendent Dorr Cooper said miners are searching for survivors with their bare hands. He said no excavating equipment is available and such heavy machinery could accidentally kill those trapped below.

He said the Tappita area has more than 100,000 self-employed miners and is rife with "uncontrolled and illegal" mining.

Authorities have recently attempted to close the gold mine out of safety concerns, but with Liberia's faltering economy, miners risk death to feed their families.

Kenya police: 5 dead including 3 Americans in plane crash

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A Kenyan police official says a small plane has crashed in the country's west killing all five people on board, including three Americans.

Kericho County Commander James Mugeru said Wednesday the Cessna plane crashed at Kamwingi area in Londiani in western Kenya. Photographs of the crash site show a single engine plane.

He said the names of the dead are not being released until their families are informed.

Mugeru said the plane was heading to Lodwar town in the country's north with the pilot and four tourists. Police said the pilot was Kenyan and the nationality of one of the passengers on board has not yet been established.

Small plane crashes have become more frequent in Kenya, but many are not fatal.

200 IS fighters surrender in east Syria

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria (AP) — Islamic State group militants, many of them foreigners, surrendered to U.S.-backed fighters in eastern Syria on Wednesday, bringing the Kurdish-led force closer to taking full control of the last remaining area controlled by the extremists, a Kurdish official and activists said.

Ciyager Amed, an official with the Syrian Democratic

Forces, confirmed that a number of IS fighters who had been holed up in Baghouz gave themselves up, without giving numbers. He said most of those remaining were Iraqis and foreigners and that few civilians remained in the tiny area still controlled by IS, although women and children continued to trickle out of the enclave.

The capture of Baghouz and nearby areas would

mark the end of a devastating four-year global campaign against the extremist group. U.S. President Donald Trump has said the group is all but defeated, and announced in December that he would withdraw all American forces from Syria.

Amed said the operation was slowed down due to the militants' use of civilians as human shields. Mustafa Bali, an SDF

spokesman, said hundreds of women and children came out Wednesday.

Bali also said the fighters who remained appeared to be among the IS elite who have lots of experience and are fighting "fiercely."

"They also don't have other options. Either to surrender or die," he said. He said the women and children coming out are treated as civilians "even if they are families of Daesh."

Suicide bomber targeting Iran's Revolutionary Guard kills 27

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A suicide car bomber claimed by an al-Qaida-linked group attacked a bus carrying members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard paramilitary force Wednesday, killing at least 27 people and wounding 13 others, state media reported.

Tehran immediately linked the attack in Iran's restive southeastern Sistan and Baluchistan province to an ongoing

U.S.-led conference in Warsaw largely focused on Iran, just two days after the nation marked the 40th anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The bombing also raised the specter of possible Iranian retaliation targeting a Sunni militant group called Jaish al-Adl that claimed the attack, which largely operates across the border in nuclear-armed

Pakistan. Recent militant assaults inside Iran have sparked retaliatory ballistic missile strikes in Iraq and Syria.

The bombing Wednesday night struck the bus traveling on a road between the cities of Khash and Zahedan, a mountainous region along the Pakistani border that is also near Afghanistan. Images after the blast published by semi-official news

agencies showed the explosion tore the bus apart, as passers-by used the light of their cellphones to illuminate the debris.

The state-run IRNA news agency, citing what it described as an "informed source," offered initial casualty figures of 20 dead and 20 wounded. The Revolutionary Guard later reported on its website that 27 were killed and 13 wounded.

Judge finds Manafort lied to investigators in Russia probe

Ex-Trump campaign boss' agreement voided over concealing contact with Russia-linked associate

By CHAD DAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort intentionally lied to investigators and a federal grand jury in the special counsel's Russia probe, a judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson's decision was another loss for Manafort, a once-wealthy political consultant who rose to lead Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and now faces years in prison in two criminal cases brought in special counsel Robert Mueller's

investigation.

The four-page ruling hurts Manafort's chance of receiving a reduced sentence, though Jackson said she would decide the exact impact during his sentencing next month. It also resolves a dispute that had provided new insight into how Mueller views Manafort's actions as part of the broader probe of Russian election interference and any possible coordination with Trump associates.

Prosecutors have made clear that they remain deeply interested in Manafort's interactions with a man the FBI

says has ties to Russian intelligence. But it's unclear exactly what has drawn their attention and whether it relates to election interference because much of the dispute has played out in secret court hearings and blacked out court filings.

In her ruling Wednesday, Jackson provided few new details as she found there was sufficient evidence to say Manafort broke the terms of his plea agreement by lying about three of five matters that prosecutors had singled out. The ruling was largely a rejection of Manafort's attorneys' argument that

he hadn't intentionally misled investigators but rather forgot some details until his memory was refreshed.

The judge found that Manafort did mislead the FBI, prosecutors and a federal grand jury about his interactions with Konstantin Kilimnik, the co-defendant who the FBI says has ties to Russian intelligence. Prosecutors had accused Manafort of lying about several discussions the two men had including about a possible peace plan to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict in Crimea.

During a sealed hearing

last week, Mueller prosecutor Andrew Weissmann said one of the discussions— an Aug. 2, 2016, meeting at the Grand Havana Club cigar bar in New York— went to the “larger view of what we think is going on” and what “we think the motive here is.”

“This goes, I think, very much to the heart of what the Special Counsel's Office is investigating,” Weissmann said, according to a redacted transcript of the hearing. He added: “That meeting and what happened at that meeting is of significance to the special counsel.”



AP FILE PHOTO

In this April 4, 2018, file photo, Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, leaves the federal courthouse in Washington.

FBI posts victim sketches drawn by admitted serial killer

Samuel Little has confessed to 90 homicides nationwide over the past four decades

DALLAS (AP) — The FBI has released sketches drawn by an admitted serial killer of some of his victims, along with other information on a string of unsolved cold-case homicides to which investigators say the man confessed.

The bureau updated on Tuesday information it had posted in November on its website. The update included drawings made recently by admitted serial killer Samuel Little, based on his memories of some of his victims.

An FBI statement says Little targeted “marginalized and vulnerable women who were often involved in prostitution and addicted to drugs.” The bureau hopes the information will generate tips and clues from the public that could help solve the dozens of unsolved homicides.

The FBI says Little, who's 78, is in poor health and is expected to remain in a Texas prison.

The Texas Rangers say Little to date has confessed to 90 homicides nationwide over the past four decades. Ector County District Attorney Bobby Bland



AP PHOTOS

This combination of undated sketches provided by the FBI shows drawings made by admitted serial killer Samuel Little, based on his memories of some of his victims.

in Odessa, Texas, said 50 cold homicide cases have been closed as a result and most of the unsolved homicides remaining are in California.

The FBI says Little, whom the bureau said “may be among the most prolific serial killers in U.S. history,” has a criminal record dating to 1956. But only recently has he opened up about

the long list of killings he has said he committed. Agents who have interviewed Little say he remembers his victims and the killings in great detail, including where he was and what car he was driving. But he could provide little help on dates, creating a challenge that the FBI hopes Little's drawings can help surmount.

Virginia dioceses list 58 clergy with sex abuse allegations

One priest was convicted of sexually abusing a 14-year-old and given supervised probation and avoided a prison sentence

By DENISE LAVOIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia's two Roman Catholic dioceses on Wednesday published lists of 58 priests credibly accused of sexually abusing minors, joining other dioceses around the country in answering calls to make public the names of abusive clergy.

The diocese of Richmond said each of the 42 priests on its list had a “credible and substantiated” allegation of sexual abuse against a child. The names of 16 priests appeared on a list released by the diocese of Arlington.

Both dioceses said the lists were published after independent reviews of all clergy personnel files. The bishops of both Richmond and Arlington said none of the clergy whose names appear are currently in active ministry. Both bishops apologized to victims in letters that accompanied the lists.

“To those who experienced abuse from clergy, I am truly, deeply sorry,” Richmond Bishop Barry Knestout wrote. “I regret that you have to bear the burden of the damage you suffered at the hands of those you trusted. I am

also sorry that you must carry the memory of that experience with you.”

Knestout said publishing the list “can help bring about healing” and “heighten the awareness of this tragic situation.”

The move comes as dioceses in more than two dozen states around the country have taken similar action since a grand jury report released in August alleged that more than 300 priests abused at least 1,000 children over seven decades in Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, New Jersey's five Roman Catholic dioceses listed more than 180 priests who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing minors over a span of several decades.

Thirteen of the 42 priests on the Richmond list are now deceased. Six have been criminally convicted. That list covers allegations dating from the 1950s to the most recent substantiated allegation in 1993, said Deborah Cox, a spokeswoman for the diocese. The list doesn't include details about the allegations or what parishes the priests were serving in at the time.

Cox said Knestout does not know of any priests or deacons currently

servicing in ministry or in any other capacity with a credible and substantiated allegation of sexual abuse against them. Cox said that if victims come forward with allegations against any clergy in active ministry, Knestout “will respond in accordance with our commitment to addressing allegations of sexual abuse.”

One of the priests listed by the Richmond diocese is the Rev. John P. Blankenship, who pleaded guilty in 2002 to sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy in 1982 while the boy and his mother went to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Prince George County to do housekeeping chores. Blankenship was given supervised probation and avoided a prison sentence. He was removed from ministry in 2002 and dismissed from the priesthood in 2007.

Eight of the priests on the Arlington list are deceased.

After the clergy sex abuse crisis exploded in Boston in 2002, U.S. bishops adopted a series of reforms, including stricter requirements for reporting allegations to law enforcement. Since then, abuse allegations have been reported in dioceses around the country.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

House panel backs bill expanding gun-sale background checks

WASHINGTON (AP) — A key House committee has approved a bill to require background checks for all sales and transfers of firearms, a first step by majority Democrats to tighten gun laws after eight years of Republican rule.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill Wednesday night, 23-15, sending it to the House floor.

Democrats have pledged additional gun legislation, including restrictions on high-capacity magazines and a measure to allow temporary removal of guns from people deemed an imminent risk to themselves or others.

Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the Judiciary panel's chairman, calls the background checks bill long overdue to address a “national crisis of gun violence” that claimed nearly 40,000 lives in 2017.

Mississippi advances ban on abortion after fetal heartbeat

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi is working toward enacting one of the strictest abortion laws in the nation, in a race with other states to push a legal challenge to the more conservative U.S. Supreme Court.

The Republican-controlled Mississippi House and Senate passed separate bills Wednesday to ban most abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, about six weeks into pregnancy. Efforts to pass similar bills are underway in Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

“I see in this country that we protect sea turtle eggs and we protect other endangered species of animals with a greater degree of scrutiny and zealotry than we protect a child in the womb,” Republican Sen. Angela Hill, a sponsor of the

Mississippi bill, said as she fought back tears during a debate.

Anti-abortion legislators and activists believe President Donald Trump has strengthened their cause with his appointments of conservative Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Abortion opponents foresee the possibility that the high court might either reverse Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling establishing a nationwide right to abortion, or uphold specific state laws that would undermine Roe.

Mississippi enacted a law last year to ban abortion after 15 weeks. The only abortion clinic in the state filed a lawsuit and a federal judge declared the law unconstitutional. The state has asked a federal appeals court to overturn the ruling.

The House and Senate must agree on a single version to send to Republican Gov. Phil Bryant, who is in his final year in office. He said he would sign it.

Optimism over US-China trade talks boosts stocks again

Stocks finished broadly higher Wednesday as investors remained optimistic that the U.S. and China will make more progress in resolving their costly trade dispute.

Energy companies, retailers and industrial stocks accounted for much of the broad gains as the market extended its winning streak to a fourth day.

Key officials from the world's two largest economies will meet Thursday and Friday to try and stave off an escalation of a trade conflict that has hurt companies and consumers by raising prices on a number of products. President Donald Trump has said he might let a March 2 deadline slide if the U.S. and China get close to a deal.

After February 2, additional tariffs are scheduled to kick in, making the situation worse. Economists and analysts are optimistic that both sides will eventually hammer out an agreement that satisfies U.S.

complaints that China steals or pressures U.S. companies to hand over technology.

“The president's seemingly positive tone regarding trade has helped underpin the market, particularly the industrial names,” said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial. “That's a positive catalyst for the market.”

The S&P 500 index gained 8.30 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,753.03. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 117.51 points, or 0.5 percent, to 25,543.27. The Nasdaq composite added 5.76 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,420.38. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks, which has been leading the other indexes this year, added 4.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,542.94.

Companies on both sides of the U.S.-China dispute have been battered by Washington's tariffs and retaliatory duties imposed by Beijing. The stakes are rising as global economic growth cools, which has contributed to a dimmer outlook for company earnings this year.

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

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...

Market indicators: DOW 25,543.27 +175.1, NASDAQ 7,420.38 +5.76, S&P 500 2,753.03 +8.30, 10-YR T-NOTE 2.70% +0.2, 30-YR T-BOND 3.03% +0.1, CRUDE OIL \$53.90 +8.0, GOLD \$1,310.80 +1.60, EURO \$1.1271 -0.060

Money&Markets

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

Table with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like AES, AFL, AGNC, AKS, AMC, etc.



Table with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like RXN, Rexnord, RAD, etc.

Stocks Recap

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

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like DOW, DOW Trans., DOW Oil, etc.

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like MFA, MFA Fnd, MIN, MIN, etc.

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like OCSL, OaktrSpl, OCSI, etc.

Stocks Recap (continued)

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like EOLS, Evolus n, EXAS, etc.

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like HLT, Hilton, HIMX, etc.

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Stocks Recap (continued)

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like DNP, DNP Selct, DRH, etc.

Table with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD. Lists various stocks like GWP, GW Pharm, GDV, etc.

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Interest rates section with a logo and text about yields on Treasury notes and mortgage rates.

Foreign Exchange section with a logo and text about the dollar strengthening and exchange rates for various currencies.

Commodities section with a logo and text about energy prices and metal prices.

Stocks Recap (continued) section with a logo and text about various stock performance metrics.

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The optimum healthy level of cholesterol comes via diet

DEAR DR. ROACH: A 74-year-old woman has a total cholesterol of 123 and was told that low cholesterol like this greatly increases the risk of diabetes, stroke and cancer. It seems she has had low cholesterol for many years. What do you think is the optimum healthy level? What would you recommend to increase her total cholesterol? — R.I.

ANSWER: When cholesterol questions come in, most people are concerned about a too-high level. Coronary artery disease remains the biggest killer in industrialized societies, and high LDL and total cholesterol are risk factors for developing the blockages in the arteries of the heart that are the hallmark of this disease. High cholesterol is not the only risk factor: People certainly can develop CAD with normal cholesterol levels, and some people with high cholesterol levels never develop that type of heart disease. However, lowering cholesterol with diet and exercise, statins and, to a lesser extent, some other drugs reduces coronary



Dr. Roach

disease risk for people at above-average risk. It appears that the more the cholesterol is reduced, the greater the risk reduction.

