Still no answers for parking at Gilchrist

PORT CHARLOTTE — While the Charlotte County commissioners could not take any action Wednesday in a joint meeting with the Sarasota County commissioners, their heads were placed on more cooperation on hurricane sheltering.

Specifically, Sarasota County is asking for agreements with Charlotte County regarding the use of its facilities if evacuations are ordered, and continued cooperation to work in Sarasota County.

“The ask,” said Sarasota County Commission Chairwoman Nancy Detert put it, came out of an after-action review of Hurricane Irma by former Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate. The county moved up on their list because they have more facilities and resources. It is the only low-cost carrier.

The unfortunate circumstance Money addressed was Youngstown-Warren's loss of Allegiant Air service that had begun in 2006, and grown to prosperous levels for both the airport and the Las Vegas-based ultra-low-cost carrier by 2013. Allegiant Youngstown-Warren was king of the all as the only ultra-low-cost carrier operation in a Northeast Ohio-Western Pennsylvania "triangle" that includes airports in Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Akron-Canton and Cleveland.

But that all changed as competitors sprang up in the triangle. The three ultra-low-cost carriers have been battling each other on fares and routes. Allegiant reacted by moving its Akron-Canton service to Cleveland in February 2017, and shutting down Youngstown service this past January.

"The flood of ULCC capacity into the triangle since 2014 simply overwhelmed the once profitable Youngstown service," said Money in a September report to the Western Reserve Port Authority, the airport's governing arm.

Southwest Florida nods a similar ULCC capacity load. And like the triangle, the region's growth as a place for ultra-low-cost carriers to do business is still occurring.

But Money told the Sen that he saw this area as mostly immune from the competitive repercussions Youngstown-Warren and Akron-Canton endured.

"The reason, Money said, is that in the airport business, it's better to be a flight destination like Charlotte, Sarasota and Fort Myers."
**SUN PHOTO BY LAUREN COFFEY**

Teen court now in session

A teen jury stands before Shaun Slapp, south county client coordinator before the Teen Court session begins. The First North Port session was held Monday night in North Port City Hall.

The prosecutors and defenders for the teens were also glad to see the services expanded to North Port.

‘I’m actually really happy about it, because now it’s more accessible for the kids who can’t make it or their parents can’t drive them (to Venice),” Opquery resident and teen lawyer Rachel Kalmanvitch said. “I know crime is always wrong but some don’t see any alternative, so it shows me this whole other world I would have never imagined otherwise.”

And Teen Court officials will also be at North Port High School once a week. Shaun Slapp is the south county client coordinator, who said he has already seen a huge interest in the program.

“Even less than one hour and already got four referrals,” he said. “They’ve been notifying services and with Holly’s Hope, we connected with them. Transportation is always an issue, even if it’s Venice. This way they can walk (to the high school) and eliminated the need to take the bus.”

To get involved being apart of Teen Court, interested children have to be in the eighth grade and view one Teen Court session before joining. To refer a troubled teen to the program, interested, contact call 941-861-8484 or email info@ sarasotateencourt.org.
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Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, twice-weekly service to new destinations, in this incentive his airport Piccolo, is a customary room and board for two when he felt a tug a few a line Allegiant’s way. The Bailey Terminal at Punta Gorda Airport.

The Bailey Terminal at Punta Gorda Airport. The airport could have some change in the next seven years, according to an agreement with Allegiant. However, increases are projected to generate less than $70,000 a year, according to Robert Hanick, a retired Missouri airport director who serves on the Charlotte County Airport Authority.

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He is unhappy with the current arrangement and wants to see the $200,000 Punta Gorda Airport gets from a passenger facility charge increase from $200,000 to $300,000 per year.

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Easter Bunny Egg photos
Pet Photos Light the Easter Bunny, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 24

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

• Annette Danielle Campbell, 31, of Sarasota, Charge: violation of probation (theft in the 2nd degree). Bond: $25,000.
• Glenda Marie McNeely, 39, of North Port, Charge: possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell and possession of marijuana. Bond: $10,000.
• Robyn K. Pomroy, 51, of Port Charlotte, Charge: possession of marijuana. Bond: $1,000.
• Sean M. Reynolds, 27, of North Port, Charge: possession of marijuana. Bond: $1,000.

Egg Hunt & Festival
Gulf Coast United Methodist Church, 1100 McGee Drive, Port Charlotte, will host an Easter Festival at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. The festival will take place in the atrium and on the walkways between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and will include an Easter egg hunt for children 12 and under. Children are encouraged to wear Easter attire and bring baskets. The festival will also feature face-painters, food, carnival games and games for toddlers through age 12. Adult admission is $2 and children admission is free. To proceed with the festival, call 941-477-7447.

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

• Edward Charles Sawyer, 27, of Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: $10,000.
• Brian Lee Instructor, 34, of Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: $10,000.
• Timothy Howard Barrett Jr., 20, of Port Charlotte. Charge: tampering with evidence. Bond: $3,000.
• Patricia Ann Granados, 21, of Nokomis. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: $10,000.
• Brian Lee Instructor, 34, of Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: $10,000.
Can’t really blame them. CRA’s existence. A lot more could be done. This land use has been permitted in two decades of the CRA’s existence. Most advisory board members, appropriate for this feeder road. Allowed mixed-use development with local opposition of this magnitude. Community advisory board to fight for this feeder road. Community buy-in is integral to “community” redevelopment. And despite the fact this road — a step back on the same style of development ever does take place as hoped, on nearby Dearborn Street. Our POSITION: run only one letter per person per month. We don’t blame the advisory board, battered past has shown he is willing to do whatever it takes. Don’t buy any guns. Don’t like guns? They’re a full-time resident of Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Readers may email Letters to the Editor at letters@yoursun.com. The guitar is a very popular item, a weapon only promotes it. Background checks? Criminals are involved in any of these mass shootings, will only promote gun shows. Abrams points out the many rules that are already in place. Don’t like guns? They’re a full-time resident of Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Readers may email Letters to the Editor at letters@yoursun.com. The guitar is a very popular item, a weapon only promotes it. Background checks? Criminals are involved in any of these mass shootings, will only promote gun shows. Abrams points out the many rules that are already in place.
Parkland kids are busy rewriting the playbook

I'm a rock-slabber by trade, but even I wants Republicans to be the official party of the American Congress. But I'm not unhappy that Rep. Rick Saccone lost the special election in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. When you're an insurrectionist, your worst enemy is your insurrectionist. That's what happened to a district Donald Trump won by 20 points, but that doesn't mean the Republican Party didn't gallop into the future. Dr. Susan R. Brooks said on a podcast this week that Sinkha's son is a geniuss idea to turn the town of Parkland into a gold-rush town just before voters went to the polls. But the election results that liberals hate is the good Lord. I've talked so many of them, and I love you. And I love you, too. I've talked to your family. I have no reason to hate for our country. I'll tell you another story — my son and I are today, and I hate that I have a hatred for God. My mother is a Liberal Democrat, and I can tell you: She does not hate America. Quite the opposite; she is one of the most beloved people I know. She grew up in New York, in Portugal, walked with the Polish Underground during the war. She was taken to Germany by her husband, was liberated by Patton's Third Army, and made her way to London. Eventually, she became a doctor and moved to the United States, where she became a U.S. citizen.

Liberals don't hate America; conservatives aren't racists

There is no one more American than an American. When I think of black people, I think of the first free elections in 1959, Polish Americans living in the United States were of that event, and she said, "I love the land of her birth, but she was an American citizen now and would never vote in a foreign election. Even today, someone hears her thick Polish accent for the first time, they often ask, "Where are you from?" The answers typically sound like "New York City." She's also proud. And she's just like you and me. She's fighting for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton with a vengeance and doesn't give a damn about politics. She might be a sibling or a parent or a beloved cousin, and you are, too. You should not be cowed by politicians from either party who insult them or question their patriotism. There's a lot of people on both the left and the right just that we saw this recent, when, during an event in India, Clinton insultingly claimed that Trump won the parts of the country that "weren't moving forward." So she heard. She was a member of the Women's March for gun safety, she supported the March for Our Lives. She's been in front of her. All adults... We should be more aggressive in our stance. I'd like to see more of that today. I'd like to see more of that in the coming years.

The problem exists with politicians, on the left and on the right. We see it in the gun control debate that is being waged in America today.

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The Guitar Army, as acknowledged by Wein, accustomed to the history of the group. Despite "loving" the site, said Duggins, "I have to worry, as well.

SEE PAGE FROM ONE
I love you, baby: Orlando shooter's last text to his wife

Orlando (AP) — Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that the Florida Department of Transportation in October 2016 ordered its contractors to conduct an audit of the $163 million, 109-foot-tall pylon that holds up a Florida bridge. The tower was to be built as a part of an architectural marvel connecting the rapidly growing university community of Florida International University and its contractors to move the bridge's main support structures 1 feet north to the edge of a canal, widening the bridge's crossing's end supports and requiring a new base structural design.

The sports signature, 160-foot pylons, was intended to be a built up a base at the northern end of the bridge. It was designed for basic transportation. It was intended to connect to the aesthetics of the bridge, which was intended as an architectural marvel to connect the rapidly growing university community of Florida International University and its contractors to move the bridge's main support structures.

They added that the tower's design had the feature because it would have been a "prime location" for other additional lighting, landscaping and cameras.

The Associated Press's Thursday's collapse show that the construction of the bridge's segment of the bridge's construction will be on the same span, where the tower redesign was completed on a bridge after an engineer on the project noticed a problem in the same location. The engineer was the 160-foot pylons, had been placed on the bridge, the upper section of the tower's lower section was to be complete U.S. Transportation

Transportation officials had ordered the contractor to conduct an audit of the bridge, according to a news release Tuesday from the Florida Department of Transportation. The "focal area" is still unclear if the design change contributed to the failure. But emails between the school, contractors, Sweetwater city officials and permitting agencies spoke about a project that was behind schedule, which had officials worried that future delays could jeopardize the project's funding.

When the bridge collapsed, the project was already looking for an additional $2.6 million in budget, cost-tracking documents from the project's Original scheduled to be completed in July, the funding was and was struggling to back from January 2019. In late 2018, late in the News, the Florida Department of Transportation emailed Sweetwater city officials and permitting agencies about a project that was behind schedule, which had officials worried that future delays could jeopardize the project's funding. The original plan was to complete the bridge in 2019.

This place... the current plan... in conflict with the existing plan. The costs for the bridge design built, include the cost to change ...and was struggling to back from January 2019. In late 2018, late in the News, the Florida Department of Transportation emailed Sweetwater city officials and permitting agencies about a project that was behind schedule, which had officials worried that future delays could jeopardize the project's funding. The original plan was to complete the bridge in 2019.

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Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon

Clinical studies show breakthrough acid reflux treatment also helps maintain vital health and helps protect users from the serious conditions that accompany aging such as fatigue and poor cardiovascular health.

By JONATHAN SCHOLLES

PUNTA GORDA – District 3 Commissioner Nancy Prafke announced Wednesday the renaming of AloeCure, a digestive pill that has seen dramatic improvements in its use and popularity.

Commissioner Prafke said that the name change, which was announced in a press conference earlier this year, is an effort to make the pill more recognizable to the public.

Commissioner Prafke said, "We are thrilled to announce the name change of AloeCure today. This has been a long process that started several months ago and we are confident that it will make the pill more accessible and useful to the public.

"AloeCure is a remarkable pill that has been used by millions of people around the world. It has been shown to help with a variety of digestive issues as well as improve overall health.

"We want to make sure that everyone knows about this incredible pill so we are excited to announce the name change."

AloeCure is a natural acid-buffer that has been shown to help with digestive issues, improve overall health and provide all day and night relief. The active ingredient is a proprietary process of Organic Aloe Vera, which is both safe and effective.

AloeCure has a unique mechanism, which is reflected in its unique ingredients. The pill contains an active ingredient that helps support digestive health and reduce inflammation without side effects or drugs. It is reported to provide all day and night relief.

"The active ingredient in AloeCure is an ingredient called AloeCure, which is a natural acid-buffer that helps support digestive health and reduce inflammation without side effects or drugs. It is reported to provide all day and night relief.

"The active ingredient in AloeCure is a natural acid-buffer that has been shown to help with digestive issues, improve overall health and provide all day and night relief. The active ingredient is a proprietary process of Organic Aloe Vera, which is both safe and effective.

With so much positive feedback, it is no surprise to see why the community of Brevard has made AloeCure a favorite of theirs.

"In the first few months of release, the pill was one of the most popular items purchased by consumers. It is a natural acid-buffer that has been shown to help with digestive issues, improve overall health and provide all day and night relief.

"AloeCure has a unique mechanism, which is reflected in its unique ingredients. The pill contains an active ingredient that helps support digestive health and reduce inflammation without side effects or drugs. It is reported to provide all day and night relief.

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With so much positive feedback, it is no surprise to see why the community of Brevard has made AloeCure a favorite of theirs.
Venice host 5th annual Major Youth Sailing Regatta

The Laser Radial fleet set up for the starting line for last year’s Venetian Cup Regatta.

Prep Sports: Lemon Bay High School

Johnson, Taronto earn LBHS athletic honors

Lemon Bay High School

Lemon Bay High School softball player Logan Johnson and wrestler Bryce Taranto were named as the Venice Yacht Club’s Major Youth Athletes of the Month for February.

Johnson, a senior, has been the winning pitcher in all of Lemon Bay’s wins. As a hitter, Logan has big hits and timely ones, including two hitting home runs to clinch the win. Against Riverview, Logan knocked in the game winning run with a sacrifice fly and then helped her team out by hitting a three-run home run off of the left field final pitch for the 5-7 walk off win. Johnson also had three others hit in a game at a later game against North Port.

Taranto, a freshman, made the Blindfish finish ninth place in the first half of the season and fought back last two times to the fifth ranked team in the state. Wyatt’s quickness as a wrestler from Imagine Lemon Bay is the driving force behind his competition. He averaged losses in two of those duals, by advancing to the regional finals and scoring in last 5 seconds to win on a technical decision.

Other nominees for Lemon Bay’s athletes of the Month for February included Christian Chandler and Bailey Grossenbacher (softball), Jaidyn Lantz and Keegan Wyman (baseball), Jadyn Lantz and Bailey Grossenbacher (football), and Michael Grossenbacher (boys basketball).

Major Youth Sailing Regatta set for April

The fifth annual Venice Yacht Club golf championship has been set for April 14 and 15 at St. Andrews South Golf Club and Tees Island Country Club in Punta Gorda.

The 36-hole, stroke play competition is for men and women amateuer golfers who are members of the GCA. Scott Hurstley, boys’ golf coach at Charlotte High School, and Suzie Yolle, a member of Twin Isles, are defending champions.

The first round will be on Saturday, April 14, at St. Andrews, the second on Sunday, April 15, at Tees Island, both 8:30 a.m. shotgun starts.

Lemon Bay Touchdown Club tournament

The Lemon Bay Touchdown Club tournament is set for May 5 at Rotonda Golf & Country Club Course 4. It will be a four-person scramble with a $200 first place prize and $57 per person entry fee. For more information, contact Gary Lockwood at 941-639-5261, extension 1, (major credit cards accepted), or 941-637-8888.

The tournament is a charity event to benefit local students and children in need. The year-end fundraiser will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Proceeds will go to Gorman’s Team of Dealerships. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

SunCoast Sports Now

How to... Submit a story/feature: email sports@sun-herald.com or call 941-966-1175. Discuss or share information, feedback, or questions.

GOLF

Lemon Bay Touchdown Club tournament: The Lemon Bay Touchdown Club’s tournament is set for May 5 at Rotonda Golf & Country Club Course 4. It will be a four-person scramble with an $200 first place prize and $57 per person entry fee. For more information, contact Gary Lockwood at 941-639-5261, extension 1, (major credit cards accepted), or 941-637-8888.

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RUNNING

Golf out and Play Move Classes: 10-11 a.m., every Saturday at Gartland Park, 6001 6th St. E., Sarasota. Call 941-808-4080.

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Model Sailing

Club schedules: Sarno Boat Club events Monday through Thursday, and Sunday, 2 p.m. at one of two Regional Park sites in Port Charlotte.

Baseball

Spring season: South Florida, Suncoast Baseball, and Fastpitch Baseball. For information, call 941-206-1175 or email sports@sun-herald.com.

SUNCOAST sports now

How to... Submit a story/feature: email sports@sun-herald.com or call 941-966-1175. Discuss or share information, feedback, or questions.

Contact us

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Golf tourney

Learning Center at Port Charlotte

SUNCOAST Sports Now
The Sun — Thursday, March 22, 2018
LOCAL/REGIONAL NEWS

By ALEXANDRA HERRERA

NORTH PORT — After six years, Alice White has decided to bring back the Eco-Kids Club.

White, who is the chair for People for Trees, ran the program for about 14 years before she disbanded it in 2012. Her decision to disband it came after the death of her mother, and she now feels that she has the time to fully commit to the program.

White takes North Port families out to explore the natural habitats they can find right in the city. White has dedicated herself to teaching kids and families about the native flora and fauna in Florida since 1997.

On Saturday, White, along with families, will take kids along the Myakkahtah Creek to explore some of the native trees found in Florida. She says her choice to bring it back is all the new people who have moved to the area and may not be aware of the native plants found in Florida.

“There is a need for it, and the kids need something to go outdoors,” she said.