Most types of stroke have the same risk factors as CAD, so these treatments reduce stroke risk as well. However, there is one less-common type of stroke, hemorrhagic stroke, that is somewhat increased in a person with low cholesterol levels. Still, stroke risk is reduced by decreasing cholesterol.

With the possible exception of liver cancer, there is no good evidence that either high or low

blood cholesterol is a major risk for cancer. There are conflicting studies and no consensus. What is clear is that people with cancer may develop low cholesterol levels as a result of either the cancer itself or nutritional challenges associated cancer treatment. This can lead people to mistakenly attribute the low cholesterol that is due to the cancer as a cause of the cancer.

It is also clear that raising cholesterol shouldn't be a goal. For someone who has had low cholesterol for a long time, there is probably nothing that need be done beyond age-appropriate cancer screening, such as a mammogram, possibly a colonoscopy, and consideration of lung cancer screening if she had been a smoker.

Separating cause and effect is very difficult in this instance. I would still recommend a diet of mostly plants, whole grains, nuts, and fatty fish if she likes it. If she is overweight, then high-quality nutrition becomes even more important, she should consult with a registered dietitian nutritionist.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 59-year-old man. In the past four months, my erection has become abnormal. My penis, when erect, has a curvature. What do you think could be happening? Am I faced with permanent issues? — Anon.

ANSWER: This is very likely to be Peyronie's disease, an abnormality of scarring of the penis leading to a curvature. It is more common than you might think (3 to 9 percent of men have it) and more common as men get older.

Peyronie's disease sometimes can get better by itself, but I would recommend you see a urologist right away, since medical therapy may be more effective if started soon. Pentoxifylline, an oral medication, is the usual first treatment. If men do not get better, then many urologists are using an injection of collagenase to treat this condition, often in combination with a traction device. Surgery can be used for men who do not respond to this treatment and who have significant problems with sexual function.

Valentine's Day isn't solely about celebrating lovers

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is here and, to be honest, I don't know much about St. Valentine. So I wonder if he meant the day to only be about lovers.

Is there any reason I shouldn't send valentines to my friends? It seems to me this should be a time of year you can let a buddy know you appreciate him, or let your brother, cousin, sister, neighbor or co-worker know you care.

It doesn't have to be mushy. Happy Valentine's Day to you, Abby! — Tim In Syracuse

DEAR TIM: Valentine's Day may have started as a celebration of romance and romantic love, but it has broadened to acknowledge other kinds of love and affection.

Happy Valentine's Day to YOU, Tim, and to all my readers, for whom I have great appreciation and affection.

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away after a long illness four months ago. I lived in the same building as my parents, but a different apartment. (I still do.)

Obviously, I encounter other tenants in the public areas of the building. Since



Dear Abby

my father's death, most of them have asked me how my mother is doing. However, no one has ever asked me how I am doing. Frankly, it's very hurtful. Why does no one care to offer me any words of sympathy? — Still Grieving

DEAR STILL GRIEVING: When there is a death, many people are uncomfortable. They don't mean to be insensitive; they simply don't know what to say to the grieving relatives.

I assume that your mother and father are/were elderly. The death of a spouse after many decades of marriage can be so traumatic that the partner goes into a decline. Your neighbors may assume that because you are younger and stronger, that you are more resilient and therefore are doing fine. Please don't hold the fact that they haven't asked how you are doing against them.

Write a letter of devotion

Dear Readers: Ahh, romance is in the air — it's VALENTINE'S DAY! Take time to celebrate with your beloved. A small gift of candy, jewelry or flowers is lovely, but how about a simple poem or letter telling of your true devotion to your valentine? — Heloise

Dear Readers: Kitchen knives in the dishwasher? That's a big no-no. The sharp blade of a knife isn't meant to be subjected to the heat and pressure of the dishwasher.

Harsh detergents, rinse agents and other chemicals can dull the knife, be a precursor to mold, rust the knife and rot the handle.



Hints from Heloise

With gloved hands, after the meal, remove any large pieces of grease and food particles, then gently wash the knife using running water, a sponge and mild dishwashing detergent.

Thoroughly DRY your knife with a towel. Air-drying can lead to swollen wood and rust. — Heloise

WHATZIT?

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



SOLUTION:

Turn up on time

JUMBLE

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

POMHO

LEVID

YALVEL

EEWIDV

YALVEL

EEWIDV

YALVEL

EEWIDV

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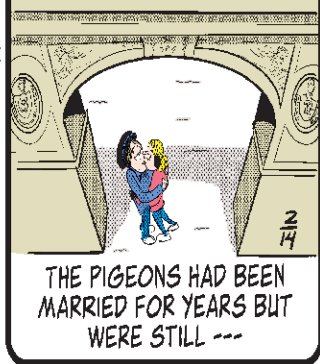
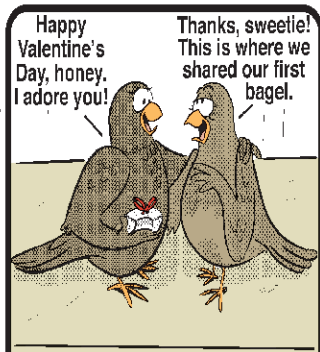
EEWIDV

YALVEL

EEWIDV

YALVEL

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.

Answer here: [Circled letters in a grid]

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: FINCH EMPTY WILLOW COPPER
Answer: He needed to get started on his new novel and would begin — "WRITE" NOW

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY puzzle grid with numbers and operations like 24x, 1-, 4+, 3, 2÷, 8+, 3+.

CHALLENGING puzzle grid with numbers and operations like 3-, 1-, 5, 3÷, 3-, 3+, 3-, 3-, 4, 30x, 11+, 3+, 120x, 3, 16x, 3-, 5-, 3.

RULES section explaining the puzzle mechanics and providing PREVIOUS ANSWERS.

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 beehive, for example (8); 2 egg-laying mammal (9); 3 what farriers dress (6); 4 book club members (7); 5 the Wrights' first airplane (5); 6 Checkerboard Square brand (6); 7 it straddles a bike tire (4).
- SOLUTIONS: [Blank lines for answers]

Word search grid with letters FO, BO, ANT, RS, HO, ES, ER, ME, NA, MO, RI, NOT, FLY, UFF, DE, RE, RK, REA, OV, PU.

Wednesday's Answers: 1. LAPELS 2. KOREA 3. ESURANCE 4. GREENLIT 5. UNIVALVE 6. UNDOUBTED 7. RHINO

Challenger

Challenger puzzle grid with directions and a solution table for yesterday's challenge.

MARMADUKE



"You do realize your new friend is just a hoax, don't you?"

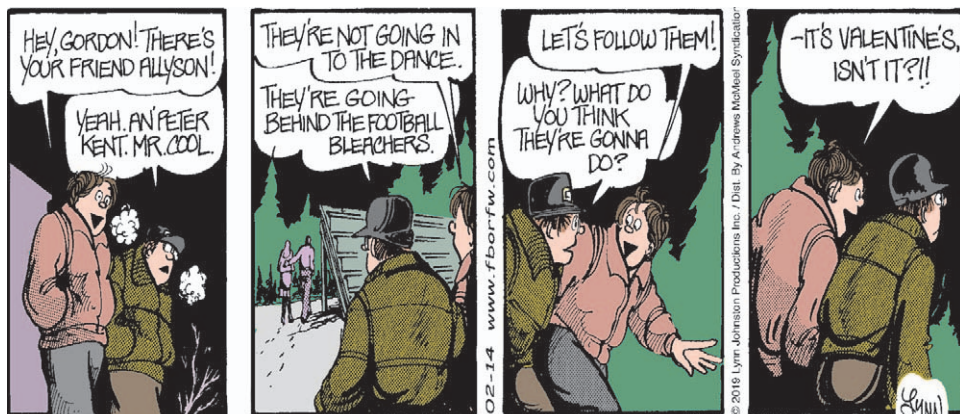
Cryptoquip

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and a clue: I ROUTINELY USE A PEPPER MILL ALMOST EVERY SINGLE EVENING AT SUPPERTIME. IT'S MY DAILY GRIND.

SPORTS SLEUTH

SPORTS SLEUTH puzzle grid with words like Caps, Gloves, Mouthpiece, Spikes, Cleats, Helmet, Pads, Trunks, Elbow guard, Jersey, Shin guard, Uniform, Flippers, Mask, Skates.

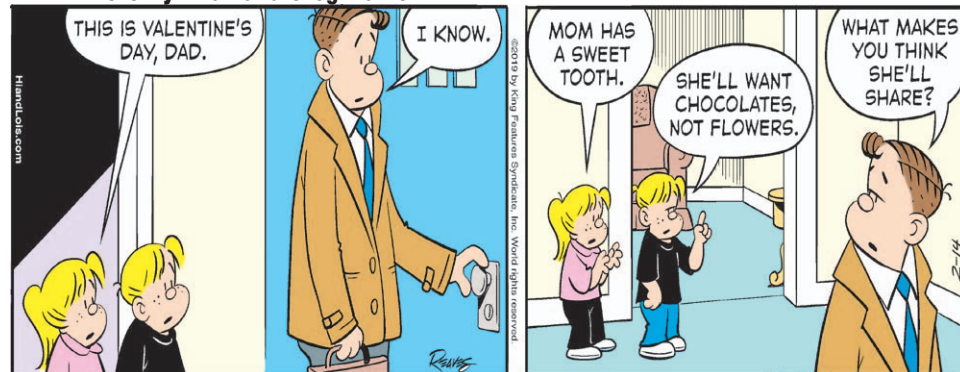
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



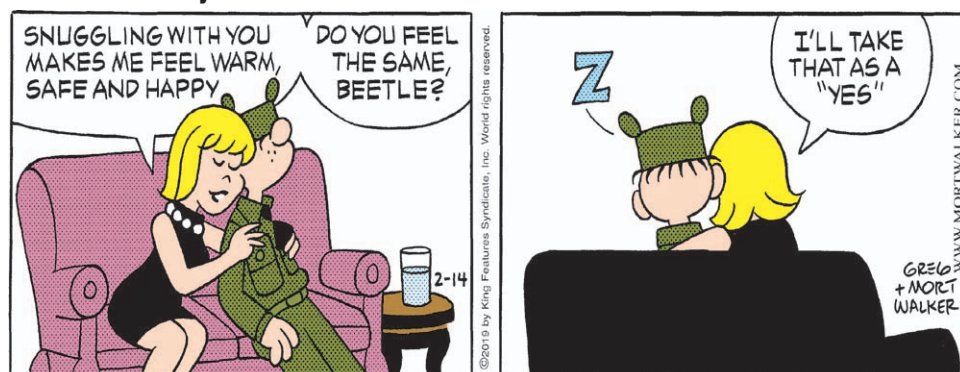
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



BEEBLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



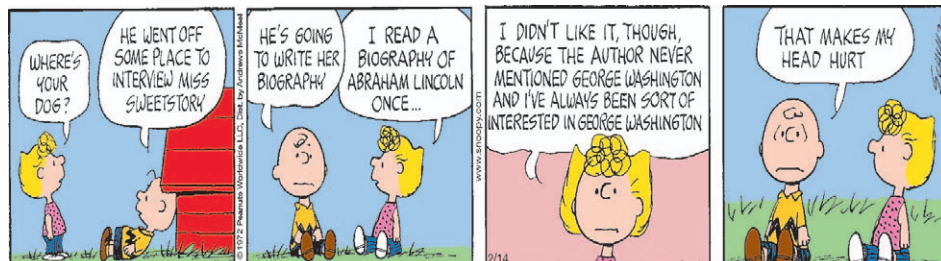
PICKLES By Brian Crane



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



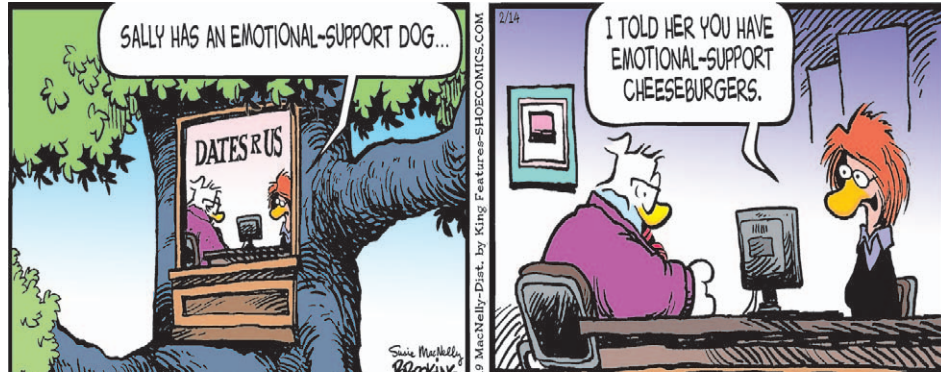
PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



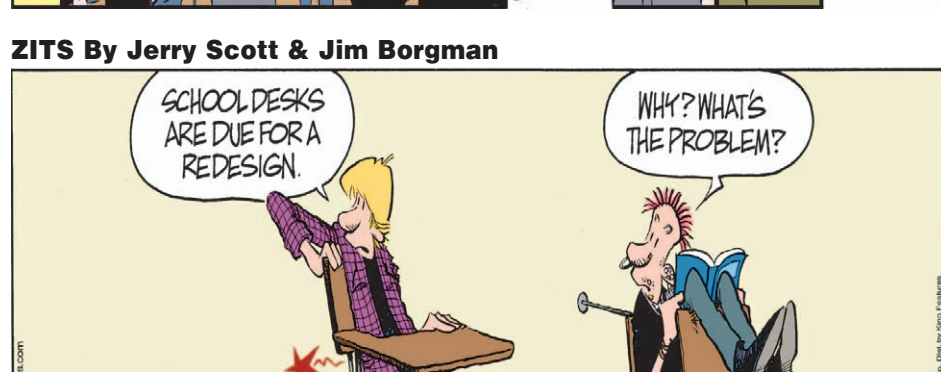
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



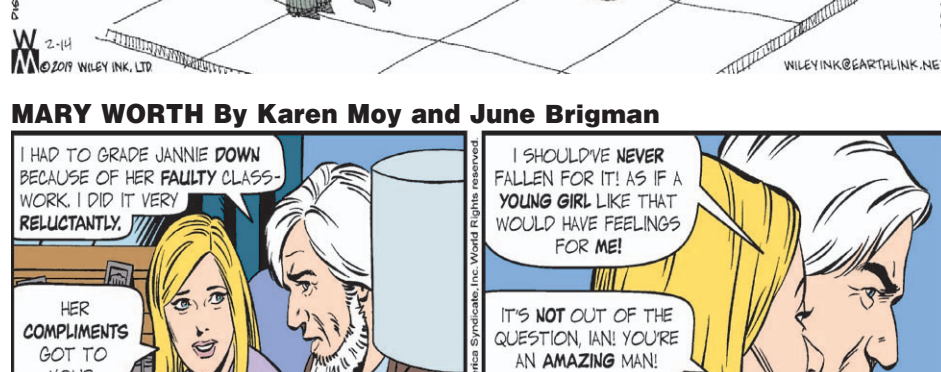
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



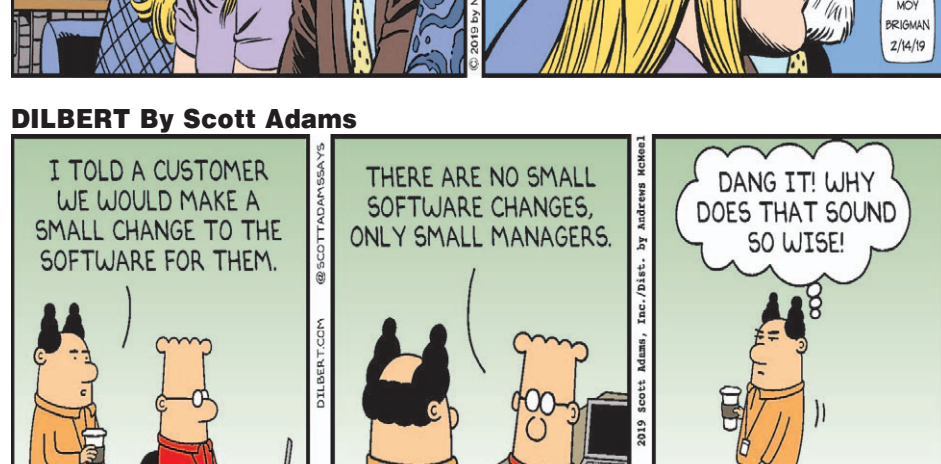
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



DILBERT By Scott Adams



Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Multiple columns for NYSE and NYSE-LISTED.

- D -

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like DrgGold, DSW Inc, DTE, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like DomEng, DomRes, Dom76, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains stock data for companies like EllingIR, Ellomay, EllswthF, etc.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table of NYSE stock data with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like WUBA, FstAccept, FstAFin n, FstBcp pA, etc.

Table of NYSE stock data with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like GamGldnR, GamGldr pB, GamNRGf, etc.

Table of NYSE stock data with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like GugIndls, GugHlthC, GugFncI, etc.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including iShCanada, iSFMU, iSHEM, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including Insuites, Inphi, Insights, InspMed, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, %Chg. Lists various stocks including iShLdgtly, iShLHjpn, iShCHSoK, etc.

- J -

- K -

- L -

Continued on next page

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Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock tickers like LeafGrp, LeafCorp, etc.

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock tickers like MonRE pB, MonRE pC, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock tickers like NuVH2020, NuVEnhMu, etc.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including PennyMac, PFI, PFI, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including ProShid, ProShid, ProShid, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks including RennaSola, RennaSola, RennaSola, etc.

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like SRC Eng, SteelPrt, SteelPrt p/a, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like SteelPrt, SteelPrt p/a, SteelSec, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like TrnsRty, UBS 3xLCr, UBS 3xInvC, etc.

- U -

- T -

- V -

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains NYSE stock data for various companies like VangSTbd, VangTotBd, etc.

X-Y-Z

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains NYSE stock data for companies starting with X, Y, and Z.

- W -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains NYSE stock data for companies starting with W.

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Contains Nasdaq stock data for various companies like Adomani n, Adtran, etc.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Main table containing stock market data for Nasdaq, including columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 1000s, Last, %Chg, and YTD. The table is organized into sections labeled A through Z.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like DurectCp, Dynatronc, eBay, etc.

- E -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like E-B Trade, eBay, eBags, etc.

- F -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like F5T Networks, FAT Br n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like FTNSqTdp, FTLWdOpp, FT BuyInc, etc.

- G -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like G'Willifera, G1Thera n, GCI Lb A, etc.

- H -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like H&E Eap, HDS, HFFG, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like GrnPLP n, Greensky n, GrnCB NY s, etc.

- I -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like i3 Vert n, IAC Inter, IBEX Hi n, etc.

- J -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last %Chg. Includes entries like J&J Vert n, JAC Inter, JBEH Hi n, etc.

Continued on next page

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Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as InfilRx, InfoSvcs, IntraVital, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as LM FdgAs, LPLA, LRAD, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, 1000s, Vol, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as MiratiTher, Mison, Mitcham, etc.

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Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like OneGorHosp, PureCyc, 180 DgrCap, etc.

P-Q

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like P&F Inds, PAM, PB Bncp, etc.

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like PureAcq, PureCyc, PyxisTrkr, etc.

- R -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like R1 RCM n, RBB Bcp n, RBC Bep, etc.

- S -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like S&T Bcp, S&W Seed, SB FinGp, etc.

- T -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like T-MobileUS, TAT Tch n, TAT BDC n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes stocks like ShoeCarnvl, ShoeBsch, ShotSpot n, etc.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table of Nasdaq stock market data including columns for Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, and %Chg. Includes sub-sections for - V - and - U -.

Table of Nasdaq stock market data continuing from the previous section, including sub-sections for - X - Z - and - W -.

Money Market Funds

Table of Money Market Funds data with columns for Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield.

Continued on next page

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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. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

Tax Exempt

Table listing tax-exempt funds with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Includes funds like AImTX, Amc CATF, BMO TF, etc.

Toronto stocks

Table with columns: Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Lists various Toronto stocks and their price movements.

Treasury bonds

Table with columns: Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld. Lists Treasury bonds with their yields and rates.

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

Section titled 'How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables' containing a table of mutual fund data and explanatory text. The table includes columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, and 3-yr Rtn/Rk. The text explains how to interpret the data and provides definitions for various fund objectives and abbreviations.

Top 20 Mutual Funds

Table with 3 columns: By Year-to-Date Percent Return, By Total Net Assets, and By 4-Week Percent Return. Each column lists mutual funds with their performance metrics.

Continued from previous page

Main table of Mutual Funds listing various funds (e.g., SustIntlThctAdv, Angel Oak, Aquila, Arbitrage, Ariel, Aristotle, Artisan, Ashmore, Auxier, Ave Maria, BMO, BNY Mellon, Baron, Baird, Barrett Associates, Becker, Berkshire, Bernstein, Berwyn, Bishop Street, BlackRock, Brenstein, Brexton Advisory, Broadview, Brookfield Investment, Brown Cap Mgmt, Bruce, Buffalo, CIBC, CDM, CRM, Calamos) and their performance metrics across different categories.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Table with 21 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. The table lists various mutual fund investments with their respective performance metrics.

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtrn/Rrk, and multiple columns for various mutual fund categories and their performance metrics.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and corresponding data for various mutual funds. Includes sub-sections like Undiscovered Manager, VALIC Co I, VALIC Co II, Vanguard, Vericimetry, and WestMark.

BASS ON THE BEDS:

Targeting spawning largemouths can be so simple — or not.

— PAGE 5 —

LUNA TUNES:

A bluegrass party with a bunch of owls? I'm so there.

— PAGE 15 —

CIRCLE HOOK 101:

How they work, when to use them, and how to catch more.

— PAGE 16 —

THE GOOD OLD DAYS:

Capt. Ralph remembers when redfish were plentiful here.

— PAGE 22 —

February 14, 2019

Waterline

WEEKLY MAGAZINE

THE ORIGINAL,
SINCE 1997



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ON THE COVER

Photo provided

Hayden Boyd with a nice canal tuna, which is just a fun way of saying a big jack crevalle that will fight you nine ways from Sunday.



Your baby's bag limit

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Do you fish with your baby? I'm not talking about your sweetheart or your honeypie, even though it's Valentine's Day (or Valentime's, according to about 15 percent of the population). No, I mean your actual baby. As in, a very young human being.

Most of us wouldn't — at least, not until they're old enough to hold a rod — but I had the most interesting discussion with a fellow the other day. You see, he thought he had found a loophole, and he was more than happy to explain it to anyone who might benefit.

He had a honeypole for mangrove snapper. This spot, he said, was producing hundreds of them. They were keepers, but they weren't huge. He and his wife were bummed that they could keep only 10 between the two of them.

And that's when he had a revelation: His sister had just had twins! If he and his wife



Shutterstock photo
If the kid can catch 'em, he can keep 'em. But you can't keep any for him.

BAG LIMIT | 21A

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have a question or comment for WaterLine, email it to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com.

CAPT. JOSH:
I was wondering if you could do an article on fishing etiquette. Last week I took three veterans out to go fishing on the Gulf. I headed out to my numbers in Venice by the boxcars, and once there attempted to anchor on my numbers. As you know, anchoring exactly on the numbers is difficult. I was less than 100 feet from my original marks and anchored. Two fellas showed up with a trolling motor and anchor hold, less than 100 feet away from me. Really? I thought to myself. "This is the Gulf of Mexico and you've got to anchor less than 100 feet away from me?" I watched the two fellas fish. They were over the limit on snapper and didn't leave until their battery was done. I was taught to not fish that way and to give people their space. I did manage to get some fish for my vets, however, and if I was able to get to my exact numbers I would have cleaned up as did the two fellows did less than 100 feet from me. Before they departed I told them that I had three vets on board and if they like to donate any extra fish they had to my vets I would appreciate it (since they were over the limit).

They laughed and motored off.
— Mark Skelly

MARK:
It's really a shame that such scenes are no longer rare exceptions but increasingly the norm. We could talk about all the things those guys did wrong. If we could find them, we could sit them down and explain to them what they did wrong. And it wouldn't matter at all, because they're not the kind of people you can reach that way. They're selfish, arrogant, entitled jackasses. Sometimes I think about the way such a situation would have been handled 50 years ago, with a bit of well-earned physical violence. Then I remember that we live in the era of lawsuits and snap out of that little fantasy.
— Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

CAPT. JOSH:
Having little to do the other morning, I took a ride to Stump Pass Marina. While walking to the bait shop to see if I could get any good "fish stories," I saw a gentleman sitting on a nearby bench. He looked very familiar. We struck up a conversation and I finally realized that it was Capt. Van Hubbard. Of course we talked fishing. He

pointed out to me why I am having a hard time finding fish at my old fishing grounds. He is very knowledgeable and interesting to talk to, full of information. His column in WaterLine is on my "sure to read" list. I like his tell-it-like-it-is approach. Keep up the good work!

— Darry Platt, aka Jer-Z-Guy

DARRY:
Sometimes facing stark realities can be a real downer, but the truth is that it's good for us. And that's why we keep him around.
— Josh Olive, WaterLine Publisher

Letters are welcome on any outdoor-related subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them to less than 250 words. Letters may be edited for length as well as grammar and spelling. We reserve the right to refuse any letter not signed with the writer's full name. Slandorous or libelous material will not be published. The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse. The opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. WaterLine and Sun Coast Media Group take no responsibility for the content of these letters.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---------|
| FLORIDA BASSIN' • GREG BARTZ Catching bass on the beds can be really easy — or really hard | Page 5 |
| STAY FLY • CAPT. REX GUDGEL Reasons to go fly fishing | Page 7 |
| A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD Don't miss out on a good time | Page 11 |
| PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER • ROBIN JENKINS, DVM Bluegrass and owls: The perfect combo | Page 15 |
| THE FISH COACH • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE Understanding circle hooks | Page 16 |
| KAYAK FISHING • KIMBALL & LES BEERY Drifting your kayak across the flats | Page 17 |
| BIRDING IN PARADISE • ABBIE BANKS Some days just aren't as birdy | Page 19 |
| ANGLING 201 • CAPT. CAYLE WILLS Scratch your tarpon itch up the river | Page 20 |
| AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN The good old days, when redfish were all over | Page 22 |

ANGLING 101
ROBERT LUGIEWICZ
Some basic questions

There are some questions that get asked a lot by anglers who are new (or newer) to Southwest Florida. Let's answer a few of them for those fisherfolk who have been too embarrassed to ask.



Page 9

REGULAR FEATURES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| READER PHOTOS Pages 3,12-13 | SLACK TIDES Page 14 |
| BULLETIN BOARD Page 4 | RECIPES Pages 15,17,23 |
| MAP OF LOCAL WATERS Page 8 | FISHING REGULATIONS Page 18 |
| FISH FINDER Page 10 | FISH PROFILES Page 21 |
| BOATING CLASSES Page 13 | TIDE CHARTS Page 24 |

Reader Photos

Amanda Hoglund with her catch-and-release snook.



SEE MORE READER PHOTOS ON PAGE 12



9-year-old Keaton Collis is on the meat with this sheepshead.

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Bass on the beds

FLORIDA BASSIN' • GREG BARTZ

WaterLine file photo
Bass beds show up as pale round areas on dark lake bottoms.



Spawning fish can be super easy or near impossible

Now that we have finally had some warmer weather, the bass should be finding their way to the spawning beds. Locating bass on spawning beds is not usually a very difficult task. But even though you can see them, catching them is not always the easiest thing in the world.

Seeing a bass in shallow water is one thing. Trying to get him to bite is another. Bass by nature are a very spooky species. Shadows from the boat, or from the angler himself, can cause a bass to move off a spawning bed and put them in high alert. Sometimes the bass will be skittish and won't commit to anything you throw on a spawning bed.

There will be other times where you can catch that same bass all day long (which I discourage; it's not good for the bass) simply because he is in full protect mode. When you find them like that, they are easy to catch. Instinct drives the males guard their spawning beds — and if anything comes near, it's met with some serious fury.

I remember taking my wife out on one of our first fishing trips together long before we were married. She didn't believe that you could actually see them and get them to bite. It's been so long that I have forgotten which lake I took her to, but the bed fishing was on and the males were all over the place. Everywhere we went, you could see the fanned-out bright sandy spots, with bass sitting on every one of them.

This was really cool for me as well — I had never seen them stacked up quite like that. So I picked out one spawning bed with about a 2-pound male on it and showed Missy how to flip a bright bait (something you could see easily under the water) onto the bed and catch that bass. After releasing him, I told her to look down at the spawning bed again. The bass had gone right back to that bed and back to his business.

I cut off the hook and told Missy to flip the bait back on the spawning bed. That same bass came back and hammered the bait again. We didn't catch him because there was no hook, but my point to her was that bass in a certain frame of mind will hit that bait over and over again to keep it out of the

spawning bed.

The fun part of that day was finding the areas and identifying the spawning beds. If you have reasonable water clarity, it's very easy to see a spawning bed. When you spot a bright sandy circle, peer around the edges of it to see if you can spy a bass lurking nearby.