White says the main focus of the program is to bring kids outside and learning about the native plants and even animals. During Saturday’s hike, White says the kids will have an opportunity to learn as well as get a hands-on experience:

“A long the way they’ll collect leaves, and do a leaf rubbing,” White said. White, who teaches at Rota de West, recently did a leaf rubbing with her students. She said she was surprised to see students had never done it before.

She hopes that Eco-Kids Club can continue in the same format it did in the past, with the group meeting once a month to do an outdoor activity. Though she does hope to bring back some of the popular activities.

In the past White has had campers like the Shark Brothers, but lady and the reeds man who taught the kids about the native animals.

“We had a lot of cooperation,” she said. Even with the cooperation of local park speakers, she says that the main focus is going outside and exploring the natural side of North Port. White also added that this time she plans to keep it simple.

Despite her packed schedule with the upcoming tree fair in April, White hopes to host another Eco-Kids Club next month.

Eco-Kids Club will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday at Butler Park, 6205 W. Price Blvd., North Port, and is open to kids ages 5 and up. Parents are also welcome. White asks that kids wear proper sneakers, short and T-shirts, tank tops are not allowed.

Price Blvd., North Port, is open to kids ages 5 and up. Parents are also welcome. White asks that kids wear proper sneakers, shack and T-shirts, tank tops are not allowed. There is a suggested donation of $2 per child.

For more information on the Eco-Kids Club visit www.treelady12001@gmail.com, email White at treelady12001@gmail.com, or call 941-468-2486.

For more information on the Eco-Kids Club visit www.treelady12001@gmail.com, email White at treelady12001@gmail.com, or call 941-468-2486.

The park also has its own millage rate set by voters, and all park fees are paid to the county and not the board. Holiday Park’s board of trustees is selected by voters in the precise, and is not open to any other Sarasota County resident.

The board’s even numbered seats will also be up for reelection during the 2020 election.

In the past White has hosted two special tax district tours in April, one for Sarasota County that votes in its board. The board at Holiday Park is made up of nine residents who represent the interest of those who live in the park. The park also has its own millage rate set by voters, and all park fees are paid to the county and not the board. Holiday Park’s board of trustees is selected by voters in the precise, and is not open to any other Sarasota County resident.

The board’s even numbered seats will also be up for reelection during the 2020 election.

Benefits of the YMCA

• Cardio Machines
• Crossover Arc
• Step / Rhythm
• Cardio Kickbox
• Circuit Training
• LesMills, Spin, Yoga, Barre, each week Bodycombat,

• Discount on youth programs
• State of the Art Family Rail, FREE Personal Coaching
• Discounts on youth programs
• State of the Art Family Rail, FREE Personal Coaching

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The Sun — Thursday, March 22, 2018
LOCAL/REGIONAL NEWS

By ALEXANDRA HERRERA

NORTH PORT — Holiday Park has a charismatic board of trustees.

Seat 1 member William Mitchell has been tasked by Robert Bachman in a close race.

Bachman received 53.44 percent of the vote, while Mitchell received 46.56 percent.

Seats 7 and 9 on the board will remain the same until 2023, with Kenneth Judd and Richard Geitz, who is the current chairman, retaining their seats. Seats 3 and 5 are uncontested, so current representatives of those seats will remain.

According to the park’s website, the board’s newest members will be sworn in on March 27, ahead of the regularly scheduled workshop.

Holiday Park is one of two special taxing districts in Sarasota County that votes in its board. The board at Holiday Park is made up of nine residents who represent the interest of those who live in the park.

The park also has its own millage rate set by voters, and all park fees are paid to the county and not the board. Holiday Park’s board of trustees is selected by voters in the precise, and is not open to any other Sarasota County resident.

The board’s even numbered seats will also be up for reelection during the 2020 election.

Call toll-free: 855-402-5045
By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH; dap/Photo Credit: ERICK MICALLEF

LEHIGH ACRES — Local principals elucidated Wednesday morning, instead of eliminating art, science and technology teachers, and cutting school security guards in August, they praised the community for voting yes to keep Saniboo County Schools intact.

Thursday, 79 percent — or 62,946 voters — over- whelmingly approved a one mill tax that equals $1 for every $1,000 of taxable assessed value of a home.

Had the tax referendum failed, the district would have lost $335 million in funding generated each fiscal year.

“The funding generated would have stopped short of students,” saidƚkl. “We looked at a couple different shows, but decided on ‘Guys and Dolls’ which is a part of the fall production of a big Broadway (romantic) comedy which we selected before she became the drama teacher.”

“Drama was a part of the fall production of ‘Guys and Dolls’ at her first musical at Lemon Bays, says John Bailey, principal of Englewood SKY Academy. “The group would be great support for other students, said John Bailey, principal of Englewood SKY Academy for River Road, a charter beach with 1830 to pay teachers adequately,” he said.

“This is just one of the reasons we are proud to be a part of a great school district and great community like Englewood,” he said. “We will be able to continue with a longer school year, and we are grateful for the same academic support in place. Thank you to the Sarasota and Englewood community for supporting education.”

Englewood Middle School, which has a high volume of students on free and reduced lunch, would have lost $339,000 to pay for a science, art, and English teacher who helps struggling students with their studies as well as a library, assistant and an assistant principal.

With a tax-generated $4,300,528 students and 5,000 teachers, the cuts would have been drastic.

Other areas schools have considered in funding, including the magnet programs at Leadership Academy at North Port High, $143,648 would have been cut at Englewood Middle School, $614,521 at Sanibel Elementary, and $794,019 at Englewood High School.

Millions remain in place for Sarasota schools

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH; dap/Photo Credit: ERICK MICALLEF

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH; dap/Photo Credit: ERICK MICALLEF

The Lemon Bay High School spring musical, “Guys and Dolls,” is set to debut at 7 p.m. tonight in the Lemon Bay Performing Arts Center.

Written by Jo Swerling, directed and choreographed by Sarah Rawlings, “Guys and Dolls” opened on Broadway in 1950. Set in the 1920s, and 1950s, is about gamblers, organized crime and other characters of the New York underworld and the hustle and bustle of New York City, all based on an original story by Damon Runyan. The story follows the adventures of Sky Masterson and Nathan Detroit, who were played by Mark Brando and Frank Sinatra in the 1950’s feature film. “We’ve taken the play and made it our own,” Rawlings said. “There are things that we will look for in the play that are incorporated in our version, like the scene where Nicky Johnson is on a chair and everyone is surrounding him. There are fun parts of the musical that crossover characters that are entertaining ourselves. You know they will want to be a theater,” she said, while updating their set design to the Detroit movie power scene where Nicky and Sarah sing ‘Man the Moon Today’ and they interlock their arms to the story that is told. “The constraints, the students weren’t able to create this boss or their own set. Instead, they’ve used our own creative ideas and cuts and curtail all that we’ve put into our show.”

“We don’t have the time to design a set”...“changes and locations and costumes that we once came from a mechanical point of view, in what you are doing a high school production. In order to do that, we must work with technical, set, and costume等部门 whose experience is having first hand experience. We have limited room, work with the stagecraft and English teachers, and students work in this theater. We have worked in this theater. We have created our own,” Rawlings said. “It’s a beautiful theater.”

The administration and cast has been working so far. They have been planning transforms for this show. It is a beautiful theater.”

Seniors Zachary Gardyn, 17, and Ashley Gingo, 17, are the character of Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson respectively. “It’s a love, he was a, he’s always going to try his best,” he said. “Gardyn, who recently transferred to the Florida State Penitentiary, has been in every production since his first year. “I don’t get nervous when he’s on stage because I actually do it. He’s going to be acting like a true actor during the show.”

Caroline worked with the Winter Garden Theatre for a dress rehearsal and a run through of the stage. “I may be the only one who was nervous at my first debut show,” she said. “I hope people come out and see it and let me know if that was successful. These kids are great.”

For more information and tickets, visit www.lbihtheatre.net.

Lemon Bay High School presents ‘Guys and Dolls’
One of our towns: Outdoor Living

LIFE ON TWO WHEELS
Maximizing your pedal power

How many times did you ride this week? Did you notice the ride seems easier each time? Maybe you're not quite as winded. Maybe the legs feel a little stronger? Maybe the bathroom scale had some good news.

Author John Howard said, "The bicycle is a curious vehicle. Its passenger is its engine." Most folks, after performing a particular function repetitively, naturally begin to examine ways to do it faster, easier and more efficiently. There are many ways to improve efficiency when riding a bicycle that might not seem apparent at first. Let's examine one piece of the puzzle to see if there isn't a better way.

As you ride, energy from your legs is transferred to the bike via pedals. A simple thing, pedaling. How could they be improved? Pedals come in three different styles: Platform, toe-clip, clipless or cleats.

Platform pedals are what most people are familiar with. There is a flat area on either side where your feet are placed. Platform pedals allow for the wearing of street shoes, sneakers or running shoes. Bike pedals can be simple, or you can go high-tech for better performance.

COURT MEDERVELD | 2

SPENDING a weekend chilling out at a beachside resort was not my style — until I experienced Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Florida's Panhandle. Although the drive was a bit of a haul, its passenger is its own destination, with 30 neighborhoods housing more than 1,250 villas, town homes and hotel accommodations. It sits on 2,400 acres with 26 miles of sugar-white, powdery soft sand. It also has four championship golf courses and a marina. Because the property is so large, a complimentary shuttle transports guests from point A to point B.

Spend your day relaxing and read a good book. Kayaks and boogie boards are available for rent. Add in the sound of lapping waves, and it's a Zen location to recharge.

Rest assured, your little tootsies will feel as though they're being pampered rather than tortured when walking the Sandestin beach.

Bikes can be rented at the bike via pedals. A simple thing, pedaling. How could they be improved? Pedals come in three different styles: Platform, toe-clip, clipless or cleats.

BIRDS ON THE BRAIN
A sandhill crane on a nest.

Growing up on a farm, I've dipped my toes at many beaches. There is nothing worse than stepping onto sand and burning your feet! I've seen quartz, it's cool on the feet because it doesn't retain heat. Beaches in Florida for too many years to count, I've dipped my toes at many beaches. There's nothing worse than stepping onto sand and burning your feet! Best assured, your little toes will feel as though they're being pampered rather than tortured when walking the Sandestin beach.

Beach chairs and umbrellas next to the emerald-green water are available for rent. Add in the sound of lapping waves, and it's a Zen location to recharge.

The Village of Baytowne Wharf

Baytowne Wharf is a unique pedestrian shopping, dining and recreation area within the resort. It's located on the west side of US 98, the Beach! Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort sits right on the bay. The beach is included with every rental property and includes multiple public access points. Beach chairs and umbrellas next to the emerald-green water are available for rent. Add in the sound of lapping waves, and it's a Zen location to recharge.

Day tripper

Sunrise to sunset at Sandestin

The beach! Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort sits right on the bay. The beach is included with every rental property and includes multiple public access points. Beach chairs and umbrellas next to the emerald-green water are available for rent. Add in the sound of lapping waves, and it's a Zen location to recharge.

A sandhill crane on a nest.

The Beach!

Tiger Woods put up in his last PGA tournament, the Valderrama Championshp. By now, though, many of you know what those numbers are from various news outlets. From my perspective, I see this as an absolute win for Tiger and his fans. Let's be real: Tiger coming to the middle part of Florida to play in a golf tournament is something that a lot of people may have never thought they would see again. I am sitting here composing this column while I watch day one of the Arnold Palmer Invitational over in Orlando and the crowds are enormous. They are huge in Palm Harbor at Innisbrook where they played the famed Copperhead course last week before and after the attendance records. No doubt the same will happen at Bay Hill, where Tiger is joined by some of the young guns of golf — Rory McIlroy and Bubba Watson. Some of these younger golfers joined the tour when Tiger was in a few spot in his career and missed out on all the hosptial that follows Tiger around anywhere he goes up. Now they are getting the full experience of what it's like to have to play golf with the man that draws a crowd. Jordan Spieth did not fare too well at the Valderrama playing alongside Tiger and did not make the cut. Rory McIlroy made the comment that Tiger gives up roughly a half-stroke per round just due to the nuttiness that goes along with the crowds that follow him around the course.

But yet he still brings his game to the course. And if you haven't been paying attention, he is starting to show three newer golfers what it's like when he is in the field.

The Vector to Tallgrass

The return of Tigermania

Can recreate all of the stats and numbers of Tiger Woods attendance and scores for Tiger Woods up in his last PGA tournament, the Valderrama Championship. By now, though, many of you know what those numbers are from various news outlets. From my perspective, I see this as an absolute win for Tiger and his fans. Let's be real: Tiger coming to the middle part of Florida to play...
Charlotte Harbor
One of the first things I did upon arriving in the area was to talk with local fishermen, and offer feedback that you would know they hear because you’re saying it right to them.

One kind of opportunity just doesn’t come along. In late April, the BayONET, the annual charter fishing tackle show in the U.S., you might find hand-made goods from all over, but most booths are staffed by charter captains, salesmen and assorted representatives.

So it may seem odd that the CEOs, founders and presidents of more than a dozen tackle makers are coming to Charlotte Harbor this Saturday, but that’s what’s happening at Fisher’s Frank’s Bait & Tackle. Frank’s Frank Homme, owner of the tackle shop, said “We’re bringing in some of the heaviest hitters in the tackle industry: the top guy at Penn; Eric Buchholtz, the president of Mustad; Mark Nichols, the head of Corona, CA; Doug Mixed, owner of Nokona King for 40 years; Barry Heller, owner of Star Rods. It’s the perfect storm of fishing tackle. We call it the Tent Event, and this year we’re doing a ‘tent’ with live vendors coming.”

The idea was simple. “I modeled this slow after one perfect pedal I had at a trade show,” Homme said. “We wanted to be able to talk to the people who run things, instead of a bunch of unending bids, and it was fantastic. Now we’re going to replicate that experience for our customers.”

This isn’t the first time the Tent Event has been held — it’s a tradition, going back 12 years now. Some of the manufacturers have been involved since the beginning.

“We are the fourth front hall. What is a front hall? With platform pedals, nearly all of your power comes back to the bike through the pedal, keeping the balls of your feet on the pedals. Many recreational and commuter cyclists prefer this type of bike and shoe pedals, simply for convenience. A clipless pedal system keeps the balls of your foot connected to the center of each pedal, which is the correct foot position for maximum cycling efficiency. While we call it the Tent Event, in my position, you can use your imaginations to lift through the back half of the pedal stroke, and your feet can ride along, pedal through the front hall.

What is a front hall? Platform pedals are the most popular. You can use your imaginations to lift through the back half of the pedal stroke, and your feet can ride along, pedal through the front hall.

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peninsula ribbon snake hunting the trail. If you go out on a sunny cool morning, you may see a large number of dead animals warming their bodies to a temperature that gives them better vision and also the chance to capture and digest prey. These two reptiles allowed me to look at them for quite a while, so I then quietly walked around Four Seasons, otherwise known as my back yard.

Later I saw that I believe was a yellow rat snake on the trail, but it had warmed up enough that it quickly diffused off into the brush before I could get close enough to positively identify it. I was lucky to see an oak toad. This is a very small toad, approximately 1.5 inches long, that has a distinctive light greenish line on its back. I also saw a 7-foot Alligator swimming on the pond behind our pond. A good day for reptiles.

Birds are in abundance at the Flatwoods. On my recent trip there, I was amazed at how many different birds I saw. While the adler’s feathers are dull blue-gray, the juvenile is a little blue heron. They are the same size and look alike by looking at its back and legs. They use the same nesting area for nesting, and they have distinct color patterns specific to this species. There is a nesting pair of sandhill cranes at the Flatwoods. They are in their ritual mating dance now and the male will soon hear them before you see them. The call of the sandhill crane is nothing short of breathtaking. Some reports say they have successful nesting and you may see sandhill crane chicks, called colts, following their parents around the pond. Flatswamps are very common at the Flatwoods. It is not unusual to see them perched on treetops of flying through or above the trees. There is a sandhill near us, which unfortunately attracts this species, sometimes courting elsewhere.

Anhingas are common here. They are also called the snake-bird or water turkey. If you observe them in the water, you will notice them pitching their heads. Those names are derived from their diving birds that dive deep, mainly for fish. They often have to dry out their feathers to make it easier to fly. You will often see them, with wings spread out, sitting by the water soaking up the sun. They have a sharp beak used for prey. The anhinga is often confused with the double-crested cormorant, but the cormorant is a totally different species of water bird that evolved to have similar traits and appearance as the anhinga. For instance, the anhingas has a pointed beak and the double-crested cormorant has a curved tip beak. They both are fascinating birds and it is fun to watch them both. There are a good number of Anhingas at the Flatwoods. They are often floating on stones, especially nonnative snails. You can see the sand hill cranes all along the marsh edges.

For instance, the anhinga and the double-crested cormorant both have similar traits and appearance. The anhinga has a pointed beak and the double-crested cormorant has a curved tip beak. They both are fascinating birds and it is fun to watch them both. There are a good number of Anhingas at the Flatwoods. They are often floating on stones, especially nonnative snails. You can see the sandhill cranes all along the marsh edges.

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Glass lizards are commonly mistaken for snakes.

Many environmental groups in this area lead tours at the Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park. Check out the Outdoor Nature Board on the back page of this section or try Internet searches for the Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Group, the Peace River Audubon Society and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center for more information on future outings.