A hard sandy bottom is key. That type of bottom makes it very easy for the male bass to fan out a bed with his tail. One thing that you should always look for is some type of vegetation that has holes in it, or has little points that the bass can get next to. A nesting site in such a spot offers them some cover to hide in if they get spooked while on the bed.

This is the right time of year to go out and target some bedding bass. The water is on a warming trend and it is at the right temperature that should get the bass moving to the beds and locking on to them. Pay close attention to the bottom you are over. Find a spot on your lake where you know that the bottom is firm and work from there.

Also, early in the year like this, the north end of a lake tends to warm up faster than the rest of the lake. Why? Most cold weather comes from the north, and it comes with wind. That wind does not have as much of an impact on the north end of the lake because the land serves as a windbreak. But the south side gets the full brunt of the wind and the waves. So it's a good rule of thumb to check the north end of the lake first, then move southward.

About the only exception to this is canals. If you have a lake with canals on it, look there first. That water warms quicker because it is in a smaller, more confined area. Look around docks and little dropoffs for beds.

As I write this, I am getting ready to head to the lake myself. With the water up six or seven degrees over this past week, I hope to find some really good bass in the canals on the lake I will be fishing. Hopefully, my wife and I will have some luck and land a few good bass.

Greg Bartz is a tournament bass fisherman based in Lakeland. Greg fishes lakes throughout Florida's Heartland and enjoys RV travel around the Southeast with his wife and tournament partner, Missy. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@SummitHoldings.com.

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Shutterstock photo
 Every fly fisherman has a different image of what "fly fishing" really is. But really, they all have similar reasons to fly fish.

The benefits of fly fishing

STAY FLY • CAPT. REX GUDGEL

Why would anyone want to wave a whippy rod? Plenty of reasons

Just mention flyfishing and all sorts of mental images appear. Everyone has a different one. Some may imagine a pristine shallow sand flat with the water distorted by the rooster tail of water being thrown off a speeding fly line dragged by a hooked bonefish. Others may see graceful loops of colored fly line unrolling over a small secluded mountain stream as clouds of caddis or mayflies bounce and hover over the water and surrounding foliage, while rings on the water are centered by the noses of rising trout.

While fly fishing necessarily points towards the fish as the end goal, it's often not really the true focus. Fly fishing is more about the overall aesthetic, the disparate parts that come together to create the whole experience.

Fly fishing writers and the industry as a whole seem to recognize this fact. What's important is not catching big fish, but making a perfect cast at a tailing Charlotte Harbor redfish, or experiencing payara fishing somewhere deep in the Amazon basin, or enjoying the peacefulness of a lazy summer day as you float on a farm pond casting a rubber-legged spider for bluegill.

The fish we love to catch live in some of the prettiest places on Earth. It's no accident that our favorite places to fish are often not those that promise the best shot at a trophy fish, but those that are the most beautiful and pristine. Of course, there's absolutely nothing wrong with catching trophy fish in a beautiful spot!

The advantages of fly fishing are many. One of them is the opportunity to enjoy and learn about nature. Some of my most memorable trips are those during which I've had encounters with animals other than fish. I've seen bears, deer, elk and mountain lions while fishing western rivers; baby manatees kissing the back of my boat while rosette spoonbills flew overhead here in Florida; howler monkeys yelling from the trees while spider monkeys climbed on board the boat in South America. It's crazy what you'll find and see if you just slow down, look, be aware and be a part of it.

Another of the purported upsides of fly fishing is that it allows you to relax. I'm not sure about that, because you're busy doing something all the time. Maybe it's a different type of relaxation.

But I can tell you that while you are busy being involved in chasing fish, hearing new sounds and seeing new things, you're putting everything else on the back burner. After even one day on the water you're more

centered and able to cope with everyday troubles. I know that when I have time off from guiding, I want to fish or just stand in the yard and cast so that I can relax.

Spending time with friends and family is always a pro in my book. I love sharing my knowledge and skills with them, as well as with clients who hopefully will become friends. Few experiences are as enjoyable as spending a day poling the flats in a skiff or floating down a river with someone whose company you enjoy.

Of course, a small boat can seem a whole lot smaller if you get stuck with a guide or fishing partner who just happens to rub you the wrong way. Fortunately, most of us who fly fish are pretty decent people, but it's always good advice to choose your fishing partner wisely.

Other pluses: Fly fishing provides one of the best excuses for travel you'll ever find. For those so inclined, it's always possible to get a good shot of adrenaline. Solving challenges that arise are a big part of fly fishing: Where do I need to be on this incoming tide? Is that a size 18 Ephemeroptera emerger? How do I make "that" cast or presentation? Figuring these things out is truly satisfying when you finally fool a fish into eating a fly.

As I have tried to paint such a pretty picture of fly fishing it's not without cons. To get better at it and able to enjoy it more, there are a few things that you have to do.

- Spend more time on the water. Sorry; you'll have to go to your favorite stream, lake or saltwater destination and fish. (Damn, that's too bad.)

- Practice casting in the yard 10 or 15 minutes a day. That's all it takes if you are practicing correctly, and it will help immensely. (10 minutes? Who has 10 minutes?)

- Call a fishing buddy or family member and invite them to go and share this adventure with you. (Hang out with people you like? Ridiculous.)

Now if these downsides are too tough for you to endure, then so be it! But right now is a good time to jump into fly fishing around Charlotte Harbor. The water has cleared. The red tide has gone back to where it belongs. The water and air have warmed up, and the fish are eating. My trips have been consisting of good numbers of snook, trout, reds, sheepshead, along with some mackerel and a pompano here and there. We aren't done with winter yet and we'll have a few more cold fronts come through, but fishing will keep getting better on into March.

By the way if you are reading this and

haven't bought your significant other the expected Hallmark Valentine paraphernalia, drop this paper and get it done! You can't fly fish from the dog house.

Stay fly.

Capt. Rex Gudgel is a fly fishing guide in the

Boca Grande area and an International Federation of Fly Fishers Master Certified casting instructor. If you'd like to get casting lessons, book a trip or just need more fly fishing info, contact him at 706-254-3504 or visit BocaGrandeSlamFlyFishing.com or CastWithRex.com.

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Basic fishing questions, part one



ANGLING 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ



Photo provided
Cheryl Karlgaard with a fat 17-inch sheepshead. Once you master the basics of local fishing, you can start catching fish like this.

I've been working at the tackle shop for 20 years now. In that time, I've been asked tens of thousands of fishing questions. I always take the time to not just answer them but also explain the answers, even though many of the questions are the same.

Since there are a lot of questions that get asked over and over, I thought it might be a good idea to answer a bunch of them all at once. Actually, there are too many to fit in one column, so this will have to be continued next week. So, let's stop wasting space and get started.

I have no idea how to fish in salt water. Where do I start?

If you have experience with fishing for largemouth bass or walleye, you already know a lot of things that will apply to our inshore saltwater fishing. You know to fish around structure — timber, pilings, dropoffs, points, etc. You probably know that predatory fish use these areas as ambush points, and that water flowing around them is going to be key to how the fish are oriented. Use that knowledge. One big difference: Most of our fishy activity occurs in water less than 6 feet deep.

None of what you just said made any sense to me. Can we start at the beginning?

Alright. If we have to start there, you can try saltwater panfishing. Basically, you fish with small hooks and little bits of shrimp around pilings and seawalls, and you catch pinfish and pigfish and those types of things. Once you can do that consistently, you can graduate to bigger fish. Alternatively, you can hire fishing guides and try to learn from them. But be aware — there is a lot to learn. Don't get frustrated, and remember you have to crawl before you walk and walk before you run.

What's the difference between freshwater and saltwater tackle?

OK — good news. If you have heavy bass tackle (a 3000 to 4000 size reel, a 7ish foot rod rated for about 8 to 20 pound line), you already have gear that will work for saltwater. One big difference is that we don't use spincasting reels, since they get too much salt inside. Baitcasting reels aren't very popular here either, mostly because we tend to cast lighter baits (mostly a half-ounce or less). Many of the lures are the same, but often beefed up a bit and given corrosion-resistant hooks.

How big a boat do I really need to fish here?

To fish the flats, you can use anything from a kayak to a bay boat. Bass boats and jon boats are great. The goal is to have a shallow draft

(less than 18 inches, or better yet less than 12). You'll really want to have a trolling motor to navigate shallow areas. Pontoon and deck boats work, but you'll be blocked from a lot of the shallow spots. For the open Gulf, bay boats are good on calm days. For bumpy days, the bigger the better. What you don't want here: Small boats with deep drafts. There's just not much use for them.

Which lures really catch fish?

Because there are so many kinds of fish here, almost any lure can be used successfully. We use a lot of soft plastics (not so much worms, but flukes, craws, shad, etc). Lipped plugs like the Rapala minnows are awesome. Shallow-running crankbaits are good. Topwater plugs like the Zara Spook are killer. Spoons (usually a half-ounce or less) catch a lot of fish. Inline spinners can be used to good effect. We don't have much use for small lures that run deep, but you'll be able to use most of what's in your tackle box. As for what's currently hot, it changes, so ask at your local tackle shop.

Which fish here are edible?

Local favorites that you're likely to catch include whiting, sea trout, mangrove snapper, sheepshead, black drum (smaller fish under about 10 pounds), and bonnethead and blacktip sharks. If you're going offshore, grunts, porgies and lane snapper are common and delicious. If you like yellow perch, you'll like squirrelfish. Some people also eat jacks, gafftopsail catfish (the ones with the very long fin spines) and stingrays. Most people avoid ladyfish, hardhead catfish (the ones with the short fin spines). The really prized fish — grouper, hogfish, tripletail, etc — are unlikely to be caught by newbies. Snook and redfish are good, but they're closed to harvest until further notice.

What are those jumping fish and how do I catch them?

They're mullet, and you're gonna have a tough time getting one hooked. The diet of a mullet is 98 percent vegetable. You can try to snag them or net them. They're oily and strong-flavored but a lot of people like them. Otherwise, they're important forage for gamefish.

OK, that's all the space I've got for this week. We'll continue this next time.

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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INSHORE & FRESHWATER

ASHLEY L.

ECONOMY TACKLE
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Sarasota Bay is still a bit slow other than lots of **sheepshead** and **snook** in the creeks mouths. Live shrimp will get both, and the snook are likely to hit a bone Spook in low light. A few **redfish** have been caught in the north end of the bay by wade fishermen. Lakewood Ranch has had lots of **largemouths**, and the spawn is on. Bluegill-colored worms and other soft plastics are killer.

GULF & OFFSHORE

Good numbers of big **mangrove snapper** and **yellowtails** are coming in at about 65 feet. Live shrimp or frozen squid will work. Some **red snapper** have been caught at that depth too. **Little tunny** and a few **blackfin tuna** have been over the reefs but no huge schools. **Tripletail** are on any floating debris.

BEST BET

The **snapper** offshore are plentiful, hungry and relatively close to shore — go get 'em!

MALCOLM

COOKS SPORTLAND
Venice
941-493-0025

Lemon Bay has been mixed, with some anglers having awesome days and others not so much. **Sheepshead** are eating shrimp, but the **trout** bite has been better on soft plastics: Zman minnows, Lil Johns, DOA shad. Silver, white, pink and chartreuse are all working. Terra Ceia has had good numbers of **redfish** for kayak anglers. **Bass** and **catfish** have been OK if not great in freshwater ponds.

The reports from 100 feet are **lanes** and **mangrove snapper**, plus some keeper **red grouper**. In shallower, the grouper get smaller, but there are still plenty of keeper snapper along with **grunts** and **porgies**. It's still a bit cool for **mackerel**, but we're expecting them soon.

Whatever you're planning to fish for, anticipate doing some moving around. Keep trying until you find them.

JIM

FISHERMAN'S EDGE
Grove City
941-697-7595

A few **Spanish mackerel** have popped up around Boca Grande Pass. Coral Creek has been producing some juvenile **tarpon**. The **trout** fishing has been decent, with good numbers of keepers on soft plastics. Whiddens Creek and Turtle Bay have been good. **Redfish** and **snook** are both under the mangroves and will take shrimp or plugs. **Large-mouth bass** are biting in the Rotonda canals.

Red grouper are coming from 90 to 100 feet. **Lane snapper** are abundant as shallow as 35 feet, and some decent **mangroves** are coming from shallow as well. Of course, the deeper you go, the bigger they get. **Yellowtail** are on the wrecks. A few anglers have found **cobia** out there as well.

The **sheepshead** bite is strong on the nearshore reefs and the inshore docks. Cut shrimp are fine.

JEFF

CAPT. TED'S TACKLE
Port Charlotte
941-627-6800

Redfish, **trout** and **jacks** have been taking Sebile Stick Shadds and other artificials in Bull and Turtle bays. Focus your efforts on areas where there is good current flow. The **largemouth** action has been stellar in local ponds and canals. Catch some live bluegill to bait them with, or try throwing swimbaits and big worms.

We're seeing lots of decent-size baitfish within a few miles of the beach.

There have been a lot more **redfish** around. Target them under the mangroves with scented soft plastics.

ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S
Charlotte Harbor
941-625-3888

The ICW area has been much better than the upper Harbor, with **redfish**, **snook** and **trout** all being caught. Shrimp is still the bait to beat, but you can try plastics or maybe cut fish under the bushes. In the PGI canals, there have been lots of big **black drum**, some good **jacks** and a few juvenile **tarpon**. **Bonnethead sharks** are on the Cape Haze flats and into Turtle Bay.

From 10 to 20 miles, we're seeing a mixed bag of **grunts**, **porgies** and **lane** and **mangrove snapper**. On the deeper spots, there may be some **yellowtail** also. Random **cobia** have been taken also. If you go out deep, there are **AJs** and **red grouper** from 80 to 110 feet.

Sheepshead are showing well in the ICW and around Boca Grande, but the bite is only OK there. Better to fish at the Ainger Pier, the mangrove edges and the nearshore reefs.

CAMERON

RIO VILLA
BAIT & TACKLE
Punta Gorda
941-639-7166

Sheepshead are still in the canals on small live shrimp or crabs. Catch-and-release **snook** have been good in Alligator Creek on DOA shrimp and CAL jerkbaits rigged weedless. Glow/gold seems to be the color of choice. **Bass** have been active in the port Charlotte canals early morning on live shiners under a float. **Crappie** are still active in Shell Creek; fish live minnows on the lily pad edges and reeds.

Lane snapper, **grunts** and **red grouper** are coming from live hard bottom in 45 to 65 feet on frozen squid, shrimp and sardines. A few **cobia** have been reported cruising around the nearshore wrecks — keep a live pinfish ready to throw.

Good numbers of quality **trout** are in Pine Island Sound in deep potholes on Vudu shrimp or live pinfish under a float. **Flounder** have also been reported in some of the same holes.

DOUG

D&D MATLACHA
BAIT & TACKLE
Matlacha
239-282-9122

There are lots of **trout** around the Matlacha area, and DOA shad in clear/glitter colors are doing well. The **mangrove snapper** have also been pretty active. Juvenile **redfish** have been feeding on the flats; a live shrimp under a popping cork is a good plan. Big **snook** have been along the mangroves in Big Jim Creek; try a live pin or jumbo shrimp.

Tripletail have been eating live pinfish or shrimp around the stone crab traps, but we have no bottom fishing reports this week.

The **sheepshead** are abundant off the D&D dock and most other inshore structures. Cut shrimp or live fiddler crabs will work fine.

ARTIE

BAIT N WAIT
Fort Myers Beach
239-466-8737

(2/7 report) The Hurricane Bridge has been producing **mangrove snapper**, **snook** and a bunch of **sheepshead** on shrimp. There are also **sheepshead** and some baby **grouper** at the Fort Myers Beach Pier.

A lot of guys are going out after **grouper** but settling for **snapper** instead. At least there are plenty of them.

Stick to the ICW and fish shrimp around the piers and mangroves for whatever bites.

THE FISH COACH'S TIP OF THE WEEK: Sunscreen — we all need it out on the water (yes, even in winter), but many anglers are reluctant to put it on because we know if there's sunscreen on our hands, it can kill our bait and make our lures less appealing. The solution? Well, it's not the spray stuff. There are chemicals in spray sunscreens that are highly corrosive to certain plastics, such as those used in reel handles, leader material and inexpensive sunglasses. The better option is to use sunscreens with fewer chemical sunblocks and more physical ones (titanium and zinc). Naturally, those are also more expensive. If you'd like to avoid the bill, you can also just cover up. Long sleeves, gloves, a buff and a hat will get you 95 percent there, and you'll only need to spread goop around your eyes and nose. — *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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A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD

I was invited to join friends on an offshore excursion a couple weeks ago. The weather was perfect, with calm seas and clean, clear Gulf waters. We charged out and had a wonderful time. Friends and fishing — can't beat a day like that. No red tide or wind; no problems at all. The closest we had to a problem was a bunch of fish to clean and eat. I like that problem.

Still, we do have issues to address, and if we fumble the ball it's bad news. The government is listening, so let's feed them educated ideas. We also need to take advantage of any blessings we can enjoy. Weather patterns are crazy, but we are the lucky ones for now. Winter in South West Florida is certainly a blessing. Just look at recent temperatures up north and be thankful.

We do have many fish species both inside and outside closed. Amberjack, triggerfish, red snapper and all grouper past 20 fathoms are closed. Being a cup-half-full guy, I'm glad to enjoy the red grouper in shallower, plus the grunts, porgies, and all the other snapper. It's challenging to keep up, but my best tool is the Fish Rules app. It can even track if you are in state or federal waters.

Our catch included yellowtail, lane, vermilion and mango snapper — all great eating. We had a few keeper red grouper and a bunch almost big enough that were fun to catch and release. We anchored up and deployed frozen chum to attract the snapper. Be patient; it requires time for chum to light up the fish.

Chum also attracts sharks and mackerel, whether you want them or not. We had trouble one time with sharks and had to move. Not a big deal.

I've found that lighter 20-pound gear adds to both the fun factor and to the weight of the ziptop bags at the end of the day. Lighter fluorocarbon leaders, 15- to 20-pound, help produce more action. Remember to use circle hooks for reef fish.

We tried a variety of baits: Squid, cut fish, shrimp and frozen minnows. We caught fish on everything. Larger baits are fine for grouper. Experience has shown me that smaller bite-sized baits hook more snapper. My theory is if the fish can get it in its mouth, I have better chance to hook it. After all, the hook has to get inside to catch 'em. We saw lots of baitfish minnows on our sonar, and that is exciting.

Inside action is due to light up now. Both snook and redfish are catch-and-release; but we do still have opportunities. If you want to protect your children's future, we must manage our fisheries to save them some. Care in handling is

critical. Careless abuse of release fish results in dead wasted fish instead of increased fish stocks. Discard mortality factors into our fishery management both inshore and offshore. This cuts down on our harvest seasons and numbers. Dead fish don't make babies.

We are due to have schools of Spanish mackerel show up any day. I saw a few last week. The pompano are due too. Trout are available inside, and we will know soon how these stocks are.

King mackerel are ready to test our tackle and thrill anglers. These abundant fish are the answer to our dreams: Three-fish limits and a 24-inch minimum; plenty of fun and food. They are easy to locate and catch, if you understand how. Don't miss this fishing adventure as they migrate by anytime. I expect to have both mackerel species around for a few months.

To ensure a successful adventure, plan safely and realistically. Do not play with Mother Natures storms; they can kill you. I can create a game plan to work around most weather conditions. I don't mess with lightning but light rains are workable. We have plenty of weather predictors, so it's no excuse that you didn't know the forecast. They are not perfect but offer valuable information for tomorrow and even next week.

Next, be realistic. Factor in your equipment, knowledge, experience or lack thereof, and of course what can you spend. I frequently hear folks wanting to go way offshore and catch big fish for less than the fuel costs. If a short offshore trip isn't a thousand bucks, I'm not interested. I do inshore and that is only up to 9 miles out. The federal permits alone for offshore reef and pelagic fish are over \$25,000 now. If your captain doesn't have them, he is cheating and you are all at risk.

Fuel costs are hundreds of dollars per hour on the faster rigs, and it's hours each way offshore. Bait and gear are extremely expensive. If you think charter boats are expensive, buy an offshore boat and learn how to throw away money fast. It hurts to shell out our money, but if it's cheap it's not quality. Can we really afford cheap anything, especially when your and your guests' lives are at stake?

Just some thoughts to consider. Thank you all, and remember, you can't catch fish if you don't go fishin', so let's go fishin' soon.

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.

Photo provided

Good times and good company: Melanie Flower with a very nice mangrove snapper chummed up in 85 feet.



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Reader Photos



John D. Carmer and Jeremy D. got this huge 44-inch African pompano (one of six caught that day) with Capt. Bob Breton out of Venice.



Christopher Hargraves of North Port with a Boca Grande sheephead.



Canadian snowbird Pat Burrows caught and released this black drum in his backyard canal in Punta Gorda.



Vince Jadryev of South Gulf Cove caught and released this 30-inch snook under the El Jobean Bridge.



Don Karlgaard with a triggerfish caught at the Novak Reef.



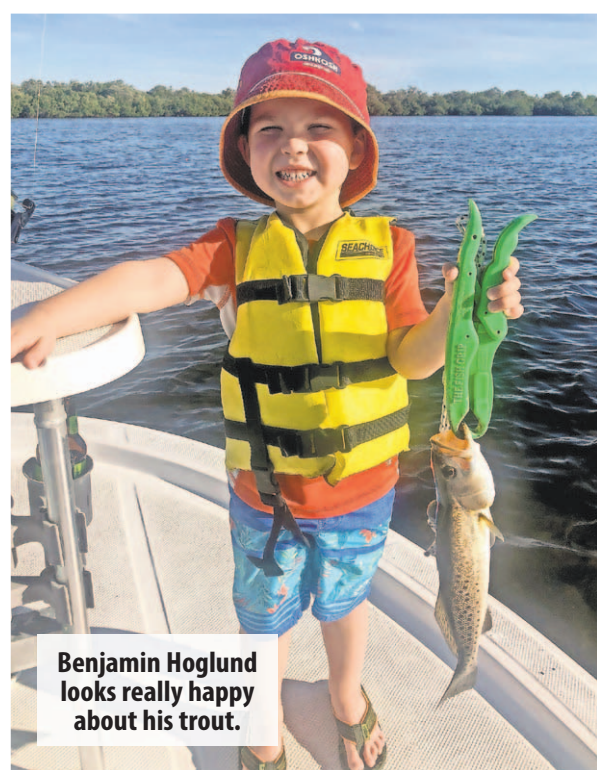
Chef Tim Spain with a puppy black drum.



Richie from Long Island with a jack caught in Shackett Creek with Capt. Phil on The Happy Snooker.



5-year-old Grayson Collis with a sheephead he caught.



Benjamin Hoglund looks really happy about his trout.



David Gazer caught this young shark off Stump Pass beach.



Jack Head, Capt. Gary Cumberworth and Gary Parker with some fine African pompano.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Here's how it works: Take pictures of your outdoor adventures. Send your high-quality digital photos to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com. DO NOT send us photos of oversized or other release-only fish being poorly handled. Photos of such fish being gaffed, held by the lower jaw only or obviously damaged or dead will not be published, no matter how big the fish or how proud the angler may be.

LOCAL BOATING SAFETY/PROGRAMS

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

SARASOTA POWER SQUADRON — 941-400-6467

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 7 p.m. March 18

VENICE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-408-8591

America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. Feb. 23
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. March 23
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27

PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-637-0766

How To Use A Chart 9 a.m. Feb. 16
 Using GPS..... 1 p.m. Feb. 16
 Weather 9:30 a.m. Feb. 18
 America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. March 23
 How To Use A Chart 8:30 a.m. April 6
 Using GPS..... 1 p.m. April 6
 America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. April 27

CAPE CORAL POWER SQUADRON — 239-549-9754

America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. March 11
 America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. April 8

— Provided by Ron Jones

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

| PROGRAM | START DATE | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| About Boating Safety | Feb. 16 | Fort Myers | 734-626-0261 |
| Paddle Guide to Safety | Feb. 16 | Punta Gorda | 941-639-3811 |
| GPS for Mariners | Feb. 18 | Englewood | 941-681-2860 |
| Boating Skills & Seamanship | Feb. 19 | Englewood | 941-681-2860 |
| About Boating Safety | Feb. 19 | North Port | 941-661-5774 |
| About Boating Safety | Feb. 23 | Cape Haze | 772-359-7312 |
| About Boating Safety | Feb. 23 | Punta Gorda | 941-639-3811 |

— Provided by Dave Nielsen



A great time for a great cause!

SLACK TIDES NEWS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

FISH WITH LESIONS FOUND



FRANKLIN COUNTY, Fla. — The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is looking into concerns from a local fisherman regarding fish found with lesions off of the coast of Franklin County. Fisherman Brandon Graham, who took the photos, contacted FWC after finding multiple fish with the same sores during a fishing trip this past weekend. Graham said he first noticed something unusual about the fish about a month ago. "There were significantly less fish in the area," Graham says. "The mullet for example, which are usually very acrobatic, jumping all over the place, were swimming very slow — to the point where you could almost slap one with your hand." Graham says the situation appeared to be worse this weekend. He took his boat out in the waters between Eastpoint and Carabelle and says he noticed significantly fewer fish in the area. We have reached out to FWC about the photos and the concern. An FWC spokesperson says their fisheries biologist is currently working to contact the angler about obtaining a sample for further analysis.

GULLS EATING BABY SALMON

There are a lot of predators known to eat imperiled salmon, from sea lions to double-crested cormorants. For a long time, biologists thought gulls weren't a big part of the problem. Now, they say that was a miscalculation. "When some analysis was done, the impact of gulls — just in the section from McNary (Dam) to Bonneville (Dam) — nearly 20 percent of the fish taken were taken by gulls," said Blaine Parker, an avian predation coordinator with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, Ore. But, with all the other predators snapping up salmon, there hasn't been much attention paid to gulls, which are also believed to be eating juvenile steelhead trout, Parker said. The area Parker is concerned about, Miller Island, has up to 6,000 gulls nesting there during spring salmon runs. "It's almost like an express line going up the river," he said. The solution he proposes? Lethal control of specific problem gulls, along with non-lethal harassment. "Not all gulls are 'guilty' of eating salmon, but some of them are," Parker said. "And the ones that are routinely up in the tailrace [the channel that carries water away from the dam] eating salmon probably need better management. But just those gulls specifically." Gulls also steal fish from other birds, like Caspian terns, Parker said. That doubles the amount of

salmon eaten because the victim bird must then replace its catch.

ARE FISH SELF-AWARE?

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists report that a fish can pass a standard test of recognizing itself in a mirror — and they raise a question about what that means. Does this decades-old test, designed to show self-awareness in animals, really do that? Since the mirror test was introduced in 1970, scientists have found that relatively few animals can pass it. Most humans can by age 18 to 24 months, and so can chimps and orangutans, says the test's inventor, evolutionary psychologist Gordon Gallup Jr. of Albany College in New York. Outside of ape species, many researchers say there's also good evidence for passing the test in bottlenose dolphins, Asian elephants and European magpies, although Gallup is skeptical of those results. The test exposes animals to a mirror and looks for reactions that indicate some recognition of themselves. For example, do the animals do unusual things to see if the image copies them? Do they appear to use the mirror to explore their own bodies? And if researchers mark an animal in a place the creature can observe only in the mirror, does the animal try to remove it? Alex Jordan, who's at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Konstanz, Germany, and colleagues observed a reef-dwelling species called the cleaner wrasse doing odd behaviors like swimming upside-down by the mirror. When four fish were injected with a tag that left a visible brown mark under their throats, three scraped that part of their bodies against a rock or the sandy bottom of the tank, as if trying to remove it.



LEE COUNTY BOATER DIES

FORT MYERS — Close to 12:40 a.m. Feb. 10, it was reported to Lee County Emergency Dispatch Center a boater had gone overboard near the Edison Bridge in Fort Myers. Multiple law enforcement agencies discovered the boater dead and recovered the body from the Caloosahatchee River close to 7 a.m. Sunday. "It's just disheartening to hear something like that happening," San Schmidt said. "It's Traumatic to the family the rescuers and anybody involved." Lee County Sheriff's Office, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fort Myers Police Department and Lee County Fire Rescue all worked together to search for the missing boater. "When they stick with it, and they don't abandon it, I think that's great," Schmidt

said. "And it's really a heartwarming feeling." Cathy Lee docks in the marina nearby and said she met the boater and their family. The death hits the boating community hard. "If we have a problem or anything goes on, everybody comes," Lee said. FWC is investigating this incident as a boating accident.

KEY WEST BANS CHEMICALS



KEY WEST (AP) — City officials in Key West voted to ban sunscreens containing two ingredients that scientists have said are harmful to the coral reef ecosystem. In a 6-1 vote Feb. 5, the Key West City Commission banned the sale of sunscreens using oxybenzone and octinoxate beginning on Jan. 1, 2021. Mayor Teri Johnston said it's the commission's "obligation" to protect the reef, which is the only living coral barrier reef in the continental U.S. Researchers say the chemicals lead to bleaching, DNA damage and death of the corals. The vote followed an hour of public comment, with almost every speaker supporting the ban. Commissioner Greg Davila dissented, saying residents should have the choice of sunscreens they want to use. Last year, Hawaii banned sale and distribution of similar sunscreens beginning in 2021.