Jim Komy is a Florida Master Naturalist and an accomplished outdoor photographer. To see some of his work, visit Jimkomy.com.
### ENGLOUEWOOD EVENTS

**TODAY**

- French Toast, Suncoast O.S. Church, Bradenton, FL 941-746-1100. $5 at the door. Call 941-359-0049.
- Englewood Handicapped, Inc. 2nd Thurs. & 2nd Sat. 7:00 p.m. Call 941-247-1332.
- Crafty Ladies, Handicapped, Inc. 2nd Thurs. 7:30 p.m. www.englewood-handicapped.com

**NORTH PORT EVENTS**


**PAID ADVERTISEMENTS**

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The Englwood Shell Club was honored to welcome award-winning authors Blair and Dawn Withington as the speakers at the club's last general meeting of the season.

Blair and his wife, Dawn, are very familiar to southwest Florida residents as they have authored numerous books on seashells, sea life, sea turtles, and Florida. Blair is the conservation programs manager for Disney’s Animal, Science and Environment. Dawn is a graphic artist and scientist, illustrator trained at the Art Institutes of Colorado and Fort Lauderdale. Blair and Dawn have merged their art, writing, "Our Sea Turtles" (Fostalgate Press), which won Frommer Reviews 2005 Book of the Year gold medal for nature. Their other books include "Florida’s Living Reaches," "Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas," "Florida’s Seashells" and "Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas."

The Englwood Shell Club hosted the couple, and was both educated and entertained by Blair’s lecture entitled "Pruniosa of Seashells." The Withingtons also offered their books for sale, which were happy to autograph copies.

The Englwood Shell Club will resume its monthly meetings in October 2018. For more information, see our website, englewoodshell.org, or contact President Colleen Fosnough at housedesigning@gmail.com.

Val Ollinger will be guest speaker at the Family Garden Club.

By JIM SCIARELLO
Special to the Sun

ENGLEWOOD — Valerie Ollinger, a University of Florida Master Gardener for Sarasota County, will be the guest speaker at the Family Garden Club of Englewood’s next meeting, set for 10 a.m. April 10 at the Biki Quirk Library, 100 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.

The meeting will be held in the library’s community room.

Her topic will be "Pruning and Propagating: How to Grow Your Garden."

She will discuss the proper way to trim your garden plants to keep them looking their best.

She will cover ways to grow new things. In 1996, Val and her husband moved from an old house in Sinton, Ponderosa Gorda to three wooded acres in North Port. In 2001 she finally had the time to qualify as a University of Florida Master Gardener for Sarasota County. She loves helping newcomers deal with the challenges of our semi tropical climate.

Volunteers at the Extension Service Plant Clinic, working with the Florida Friendly Landscape Advisor group. She also spends a lot of time propagating plants for their Big Master Gardener Plant sale which is held every year in October. She is the director of People for Trees, an advocacy group in North Port, and also belongs to the Arbor Day Foundation, the Native Plant Society, and the Sierra Club. Val was promoting their book, "Our Allamanda Garden Club of North Port for 10 years. Please join us to hear this wonderful presentation on "Pruning and Propagating: How to Grow Your Garden.""

A coffee social will follow the meeting and you will have the opportunity to meet other attendees and club members. Please feel free to join us. Everyone is welcome. When you attend our meetings you will get to meet our members and have the opportunity to ask them gardening questions related to Southwest Florida gardening.

Please check www.fgcefl.com for more details on this event and other scheduled club activities.

As always, membership is not required to attend but membership does have some benefits that you may enjoy. If you are a member, you will be kept up to date on all of the events planned. You may also be part of the selection activity and planning of the events that we have. This includes the suggestions for speakers and field trips that are arranged. You may also attend the business meetings of the process that we go through to set up on community projects that we participate in. Our membership ranges from the very experienced gardener, who has just moved to Florida, to the experienced long-time resident. You will also find that there is something for everyone at the meetings. Join today and start mastering gardening in Southwest Florida.

Many more benefits of membership can be found on our website at www.fgcefl.com. We look forward to having you as a member of the Family Garden Club.

Highly acclaimed and internationally recognized as one of the BEST EAGLES TRIBUTES!

Phil Nickerson takes a swipe on the new Boca Royale pickleball courts.

SUN FILE PHOTO

Boca Royale Golf & Country Club in Englewood held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the club’s four new pickleball courts March 15. Pictured are, from left, Dick Croneland, pickelball liaison to Boca Royale’s general manager Shawn Blair, John Aquino, the USA Pickleball Ambassador from Venice, Boca Royale general manager lan Fettig, Mark Shank of Natural Communities, Baggotes Committee chair Colleen Ollinger and Boca Royale resident Pam Wetherington.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Boca Royale resident Pam Wetherington lines out the new pickelball courts as opening day.
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The Lemon Bay Conservancy invites you to join them for a free AUDUBON WALKABOUT

The following outings will be held by the Greater Charlotte Audubon Society:

- APRIL 14: BOYD HILL, ST. PETERSBURG....DEB
- APRIL 18: PIRCONE PARK..............DEB
- APRIL 21: PADDLE FROM PONCE DE LEON PARK:
  - PONCE DE LEON PARK TO MYAKKA STATE FOREST:
  - BOKSTOWN TO TWIN POINTS
- APRIL 24: FT. DESOTO.................DEB
- APRIL 26: FT. DESOTO............................DEB
- MARCH 24: WILDFLOWER PRESERVE....ABBBIE
- MARCH 27: WAREHAM WILDLIFE RESERVE....KATE BORDUAS

You can join any of these free birding trips (registration is required) and meet other birders. For more info or to sign up, email the listed trip leader.

KAYAK QUARRY LAKE TO MYAKKA STATE FOREST:

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Kayak Quarry Lake to Myakka State Forest: Paddle 5-6 miles from the Myakka River. The Myakka River is perfect for paddlers proficient in kayaking, this clinic is for you. Various types of kayaks will be available for rent. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 19. Contact Lloyd Lorey at 941-763-9248 or Bill at 941-769-3633.

BOAT TO BOAT, WETLAND TO WETLAND:

Boat to Boat, Wetland to Wetland starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 7 at the Isles Yacht Club (1780 W. Marion Street, Punta Gorda). No cost; all ages welcome. There will be a free indoor 30-minute tree workshop at 11:30 a.m. that will focus on tree conservation and planting. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FREE KAYAK CLINIC

The Lemon Bay Conservancy is hosting a free kayak clinic this Saturday, April 7. There are limited spaces available so call 941-769-3633 to reserve a spot or email tad@lemonbay.org.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT TRAIL GUIDE AL SQUIRES AT 941-769-3633

VABA BIRDING TRIPS

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Get Out with Rooster for Birds and Beyond is offering the following birding trips as part of the Great American Cleanup and Keep Charlotte Beautiful scheduled for April 7.

- APRIL 7: ROOSTER FOR BIRDS AND BEYOND....KATE BORDUAS

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For more information about projects and programs of the Lemon Bay Conservancy, visit lemonbay.org.

Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood) and clean up local parks which may include Cedar Point Environmental Park (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 7 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9. Call 941-833-3824 or Brenda.Sisk@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

Kiwanis Park (2400 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte) is temporarily closed until March 30 to undergo a hand rail and side rail replacement. The boardwalk is at the southern end of Kiwanis Park and is closed for the duration of the rain storm. The boardwalk is off limits to the public. For more info, call 941-769-3633.

Morgan Park parallels the Peace River and is filled with large old trees and has a large open meadow filled with water lilies. Morgan Park is at 3420 Morgan Park Road, Englewood. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 7 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9.

For more info, call 941-769-3633 or email tad@lemonbay.org.

Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Boat Show and Nautical Fest is set for April 7 and 8. The boat show is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 7 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 8. Various types of watercraft, PFD and be able to swim. Voluntary donations to the Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Club for projects and charities they support. For information, visit NauticalFest.com or contact Dave Flower at 941-468-2023.

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President Donald Trump, right, meets with President Emmanuel Macron, center, at the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, on Aug. 24, 2019. This week has been one of Trump's most exhausting, and he is scheduled to hold his first major press conference as president on Tuesday in the East Room of the White House.

WASHINGTON — The tempest over President Donald Trump's controversial phone call to Vladimir Putin quickly grew Tuesday when an administration official, a White House leaker, sparked an internal investigation and speculation over who might be the next person Trump forces out of the West Wing.

The White House, which has suffered frequent leaks — at times of notable sensitivity — and in a situation in which it would be a "fireable offense and likely illegal" to do otherwise, is bracing for renewed pressure as questions spread about the legal viability of the president's decision to share classified information with Russia.

Trump did so anyway, and on Wednesday he defended the call, saying George H.W. Bush did not have the "smarts" to work with Putin, and that Barack Obama never "called" Putin. But even as Trump's attacks on his predecessor turn into uproar over leaks, Trump-Putin leaks, sparking an internal investigation and speculation over who might be the next person Trump forces out of the West Wing.

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Fed raises key rate and forecasts more 2019 hikes

By MARTIN CRUTCHFELD

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is raising key interest rates more this year. At the same time, it increased its estimate for rate hikes in 2019 to three, reflecting more optimistic expectations for growth and low unemployment.

In releasing the first rate hike since its latest policy meeting, the fed boosted the short-term rate by a quarter-point to a still-low range of 1.25% to 1.5%.

The decision was in line with expectations. But it also said it will keep shrinking its bond portfolio. The two moves mean that major consumers and businesses will face higher loan rates over time.

Furthermore, the Fed’s actions and forecasts Wednesday suggest a belief that the economy remains strong even nearly nine years after the Great Recession ended.

The Fed’s latest rate hike marks its sixth since it began tightening credit in December 2015, after keeping its benchmark rate near zero for seven years to help nurture the economy’s recovery from the recession. Wednesday’s action was approved by all 12 members with the Fed avoiding any dissent at the first meeting Powell has presided over as chairman since succeeding Janet Yellen last month.

Bond yields rose and stocks held on to many of their gains after the Fed’s announcement. But was widely expected. By the time stock trading had ended, the Dow Jones industrial stock average was down modestly, and the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for mortgages and other loans, was up only slightly.

Some investors had speculated that Powell would signal his intention to impose more modest hikes in coming quarters. But the market’s reaction to the Fed’s December projection for three hikes this year indicated confidence that the Fed will stay on course.

If the Fed does stick with its new forecast for three rate increases this year and three more in 2019, its key policy rate would stand at 3.4% percent after August. The higher-than-expected rate increases this year and three more in 2019 could slow economic growth and raise the risk of a recession, though the Fed is confident economic growth will remain strong.

The Fed’s forecast of credit tightening Wednesday’s forecast for rate increases over the forecast for 2018 is also the path of future increases. The Fed expects to raise the benchmark rate to 2.5% by the end of 2019 from a current level of 1.75%.

The Fed expects to hike rates three more times this year and three more in 2018, ending its ninth year of near-zero policy rates. This year’s increase in the Fed’s benchmark rate to 1.25% is a milestone for the financial system after two recoveries from the Great Recession ended.

This year and three in 2019, the Fed will hike rates three times this year and three more in 2018. It is seen as a signal that the Fed expects the economy to remain strong.

The Fed has not yet announced its plans for raising rates in 2019 and 2020. The year and three in 2019, the Fed will hike rates three times this year and three more in 2018. It is seen as a signal that the Fed expects the economy to remain strong.

EMERGING MARKETS

By FRANK BARRON

The Fed’s decision to hike rates more this year and three more in 2019 could slow economic growth and raise the risk of a recession, though the Fed is confident economic growth will remain strong.

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earlier this year as they are being challenged in deportation protections. The House is not formally deliberating. The White House has not provided no other details. They also said they were an unusual threat problems from North Korea to “the coming Arms Race.”

The Sun Thursday, March 22, 2018

BUDGET

AUSTIN

a statement saying they had “no idea of the darkness that Mark must have been in.” His uncle, Mike Courtney, said his nephew was a “computer geek” who was intelligent and kind.

Austin was hit with four bombings starting on March 2. The first explosions were from packages left on doorsteps. Then a bomb with a tripwire was placed near a public trail. A fifth parcel bomb detonated early Thursday at a FedEx distribution center near San Antonio.

Rep. Michael McCaul, a Republican from Austin, said Conditt’s “fatal mistake” was sending it into a FedEx store to mail a package because that allowed investigators to track him and his vehicle, along with his cell phone number. From there, investigators added targets to the task and eventually track him using his cell phone.

Homemade explosives were recovered from Conditt’s home. His two roommates were detained for questioning. One was released.

Investigators said one component of the home contained bomb components but no finished bombs. They were analyzing Conditt’s internet history to find out how he learned to make bombs.

Police initially believed the attacks may have been hate crimes because the victims of the earliest blasts were black, but they backed off that theory after Hispanic and white victims from different parts of the city were also affected.

Milwaukee, the agent in charge of the Houston division of the ATF, said it was “hard to say” if the bombing suspect had acted alone. Investigators were confident “that the same person built each explosive device.”

The suspect’s death further cast doubt on the budget cap developments in the case. In the wake of the bombings, the bomb at the FedEx shipping center in suburban San Antonio exploded on a conveyer belt.

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HIGHLIGHT: MISSISSIPPI

Myrlie Evers, 85, says she's ready for a break. ROGER D. WOLF / AP

The memories became too painful, she said, so she moved to California, where she married Walter Williams (who later died of prostate cancer). In 1994, she finally saw her husband's killer convicted of murder in Mississippi. A year after that, the Supreme Court of the national NAACP, helping bring the civil rights organization back from the brink of bankruptcy. In 2013, she became the first woman and first layperson to deliver the prayer at a presidential inauguration.

On Dec. 9, she spoke to the thou- sands gathered for the opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Mu- seum, recounting what it was like seeing the museum's photographs: "I try not to forget that I felt the bullet, I felt the tears, but I cried, the tears and the bullets freed me."

Last Saturday, she celebrated her 85th birthday, attended by family and friends. This year, she will celebrate with neighbors. "I am excited," she said. "I expect a wonderful day."

Last week, she marked the an- niversary of the death of her son, Milt Evers, who was assassinated in 1963, her husband's killer was tried three years ago, only to go free when two white jurors deadlocked.

"As emotional as I was," she said, "I knew this is it. My sons have grown up, and I have grandchildren."

MISSISSIPPI: Catholic Church: Farmington in Montana. The Montana Veterans Affairs Health Care System has closed its Farmington facility.

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump has vetoed a bill to require insurers to cover naturopathic doctor services. That's an alterna- tive health-care system that includes boards and commissions created by executive order.

NORTH DAKOTA: Minot: Coyote Development, developer of two prob- lematic pipeline projects in downtown Minot, will submit plans for a $20 million residential apartment complex.

OHIO: Columbus: A $1.8 million set- tlement is proposed in the case of a woman who was critically injured when an infant in the Pan-Far ride fell apart last July. Another rider was killed.

OKLAHOMA: Woodland: School district officials recently approved teachers and employees with $1,000 bonuses as a potential state- wide teacher welfare package.

OREGON: Eugene: Bartels Packing has closed its slaughtering and meatpacking operations and laid off 142 employees.

PENNSYLVANIA: Dents Run: The FBI came up empty in a "court-authori- zed excavation" of a alleged "smarties" in rural towns around the city, The Prov- enance reports.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Columbia: The state education superintendent is hoping legislation is enacted that will allow plans to consolidate with nine small school districts and reduce the number of problems and small populations.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Aberdeen: A Minne- sota man who worked for the Beef Biz company that was charged with belonging to an Aberdeen police offi- cer who died after being shot in the head in a surgery has been sentenced to a month in jail and fined $856.

TEXAS: Cedar Park: A 54-year-old woman is in critical condition after a pastor counseled his staff after a child poison- ing investigation. Three people, including a father and son, were arrested.

TENNESSEE: Knoxville: An 83-year-old woman was given a $10,000 grant to create a program in their neighborhood for those from the late 1700s or early 1800s, were found at a suburban home.

Utah Salt Lake City: Three people have been injured in a shooting, but none more than $5,000 in 1,000 bonuses as a potential state- wide teacher welfare package.


WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: Sev- enteen facilities in the state will di- vide a combined $2 million in federal funds to expand the use of mentees to help drug addicts. West Virginia leads the nation in the rate of drug overdose deaths.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: The State Department of Corrections will give a former inmate an estimated $45,000 to hang himself. $189,808. Sydney Briggs’ attorney says it’s the largest civil rights settlement in state history.

WYOMING: Casper: A man who chained himself to a concrete-filled barrel in an effort to prevent trucks from hardening Van Horn Plaza to Parkland on March 19. The woman was threatened by a third of her son on that tree.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: Berta- liano „Healthcare providers are seeking help in identifying a woman whose body was found floating in a Weespewek Park on March 19. The woman was threatened by a tree on that tree.

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For sports on TV, please see page 2 of today’s Sports section.

Thursday Television

VEN-VENICE E-N-ENFIELD SAV-SARASOTA PC-PORTRAND CHARLOTTE ABC-ARCADIA SWFL-SOUTH PUNTA GORDA

Today’s Talk Shows

7:00 a.m. ABC Good Morning America Hosts: Robin Roberts and George Stephanopoulos

7:00 a.m. NBC Today Hosts: Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker

9:00 a.m. CBS Live with Kelly and Ryan Hosts: Kelly Ripa and Michael Gelman

9:00 a.m. NBC Today Hosts: Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker

11:00 a.m. ABC The View Hosts: Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Sara Haines, Sunny Hostin

11:00 a.m. NBC Today Hosts: Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker

11:00 a.m. FOX The Steve Wilkos Show Hosts: Steve Wilkos and Terry Dubrow

11:00 a.m. MNW The Doctors Guest Host: Dr. Travis Stork, a plastic surgeon

1:00 p.m. ABC The Chew Hosts: Carla Hall, Daphne Oz, Clinton Kelly, Clinton Kelly

1:00 p.m. NBC The Steve Wilkos Show Hosts: Steve Wilkos and Terry Dubrow

2:00 p.m. CBS The Talk Hosts: Sara Haines, Sheryl Underwood, Sheryl Underwood, Sheryl Underwood

2:00 p.m. NBC The Doctors Hosts: Dr. Travis Stork, a plastic surgeon

3:00 p.m. CW The Wendy Williams Show Hosts: Wendy Williams and guests

3:00 p.m. FOX Pickler & Ben The Soup Hosts: Pickler & Ben

3:00 p.m. NBC The Dr. Oz Show Hosts: Dr. Oz and guests

4:00 p.m. MNW Maury Hosts: Maury Povich and guests

For more information, please see page 2 of today’s Sports section.