WHY DID THESE MANATEES DIE?

Florida wildlife officials are investigating the deaths of a "number" of manatees in the Everglades National Park. Park officials did not specify how many manatees were found deceased, but said the necropsies were "inconclusive." They said biologists believe environmental factors, such as red tide and cold weather, could have led to the manatees' deaths. "Our park staff are working closely with FWC biologists to monitor the situation and coordinate an aerial survey," according to a Facebook post by the Everglades National Park. They ask if anyone sees an injured, distressed or deceased marine mammal to call the state's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-3922, or dial *FWC.

WELL, THERE'S YOUR ANSWER

A deer hunter just messed up another hunt. This happened to him more times than he could count. He would spot a buck, take careful aim, fire, and miss. He would sneak up close just to get busted and watch the deer run away. He would sneeze just as the buck came into range. He would fall asleep on stand, waking in time to watch a giant buck scamper away. Frustrated, he complained to his hunting buddies: "Everything that happens to guys that don't know how to hunt keeps happening to me!"

Party with a purpose to raise funds for conservation.

Enjoy silent & live auctions, raffles, Vegas-style games, an open bar, and a wood-grilled 16-oz ribeye dinner.

6 p.m. March 28 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center in Punta Gorda.



For tickets, contact Adam Miller at 941-270-0895 or amiller@ccaflorida.org

Owls and bluegrass: A perfect match



**PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER
ROBIN JENKINS, DVM**



WaterLine photo by
Capt. Josh Olive

**Luna daydreaming
about his adoring
public.**

In case you missed the ridiculously commercialized attempt to lure your hard-earned dollars into the pockets of jewelry stores or candy and flower shops, today is Valentine's Day. If you have somehow forgotten to purchase a meaningful gift for that special someone, allow me to come to your rescue.

For a mere \$10 donation to Peace River Wildlife Center, you can purchase a ticket to our upcoming Luna Tunes bluegrass music celebration. This is our big annual fundraiser. Now in its third year, it continues to grow each year. Tickets can be purchased on our website, or you can call or stop by the Center. Go ahead and pick up one for yourself while you're at it.

The festivities will be on Saturday, March 2, at the Florida SouthWestern State College campus at 26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda. Gates open at noon. Bring a lawn chair to relax in the shade. Leave the cooler at home — you won't need it. The following vendors will be providing scrumptious treats for purchase:

- Ravenous Rhino will be there with their modern, funky, American street food. Chef-driven, innovative, scratch-cooking that won't break the bank. Awesome value, unpretentious, fun and just so darned good!
- Mumsy's Caribbean Grill & BBQ will be there with their food truck. They offer delicious traditional cooking with a twist. The "twist" will draw you in, but the flavor and quality of the food will keep you coming back for more.

- To round out the day's culinary adventures, Zoet's Sweet Boutique will be there to satisfy your sweet tooth. Zoet, which means sweet in Dutch, will definitely bring a smile and a happy tummy to you and your loved ones.

- PRWC will also have water and soft drinks available for purchase.

But enough about the food — the main attraction for the day is the music. There will be three bluegrass bands providing entertainment: Southwind Bluegrass Band, Bluegrass Central and Swinging Bridge. The music starts at 1 p.m.; arrive early to claim your favorite shady spot.

PRWC's first Luna Fest at History Park in Punta Gorda was so successful, we had to move to FSW college campus for more room and change the name to Luna Tunes. Apparently, "Luna Fest" is copyrighted by the Luna Bar people, championing women in film. A worthy cause for sure, but they don't have a groovy little white owl named Luna to celebrate.

Last year's event at FSW campus was a hit with all in attendance. This year will be even bigger and better — more food, more fun, and guaranteed good weather. OK, maybe one of those things is hyperbole. But Luna and his friends from PRWC will definitely be there to greet his adoring fans.

Meanwhile, back at the Center we are toe-tapping to a different beat — the Crazy Squirrel Shuffle. While that may sound like a good title for a bluegrass ditty, trust me when I tell you, it's more like a lullaby

performed by a drunken punk rock band with the volume turned up to 11.

According to the internet, eastern gray squirrels breed in the spring. A few, older females may also have a second litter in the autumn when there is plenty of food. Apparently, the squirrels of Charlotte County (great name for a new reality TV series) don't have access to the internet. They never stop reproducing here.

Although squirrels breed year-round in temperate south Florida, we definitely see an increase in baby squirrels during the autumn and spring months. But since winter lasted approximately two weeks this year, fall ran into spring and the babies never stopped falling. We aren't sure if the babies we are admitting now are late autumn or early spring offspring, but there are lots of them.

So, if you (or your hired lawn care crew) are trimming plants in your yard, please be mindful that the tree may just be a lawn decoration to you, but it's more than that to wildlife — it's their home. Check for nests and sleeping animals before attacking with the machete and chainsaw.

If a nest is disturbed or displaced, leave it in a shady warm spot, close to the original location, away from people. Mother will retrieve the kids and take them to another nest site. If any squirrels are injured, take them to PRWC or your local wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

Don't try to raise the babies yourself. Although they're adorable little fur babies when they are tiny, they soon morph into balls of frenetic energy with teeth and needle-sharp nails flailing away like buzz saws come to life. The trained staff at PRWC have the proper equipment and diets to raise the babies properly for healthy and successful integration into the wild when that time comes.

If you would like to learn how to be a foster parent for baby mammals through PRWC, we are always looking for volunteers. Call or email the office and we will arrange training. And while we love rearing orphaned and injured baby squirrels, we would rather have their mothers do all that hard work. So please don't kidnap babies that don't need to be "rescued."

Those of us not up to our eyebrows in baby squirrel formula and so sleep-deprived we don't know what day it is will see you at Luna Tunes. You'll see the rest of us there too, but we may not see you. If you see someone in a PRWC staff shirt staring off into the distance, it's probably me taking a quick nap with my eyes open. You never want to let the squirrels know your guard is down or they might try to take over.

Peace River Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the care, preservation and protection of Charlotte County's native wildlife since 1978. They are open seven days a week year-round, including holidays. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PRWC receives no government funding and relies entirely on private donations. For more info, visit PRWildlife.org, email PeaceRiverWildlife@yahoo.com or call 941-637-3830.

OYSTER-SHRIMP STIR-FRY

1 cup **raw oysters**
1/4 cup **flour**
1/2 lb **raw shrimp**, shelled and deveined
2 tbsp **peanut oil**
2-inch piece **fresh ginger root**, peeled and shredded
5 **scallions**, trimmed and cut in 2-inch lengths
1 tsp **soy sauce**
1 tsp **sesame oil**
Salt and pepper to taste
1-1/2 tbsp **cornstarch**
1-1/2 tbsp **cold water**

**A clip-n-save seafood
recipe provided by**

WaterLine

— Recipe from FishEx.com

Place oysters in mixing bowl; add flour and enough water to cover. Stir oysters in the liquid. Drain well, run under several changes of cold water and drain well again. (Flour will cleanse and plump oysters). Prepare shrimp and set aside. Drop oysters into barely simmering water. Turn off heat. Let stand 1 minute and drain. Set aside. Repeat with shrimp. Heat oil in wok or skillet over high heat. Add ginger and scallions. Cook while stirring for 5 seconds. Add soy sauce, sesame oil, salt and pepper to taste, stirring constantly. Blend cornstarch into cold water; stir into the wok or skillet. Cook 10 seconds. Serve at once. Makes 8 servings.



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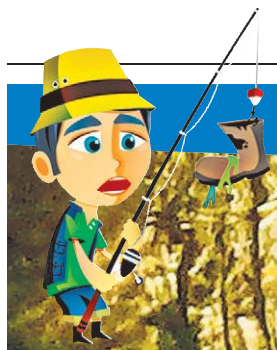




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THE FISH COACH • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Photo provided

This goliath grouper was caught with a circle hook, which — as designed — ended up right in the lip.

Tips for using circle hooks

They're sometimes legally required, but many anglers don't understand them

There are a lot of misconceptions and bad information out there about circle hooks. Lately, I've found myself answering lots of questions about them, so I thought it might be a good idea to put together a little FAQ to help you understand them better and catch more fish with them.

What is a circle hook?

The point of a circle hook is bent back toward the shank of the hook, creating a general circular or oval shape. To be a true circle hook, the point must bend back at least 90 degrees. Circle hooks have a long history dating back to the Stone Age. In modern times, they were traditionally used by commercial fishermen (especially longliners).

How do they work?

Circle hooks were originally developed as a way to catch fish with no fisherman present. The key is their shape, which allows the hook to be swallowed without snagging anything. When the fish turns to swim away after eating, the attached line (which must be anchored to something) pulls the hook out of the fish's gullet and into the mouth.

The fish is swimming away, so to go from inside the fish's mouth to outside, the hook has to change direction 180 degrees. As it does, the gap between the hook's shank and point brushes against the thin tissue of the lip or corner of the mouth. The gap slips over that thin tissue — and just like that, the fish is hooked. It's set by the action of the fish. That's why they became popular for commercial fishing operations.

As a bonus, circle hooks are much harder to shake loose or spit out, so a fish caught on a circle hook is more likely to be landed. However, this can also be a liability, as we'll see later.

Then why do recreational anglers need them?

Because they most often hook fish in the mouth, they're less likely than standard hooks (also called J-hooks) to cause severe or fatal injuries to the fish. The less injured

a released fish is, the more likely it will survive. Although developed for catch-and-kill fisheries, they are now increasingly required to facilitate catch and release success. For fish that take baits deeply, such as schoolie trout or rat redfish, circle hooks can be the difference between releasing a bunch of healthy fish and killing a quarter of them by gut-hooking.

When do I need them?

By law, you have to use non-offset circle hooks when fishing for some species (the law also specifies that the hooks not be stainless steel, but good luck finding stainless circle hooks). Non-offset circle hooks are required when fishing for any reef species in state waters or sharks in federal waters. For reef species in federal waters, offset circle hooks are allowed. Later this month, the FWC will meet to decide if circle hooks will be required for sharks in state waters.

I hate to add more to an already confusing topic, but . . . "reef fish" doesn't mean every fish that lives on a reef. It's a specific term that includes all species of snapper, grouper, amberjack and tilefish, plus gray triggerfish, red porgies, black sea bass and hogfish. If you're catching grunts and sheepshead on the reef, J-hooks are OK. But, legally, if you caught a snapper on that J-hook, you'd have to release it.

Many people are misled by the wording of the reef fish rule, which states the law applies "in waters of the Gulf of Mexico." In this case, they're talking about the Gulf as opposed to the Atlantic. That means that all waters attached to the Gulf are included, all the way up the Harbor and into the rivers and canals. To be clear: If you catch a mangrove snapper from the El Jobean pier, it has to be on a non-offset circle hook if you're keeping the fish.

What is an offset circle hook?

Offset refers to the hook's point being set at an angle away from the shank. When you're choosing circle hooks, look for these key words on the package: Inline, non-offset, or tournament. They all mean

the same thing: The hook is not offset.

Why are offset hooks a problem?

When the point is in line with the shank, the hook can only catch something narrow enough to fit into the gap between the shank and the point — for example, the corner of a fish's mouth. If the point is offset, it might snag anywhere. If the fish has swallowed the bait, it's likely to be hooked in the stomach or elsewhere deep in the gut.

Then why are offset hooks sold?

One simple reason: Most fishermen are trained to set hooks. If you try to set an inline circle hook, it usually just pops out of the fish's mouth. When you set an offset hook, chances are good it will dig in someplace. I strongly recommend against the use of offset circle hooks, except in one special case mentioned below.

What are the problems with circle hooks?

Nothing is perfect. Due to their shape, circle hooks rotate in. That makes them very secure, but it can also make releasing fish harder because the hook has to rotate back out. A traditional hook-out device will mangle the fish.

Now, you can solve this easily by flattening the barb. Just leave a bump — enough to hold the bait, but not enough to stay stuck in flesh. Don't worry about losing fish. The shape of the hook will keep it in place as long as you keep the pressure on.

De-barbing is especially important when shark fishing. A barbed circle hook can get hopelessly stuck in the cartilage of the jaw or in the tough leathery skin. With no barb, you can remove most hooks. If you have to leave one in place, the fish will be able to shake it much more quickly than if it has to rust away.

How do I catch fish on a circle hook?

It's actually pretty simple, as long as you can fight your instincts. When a fish takes the bait, the first thing you'll want to do is

hook that fish. With a circle hook, it pays to be more nonchalant. Don't overreact. Take your time. You want the fish to swallow the bait, or at least be pretty close to doing so.

ON THE FLATS: Once the fish has your bait, let it eat. Wait for the line to come tight. When it does, point the rod toward the fish and reel — not too fast, not too slow. Once you feel the pressure of the fish, lift the rod tip and start fighting it. Fish on!

ON THE REEF: It's a little different when the fish is below you. Keep the rod tip low, pointed toward the water, and keep your line taut if possible. When you feel a bite, lift the rod tip just a bit. If it feels like there's more weight than your sinker, reel (quickly, but not like you've just had three Red Bulls and a bump of cocaine). If the fish is there, lift the rod tip and start fighting. If not, drop the bait back to the bottom. Always give it a minute before assuming the bait is gone.

TARPON: OK, special case here, since tarpon feed a bit differently. If you're using fish or shrimp as bait, you probably won't have to do anything. Tarpon inhale them on the move, so there's generally no question of whether the fish is there — the screaming drag will tell you. But if you're using crabs, reel like a madman when you feel the slightest tap. Tarpon crush crabs and spit out the hard bits, so you often have just a second or two to react. Tarpon fishing with crabs is the one circumstance that I prefer an offset hook for.

Now that you know a bit more about circle hooks and how to use them, hopefully you'll have better success with them. If you have any questions not answered here, feel free to contact me and I'll be happy to help if I can.

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.

Drift your kayak



Photo by Les Beery

Kimball with a hard-fighting pompano, caught while slow-drifting a flat.

KAYAK FISHING • KIMBALL & LES BEERY

One of the easiest and most productive ways to fish an area in a kayak is by drifting with the wind, tides or currents. Since paddling and casting both take two hands and are mutually exclusive, drifting lets a kayak angler focus all their attention on fishing as the paddle rests in their lap or is held in a keeper device.

A pedal kayak solves this conflict, as long as you're sufficiently coordinated to walk and chew gum. However, the pedals can be an issue in very shallow water and around oyster bars. We have older customized Ocean kayaks, so we don't have pedals.

Start with some basic planning. Take a look at a Google image of the area you plan to fish, noticing the depths and patterns of sand and grass that indicate current flow. Then check out the marine forecast for the day. Paddling against the wind and tides can ruin your experience, so you should consider the wind direction and speed along with tidal flows when planning your trip.