For sports on TV, please see page 2 of today’s Sports section.

For more information, please see page 2 of today’s Sports section.
Reader asks about completely halting use of Tramadol

DEAR DR. ROACH:
I’m 78 and I had a total hip replacement on the right side 28 days ago. After the surgery, my sciatic nerve hurt for about a week. I was prescribed liquid tramadol 50 mg, four time a day, 19 days. No one told me that I could experience withdrawal symptoms within 12 hours if stopped old fashined way. I was warned myself of it, but it was so incredibly relieving I am curious about what happened.

ANSWER:
Tramadol is one of the medications in a drug class called the synthetic derivatives of codeine, also called opioids, which are narcotics. Opioids are drugs similar to natural pain relievers that act on the brain to change the way a person feels pain.

Withdrawal symptoms, also called rebound symptoms, can accompany abrupt withdrawal from opioids. The symptoms are similar to those seen with any abrupt withdrawal from opioids, most of which are caused by an abrupt reduction in the brain’s supply of natural opioids.

Opioids are generally prescribed for short periods of time and generally do not require tapering. Because the opioids are used for a relatively short period of time, the withdrawal symptoms are usually mild or nonexistent. With an extended-release opioid, though, the dose is released slowly over a prolonged period.

Any abrupt reduction in a drug that affects the brain is likely to cause withdrawal symptoms, and tramadol is no exception. The symptoms will be generally similar to those seen with opioids, but the symptoms may be milder and last for a shorter period.

It is particularly dangerous in cases of abrupt withdrawal after long-term use of small doses of an opioid. The symptoms are likely to be more severe, and the withdrawal may last for a longer period, but it is generally less severe than that seen with opioids.

When this happens, withdrawal symptoms can be treated with medications. It is important to be patient and to be sure to follow the instructions of the doctor who prescribed the medication. The symptoms are not something to be ignored, and it is important to be sure to follow the instructions of the doctor who prescribed the medication.

A goal in treatment of opioid withdrawal is to reduce the amount of medication and the duration of treatment as much as possible. The symptoms are not something to be ignored, and it is important to be sure to follow the instructions of the doctor who prescribed the medication.

Dr. Roach

Housewife longs to go out and socialize with adults

DEAR ABBY:
My husband, Bob, and I have three kids: One is in college, the next is in grade school and the youngest is a baby. I’m a full-time medical student, and he’s a professional athlete.

From the outside, it would seem like we have a perfect life. In reality, things doesn’t go over so well. He attends games, goes to existing social events and hobnobs with the rich and famous. I am left at home to manage all of our day-to-day chores and unusually restricted to family functions or fall sports.

I would like to be included in the invitations and attend some of the fun activities with my husband, but when I ask him if I can go, he says “I insist on flying solo” and then stays home to care for our kids. He thinks I should be happy with this and says I am too critical about things.

Surely you know some of the reflux activities with my husband, but I want to point out to him the importance of including me. If I make the effort to attend not the event at all, I’m slightly disappointed.

The dirt on the dishwasher

Dear Readers: Let wondering: Do you WASH YOUR DISHES by hand, or do you use your dishwasher? Here are a few hints about here:

Housewife gets hotter and can sanitize better than hand-washing

If this statement were true, the dishwasher would be less useful. However, there are many advantages to using the dishwasher.

The dishwasher uses water more efficiently than hand-washing.

The dishwasher gets dishes cleaner than hand-washing.

The dishwasher is more effective than hand-washing.

The dishwasher is faster than hand-washing.

The dishwasher uses less energy than hand-washing.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life on earth can be attributed to the flow of water distributing organisms all over this planet. The life of the human body is also a function of water flow. You'll think better and be your highest self when properly hydrated.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you knew what people would remember about you would be the very last part of the interaction, how would you play it? Do it that way today. Gear everything toward the takeaway.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be the calm, centered one today, and don't be surprised if the tightly wound and high-strung individuals are even more attracted to you than usual.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't forget that you were built from scratch. Once upon a time, your cells knew how to multiply perfectly to make you. And you still have amazing powers of regeneration, which will be applied to your body, mind and spirit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The magic doesn't need you to believe in it. It goes on regardless, a gift for any taker. This is one of the few times when it's OK to be a taker. Take as much as you want. There is plenty to go around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It would be easy to get seduced by extrinsic standards of success. These can only satisfy you when attached to a pursuit that will also feed your need for meaning and purpose. Is this really your true north?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you're offering isn't right for everyone, but for the customer who needs it, it's everything! This is a day to find your fit — in love, business, food and any other pursuit you can think of.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Before you even think about being happy, there are some basic responsibilities and obligations to get out of the way. With your stellar attitude, you definitely should be able to find happiness while tending to those things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You made the key decisions and did a lot of the work. Still, there's much to be gained by letting others get the credit. They'll buy in, move forward and do even more than you could alone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your top priority is people. A good team with a mediocre plan is better than a mediocre team with a good plan. If you don't feel like you have the right people around you, this is a good day to go out and get more candidates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is no time to accept defeat. You're almost there! Keep the fight going. Adapt as necessary. Have the courage to take action again and again, but take it from different angles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In this whirlwind of a day, if you can figure out how to do something as straightforward as surrounding yourself with quality people and doing what you enjoy, you'll be among the privileged few.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 22). Your popularity surges this solar return. People feel your genuine interest in them and will move in closer to your warmth. This favorably affects your personal life and business life, too. Your family will grow in June. One particular talent comes to the fore, and you'll cash in handsomely with it in September. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 2, 22, 28 and 14.

**GOREN BRIDGE**

**WITH BOB JONES**

**LET IT WAIT**

**Both vulnerable, South deals**

**NORTH**

| 10 | A | K 9 7 4 |

**WEST**

| Q 9 8 9 | 7 6 2 | 9 4 | 5 2 8 | Q 9 8 3 |

**SOUTH**

| K 7 9 6 5 | 4 3 2 1 | Q 3 5 2 |

**EAST**

| 5 3 2 1 | 3 1 2 1 | 4 6 8 6 | P A T | 7 9 9 7 |

**Opening lead: Seven of C**

Today's deal is from a recent match in the Catane Trophy series contested annually in Great Britain. North-South were using Key Card Blackwood and the five spade response showed two key cards, among the four aces and the king of hearts, plus the queen of hearts. North expected South to have an eight-card suit, vulnerable, so he continued for making tricks. South's six-spade response showed specifically the king of spades and the grand slam was reached.

South took stock when the dummy came down and decided that he'd been too cautious. He might come down to a spade finesse, but there were plenty of extra chances and he set out to try them all before risking the finesse.

South won the opening heart lead with dummy's 10, caused the ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond high in his hand. Two high hearts drew the outstanding trumps and South crossed back to dummy with the ace of clubs. He cashed the king of clubs before ruffing another diamond. The pack of clubs was still out and the king-queen of diamonds had not appeared, so declarer cashed the rest of his hearts, discarding all of dummy's minor suit cards. In the three-card end position, South had the king-three of spades and the 10 of clubs opposite dummy's ace-jack-queen of spades. Resigned to taking the spade finesse, he cashed the king of spades and led a low spade. West had discarded a spade in order to keep the jack of clubs, so, to South's delight, the queen appeared and South had his contract.

**LITE 4 LITE**

**ORBIT BY REICY KARE**

One can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from 1 to 5. (© 2018, LITE, Inc. By arrangement with LITE)

**JANICR CLASSIC SUDOKU**

Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from 1 to 5. (© 2018, LITE, Inc. By arrangement with LITE)

**WORD GURDY**

1. Not only a misery or trouble (1) 
2. Stately tree kingdom (1) 
3. Analyze system of a madcap comedy (4) 
4. Cumbersome harness race vehicle (2) 
5. Reply to a spear-carrying cavalier (4) 
6. Catlike direct and quick path (3) 
7. Mask—Oscar—like maskmaster’s (8) 

**BRING YOUR DOGS TO THE BEACH**

On the north end of the beach near the boat ramp, there is a public park for dogs. The park is open to dogs of all sizes and has a designated area for off-leash play. Visitors must clean up after their dogs and follow all posted rules. The park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, call (919) 792-7393. 

**BIONIC SHORTS**

Since 1986, Bionic Shorts has been a leading manufacturer of performance shorts. Their innovative designs are made from durable and comfortable materials that provide exceptional comfort and support for any activity. With a variety of styles and sizes, Bionic Shorts offers something for everyone. For more information, visit bionicsHORT.com.

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The Sun
Thursday, March 22, 2018

For Directions
Open 7 Days 8am-9pm
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By JOEDY McCREARY

PORT CHARLOTTE — Tampa Bay Rays' catchers using wristbands amid rotation experiment

Rays catcher Jesus Sucre, left, pats pitcher Yonny Chirinos on the chest as Chirinos struggles during the fifth inning of a spring training game against the Baltimore Orioles in Port Charlotte. The Rays are arming their catchers with quarterback-style wristbands in response to rule changes governing mound visits and the team's plan to shift to a four-man rotation.

By JAKE SEINER

RAYS NOTEBOOK

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Led by Wooden Award winner Nick Perkins, fourth-ranked Kentucky, the Wildcats are early favorites to do it again.

Karen Aston, right, who was one of the starting pitchers for Austin Peay, gained experience in the outfield playing for the San Diego Wave. She led the team with a .305 batting average and was named to the All-Conference team.

By BRYAN LEVINE

Florida State running back Devonta Freeman helps set the tone for today, Friday.

By JOE REDY

Taggart’s first spring practice sets different tone for Seminoles

By KIMBER SICILIANO

Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said he was happy with his team’s performance in the first practice, and he expects them to keep improving.

By STEVEN WINE

Serena Williams loses to Osaka

By RYAN LEVINE

PORT CHARLOTTE — With 10 cuts remaining for the top-three teams, opening Day will be easier than others.

If appears as if it play-to-try, with four of the top-six spots filled, the final bench spots have some heated competition, that’s not where manager Kevin Cash finds the most difficult decisions.

“I think we’ve got a bunch of good guys, and we’ve got a few guys who’ve got a chance to do well. So, I think it’s pretty solid. I think we’re pretty solid at that position.”

By TERRY McGOVERN

NCAA Tournament: Duke, Kentucky again rely on freshmen in NCAA Tournament

Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said he was happy with his team’s performance in the first practice, and he expects them to keep improving.

The Blue Devils opened the season with a 99-72 win over North Carolina Central. They return to the court on Friday night to face the reigning ACC champion, Virginia.

By KIMBER SICILIANO

South Florida’s return to Nasu Osaka, of Japan, during the Miami Open Wednesday in Key Biscayne.

By STEVEN WINE

STAFF PHOTO: DAVID MAIALE

SERENA WILLIAMS

Serenity Williams, 20

Tallahassee — Willie Taggart’s first practice at Florida State on Wednesday didn’t set a particular tone compared to his predecessors.

“It was a different day, and we had a lot of excitement. It was a different tempo, and we had a lot of intensity.”

By STEVEN WINE

Tenis: Miami Open

Serenity Williams lost to Osaka

By JOE REDY

Taggart sets the tone for Florida State basketball practice in Tallahassee

By BRYAN LEVINE

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By KIMBER SICILIANO

South Florida’s return to Nasu Osaka, of Japan, during the Miami Open Wednesday in Key Biscayne.

By STEVEN WINE

STAFF PHOTO: DAVID MAIALE

SERENA WILLIAMS

Serenity Williams, 20

Tallahassee — Willie Taggart’s first practice at Florida State on Wednesday didn’t set a particular tone compared to his predecessors.

“It was a different day, and we had a lot of excitement. It was a different tempo, and we had a lot of intensity.”

By STEVEN WINE

Tenis: Miami Open

Serenity Williams loses to Osaka

By JOE REDY

Taggart sets the tone for Florida State basketball practice in Tallahassee

By BRYAN LEVINE

NCAA Tournament: Duke, Kentucky again rely on freshmen in NCAA Tournament

Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said he was happy with his team’s performance in the first practice, and he expects them to keep improving.

The Blue Devils opened the season with a 99-72 win over North Carolina Central. They return to the court on Friday night to face the reigning ACC champion, Virginia.
Olynyk’s big night helps Heat past Knicks, 199-98

 Associated Press

Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic, right, and center Bam Adebayo, left, celebrate during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, in Miami. (Rob Foldy/Associated Press)
Joshua looking to be undisputed

By DOUGLAS WRIGHT

SHEFFIELD, England — If 2017 for Anthony Joshua was about becoming the world’s No. 1 heavyweight, 2018 is all about creating his legend.

"No one's on the jour-

ney anymore," Joshua said Wednesday. "We're at the destination.

But in that destination, it has potential for anyone with just 20 pro fights to his name. Then again, Joshua is now 26.

Potentially within four months Joshua and British rival Tyson Fury could be the first undervalued heavyweight world champion since Larry Holmes in 1980 as he begins his twin boxer

— Downey Wood, a world No. 26 player in his prime,

would be a threat to both.

Fury, who performed his first test under new coach

The world No. 1

Trends

None of that was available on the

| Tennis \n---|---|
| ATP | Cincinnati, USA |
| WTA | Montreal, Canada |

GOLF: Dell Technologies Match Play

Defending champion Dustin Johnson hits on the 13th hole during round-robin play at the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship in Austin, Texas.

Mellor, Johnson, Mickelson lose early in Match Play

By DOUGLAS FERGUSON

AUSTIN, Texas — Rory McIlroy put together another flawless back nine but running out of steam, and it cost him.

This time, it wasn’t enough.

Former U.S. Amateur winner Peter Uihlein built a 5-up lead against Olympic gold medalist Dominik Kubelik during round-robin play Wednesday in the opening session of the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship in Austin.

Defending champion Dustin Johnson hit two birdies and an ace over a 14-hole stretch early Wednesday to grab a 2-up lead over South Africa’s Anthes Meyers. The only issue was that Meyers birdied the last two holes to square the match.

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West Region

Singles Center, Los Angeles
Thursday: Michigan vs. Texas A&M (7:17 p.m. ET, CBS) and Gonzaga vs. North Carolina State (approx. 9:37 p.m. ET, TBS)

No. 2 DUKE (28-7) Why they can advance: Winners of 11 in a row, the Blue Devils are playing their best and finding a 3-point line and making their own free throws. But they're light on overall size, especially at center, and斯顿 Williams and his teammates are a bit too unselfish at times.

What could stop them: A well-rounded team. This probably isn't a tasked a Gonzaga team or a team that was ranked. Duke's front line of one of the other 16 teams (the other 16 teams are less talented than Villanova) on the verge of becoming a Final Four team. What could stop them: A well-rounded team. This probably isn't a tasked a Gonzaga team or a team that was ranked. Duke's front line of one of the other 16 teams (the other 16 teams are less talented than Villanova) on the verge of becoming a Final Four team.

No. 3 GEORGIA (28-3) Why they can advance: Few obvious weaknesses. The Zags don't force a ton of turnovers, and they're average at both defending the 3-point line. That could bite them in a tight game.

What could stop them: A team that plays them with a little more energy. The Zags aren't as good as last season, so if you can get your bracket broken in late.

No. 7 TEXAS A&M (22-12) Why they can advance: Defense. Texas A&M's defense under Buzz Williams is quite respectable. Williams has a twoisman game. He's got a lot of experience, and he's got a great understanding of how to be a defensive team. But that's what we're going to see.

What could stop them: A team that shoots better than Texas A&M. Williams has a twoisman game. He's got a lot of experience, and he's got a great understanding of how to be a defensive team. But that's what we're going to see.

No. 5 FLORIDA STATE (27-6) Why they can advance: They're good enough to make the Final Four. Florida State is probably a little bit better than the Seminoles. They've got some very good players, and they're really good at defending the perimeter, something that could stop them: A team that has a really good perimeter. Florida State is probably a little bit better than the Seminoles. They've got some very good players, and they're really good at defending the perimeter, something that could stop them: A team that has a really good perimeter.

Bottom Line: Team experience should be a major factor in Zaga making return to the Final Four.

No. 5 CLEMSON (23-9) Why they can advance: Tough, tough game. They've got a lot of experience, they've got a little bit of size, and that's a really good experience. The Blue Devils have

What could stop them: A team that plays them with a little more energy. The Zags aren't as good as last season, so if you can get your bracket broken in late.

No. 1 SYRACUSE (27-2) Why they can advance: In the post. Frank Howard can score just about anywhere on the floor, and that's a really good experience. The Blue Devils have

What could stop them: A team that plays them with a little more energy. The Zags aren't as good as last season, so if you can get your bracket broken in late.

No. 11 VILLANOVA (24-3) Why they can advance: Their defense. Their defense is what it is — a capable defensive team that can crush another team that can crush another team.

What could stop them: A team that has a really good perimeter. Their defense is what it is — a capable defensive team that can crush another team.

No. 2 PURDUE (30-6) Why they can advance: Excellent offense. Former Georgia Tech star Trae Young is a great shooter, and he's got a lot of experience. The Blue Devils have

What could stop them: A team that plays them with a little more energy. The Zags aren't as good as last season, so if you can get your bracket broken in late.
CLEVELAND (132) VanVleet 6-13 0-0 16, Wright 4-6 2-2 12.
4, Siakam 4-9 0-0 9, Poeltl 8-13 1-2 17,
3-Point Goals—Charlotte 3-16 (Lamb
Kaminsky 4-10 3-3 11, Hernangomez 1-3 3-4
Kidd-Gilchrist 2-5 5-6 9, Williams 0-6 0-0 0,
J.Johnson 5). Assists—New York 21 (Mudiay
Lee 2-7 0-0 5, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Hicks 0-3
Assists—Memphis 25 (Chalmers 5),
4-8 0-0 10, Selden 5-12 5-5 18, McLemore
Utah at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 8 p.m.
Houston 115, Portland 111
Atlanta 99, Utah 94
Pacifi c Division W L Pct GB
Memphis 19 52 .268 38
Central Division W L Pct GB
Miami 39 33 .542 2

All times Eastern

American Athletic Conference — Promoted
OFF-WAIVERS
General allocation money.
FC Dallas — Traded F-M Shaft Brewer to Los
Soccer
Rapid City Rush — Signed F Alec Baer.
Colorado Eagles — Signed D Neal Goff to an
Cincinnati Cyclones — Signed F Vasili Glotov to

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Bozman.
Released RHP Kurt Heyer.
OTTAWA CHAMPIONS — Released LHP Onas
All times Eastern

The Sun
**NOTEBOOK**

The latest look at our series has four pitchers all making the Opening Day roster — or at least most of them are. Only Randy Arozarena is eligible for the disabled list, which is a surprise because he was considered a bubble guy. So the Rays could very well have two or three more spots open for either Jen- timers and relievers.

In this season, where there will cer-

**SPRING TRAINING ROUNDUP**

**BRAHENTON — Miami Marlins starting pitcher Don Straily (30) goes deep in a New York Mets batters in a spring training game in Jupiter.

**MLB: Pirates**

Pirates happy to again have versatile Rodriguez.

By JOHN PEROTTI

Rodriguez spent the last three Yu 2015 and 2016 seasons with the Rays in a fashion that was a favorite both in the cub- house and with the fans. He was a constant clubhouse and fiery style. Rodd- itch. After Rodriguez was cut down in the dugout following a benches clearing incident during a game with the Rangers, which led to the loss of the Chicago Cubs. Rodriguez said, "If you don’t find me too many times, you put anywhere on the field you worry about the ball hitting him,"

One year after last August when the Pirates swept the Padres from Atlanta for minor league infiel/ outfields, Rodriguez played a deal a half-a-year after his family was injured in a horrific car accident.

**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**

The Philadelphia 76ers are one of the best teams in the NBA. They have a dynamic backcourt with Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid, and they're not thrilled with the idea of giving up on a run two hits and one walk, no runs in 6 2/3 innings. Straily left the game because of a back injury, and they have yet to swing a bat in the majors.

**PITTSBURGH 3, St. Louis 0:**

Washington starter Gio Gonzalez said he surrendered no hits, one run and five hits in five innings. Lopez allowed one hit and four walks in five innings, striking out five. Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli had an RBI on a hit.

**PITCHERS**

From Page 1

Catcher's signing.

"It's kind of hard to say," Straily said. "It's obviously not the end of the world that's what it comes to, but by taking some time now we're going to be better in the coming days," Straily said. Miami planned to have starting shortstop Starlin Castro make his Riddle make his Grape-

He surrendered no hits, one run and five hits in five innings. Lopez allowed one hit and four walks in five innings, striking out five. Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli had an RBI on a hit.

"It's actually been on the disabled list and didn’t think he needed to be put on the disabled list, but his shoulder surgery in 2014 didn't go well, so they didn’t take the above scenarios has those four pitchers all making the Opening Day roster — or at least most of them are. Only Randy Arozarena is eligible for the disabled list, which is a surprise because he was considered a bubble guy. So the Rays could very well have two or three more spots open for either Jen- timers and relievers.

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## Stock Recap

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Div. Yield (%)</th>
<th>PE</th>
<th>52-week High</th>
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<th>Vol. (10,000)</th>
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### How to read the stock tables

- **Name**: Name of stock.
- **Div. Yield (%)**: Dividend yield as a percentage. It indicates the annual income from dividends as a percentage of the stock's current price.
- **PE**: Price-to-Earnings ratio, which is the price per share divided by the company's annual earnings per share. A lower PE ratio indicates a potentially cheaper stock.
- **52-week High**: The highest price at which a stock traded during the past 52 weeks.
- **52-week Low**: The lowest price at which a stock traded during the past 52 weeks.
- **Vol. (10,000)**: Volume of shares traded in thousands.
- **Last (10,000)**: The closing price of the stock in thousands.

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**STOCK GLOSSARY**

- **B** = primary exchange listing S&P 500. An issue has been selected for reclassification by a company at any time to change its industry classification.
- **C** = istockPlus 300, 400, 500. It is not shown. Dow Jones Industrial averages 30 stocks.
- **D** = Dividend stock (true stock buyout). This means the company is expected to pay a dividend.
- **E** = 52-week high and low figures are calculated from their start date. "Preferred stock class," "preferred stock share," "preferred stock price" is a statistical analysis of the stock's historical data.
- **H** = High risk. This is a high-risk stock that may not be suitable for all investors.
- **J** = Junior stock. This is a junior stock that is not included in the stock market analysis.
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- **Q** = Quoted stock. This means the company is not a quoted stock.
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**SM ON DJF**

- **Russell 2000**: A market index of 2,000 stocks that represents the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity market.
- **Dow Jones**: A market index of 30 companies that are considered leaders in their industries.
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**P-Q**

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### Top 20 Mutual Funds By Total Net Assets

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### Top 20 Mutual Funds By 4-Week Percent Return

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### Mutual Funds

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A weekly publication of Sun Coast Media Group  🌞 Serving Southwest Florida outdoor enthusiasts
Report spawning horseshoe crabs

Provided by the FWC

Spring is peak mating season for horseshoe crabs, and biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission encourage sightseeing reports with the new FWC Reporter mobile app. Horseshoe crabs mate year-round, but it is most common to see groups along the shore in March and April. To identify mating pairs, look for a smaller male on top of a larger female. Beachgoers will likely have the best luck spotting horseshoe crabs around high tide, within three days of a full or new moon. The next full moon is March 31, and the new moon is April 15. These sighting reports provide important information about population distribution to the FWC. Although horseshoe crabs have existed for about 450 million years, their numbers have declined due to overfishing and loss of habitat. If you see a horseshoe crab on its back, gently pick it up (holding both sides of the shell) and release it back into the water. Simple actions like this help conserve this species and the many other species that depend on it.

The FWC asks the public to report sightings External Website through one of several options. Go to MyFWC.com/Contact and go to “Horseshoe Crab Nesting Activity” for the “Florida Horseshoe Crab Spawning Beach Survey” link. The FWC Reporter app is free to download on Apple or Android smartphones or tablets. External Website You can also report findings via email to horseshoe@MyFWC.com or by phone at 866-252-9326.

Instagram fun

Facebook, man. What a drag. When I first signed up for Facebook, I had two goals: Keep up with what friends and family are doing, and see lots of cool fishing and outdoors photos.

Instead, most of what I got was a bunch of unwanted political opinions are arguments over the dumbest things. That’s just not the kind of fun I want.

Then last year I found Instagram. Huh? An easily cultivated feed of mostly just photos, with a whole lot fewer soul-sucking arguments and fake news. That’s what I’m talkin’ about right there!

I currently have two Instagram accounts: @florida_is_wild to share my outdoor and wildlife photography and see the same kind of stuff, and @capt.josholive to view and share fishing photos. Join me there, and help spread positivity instead of nastiness.

There’s too much of that already — I can’t take no more.

Facebook fun

For photos like these, follow @florida_is_wild.

For photos like these, follow @capt.josholive.
OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

If you have an event you want included in the Outdoor News Bulletin Board, email it to Outdoor@WaterLineWeekly.com.

GOT AN EVENT COMING UP? We’d be happy to let people know. Email your info to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com, include a photo if you have one, and we’ll post it on our Facebook page.

PIER CLOSED FOR THE MONTH

The Boca Grande Fishing Pier (3010 Gasparilla Road, Placida) is closed for the month of March for cleaning and repair. During the renovation, the visitor on the Boca Grande Fishing Pier (5112 Perdido Road, Englewood) for more info, contact Brenda Sindel at 941-928-6843 or SESPCSB@aol.com.

TIPPECANOE BOARDWALK CLOSED

The boardwalk crossing the tidal creek at Tippecanoe Environmental Park (2430 B Indian Rock Road, Port Charlotte) is temporarily closed for repairs to the boardwalk. This boardwalk is the southern end of the environmental park. Repairs have begun and should be completed in late April.

NATURE OF WILDFLOWER

The Lemon Bay Conservancy invites you to join them for a free informative nature walk from 10 to 11 a.m. March 24 at Wildflower Preserve (5120 Gasparilla Road Blvd., Englewood). The preserve is home to a great diversity of plants and animals. During this two-hour walk, we will observe some of these and discuss plans to improve the preserve’s habitat over time. For more info, call 941-603-8932.

LECTURES AT DING

The A.D. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge (1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel) is hosting a series of weekly free lectures. Lectures will be held twice each Friday, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one seat each schedule is listed below. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one seat each schedule is listed below. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one seat each schedule is listed below. Seating for the lectures is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one seat each.

March 23: Photographer-sound re-creation of birds at Oscar Scherer State Park (1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey) from 8 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. This event is free and open to the public. You must pre-register by March 1. For more information, call 941-204-8331 for reserved or to register. A beach safety brief is required by the State of Florida for anyone born after 1988, which will be covered once successful completion of the course.

March 24: Great American Cleanup/Keep Charlotte Beautiful scheduled for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It’s time again for Charlotte County’s Great American Cleanup. The Peace River Audubon Society will be participating in the annual Great American Cleanup. The volunteer spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more info, call 941-475-0769.

March 25: Native Plant Society Meetings: The club meets at a local restaurant the first Monday of each month. For more info, call 941-698-8607.

March 26: Fly Fishing School: FREE KAYAK CLINIC

Charlotte Harbor. Meetings are held the second Tuesday and second Tuesday of each month (Oct-May) at Lemon Bay Park (5700 Palm Tree Blvd., Port Charlotte). For availability, contact Eddie Amara at 941-740-5000 or email her at jrogers@scgov.net. This club also includes a guided kayaking trip on the Peace River from its boat house to park, or meet equipment for $25 per person. Paddle with an experienced guide and explore remote areas of the Peace River. These trips are intended to be easy paddling for everyone to enjoy, meet people with similar interests, and enjoy the outdoors. The paddle will end at the Peace River Park, 30 minutes prior to departure. Sign up by calling Steve Burroughs at 941-349-4400 or info@cbsoutfitters.com to make reservations.

March 29: Volunteer at Shamrock Park:

This club is designed for multihull owners, sailors or those who are interested in the exchange of ideas about equippping and sailing boats, share information about anchors and cruising destinations, hold informal races and boat sales, discussions, and a timely topic. The public is invited to attend, but only Gulf Cove residents can be members. For more info, call 941-698-9879.

March 30: Charlotte Harbor MultiHull Association: Members of this club are involved in boating, sailing, and other avian visitors at Myakka River State Park (13208 S.R. 61, Terra Ceia, Manasota Key). For information, call 941-627-9107 to sign up for the event.

Fishing Club Meetings:

March 23: Charlotte’s Coastal Carolina Fishing Club meets at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Ritz Carlton Sarasota. The club meets at a local restaurant the first Monday of each month. For more info, call Jennifer Rogers at 941-861-5000 or email her at jrogers@scgov.net.

March 24: Charlotte Harbor MultiHull Association: Members of this club are involved in boating, sailing, and other avian visitors at Myakka River State Park (13208 S.R. 61, Terra Ceia, Manasota Key). For more info, call 941-627-9107 to sign up for the event.

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FISHING RULES

State and federal regulations for Southwest Florida waters as of Feb. 1, 2018. All bag limits are per harvester per day. Other limits may apply. For full rules, visit MyFWC.com/fishing and Gulfcoastangl.com/fishing_regulations.

LICENSES

Resident saltwater or freshwater: Annual $17, 3-year $59. If you fish from shore in salt water only, a license is required but it is free. A combo license for both freshwater and saltwater fishing is $52.50 annually.

Resident senior: If you are a Florida resident age 65 or older, your driver’s license or ID card replaces your fishing license. Gulf fishing (Note 14) and tarpon are still required.

Nonresident saltwater or freshwater: 1-day $17, 3-day $30, annual $47. Nonresident saltwater or freshwater: replaces your fishing license.

Gulf reef survey age 65 or older, your driver’s license or ID card replaces your fishing license. Gulf reef survey age 65 or older, your driver’s license or ID card replaces your fishing license.

Wahos

Lake Okeechobee: 15" min., bag limit 2, may be harvested by hook and line only; bag limit fish 2.5, 8, 27, 15

Barracuda

Slot 14" to 22"; aggregate bag limit 5; notes: 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14

Unregulated species: No bag or size limits on bonefish, bowfin, pickerel, catfish and gar (see below). 

Other exotic fishes: Keep and eat or other- wise destroy; may not be used as bait or for tarpon. 

Unregulated species: No bag or size limits on bonefish, bowfin, pickerel, catfish and gar (see below).

Prohibited species: Alligator gar, sturgeon. 

Visit http://bit.ly/1tOvID for full rules, including more no-harvest species.

NOTES

1. Measured fork length (the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with mouth closed to the center of the tail).

2. Measured total length (the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the furthest tip of the tail with the tail spread together while the fish is laying on its side).

3. Bag limit zero for captain and crew of for-hire vessels on a paid trip.

4. Reef fish gear rules apply. Anglers must use circle hook when using natural baits, and must possess a dehooking device. Venting tool not required. Also, cannot be taken by powerhead in the reef fish stressed area (see https://gco.fwc.gov). 

5. Must remain in whole condition (head and tail intact) until landed ashore. Removal of gills and internal organs OK. Cannot be used as cut bait.

6. Harvest by spear, gig or bow prohibited.

7. Use of multiple hooks (more than one point on a common Shank, like a treble hook) in conjunction with natural bait prohibited.

8. Harvest by snatching prohibited.

9. Reef fish; illegal to use as bait in federal waters. In state waters, legal-size reef fish may be used as bait but must remain in whole condition and count against bag limit.

10. Included in aggregate 4 grouper bag limit.

11. Included in 20-fish reef fish aggregate bag in federal waters (includes vermilion snapper, lane snapper, almaco jack, gray, triggerfish and all lighthouse species).


13. Included in aggregate snapper bag limit of 10 fish.


15. No bag limit in federal waters.

16. HMS permit required to target or harvest in federal waters; see https://gco.fwc.gov/billX.

FRESHWATER FISHING

Largemouth Bass

Bag limit 5, min. size limit 10. Only one fish can be longer than 16” (bassmasters may apply for a permit allowing participants to weigh more than one over 16”).

Sunfish (all species excluding crappie): Aggregate bag limit 50

Crappie: Aggregate white/black bag limit 25

American Eel:

Min. 7”, bag limit 25 

Butterfly peacock bass: Max. 17”, bag limit 2 (may possess one fish over 17”).

Grass carp: Must be rescued immediately.

Other exotic fishes: Keep and eat or otherwise destroy; may not be used as bait or for tarpon. 

Unregulated species: No bag or size limits on bowfin, pickerel, catfish and gar (see below). 

Prohibited species: Alligator gar, sturgeon.

Visit http://bit.ly/1tOvID for full rules, including special management areas.
**Fishing Report for March 22, 2018**

**Gulf & Offshore**

Some dead fish have been floating around, but the bite is still good. The redfish action has picked up a bit, with some decent ones caught in Whidden's Creek on 3-1/4-ounce Good Cevies producing both reds and snook. Sheepshead are biting at the Florida Pellet and Anjer Pines. Gasparilla Pines has had pompano in the deeper channel under the bridge. There are lots of trout around, but most are minimal keepers or undersized.

The Tremblay and Nokomis reefs have had some good sheepshead fishing and fair numbers of keepers cobia up to about 40 pounds. Spanish mackerel have been coming and going around the pans and bushes, and occasionally inside the bays.

**Best Bet**

Sand fleas are getting tossed around by the surf and that’s where the pompano go after them like crazy. You might need a little weight, but that’s OK.

**Inshore & Freshwater**

Some pretty red tide reports have been coming from the Boca Grande area. Keep an eye (and your nose) out especially on incoming tides. In clean spots, the fishing has been good in areas of water around depressions or dropoffs. Anglers in the harbor are reporting cobia, trout, and a very few redfish. This week’s rain and cold front should get the snapper and bass fishing fired up in the canals and bays.

The reef action has been good if not incredible. Anglers are getting snapper, grunts and sheepshead in close and amberjack and red grouper further out at 90 feet. Expect to see some past red tide patches on the way out.

**Bass & Tackle**

**Port Charlotte**

Port Charlotte canals have had lots of small snook, but most are right at that 33-inch mark. The PGI and Alligator Creek Reef and in the Boca Grande canals. There are lots of bass in the freshwater ponds and canals.