Wind is a primary factor, since kayaks sit atop the water and blow around easily. Here

in Southwest Florida, our primary wind direction is northeast in the winter. However, we also have warm spells that can last days or weeks. On a warm day, a westerly sea breeze will build as warm air rises and cooler air is drawn in off the Gulf. This sea breeze will not develop on a cold day.

The other factor to consider is tidal flow. Moving water is often the key to finding feeding fish, and places that constrict tidal movement will have higher flow velocities than the back end of a stagnant bay. Bridges are built in areas that are narrow and require the shortest (and therefore cheapest) bridge. Flats near these "pinch points" will often have better flow and more feeding fish.

So, having taken all this info into account — weather, wind, tidal flow and launch location — you are now paddling toward the flat you want to fish. Paddle around the flat to get to the upwind side and begin your drift. A drift anchor (a funnel-shaped nylon sack that attaches to the kayak with a carabiner clip) may come in handy. It can be moved to either side of the kayak to direct your drift.

The slower you drift across the flat, the more casts to sand holes, grass edges and sighted fish you can make during each drift. If the wind is slight, you can always slide along without the drift anchor and cast at your leisure. At the end of the drift, be sure to pull in your drift anchor. It's amazing how hard it is to paddle when you're trying to tow along an anchor that you forgot to pull in.

Make a circle as you go back upwind for another drift on a different path. In other words, don't paddle over the fish you are trying to catch on the next drift.

This tactic works best when you cast ahead of the drift to fish that have no idea you're around. Of course, this also adds distance to your casts and allows you to explore more water. Cast to the left, the right and straight ahead as you drift along. This allows you to cover a swath about 200 feet wide on each drift.

You can steer their drift with your feet by hanging one foot or the other over the side. This has the same subtle effect as steering with the lower unit of a drifting boat. The drift

anchor can also influence your drift direction, depending on which side you hook it on.

If you get lucky and find a concentration of fish, you'll want a way to stop. Use a small folding anchor or a stake-out pole to park your kayak upwind of the spot. We deploy our folding anchor from the back of the kayak, which points the front at the area we want to fish. Long casts are easier with the wind behind you. On shallow grass flats, stealth matters and long accurate casts help a lot.

Have fun and enjoy kayak fishing "up close and personal" at water level with the fish you hook! It's as stealthy as wading, but without the mud and stingrays — plus you can cover a lot more water in the same amount of time.

Kimball and Les Beery, authors of the waterproof "Angler's Guide to Shore Fishing" and "Angler's Guide to Kayak Fishing Southwest Florida," contribute these columns to promote the excellent fishing available in Southwest Florida. Their books are available at most tackle shops in the area or at AnglerPocketGuides.com as a download or waterproof hard copy.

REAL OYSTERS ROCKEFELLER

- 18 large fresh oysters on the half shell
- 6 tbsp butter
- 1/2 cups fine dry bread crumbs
- 2 cups fresh spinach leaves, washed and stemmed
- 1/2 cup parsley sprigs
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 2 tbsp diced onion
- 1 tbsp Pernod liqueur
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 3 drops liquid red pepper seasoning
- Rock salt

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by

WaterLine

Melt butter or margarine in a small saucepan; add bread crumbs; sauté for 1 minute, while stirring constantly. Combine butter mixture, spinach, parsley, celery, onion, Pernod, salt, and pepper seasoning in electric blender container. Whirl at high speed, stopping blender to stir contents several times, until mixture is smooth. Pour into a small bowl; refrigerate until ready to use. Arrange oysters on a bed of rock salt in six individual heatproof dishes, placing 3 in each dish. (Rock salt steadies oyster shells and retains heat.) Top each oyster with a tablespoonful of spinach mixture. Broil 3 minutes, or just until topping is lightly browned and heated through. Serve at once. Serves 6.

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Who hid the birds?



BIRDING IN PARADISE •
ABBIE BANKS



VABA photo
This black-crowned night heron was willing to pose on a day when there were few birds around.

Some days are diamonds, some days are rocks

The warmth of the covers were so comforting and toasty that I did not want to come out of them into the cold air. However, today was the day of Margaret and Bill Dunson's trip to Myakka State Park for the Venice Area Birding Association.

Since this was a favorite trip with old friends, I hauled myself out of bed and started gathering my items together. Don was already getting ready. His job was to take our two dogs out, mine was to get their food prepared.

After dressing in several warm layers, we were ready to meet up with the group at St. Margaret's Church. St. Margaret's Church is several miles before one gets to Myakka. We were spotting quite a few birds when the pastor came out to greet us.

She asked what we were doing and we told her this parking area was a regular stop for the Myakka birding trip. She sighed and told us we may not have the beautiful back field to bird next year as a developer had bought it and will be developing it with many houses.

On this beautiful morning, we sighted eastern bluebirds, palm warblers, meadowlarks, a greater yellowlegs, mockingbirds, red-bellied woodpeckers and a small group of killdeer. Were these birds still going to be around next year with all of the development coming? Suddenly I became quite sad.

It was time to move on to Myakka State Park. Myakka has 58 square miles of wetlands, prairies, hammocks and pineland. We were just staying on the popular 7-mile drive. Developed in 1934, Myakka is one of the state's

oldest parks. We had a caravan of cars because there were 17 people on this popular trip. On the way, I spotted several sandhill cranes on the roadside and a short-tailed hawk on the wire.

We finally reached our first stop by the bridge. We usually see a lot of waders and some huge alligators. However, on this day we sighted only a lone anhinga in the distance. After many rains that week, the water level was quite high, so the waders were not around. In addition, the temperature was quite chilly and the gators were on the bottom where it was warmer.

We decided to go to our next stop. We refer to it as the power line road.

Everyone piled out. Bill began explaining some botanical information to the group. Others started sauntering down the road. I was in search for the red-shouldered hawk that always seemed to be on one of the power line poles. It wasn't there, but everyone was entranced by an anhinga in breeding plumage showing off its wingspan on a low limb in the gully.

Across the road, a little blue heron was feeding along with a great egret, and way in the back we sighted a great blue heron. Then a red-shouldered hawk flew in to make my day on the power line road. I always sight a red-shouldered hawk there. In a short flash, a red-tailed hawk flew by and disappeared into the trees.

We started hiking down to the river on the opposite side of the power line road. Immediately we came upon a black-crowned night heron. There surely were photo ops for those with cameras. Palm warblers and blue-gray gnat-catchers flitted through the bushes.

We got to the river and all was quiet. As we headed back, we took a little detour into what looked like a little patch of green land from a fairy tale book. I was waiting for leprechauns to come hopping out of one of the old trees. It was a beautiful glade, but the only thing we sighted there was a great blue heron.

When we got back to the main road, several people thought it a great idea to eat lunch before the restaurant became crowded. The gift shop has a little restaurant with a good menu. You can even get alligator bites.

After lunch, we hiked to the weir. Frankly I was a bit disappointed. Usually there are quite a few birds there, and many limpkins in particular. This day, there was a lone snowy egret having the job to entertain the 17 people in our group.

Back to the cars, we were on the way out and stopped along the marsh road. We had to stop because there were about a half-dozen black-necked stilts feeding in the wetlands. We also had greater and lesser yellowlegs.

It certainly wasn't the birdiest trip we've ever had. But birding is a lot like fishing — even when it's not so good, it's still pretty darn good. Thank you to Margaret Dunson for organizing this trip, and to Bill for adding his biology expertise.

Abbie Banks is a member of the Venice Area Birding Association, a group of folks who want to enjoy the environment and nature without the cumbersome politics of an organized group. For more info on VABA or to be notified of upcoming birding trips, visit AbbiesWorld.org/references.html or email her at Amberina@aol.com.

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Photo provided

A tarpon up the river, where the water is dark and the silver kings are golden.



Scratching the tarpon itch

ANGLING 201 • CAPT. CAYLE WILLS

Yes, there are always silver kings around — even in winter

There's no doubt that winter fishing can be tough. We are dealing with constant changes due to the cold fronts that roll in and out, seemingly every week. There are days you can't even get your boat off the lift because the tides are so low. Then on top of that, we're dealing with our winter winds that make the Harbor rough and blow out even more water. And the icing on the cake is that winter is usually small fish season, with trout and sheepshead being the focus of most people's attention.

But what if you get tired of the small fish and would like to target something with a little more fight?

Heading up the Peace River for tarpon should be right up your alley. Now, these aren't going to be 200-pound tarpon. Most are going to be 15- to 50-pound juveniles. But they're going to fight better than the trout you've been catching, I can promise you that.

These tarpon are growing up and waiting to reach sexually maturity in our rivers and canals. In winter, they gather in the deep holes of the rivers, sometimes by the hundreds. Some mornings you'll see dozens

of them rolling and feeding on the surface. The darker water of the river will heat up faster in the sun and the deeper holes will hold that heat better. Plus those deep holes will normally hold better food choices, such as crabs and catfish.

This is going to be early morning fishing. You want to be out there and ready at the crack of dawn. You'll notice that once that sun comes over the trees, the tarpon start to roll less and almost shut down completely. But winter also brings us a gift: Morning fog. If you can safely get up the river in the fog, there's a very good chance of those tarpon eating until that fog clears. That's an extra couple hours.

Now just don't think because these are juvenile tarpon cooped up in a small area that they're going to be easy to catch. They're going to be just as frustrating as their larger counterparts. You're still going to need to bring the kitchen sink to catch them. Bring shrimp too — not for the tarpon, but to go fishing for redfish and snook when the tarpon take you to your patience limit.

Tackle-wise, most of your snook and redfish rods will do fine. I've been using

7.5-foot rods and 4000 series spinning reels. Most have 15-pound braid for main line and 30-pound monofilament leader. You want something with good quality and strength, but keep in mind you're going to be casting artificials a lot so you don't want to go overboard.

Yes, I said artificial. I've been throwing swimbaits at these tarpon because that's what is working the best. "Matching the hatch" is important with these little guys. That being said, what are they eating? As I said earlier, these deeper holes have a tendency to hold crabs and catfish.

Catfish are the food of choice, it seems. You'll notice the lack of crab traps up the river. Normally we'd fish for small hardheads and sailcats, cut their heads off and throw the tails at the tarpon. But there is a different species of catfish that is plentiful upriver: The plecostomus catfish, an exotic often sold as an aquarium algae-eater and now common in most local fresh waters.

Plecos really don't like salt water, but our high river levels have flushed a ton of these guys down the river. The tarpon are taking advantage of this. Plecos have a pretty

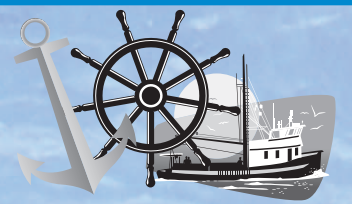
unique color pattern, so you want to keep your lure colors close to that. Brown and root beer with a gold flake is working well. It just so happens that DOA makes Bait Busters in a few colors that match pretty close.

The real challenge is finding what depth and speed will trigger them to eat. Even though they are rolling and feeding on the surface, I usually start on the bottom. That's where the plecos live. So let that swimbait sink and retrieve it slow just off the bottom. If that's not producing, slow it down even more. If none of that seems to work, I'll retrieve it just below the surface. Change up the depth and speed until you find the pattern that works.

It's going to be at least a few more weeks before we start seeing any migratory tarpon showing up, and maybe longer if we get some late-season fronts. If you've got a tarpon itch that needs scratching, get yourself upriver and make it happen now.

Capt. Cayle Wills owns and operates Bad Fish Charters on Charlotte Harbor. You can contact him at 941-916-4538 or Capt.Cayle@ReelBadFish.com. You can also visit him online at ReelBadFish.com or Facebook.com/BadFishCharters.

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Times sure have changed



**AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR
CAPT. RALPH ALLEN**



Photo provided

It wasn't so very long ago that a redfish stringer like this was so common it would have barely turned heads.

Tales from the good old days of redfishing on Charlotte Harbor

Don't you get tired of old guys telling stories that begin with "I remember back in the day when..."? You have to be nice, smile, and try not to roll your eyes during some unbelievable tale of long-ago fishing or hunting or whatever.

But I've noticed something really odd: I might be getting old myself because I am beginning to have a store of "old days" stories about how much different things used to be.

Or at least I think I do. Many of us are guilty of possessing selective memory. Our recollections of the "good old days" are colored by our tendency to remember good experiences and blot out memories of less-rewarding happenings. The day we caught 30 overslot redfish is more likely to stand out in our memories than those days we caught nothing at all.

But there might be some truth buried amongst some of my unlikely-sounding stories. I do think that things have changed since my introduction to Southwest Florida back in the early 1970s. I know, I know; there are plenty of folks who have been around here far longer than I — but still, in about 45 years, I have seen some changes.

For one thing, when I was introduced to Charlotte County there were about 28,000 people living here. Now it's more like 175,000, or approximately six times as many.

I think there used to be many more redfish in Charlotte Harbor, but the redfish population has cycled up and down during my time. In the 1970s, I recall there were far more redfish than now. The regulations for harvesting them were very generous for

recreational anglers: A 12-inch size limit with no bag limit or closed season.

There would be times during the winter that seawall fishermen working the canals would catch them by the dozens. They'd catch so many fish so quickly that walking up to the seawall behind a line of those guys at a popular hole would involve stepping through a minefield of flopping redfish that they had tossed behind them in the grass.

But in the 1980s, the redfish population dwindled to such a low level that there was even a time that all redfish harvest was closed by the MFC (the Marine Fisheries Commission, which managed fisheries in Florida in those days).

Around the end of the '80s redfish fishing was re-opened, but under much stricter harvest regulations for both recreational and commercial fishermen. The current recreational slot limit of 18 to 27 inches was imposed in 1989, I believe, and redfish were probably helped by the 1995 prohibition on gill net fishing in Florida waters too. During the 1990s, the redfish population rebounded in an amazing way.

This is where my redfish stories really start heading into "good old days" mode. There were so many redfish and so few anglers that you could fish along just about any mangrove shoreline and catch reds. We sometimes regarded them as sort of a second-tier target — a fallback fish that we'd go after to save a day if the fishing for snook or tarpon or whatever had been tough.

In the fall during schooling redfish season, I ran many guide trips where we did target

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WaterLine file photo
The ghost of redfish past: A somewhat younger (and thinner) Capt. Ralph with a nice red, caught somewhere around a quarter-century ago.

redfish. Big redfish. My strategy was to cruise around on the flats in Pine Island Sound or Matlacha Pass until we saw a school of fish, shut the boat down, and try to spend the day working that one school. That's right: We sometimes spent an entire day catching and releasing fish from a single school, and many of those schools were comprised of hundreds of fish.