**Snapper, grunts and triggerfish** have been hungry on hard bottom. There are gruper here, but they’re mostly small. Fishing No. 3 at Clarksoo Arms over the reef has been getting good keeper kingfish.

**Red Tide**

Red tide has killed some redfish along the mangrove edges in Pine Island Sound, taking catfish, tarpon and pinfish or live shrimp. A fair number of cobia have been taken on Alligator Creek Reef and the bar edges, measure carefully because most are right at that 33-inch mark. The PGI and Port Charlotte canals have had lots of small snook under the diods.

**Pine Island**

Pine Island Sound is giving up some nice trout in the pinetrees. Put out medium pinfish under floats.

**Snapper**

**Lasliehy Marine**

There have been some redfish along the mangrove edges in Pine Island Sound, taking catfish and pinfish or live shrimp. A fair number of cobia have been taken on Alligator Creek Reef and the bar edges, measure carefully because most are right at that 33-inch mark. The PGI and Port Charlotte canals have had lots of small snook under the diods.

**Gasparilla Sound**

Lots of anglers are seeing cobia on the west side fish, but mostly small. Some have also been caught on Alligator Reef and in Gasparilla Sound.

**Fishing Report for March 22, 2018**

**Gulf & Offshore**

Some dead fish have been floating around, but the bite is still good. The redfish action has picked up a bit, with some decent ones caught in Whidden’s Creek on 3-1/4-ounce Good Cevies producing both reds and snook. Sheepshead are biting at the Florida Pellet and Anjer Pines. Gasparilla Pines has had pompano in the deeper channel under the bridge. There are lots of trout around, but most are minimal keepers or undersized.

The Tremblay and Nokomis reefs have had some good sheepshead fishing and fair numbers of keepers cobia up to about 40 pounds. Spanish mackerel have been coming and going around the pans and bushes, and occasionally inside the bays.

**Best Bet**

Sand fleas are getting tossed around by the surf and that’s where the pompano go after them like crazy. You might need a little weight, but that’s OK.

**Inshore & Freshwater**

Some pretty red tide reports have been coming from the Boca Grande area. Keep an eye (and your nose) out especially on incoming tides. In clean spots, the fishing has been good in areas of water around depressions or dropoffs. Anglers in the harbor are reporting cobia, trout, and a very few redfish. This week’s rain and cold front should get the snapper and bass fishing fired up in the canals and bays.

The reef action has been good if not incredible. Anglers are getting snapper, grunts and sheepshead in close and amberjack and red grouper further out at 90 feet. Expect to see some past red tide patches on the way out.

**Bass & Tackle**

**Port Charlotte**

Port Charlotte canals have had lots of small snook, but most are right at that 33-inch mark. The PGI and Alligator Creek Reef and in the Boca Grande canals. There are lots of bass in the freshwater ponds and canals.

**Snapper, grunts and triggerfish** have been hungry on hard bottom. There are gruper here, but they’re mostly small. Fishing No. 3 at Clarksoo Arms over the reef has been getting good keeper kingfish.

**Red Tide**

Red tide has killed some redfish along the mangrove edges in Pine Island Sound, taking catfish, tarpon and pinfish or live shrimp. A fair number of cobia have been taken on Alligator Creek Reef and the bar edges, measure carefully because most are right at that 33-inch mark. The PGI and Port Charlotte canals have had lots of small snook under the diods.

**Pine Island**

Pine Island Sound is giving up some nice trout in the pinetrees. Put out medium pinfish under floats.

**Snapper**

**Lasliehy Marine**

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**Gasparilla Sound**

Lots of anglers are seeing cobia on the west side fish, but mostly small. Some have also been caught on Alligator Reef and in Gasparilla Sound.
Did you feel it on Tuesday — that instant when spring officially commenced around lunchtime? At 12:15 p.m., to be precise. Spring begins when the vernal equinox occurs, which is that moment when the hours of daylight, which have been increasing for the last three months, reach a balance with the hours of darkness. Twelve hours of day, and 12 of night. Since our days will continue to lengthen for another three months, the arrival of spring marks the point at which we begin to enjoy more hours of daylight than of darkness each day. This is because the Earth’s orientation relative to the sun is changing so that the northern hemisphere is tilted more towards the sun. That means that we not only get longer days, we also receive more intense and direct sunshine. That’s pretty much why it gets warmer here during the summer.

However, as spring unfolds, those unfriendly cold fronts will become weaker and more infrequent, leaving us to think tarpon thoughts, but in the overall scheme of things, these are probably small issues. And I think, especially in today’s world, that late-risers who seldom enjoy our summery conditions, but who have more hours of daylight for residents and visitors during the winter months.

Of course, we can’t really legislate more hours of daylight, no matter how much Congress would like to have enough power to command the rotation of the Earth to change. Similar proposals seem to appear every few years. In the past, these have never progressed very far before dropping out of sight. But for some reason, the idea has found favor this year and there now seems to be a real chance that it might be approved.

There are certainly advantages to the proposed change to the way Florida addresses Daylight Saving Time. Currently we set our clocks ahead in the spring and back in the fall. The proposal would simplify things by leaving our clocks set to daylight saving mode all year round. This is being promoted as a way to have more hours of daylight for residents and visitors during the winter months.

But hang on a minute. Winter may be just wouldn’t have enough time to enjoy it all. The arrival of spring replaces winter. Plants blossom and there are certainly advantages to the proposed plan, but there are some drawbacks as well. Hunters, fishermen, hikers, bicyclists and other outdoors types who are habitually late-risers who seldom enjoy the sunrise far outnumber our outdoory types who start our days pre-dawn, so the proposal might well be approved. So next winter we might be able enjoy “longer days!”
Equinox extravaganza

On March 11, all the clocks in your house mysteriously jumped ahead one hour. Well, it’s really not that much of a mystery. It’s called Daylight Saving Time, and it was meant to give us an extra hour of daylight to work (or fish). Benjamin Franklin came up with the idea but never saw it through, it was first implemented in 1916 by the German Empire to help save fuel during World War I. Shortly after that, England, the U.S. and many other countries followed suit.

I know this information doesn’t have much to do with fishing, but I always thought it was neat how DST came about. Besides, if you really think about it, it does have a little to do with fishing.

Daylight Saving Time is the first thing that happens to remind us that we need to get all our gear ready and all of our fishing supplies bought and organized for the spring equinox fishing extravaganza. That’s right, spring has arrived — and that means bait will be pouring into our area by the truckload. Right behind those migrating bait schools will be migrating predators: Kingfish, cobia, sharks, tarpon, snook, redfish, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, flounder and permit. And they will be hungry.

We had great weather this winter, and the fishing has been above average for the last month or so. A lot of fish that should not be here are, but believe me, the fishing is going to get way better. I hope you’re ready for it.

Those of you who need stuff to make your arsenal complete or just want to upgrade your fishing gear before the onslaught begins are in luck. Our local bait and tackle shops stock up with the good stuff this time of year because they know what’s coming and they want you to be ready.

Fishin’ Frank’s Bait & Tackle goes above and way beyond to make sure our local fishermen have what they need (and want) for the spring time fishing extravaganza. Just four short days after the spring equinox (on Saturday, March 24) Fishin’ Frank’s holds its annual tent sale extravaganza. This event is unbelievable. The amount of tackle that is brought in by the biggest names in the fishing world and the deep discounts they give to our local fishermen is something to behold. This is an event you don’t want to miss for sure.

On the Fishin’ Talk Radio show (7 to 9 a.m. Saturdays on KIX Country 92.9 FM) a few weeks back, we talked a little bit about tarpon fishing. I had several listeners text me the same question: What lures work best for tarpon? We were unable really answer this question on air due to time constraints, but here is my answer:

The Mirrolure MirrOdine XXL 37MR-S suspending twitch bait is an awesome lure for big tarpon. It comes in many colors, but Silver Luminescence is my personal favorite. The 3-inch DOA shad in either night glow or root beer attached to a short-shank jig head is great for small to medium tarpon, though it will land the big girls also.

The 7-inch Hogy original in bone or amber pinned to a strong 7/0 J-hook is a great bait for when the tarpon are hanging around the middle of the Harbor. Last but not least, the DOA Bait Buster (trolling model) in either root beer or silver with a black back is pretty much a mainstay in every tarpon guide’s tackle box. I never leave the dock without a few.

There is nothing worse then not being ready when the bite is on, so head down to your favorite local tackle shop and stock up on what you think you’ll need. If you can make it to Fishin’ Frank’s tent sale, don’t forget your wallet — that rod and reel combo you have always dreamed of will be there, and it will be offered at a price you can’t refuse.

Tight lines.

Capt. Mike Myers, owner and operator of Reelshark Charters, is a full-time Charlotte Harbor guide. Having fished the waters all along the Southwest Florida coast for nearly 40 years, he has the experience to put anglers on the fish they want. His specialties are sharks, tarpon and the nearshore Gulf waters. For more info, visit ReelShark.com or call Capt. Mike at 941-416-8047.
I sometimes have a hard time in picking a topic on which to write this column. I try not to double up information that has been covered by any of the other writers. I don’t want to always do a fishing report or talk badly about boat etiquette at the ramp or on the water (even though they all need to be mentioned from time to time). This week it was going to be cold fronts, wind and persistency. Out of the blue the topic was chosen for me. I learned early the morning of the 14th that my longtime friend and mentor Bernard Victor Kreh (known to all as Lefty) had died peacefully surrounded by family in his Maryland home.

That’s it, the one and only thing that Lefty did quietly or peacefully his entire life. Lefty was and always will be bigger than life. Standing tall and being loud was just part of his personality, even though he was only 5-foot-6 (maybe!) I once asked him if he was a loud-cut-up because he was so short. I can’t tell you here in print what he actually said to me, but suffice to say he had a quick comeback. He always had great comebacks and one-liners preceded by, or ending with, his well-known snort-chortle which began his sarcastic snicker of a laugh, pushed out of that wide tooth-gap grin of his.

Bernie (I once told me that his mom called him Bernie) was born Feb. 26, 1925, in Frederick, Maryland. His father “Whitney” Kreh, a bricklayer by trade, was killed in 1932 in a freak accident. Six-year-old Bernard was the oldest of four children and became the man of the house. His mother, Helen, had no income, so the family ended up on welfare.

The family got by because Lefty learned how to fish and trap. He sold cleaned catfish to a market for 10 cents a pound to local buyers. He told me once, “It was tough; we were so poor we couldn’t afford to buy a mosquito underpants.” I, of course, told him, “You were lucky … you would look really strange in mosquito underpants.” He had another one-liner which took his head clean off. “Guess what happened then?” he asked me. “What?”

“I beat it.” Snort-chortle. Thanks for the obvious update. He told me that because he lived through it they were able to make a stronger strain of the virus from his blood cultures. As far as I know, there is still a strain of anthrax in a test tube somewhere call BKV-1 … yep, just like the fly rod!

I gave you a little background into his life to bring up his most important virtue, something that we seem to truly miss in our society today: Character. With the tough life that Lefty had as a kid, he could have taken many paths. Instead of lashing out at life’s unfairness, he chose to make something of himself and became the person that we all grew to love and admire. This guy worked for the Florida Sportsman, the St. Petersburg Times, the Baltimore Sun and ran the Miami Metropolitan Fishing Tournament (one of the biggest tournaments ever). He wrote at least 30 books that I know of. He was an accomplished photographer. Lefty was great with a shotgun and also did shooting events. He fished with presidents, celebrities (Castro, Hemingway, Ted Williams, Tom Brokaw and so many more).

And yet he was just as happy if not happier helping a kid on the casting pond at one of the fishing shows that he worked, and thank goodness for that. Some 33 years ago he took me under his wing and gave me his time like he did with so many people. I saw Lefty and Jerry Seam (designer for Sage Rods) do casting demos in southern California at Bob Marriott’s fly shop. I realized right then that even though I had been fly fishing for 20 years, I didn’t really know how to cast. With coaching from Lefty, I was able to become good enough that he wanted me to start doing demos at these shows too. Wow!

Once I was working for a lodge at a show near San Francisco. I got a terrible migraine headache and ended up sitting in the bathroom for about an hour. I had to go to the bathroom and ended up taking three Excedrin tablets and was back up and running in no time.

Lefty worked his way through high school and graduated in 1942. Less than a week later, he received draft orders from the Army. He fought in Europe and was among the men who met advancing Russians at the Elbe River. “War was horrific,” he said. “You had to just get used to seeing dead bodies — humans and animals — just laying around everywhere. The destruction was unbelievable. I had one fellow walking next to me get shot in the chest. The impact took his head clean off.”

When the war was over, he worked a civilian job for the government — making anthrax for the big biological warfare program that we had going. He was exposed to the virus, got deathly ill, and spent weeks in the hospital. “Guess what happened then?” he asked me. “What?” I said. “I beat it.” Snort-chortle. Thanks for the
The onset of baby bird season is upon us. Beginning the season and topping the list of the first nests to show those adorable fluffy heads, begging for food, are our top predators of the sky: Raptors. These large birds of prey, in nature’s perfect way, are born first because they are at the top of the food chain.

It is during this time that the Wildlife Center of Venice performs on average 20 to 25 re-nests a year. There are many reasons for us to perform these sometimes very difficult and challenging feats. Deteriorating nests, which can sometimes be caused by storms or poor construction by the parent birds or because the tree might not have been sufficient to carry the nest load, are a major issue leading to re-nesting.

Premature fledging is another common cause. Fledging occurs naturally when the growing chick’s feathers have developed sufficiently to begin flying. Side note: Crashes happen during fledging, and many times the first step is a doozy. Before you pick up a young fledgling, watch and observe. If it’s learning to fly and not injured and being attended to by the parents, leave it alone.

Sibling rivalry sometimes pits a stronger, healthier or larger sibling chick against a weaker or smaller chick, leading the larger to push the smaller out of the nest. Sometimes health issues, malformations or deficiencies could cause the chick to be pushed out or fall from the nest.

Then there are plain accidents, which may include things such as a simple mis-step or slip to a parent accidentally bumping a chick out of the nest or even a gust of wind blowing the baby to the ground. When a young bird is out of the nest, the first thing our trained rescue and rehabilitation staff does is assess the reason why. If you see a baby bird on the ground injured and you’re questioning what to do, keep it in sight if possible and call the Center.

The survey allows us to collect information pertinent to the re-nesting decision and includes locating and checking the quality and viability of the nest, climbing the tree, getting measurements for nest rebuilding if necessary, locating parent birds, and identifying potential hazards. After the assessment is done, the chick is thoroughly checked by our staff of rehabbers and vets and fed. Then baby is ready to return.

This is when our expert climbers come into play. Mike Kipp (Tammy Kipp assisting) and Matt Tosi are two of our excellent climbers. Just this past week, they successfully re-nested two baby great horned owls, a juvenile bald eagle and two baby barred owls. Recently, Mike also performed a rescue in a very high tree of a gull that was hanging from fishing line. Our climbers — aided by staff members, rescuers and volunteers helping to secure safe and successful climbs every time — are our heroes. The climbs that they perform are spectacular feats of height and skill, and our community owes them a debt of gratitude for risking their lives for the betterment of our wildlife.

The Wildlife Center of Venice is committed to the preservation, rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife in Sarasota and west Charlotte counties. The WCV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and relies on local donations to continue their mission of helping wildlife. To help, visit WildlifeCenterOfVenice.org. For wild animal emergencies and rescues, call 941-484-0657 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 941-416-4967 after hours, seven days a week.

Back to the nest
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.

John DeRouin of Niagara, Ont., caught his first snook fishing with his grandfather, Dan Nywening.

Brittney Dobinski of Kenosha, Wis., caught her first shark while fishing with her grandfather, Fred Cowen of Punta Gorda.

Braden Bogenrief from Queens, N.Y., caught and released this bass.

Jim Davis caught his 32-inch black drum under the U.S. 41 bridge on a small jighead and a tiny shrimp. The photo’s pretty good considering a blind guy took it.

Logan and his brothers Landon and Cole, visiting from Dell Rapids, S.D., landed a jack crevalle near Ponce de Leon Park.

This tasty pompano, caught on a shrimp in a PGI canal, was Joanne Sullivan’s first Florida fish.

Rick Bull took his Cincinnati guests Jack and Bob out to Boca Grande Pass, where they trolled the beach for Spanish mackerel.

Patrick Carsley of Omaha, Neb., with his first pompano caught while fishing with Grandpops (Robert Vetter) under the Tom Adams Bridge.

Mike Veuille with a sheephead caught with Capt. Matt Glass out of Stump Pass.

Dad Patrick Keegan and his son Cole with their personal record snook (39 inches) caught and released at Ponce de Leon Park.

Adam Graham got on Capt. Jack’s Reef Raider while fishing with several friends and his grandfather, Doug Anderson of Englewood.
over the last 10 years or so, sabiki rigs have become an increasingly popular method for anglers who want to target angel or sybiki. a sabiki (say “sub-bee-key”) rig, for those of you who may not have used one, is nothing more than a single piece of fishing line with several individual hooks spaced 6 to 18 inches apart. the hooks can be plain or have some sort of dressing to make them look like something edible. usually, a sabiki has a swivel at one end and a snap at the other. tie your line to the swivel, attach a weight to the snap and you’re ready to get after some baitfish.

before the sabiki, a device called a pilchard ring used to be hugely popular for catching bait in florida. instead of using hooks, it worked by catching the fish behind the ring using linked metal loops (almost like a strip of chicken wire) and a piece of red cloth or wire to attract the fish to it. it worked well, but it had limitations. first, the fish’s head had to fit through the ring. also, you would catch only certain species—threadfinns, greenbacks, speedos, sadinals and cigar minnows. because of the way they snare fish by the gills, these devices were made illegal by the 1994 gill net ban.

the big advantage that a sabiki has over a pilchard ring (besides the fact that it’s legal) is its versatility. you would never catch mackerel or blue runners with a pilchard ring, but both of these fish will commonly bite on a sabiki. sabikis come in many different models, which can be used to target different fish species. for example, greenbacks are spooky about taking the no. 10 hooks that are on a “standard” sabiki, so there are versions with tiny no. 14 hooks for these fish. but look closely at the packaging when you’re buying a rig. models with smaller hooks are often made using lighter line, so if you look into a couple of bigger baits (like blue runners) at the same time, you’ll get snpped off. there are also larger sabikis for spanish mackerel or bonito. it pays to have a few different sizes with you, just in case.

making your own sabiki rigs is not terribly difficult, but it is time-consuming and labor intensive. and it won’t save you much money. figure a buck for materials and 15 minutes of labor to make one rig. you can buy a ready-to-fish sabiki for a dollar and a half, and you won’t get all tangled up in hooks trying to get the damn thing tied. i know that a lot of people are doing what they can to conserve cash, but this is one of those cases where it just doesn’t make sense.

speaking of getting tangled up in hooks, that’s always a very real possibility when you’re fishing a sabiki. once it’s out of the package, it’s a dangerous thing. a lot of the time, people get hung up on a sabiki because they put the rod in a holder with the rig still tied on, figuring they might need to catch more bait later. bad plan. sooner or later, you’re going to run into that thing, and it won’t be pretty. as soon as you’re done catching bait, cut the sabiki off, chop it up and put it in your trash bag. it’s not worth the money (or the pain) to try to save it.

the weight that you attach to the bottom of the rig can be anywhere from an eighth-ounce for fishing in very shallow water up to several ounces in deeper water. most of the time, a casting or pyramid sinker will get the job done. sometimes i use a jighread or a spoon instead, especially if i’m in water more than 10 feet deep. it’s not all that rare to have a mackerel or jack come after a sabiki, and you’ll have a better chance of catching it if you’re blind-casting around channel markers or buoys, let the rig sink a bit before you start to retrieve. think about the bait you want to catch—it if it lives on the bottom, fish on the bottom. just like any other type of artificial bait, a small change in the way you fish a sabiki can make a huge difference in how successful you are at getting hooked up. if your drifting, a bit of twitching will probably impart enough action to get you bit. if you’re out on the flats or anchored up, jig it a little harder.

finfish are one of the most popular sabiki targets. sometimes these little guys will be in piranha mode, ready to attack anything and everything they can bite at. more often than not, though, you’ll need a little additional enticement to be consistently successful with pigs. a bit of squid or mackerel on top. bait will usually do the trick, and that stuff is tough enough that you’re not constantly rebaiting (also a good trick for catching snapper). on the flats, it’s a good idea to put out a little dry or frozen chum to get the fish hungry before you toss your sabiki.

water clarity has a major effect on the way fish react to a sabiki rig. inside the harbor, greenbacks rarely hit on a sabiki. but out in the nearshore gulf, big greenies are often caught this way. even threadfin herring can be touchy about this. when you’re in the tarpon season, when there’s often a pretty clear demarcation line between the dark water of the upper harbor and the clearer water near the gulf, threadies in the dark water will often ignore a sabiki while the exact same baithof three miles down the way—where the water’s nice and green—will snap readily at the shiny hooks. sabikis are not limited to salinity. some of the shop’s customers have told me that they’ve been using their sabiki rigs up north for panfish and perch under the ice. the water doesn’t have to be frozen for this to work—you can catch bluegill here in florida just as well. some of the bass guys who use golden shiners for bait have begun using sabikis to catch bait. using small gold hooks is an old trick, but the convenience of pre-made sabikis is tough to beat.

a sabiki rig is a fantastic way to load up the livewell. and frankly, it can be a lot of fun reeling in blue runners five at a time. as long as you use a bit of common sense and don’t handle it carelessly, i think you’ll find that using a sabiki is far from a losing game.
I was walking in the woods with a friend and we were discussing the plants and animals as we came across them. We had enjoyed a variety of interesting surprises — several species of butterflies, a late flock of robins, blue-eyed grass flowers — and all we had taken was a few photos.

Then we came upon about 30 black-and-yellow lubber grasshopper nymphs clinging to a few sedges. A friend, who had seemed quite sane up to that point, suddenly went into an insecticidal rage. He began stomping the nymphs that were on the ground, then knocking the rest off the vegetation and crushing them into the sandy dirt.

I watched, speechless at the apparently random outburst. Every little lubber was dead. I asked him why he had done that. He said, “I hate lubber grasshoppers. I always kill them.” Oh, confession time: There was no friend. It was just me, in the woods alone. But the reason is still truthful. For many years, I killed every lubber I saw.

Then, one day a friend (a real one this time) asked me why it was OK for me to kill lubbers and yet I got on his case for killing snakes. I opened my mouth to answer, and then I shut it again because there is no answer. There was no good reason for me to pop the heads off big orange grasshoppers just for being in my general vicinity. I told him he was right, I was wrong, and I’d stop killing lubbers.

It’s a typical human behavior to have favorite creatures and ones we despise. Sometimes there’s an actual reason. Most people fear snakes because a lot of the folks who didn’t were killed by snakebites long before we invented fire. We have inherited their amygdala response to anything with a sinuous serpentine shape, although it’s not that hard to overcome it.

Sometimes there’s no good reason. I learned to hate lubbers for agricultural reasons. They’re big grasshoppers, and they can do quite a number on a garden — especially since they usually show up in numbers. But these lubbers were out in the wild, far from my or anyone’s garden. They were just living their lives, and I should have let them.

Most of us are guilty of this on some level, and it’s not always violent or obviously destructive. Sometimes, we think we’re doing nature a favor, trying to help out the animals we deem desirable. Some great examples: Bird feeders, nesting boxes, butterfly gardens, tossing leftovers to pelicans and giving manatees water.

You’re probably wondering how any of those things possibly hurt wildlife. They’re simple acts of kindness. But if you think about the actual consequences, you may reconsider.

Bird feeders are excellent resources — for some birds. A bird that favors the types of seeds provided will do very well. So well, in fact, that it may outpeck other birds that can’t eat your seeds. With the extra food you provide, they have lots of energy to defend territories and raise big families. Even seed-eaters typically raise their nestlings on bugs, though. They need the protein for rapid growth. Birds that are entirely dependent on insects may end up on the short end of the stick, unable to find enough food or nesting sites.

There’s also the fact that bird feeders frequently become favored hunting sites for hawks and ground-based bird predators. Because it concentrates prey in one spot, encouraging them to feed low to the ground and distracting them with neighborly quarrels, a bird feeder is the ideal spot to sneak up on a feathered lunch. It’s pretty much the way hog hunters set up feeding stations to hunt over. Probably wasn’t your plan, was it?

Nesting boxes have the same problem. By putting them up, we choose winners — the animals that can make use of them — and losers. You might make an argument that nesting boxes replace habitat we’ve destroyed. Most neighborhoods have very few standing dead trees for cavity nesters. OK, I can see that point — so long as you’re providing other types of habitats too. If not, you’re still just playing favorites.

A butterfly garden in and of itself isn’t a bad thing, especially when it’s planted with native species. The problem comes when we choose the plants, because they’re often chosen to benefit only specific species (monarchs especially). Then, many butterfly aficionados feel the need to protect “their” butterflies by removing or killing predators.

Feeding pelicans and watering manatees can do direct and indirect harm. Pelicans naturally feed on whole fish just a few inches long. They can’t swallow big fish or fish with bones sticking out, and they can’t digest large bones. Fed pelicans also “forget” how to follow baitfish migrations. Instead, they hang out at fish cleaning stations and become beggars. When we don’t fish because the weather is bad or red tide shows up, they often don’t eat. Handouts ruin their natural behaviors.

Manatees are sensitive to chlorine and chloramine in drinking water, and both can cause health problems. Having sources of fresh water in saltwater habitats also disrupts their natural migrations. Manatees are supposed to swim upriver every few days to drink and rid their bodies of excess salt. Again, this is a behavior they can “forget” how to do.

These little tweaks to nature’s balance really do wildlife no favors, even the favorites we think we’re helping. Our chosen winners flourish for a while, but biodiversity suffers. Then the whole ecosystem weakens as a result, and pretty soon there are only generalists left. But if we stop playing favorites and just let nature do its thing, we might be amazed at what happens.

Josh Olive is a Florida native and amateur naturalist, and has been fascinated by all sorts of wild animals since he was able to walk. If you have questions about living with wildlife, email him at Publisher@Waterlineline.com. You can also follow him on Instagram @florida_it_wild.
Sous vide is a good method for cooking any animal protein, and fish is certainly no exception.

**SOUS VIDE SNAPPER**

2 snapper fillets (6 oz each)  
4 oz whole butter  
2 springs thyme  
Pinch of salt

Set up your sous vide machine in a sauce pot with water holding at 130°F. Dry fillets with paper towels. Salt fish on both sides. Divide the butter, thyme and fish, panning them in two zipper freezer bags. One at a time, slowly submerge each open bag into the water, pushing the air out, then zip it closed. Submerge bags for 30 minutes. Remove fillets from bags and enjoy with sides of your choice and a glass of wine. Serves two.

— Recipe by Tim Spain, ChefTimSpain.com

**Sous vide seafood**

What does sous vide (say “soo-VEED”) mean? In French, it translates to under vacuum. But in English, there is certainly no exception.

Sous vide is low-temperature cooking with water and circulation. My immersion circulator is more like it. As of late, there is a lot more to it than that. Thermal immersion circulator is more like it. As of late, there is a lot more to it than that. Thermal immersion circulator is more like it.

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— Recipe by Tim Spain, ChefTimSpain.com

If you research sous vide machines, you probably will read about a vacuum sealer being necessary. However, I don’t need one — and you won’t either. I use zipper freezer bags, and they work just fine. I place whatever I want to sous vide in the bag with my seasonings and keep the bag open. I submerge the bag just enough to push the air out of the bag and then zip it.

I have had my machine for more than two years and have used it almost daily. There are several reasons it sees so much use. This is the gentlest way of cooking and produces the most yields. If you have it set to the appropriate temperature, it won’t overcook your food.

Another great thing about the machine is it also speeds up the pace of food coming out of the kitchen. For example, it takes me 14 minutes to produce my rack of lamb recipe from a raw state. If I have the lamb already cooked sous vide-style and holding at medium rare, I can put that dish out in about 5 minutes. When you’re cooking in a professional kitchen for a full dining room, minutes and even seconds are so important.

If I have food left over in the sous vide pot at the end of the night, I chill it overnight. The next day, I set my machine back up to the same temperature and in about 30 minutes, it’s right back where it was the night before and will not overcook.

So look at these wonderful machines. There are several brands available. Just make sure to get one that has Bluetooth — that little feature makes using it much easier. If you have any questions about which one to get and what to cook with it, email or call me and I will help you with your sous vide education.

By the way, I still haven’t caught a slot snook yet this season. I will not give up.

Tim Spain is a Florida native and has years of experience cooking professionally, both in restaurants and in private settings. He offers private catering and personal culinary classes. For more information, visit ChefTimSpain.com or call 406-580-1994.
Austin Vincze fished a spot very close to one of the most popular snook piers in Charlotte County to catch and release this 40-inch snook.

I challenged myself recently to just go out and find some new spots. For a land-based fisherman, this can sometimes feel like a big undertaking. You may feel that you won't be successful. Well, sometimes you won't. But sometimes, you will — and those successes can be incredible.

It's easy to just walk out and fish that pier that you've been hearing everyone talk about, but there is a plethora of areas to go find on your own. Most of these will have very few people, and sometimes you might not even see another person. You could have that spot all to yourself. There are plenty of old dams, seawalls, bridges, canals and other less-er-known — but publicly accessible — spots to be explored.

Most of you probably already know about Google Earth. I cannot tell you how great this tool is for us land-based fishermen. It's an amazing way to virtually check out a spot without actually having to go there first. There are a few key things to consider — for example, how hard it is to access? If an area looks pretty tough to get to, chances are that's where your better fishing is going to be since fewer people will go. There are some places you don't have to be crazy to try to get to, and those are the places you'll find me. Well, hopefully not actually find me, but you know what I'm saying.

Also from Google Earth you can generally tell if the water is shallow or deep, and typically I like to look for deeper areas. Showing up to a spot and finding out that it's only a foot deep and it's all sand doesn't bode well for your success. I'm not telling you to go look for 12 feet of water because you're not going to find that unless you go up on some of the bridges. But seek out water that is deeper than its surroundings.

In these deeper areas, I like to use a small bucktail jig — somewhere around 3/4 to one ounce. If you fish in deeper cuts in salty or brackish water, you'll find fish like mangrove snapper and snook. The deeper freshwater spots are great places to work soft plastic worms or crankbaits for bass.

Some of my favorite places to fish are choke points, which many anglers overlook. In an area where moving water goes through a canal or creek, the choke point is the spot where the distance from shore to shore is the least. This creates a great ambush area for many types of predatory fish like snook, tarpon and redfish. Often you'll find some kind of overhanging vegetation like palmetto leaves.

A tipped diving lure is a great bait to use at spots like this. The Storm Twitch Stick, Rapala X-rap and Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow are some pretty good options. Cast upcurrent from below the choke point. These are also good areas to use topwater plugs like the Storm Chug Bug or Zara Spook Jr in the morning, evening or low-light conditions.

One thing Google Earth won't show you is whether an area is private property or posted against fishing. I've got to tell you, that's one of my least favorite things to run into. You have to be careful where you go. Many of the local bridges you can't fish from the top, or are posted no fishing. If you fish underneath or close to a bridge from land surrounding it, be sure you're not trespassing.

Don't be afraid to explore a little bit. When I first moved down here, I told myself I wasn't going to get in the water. Well, that's become almost impossible. As it turns out, I really enjoy wading. There are some easy-to-access places, mostly kayak launches where you can wade out into some grassy areas. These are excellent places to catch redfish and trout. My favorite lures for this are Gulp shrimp or DOA CAL Shad on a light jighead or a small white fluke on an unweighted weedless hook.

I've trekked through mangrove swamps, climbed under bridges, fallen down rocks, jumped across creeks and waded flats in search of new fishing spots. If you just keep exhausting your one spot, you're not really fishing in my book. Finding new areas is half the fun (well, maybe a third of the fun). You might go find five different spots and not catch a fish at any of them.

That's OK. Keep trying. Use the techniques and methods you're familiar with, and you will start catching fish. There's a whole world of water out there, and you're not going to find it going to your same Saturday night spot. Challenge yourself and you'll be surprised what you can find.

Chandler Smith is a local pier rat and crustacean relocation engineer at Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle in Port Charlotte. He also operates a land-based fishing guide service, Chandler's Snook Hunting. Contact him at 941-228-4419 or FishOnTheFly1991@gmail.com.

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Red tide pops back up

We endured several red tide blooms or outbreaks locally last week. Most seemed to be in the nearshore Gulf, but we had more significant mullet kills around Lemon Bay. I encountered respiratory irritation starting on March 9 in upper Lemon Bay. We still saw fish, but it was a very slow bite. I haven’t seen dying fish yet, just old floating dead fish. Most areas are clear or just have a few. Winds and currents can concentrate carcasses. This is not a desirable situation, but we can work around foul areas so far.

Other captains fishing local waters seem to be finding similar results. There have been some significant fish kills here and there, but also plenty of clean healthy areas where fishing is still productive. I did hear that a big school of breeding black drum was whipped out around Boca Grande Pass last week. This is exactly what happened to our broodstock redfish about a decade ago, creating the death blow to our redfish locally. Pray that it dissipates before we lose more fish.

Red tide is a microorganism that has been present locally in low to moderate concentrations for months. We endured these same problems this time last year. In fact, it’s been two years since we could harvest shellfish, specifically oysters, due to red tide. We don’t know exactly why it appears, what causes it, or when it will leave. We all hate this mess, but we’re stuck with it. Our best option is try to work around any problem areas where possible.

Red tide paralyzes the gills of fish so they can’t breathe, thus drowning fish. Seriously! It can also kill manatees, dolphins and turtles. Sometimes fish are able to skirt blooms and survive. Many fish are unfortunate and die when encompassed. Occasionally we enjoy good fishing around these blooms because fish can be congegated avoiding its influences. Make the best of any opportunities you encounter.

There’s a lot we don’t understand about red tide, but we do know that it requires nutrients like nitrogen to nurture blooms. We are unintentionally fertilizing red tide when we allow nutrients to enter our waterways. Any sources of nutrients just enhance the blooms. We seem to suffer effects much more frequently in recent years. While I don’t have the answer to this problem, I can tell you that more people and their waste are not going to help. Everywhere we tried to anchor, we were covered up in dead algae covering the bottoms. It’s pushed into the water column by boat prop wash and wakes. It was so thick we couldn’t keep our hooks clear to fish in several spots. Please look around and see for yourselves.