I'd pushpole (electric motors were too noisy) up to barely within casting range. Each of the two or three anglers aboard would toss baits near the edge of the school. We'd hook everybody up and I'd ease the boat away from the school while we were fighting the fish. We'd lose or release those hooked fish (almost all were overslot), then re-rig and re-bait. I'd look around to see where the school had moved, then pushpole over to them and do it over again. And again. And again.

If we were quiet and didn't push the fish too hard, we could catch fish from a school like that for hours. If we were lucky it would last for most of a day, but we might eventually lose them for one reason or another. Sometimes a rising or falling tide would move them into water deep enough that we couldn't track them. Sometimes I'd get a little too eager and push them a bit too hard and they'd go out of feeding mode, put tails down and depart.

Sometimes a pod of dolphins would decide to attack. As much as I hated it when dolphins would bust a school I was working,

it was still amazing to watch the fireworks when the dolphins would scatter those big reds. If there was shallow water nearby, redfish by the dozens would skitter up into mere inches of water trying to escape the dolphins. The dolphins would try to follow, zooming up into half-a foot or so of water themselves to the point where you wondered if they'd end up beached. But redfish could go shallower than dolphins, and many did escape that way.

But — and here's the part of my story that might sound the most unlikely to today's anglers — we almost never lost a school of fish because somebody in another boat unknowingly or uncaringly ran over them, or because somebody else saw what we were doing and boogered us by horning in to fish that same school.

That might seem unbelievable to anglers accustomed to fishing in today's Southwest Florida — a place where those redfish schools are so much smaller and so much less common, where boaters are zooming around almost everywhere, and where fishing manners have fallen out of fashion — but that's the way it was.

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. Call him at 941-639-2628 or email Captain@KingFishFleet.com.

GROUPEL WITH GREEK SALSA

- 1-1/2 cups seeded and chopped tomatoes
- 8 pitted kalamata olives, quartered
- 2 tbsp crumbled feta cheese
- 1-1/2 tbsp chopped fresh oregano
- 1 tbsp capers, drained
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 2 grouper fillets

Combine tomatoes, olives, feta cheese, oregano and capers in a small bowl. Mix gently until thoroughly combined. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°F. Place fillets on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 18 to 19 minutes, or until thoroughly cooked. Serve topped with salsa. Serves 2.

— Recipe adapted from FishRecipe.org

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



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25' Bayliner Cierra Command Bridge Sport Fish. Dual stations. Sleeps 6. Full galley/head. MARINE A/C! Small block V-8 with 103 original hours. Trailer-able. Will consider trade Class A/or C motorhome. CFMI 941-567-9128. \$10,900.



39' 2016 CONTENDER 39 CENTER CONSOLE W/ TRIP, YAMAHA 300'S ONLY 109 HOURS- ONE OWNER EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAN & FAST. SHE IS CONTENDER'S FLAGSHIP A SERIOUS FISHERMAN'S DREAM. LOADED W/ OPTIONS: SEA KEEP GYRO, T-GARMIN 16" SCREENS, AUTO PILOT RADAR, TOO MANY TO LIST PRICED TO SELL \$ 369,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



30.6' 2014 GRADY WHITE 306 CANYON center console w/ T Yamaha 300 hp (only 206 hours) under war. & custom trailer: One owner, very clean & well equipped options: T-top, twin Garmin 12" screens, VHF, stereo, windlass, bow filler cushions, enclosed head & more ..Reduced to \$158,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



49.7 2007 CRUISERS YACHTS 497 SEDAN BRIDGE- VOLVO DIESELS (575 HP-493 HOURS)- EXCELLENT CONDITION. THE 497 WAS ONE OF CRUISERS MOST POPULAR MODELS. SHE OFFERS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR LONGER CRUISES OR USE AS LIVE ABOARD. OPTIONS: BOW & STERN THRUSTER, DIESEL GEN, NEW VINYL ON BRIDGE/ COCKPIT & NEW CANVAS/ EISENGLASS, GPS- RADAR- AUTOPILOT & MUCH MORE.. \$ 317,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



31' 2006 LOA CRUISERS 280 CXI Twin Volvos (Low Hours), A/C, 2 Staterooms, Dinette, Galley, Shower, Microwave, TV-VCR, Stereo, GPS, VHS+++ A Must See! \$37,000. 941-979-8203



Epic 18x Sport Sea Kayak. Performs great in rough water, is sleek and stable. Includes steering system, large storage capacity and day hatch. 43 lbs composite hybrid of fiberglass, carbon fiber and Kevlar. Capacity 380 lbs. Englewood. \$1,600. 941-539-3423 Willowmuffin@yahoo.com



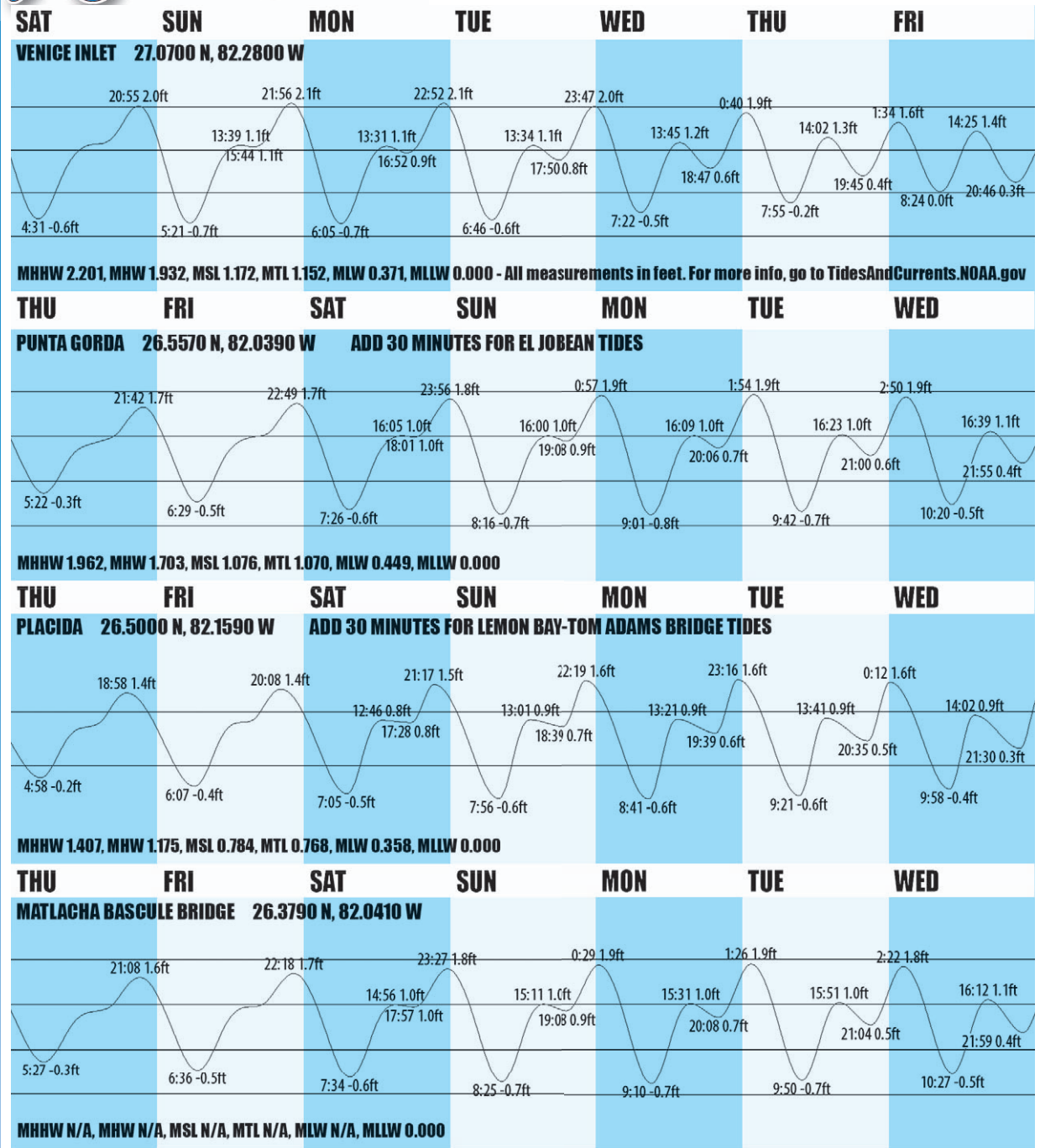
31.5' 2015 BOSTON WHALER 315 CONQUEST W/ WHITE MERCURY VERADO 4 STROKES & JOY STICK PILOTING. (215 HOURS) ONE OWNER, INSIDE STORED. OPTIONS: KOHLER GENSET, COCKPIT AIR, T- 12" SIM-RAD GPS-RADAR- FF, CANVAS ENCLOSURE, UNDERWATER LIGHTS, & MORE.. \$264,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM



Paceship Sailboat, fixed keel, sailmaster 6 engine, outboard sails. Cabin remains dry, sleeps 4. This boat can be easily handled w/1 person. Need to move it soon will take \$2,899 OBO. Call anytime 9-8. 941-268-3833

Protect our waters: Mangroves

WaterLine TIDE CHARTS



| VENICE INLET | | | PUNTA GORDA | | | PLACIDA | | | MATLACHA | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Saturday | Low Tide | 4:31 -0.6 | Thursday | Low Tide | 5:22 -0.3 | Thursday | Low Tide | 4:58 -0.2 | Thursday | Low Tide | 5:27 -0.3 |
| | High Tide | 20:55 2.0 | | High Tide | 21:42 1.7 | | High Tide | 18:58 1.4 | | High Tide | 21:08 1.6 |
| Sunday | Low Tide | 5:21 -0.7 | Friday | Low Tide | 6:29 -0.5 | Friday | Low Tide | 6:07 -0.4 | Friday | Low Tide | 6:36 -0.5 |
| | High Tide | 13:39 1.1 | | High Tide | 22:49 1.7 | | High Tide | 20:08 1.4 | | High Tide | 22:18 1.7 |
| | Low Tide | 15:44 1.1 | | Low Tide | 7:26 -0.6 | | Low Tide | 7:05 -0.5 | | Low Tide | 7:34 -0.6 |
| | High Tide | 21:56 2.1 | | High Tide | 16:05 1.0 | | High Tide | 12:46 0.8 | | High Tide | 14:56 1.0 |
| Monday | Low Tide | 6:05 -0.7 | Saturday | Low Tide | 7:26 -0.6 | Saturday | Low Tide | 7:05 -0.5 | Saturday | Low Tide | 7:34 -0.6 |
| | High Tide | 13:31 1.1 | | High Tide | 16:05 1.0 | | High Tide | 12:46 0.8 | | High Tide | 14:56 1.0 |
| | Low Tide | 16:52 0.9 | | Low Tide | 18:01 1.0 | | Low Tide | 17:28 0.8 | | Low Tide | 17:57 1.0 |
| | High Tide | 22:52 2.1 | | High Tide | 23:56 1.8 | | High Tide | 21:17 1.5 | | High Tide | 23:27 1.8 |
| Tuesday | Low Tide | 6:46 -0.6 | Sunday | Low Tide | 8:16 -0.7 | Sunday | Low Tide | 7:56 -0.6 | Sunday | Low Tide | 8:25 -0.7 |
| | High Tide | 13:34 1.1 | | High Tide | 16:00 1.0 | | High Tide | 13:01 0.9 | | High Tide | 15:11 1.0 |
| | Low Tide | 17:50 0.8 | | Low Tide | 19:08 0.9 | | Low Tide | 18:39 0.7 | | Low Tide | 19:08 0.9 |
| | High Tide | 23:47 2.0 | | High Tide | 0:57 1.9 | | High Tide | 23:16 1.6 | | High Tide | 2:22 1.8 |
| Wednesday | Low Tide | 7:22 -0.5 | Monday | High Tide | 0:57 1.9 | Monday | Low Tide | 8:41 -0.6 | Monday | High Tide | 0:29 1.9 |
| | High Tide | 13:45 1.2 | | Low Tide | 9:01 -0.8 | | High Tide | 13:21 0.9 | | Low Tide | 9:10 -0.7 |
| | Low Tide | 18:47 0.6 | | High Tide | 16:09 1.0 | | Low Tide | 19:39 0.6 | | High Tide | 15:31 1.0 |
| Thursday | High Tide | 0:40 1.9 | Tuesday | High Tide | 1:54 1.9 | Tuesday | Low Tide | 9:21 -0.6 | Tuesday | High Tide | 1:26 1.9 |
| | Low Tide | 7:55 -0.2 | | Low Tide | 9:42 -0.7 | | High Tide | 13:41 0.9 | | Low Tide | 9:50 -0.7 |
| | High Tide | 14:02 1.3 | | High Tide | 16:23 1.0 | | High Tide | 20:35 0.5 | | High Tide | 15:51 1.0 |
| | Low Tide | 19:45 0.4 | | Low Tide | 21:00 0.6 | | Low Tide | 20:06 0.7 | | Low Tide | 21:04 0.5 |
| Friday | High Tide | 1:34 1.6 | Wednesday | High Tide | 2:50 1.9 | Wednesday | High Tide | 0:12 1.6 | Wednesday | High Tide | 2:22 1.8 |
| | Low Tide | 8:24 0.0 | | Low Tide | 10:20 -0.5 | | Low Tide | 9:58 -0.4 | | Low Tide | 10:27 -0.5 |
| | High Tide | 14:25 1.4 | | High Tide | 16:39 1.1 | | High Tide | 14:02 0.9 | | High Tide | 16:12 1.1 |
| | Low Tide | 20:46 0.3 | | Low Tide | 21:55 0.4 | | Low Tide | 21:30 0.3 | | Low Tide | 21:59 0.4 |

WHY IT MATTERS
Mangrove trees provide crucial habitat for many species of fish, birds and invertebrates. Without mangroves, say goodbye to tarpon, snook, redfish and many other gamefish species.

HOW WE HARM IT
Fortunately, most of the mangroves the surround Charlotte Harbor have been protected from development. However, we can still damage them in smaller but important ways.

- MAKING BETTER CHOICES**
Follow these tips to help keep our mangrove forest and swamp healthy and productive:
- When fishing a mangrove shoreline, retrieve any gear that gets caught in the trees. Line, lures and hooks are death traps for birds. If they fall into the water, they can be harmful to many other species and also to boat engines.
 - Be careful about spraying herbicides if you live within a mile of the Harbor, river or a canal. Especially in the rainy season, runoff can quickly carry poisons right into the Harbor. Limit your use to dry days, or avoid it altogether.
 - Don't pull up or trim mangroves growing in canals unless absolutely necessary. These will be fishing hotspots in the future.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD STEWARD AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR WATERS HEALTHIER — WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART!