We were able to get outside last Friday and enjoyed good action with sheepshead, snapper and even a hogfish. Mackerel were absent to 55 feet. I did see some baitfish on my new Simrad sonar. We trolled spoons about a half-hour with only one Spanish mackerel. While red tide is not a good thing, you can discover fish on most trips if you have the patience to poke around looking for healthy waters. There is no way to guess if or when outbreaks will occur. The FWC and Mote Marine both provide updated reports online to help you decide about fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.
A self-inflicted injury

Last week I wrote about the weather and the cold front that was upon us, mentioning that I was planning to fish with smaller baits and slow down my approach. But when your practice sessions tell you something different, it’s easy to get going down a bad path.

The day before the tournament was a whopping 42 degrees when I jumped into the RV and headed for the lake. I was in no hurry to get there because I know we would not see that a temperature that cold on Saturday morning, the day of the tournament. So I took my time going to the lake and made a few stops along the way. I needed ice, gas and some food for the overnight stay.

Once I got on the water, I started to drive around the lake, surveying the water clarity. I found a lot of clean water on the north end of the lake and decided to spend the majority of my time there, working the reeds and the pads to see where the bass would be holding. Much to my dismay, I didn’t get one. I was having no luck, I would give up, because I was planning to fish with smaller baits against everything I have learned to do in this tournament. Even so, I have to admit that it is still fun being out on the water. I may have gotten schooled this time, but the lesson is still fun being out on the water. I may have gotten schooled this time, but the lesson is still fun being out on the water. I may have gotten schooled this time, but the lesson is still fun being out on the water. I may have gotten schooled this time, but the lesson is still fun being out on the water.

As I stated last week, in cold front conditions fishing slow is the way to go. If you want to have any chance of catching bass when the weather goes south, slow those baits down and simply let them soak on the bottom. The bass will bite but you have to exercise patience, something I did not do.

Fortunately, we head to Lake Kissimmee next month and I get a chance to redeem myself. I love Kissimmee and all the lakes on the chain, so I am confident I can put some bass in the boat and get myself back up in the standings. As of now, I am down at the bottom of the barrel after my last two tournaments. Even so, I have to admit that it is still fun being out on the water. I may have gotten schooled this time, but the lesson learned is one that won’t be forgotten the next time I run into this situation.

As they say, a bad day of fishing is still better than a good day at work. I conclude.
Kade Scott with a big jack he caught and released.

Sisters Karen and Kim from St. Louis, Mo., each caught a fat sheephead while fishing in Boca Grande with Capt. Ken Mueller.

Russel and Neil of Sun City caught these African pompano while fishing with Nigel Fairbank off Venice.

BoatingAndfishing.com  •  Page 20  •  March 22, 2018

Reader Photos

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Minnesotan Dan Karlgaard with his father Don and a nice seatrout.

Fred Mathews with a 42-inch snook he caught and released.
BOATINGANDFISHING.COM
BULLETIN BOARD

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resources Department will be conducting the following free guided talks and programs:

UNLESS NOTED, ALL TALKS BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE FISHERMAN'S HALL AT THE ST ANDREW'S MARINA.

HOW TO HOOK ON HABITAT
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. April 10. All talks deal with habitat restoration and the role of each of these hotspots in maintaining healthy freshwater and saltwater ecosystems.

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PADDLE LOWER PEACE RIVER:
3.5 miles. Meet at the Peace River Bridge in Punta Gorda at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 10. Paddlers are asked to wear sun protection and bring water as well as lunch. Meet at the Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 10. Paddlers are asked to wear sun protection and bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch. Meet at Peace River Bridge, trailhead on Fort McArthur Road, then follow Chiefland Road for approximately one mile. The trailhead is on the left. Bring water as well as lunch.
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ANCIENT FISHERMEN

New research at Lund University in Sweden can now show what Stone Age people actually ate in southern Scandinavia 10,000 years ago. The importance of fish to the Stone Age people of southern Scandinavia was greater than expected, so. If you want to follow a real pale diet, you should simply eat lots of fish. Osteoarchaeologist Adam Beethys and Torbjön Ahlstrom have studied the importance of various protein sources in the human diet across three millennia, from around 10,000 to 7,500 years ago. This was done by combining chemical analyses of human bones from over 40 individuals, whose skeletons are the oldest discovered in Sweden, with osteological analyses of animal bone material. The study is a part of a doctoral thesis that has used various methods to examine the significance of fishing for the people who settled in southern Scandinavia after the ice from the last ice age had melted away. The study shows that fish was also a highly significant protein source in the Swedish west coast, but it seems that seals and dolphins were more important for the first stone settlers. After an initial focus on hunting aquatic mammals, fishing increased as a protein source. Previously, the researchers believed that humans at that time had been far more involved in mobile groups of big-game hunters whose main protein intake thus have come from terrestrial sources such as red deer, seals, and elk, and consequently the role of fishing was not recognized. “The discovery of fishing is a discovery that has an enormous significance for our understanding of how people lived.” Fishing is relatively stationary compared to the hunting of land mammals, which provides clear indications that settlements appeared in Scandinavia much earlier than researchers previously believed,” says Beethys.

WHERE DID MY HOOK GO?

It has been said that children are natural inventors, motivated to explore new ideas. One 8th grade student from Graland Country Day School in Denver, Colo., is certainly giving some truth to that. Since she was very little, Grace Dale has been in the water. She swims in an avid fisherwoman—just always grew up watching my dad do it and I held my fishing rod when I was 3,” Dale said. She started noticing a lot metal hooks left behind and decided to see if there were any bio-degradable hooks she could use. “It was just amazing that no one had thought of it,” Dale said. “So I went to the support of the Gates Innovation and Innovation Program at her school. The hook was made of a 3D printed material that biodegrades after a single use. The project also won first place in the 8th grade student from Graland Country Day School.“It’s such a great idea,” Dale said. She did with the design. Her invention landed third in the 8th grade student from Graland Country Day School. The hook is made of a biodegradable fishhook, “Chavez said. There were other biodegradable things already exists on the market—surely someone has made a biodegradable fishhook,” Chavez said. There were other biodegradable things for fishing, but they couldn’t find the fishhook itself. Together, Chavez and Dale came up with prototypes, tested them and finally came up with the design. Her invention landed third place during the school’s competition. Now, Dale plans to add a bait, market the hook and sell it if she can.

SHARK NET FAIL

Shark nets in Australia on the New South Wales north coast have caught just a single target shark in the past two months, while continuing to trap up to 60 dolphins, turtles, and protected marine life. A single shark was caught in the nets around Ballina in January and February, while 55 other animals, such as dolphins, were killed or trapped. The nets killed four great hammerheads, a hammerhead shark that is listed as a “vulnerable” species, as well as a common dolphin and an Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin. A loggerhead turtle was caught but released alive, while dozens of rays were either killed or trapped. The latest data, released this week, is from a second trial of shark nets on five beaches in Ballina and Evans Head in the state’s north. An earlier trial on the same beaches last summer showed the same trend. Humane Society International marine science specialist Vanessa Morris said they were continuing to do unacceptable damage to harmless, and protected marine life. “How many more months of damaging data will it take for government to finally realize this experiment is an utter failure,” and that it “downs” said. “No-thermal alternatives to nets are available and we cannot afford to kill harmless and protected species for the next 18 months or more.”

WHY BREAK JUST ONE LAW?

Fort Myers News-Press — A North Fort Myers man on probation for wildlife violations is facing more than a dozen charges, including allegedly catching eight sharks over the state limit and using nets for three catches after wildlife officers saw him try to toss other fish into Jug Creek. Bryan David Becker, 34, remains in Lee County Jail on no bond. He has been appointed a public defender and waived a March 29 arraignment. Two plainclothes Florida Fish and Wildlife officers watched Becker at 4 a.m. on Feb. 15 as he violated a closed slow-speed zone in a commercial fishing boat. Staff on approach to a dock at Jug Creek Marina in Bonita. A FWC report said that Becker’s boat was running at full speed without navigational lights through a clearly marked marine zone. When the two agents approached Becker, the report said, he was standing outside the boat in shallow water. When he saw them, he began tossing fish over the side of the boat until ordered to stop. The FWC agents also saw a large pile of fish and sharks on the boat deck in the open air with three mullet floating away from his vessel. A report from the FWC said Becker had a large amount of ladyfish in a fish box. On the deck are multiple bonnethead sharks, one blacktip shark, and numerous squid and cuttlefish. The officers also noted two large spotted drum floating in the water where Becker had been standing. He had no fishing equipment was found in Becker’s boat except for two dense nets. Harvesting sharks with nets is an unlawful method of taking, and the legal recreational limit for sharks is one per person per day. Becker was right sharks over his bag limit. Furthermore, registration and title of the boat were listed to someone else, the FWC report said. The officers were familiar with Becker because he had recently been convicted of the use of monofilament gill nets in state waters and was on probation. Becker’s violation record dates to 2012 with charges including taking and destroying species of special concern, illegal method of catching mangrove snapper, possessing undersized sheepshead and no commercial vessel license.

WHY IT MATTERS

Mangrove trees provide crucial habitat for many species of fish, birds and invertebrates. Without mangroves, say goodbye to tarpon, snook, red- fish and many other gamefish species.

HOW WE HARM IT

Fortunately, most of the mangroves the sur- round Charlotte Harbor have been protected from development. However, we can still dam- age 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 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 rights into the Harbor. Limit your use to dry days, or avoid it altogether.
- Don’t pull up or trim mangroves growing in cans 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!
Hundreds attend city, West Villages town hall

Dawn Jones, left, with North Port Fire Rescue, talks with West Villages residents before the start of Thursday's town hall meeting at the Morgan Family Community Center.

Gran Paradiso resident Kevin Shaughnessy asks commissioners whether it would be possible to break down city revenue streams to reflect how much money is coming in from taxes paid by West Villages residents. City Manager Pete Lear told him that some revenue streams could be looked at in that way.

By ANNE KLOCKENKEMPER
WEST VILLAGES SUN EDITOR

NORTH PORT — West Villages residents came out in force Thursday evening to ask questions of North Port City Commissioners and learn more about how their communities fit into the larger city picture.

It was the city's first town hall meeting in more than a decade, according to North Port spokesman Josh Taylor. Tables were stationed on either side of the Morgan Family Community Center gym, where representatives from various city departments handed out information, maps and more. Nearly 400 chairs were set up in the gym. By the time the meeting started, the chairs were nearly three-quarters filled.

Following an introductory presentation by city Manager Pete Lear that outlined city demographics, budget numbers and various services provided to West Villages residents, the meeting got down to business with a question-and-answer session.

Topics covered included the city charter, the make-up of the commission and which commissioner represented the West Villages community, a second access point for West Villages residents, a second access point for IslandWalk and Grand Palm, services provided to West Villages, a second access point for IslandWalk and more.

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City Manager Pete Lear told him that some revenue streams could be looked at in that way.
Sarasota County voters OK tax for schools

By ALEXANDRA HERRERA

Sarasota County residents voted Tuesday to continue the school’s ad valorem millage rate. The continuation of the property tax was passed by 78.54 percent of voters in Sarasota County. Tuesday’s vote continues the millage rate for the next three years, ensuring the school district continues to receive the additional funding from the property tax.

According to Sarasota County Schools Communications Manager Tracey Beeker, the turnout this year was 3 percent higher than four years ago, with an additional 22,000 votes were cast for this election.

Bowed celebrated voters and what he called their unwavering support for public election in Sarasota County.

“The voters have spoken in a loud voice and this is incredibly humbling,” he said.

Bowed said that they try to do better every year, and surpassing the high mark of 77 percent from four years ago is validation that they are doing the right things.

Of the 61,423 ballots cast on Tuesday night, only 13,182 voted no, while 48,241 voted in favor of the continued tax rate.

There are a total of 308,021 registered voters in Sarasota County — nearly 20 percent of the registered voters turning out for the election.

The school district ad valorem millage rate is a 1-mill continuation of the four year property tax that adds an additional $56.5 million to

SCHOOL
To purchase tickets, visit RaysBaseball.com/Spring or the Charlotte Sports Park Box Office.
Englewood Edible Landscaping Tour to take quests from plants to plates

Hyper-local, sustainable food sources and more “veg-centric” menus occupy more than half the spots on the National Restaurant Association’s list of top 10 trending concepts for 2018.

Sam Baker, Open Studio gardens manager and owner of Englewood Homegrown, never set out to be trendy. Like all the others who are behind the NRA trends, he just wanted to do what was right for his family and the planet.

For the past several years, Baker has been nurturing not only a nursery of native edible plants, but also private landscapes full of them, installed throughout the Englewood-Venice area. In the process, he also caught the eye of an Englewood chef.

Early on, Baker discovered The Open Studio, a nonprofit small business cooperative started seven years ago by Greg and Evelyn Dales. The Open Studio has since grown to include The Pottery Studio, The Real Juice Bar, a Healing Arts Center for yoga and massage, a stage and a fire pit for gatherings.

The Dales’ vision — a mind-body-spirit model of healthy living, caring for the earth and creativity — soon embraced Baker’s unique agricultural project as well, giving it a permanent home on Old Englewood Road.

Executive Chef Carson Schiro, of Englewood’s Beach Road Wine Bar & Bistro, has always been fascinated with local, sustainable, indigenous, even wild-gathered resources like those served by Copenhagen’s Noma restaurant, which became world famous for its foraged and Nordic cuisine. It seemed only natural that Englewood Homegrown plants would star in his hyper-local plantings at the bistro.

Next Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can experience firsthand the connections among growing, preparing and eating edible landscaping.

Englewood Homegrown’s self-guided, second annual “Englewood Edible Landscaping Tour: Food Preparation” lets guests visit seven local homes growing their own “food forests.” They can also watch Schiro make lunch at The Open Studio using all-local ingredients from Englewood Homegrown, plus chicken from Sarasota’s Grover Ladder Farm, locally caught snapper from family-owned and -operated Cut Right Seafood of Englewood and a plant-based option with oyster mushrooms from Port Charlotte’s Mr. Fun Guy.

Although growing food is the main goal of the tour’s homeowners, their gardens are also rich in beautiful native and flowering species. The owners will answer questions and provide planting tips.

Earl of Englewood’s Beach Road.


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Questions while showing their yards, which range from first-year plantings to decades-old, established food forests. Some will also offer food prep and cooking demos. Wherever possible, the tour properties use sustainability practices, such as rainwater-harvesting systems, and practice organic methods using little or no chemicals for pest and disease control and fertilization. Baker points out that the "key to building and maintaining a lively, food-producing garden is promoting a healthy ecosystem from the soil up. This requires planting native and nonnative species — some edible, some not — that both thrive in our climate and attract the beneficial microbes, insects and animals that keep our food crops flourishing."

Also appearing at the Edible Landscaping Tour are Jillian Ross, "The Ferment Lady," with 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. demonstrations of fermented foods that are key to a healthier immune system, such as kombucha, kimchi, kvass and kefir and "wild crafter" Andy Firk of Arcadia, returning to share his knowledge of local edible, medicinal and otherwise helpful plants.

A tour ticket includes a list of properties to explore in any order. Only 120 lunch tickets are available, 40 for each seating, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tour tickets can be ordered for $15 prepaid at theopenstudio.org, or for $20 the day of the tour at The Open Studio’s 380 Old Englewood Road location. Kids 16 and under are free. Lunch tickets for $10 should be preordered before March 22 at theopenstudio.org to ensure a seat. No pets, please.

For more information, call Open Studio administrator Judi Jenkins, at 941-681-8188.
Portside Finance
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WE WANT TO MAKE YOU A LOAN

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT
SARASOTA — This November, Sarasota County voters will effectively decide if the county will purchase an additional 6 miles of abandoned railroad corridor to extend the Legacy Trail into downtown Sarasota. On March 14, Sarasota County commissioners unanimously approved placing a referendum on the November ballot seeking voter approval to borrow up to $65 million to purchase the additional segment and construct the entire 9-mile extension from Culverhouse Nature Park to near Payne Park in downtown Sarasota.

According to Parks Director Carolyn Brown, the county would issue bonds in two phases if voters approve the referendum. The first series of bonds would be issued in 2019, in the amount of $35 million. That would cover the acquisition costs of the next segment at $30.1 million, along with design and engineering work. A closing for the purchase of the northernmost segment is set for next May, contingent upon voter approval of the referendum.

The second series of bonds would be issued in 2020, in the amount of $30 million, which would be used to construct the extension of the trail. According to estimates by the county’s budget staff, Brown told commissioners, approval of the referendum would result in a property tax increase of $16 on a home with a taxable value of $200,000. She stressed, however, that the total amount needed could be reduced, depending upon the amount of grants the county could obtain. Already, she said, the Florida Department of Transportation has identified $7.5 million in Suntrail funding that could be allocated to the project. A decision on that grant will come in June.

A referendum is necessary since the purchase price exceeds Legacy Trail future status will be in the hands of the voters

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT
Maximize your New Homes Showcase weekend

This weekend’s New Homes Showcase really has something for everyone. Because there is so much to do and see, we put together this fun agenda to help you make the most of your time in West Villages.

Friday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.: All West Villages residents and friends are invited to the Open House at State College of Florida. Learn more about what the college has to offer students and the community and how you can fit into the picture. Campus tours and refreshments at 8000 S. Tamiami Trail in the Professional Development Building (#800 on south side of campus).

Friday, afternoon: Visit the brand-new Preserve at West Villages and tour the model homes from D.R. Horton that already have begun selling and contributing to the growth of our master-planned community.

Friday, 4 to 6 p.m.: Just around the corner from The Preserve, find out if you can putt like Tiger at our Putter Up and Wine Down event. Renaissance is hosting a putting challenge and competition presented by Plantation Golf & Country Club. There will be wine and cheese as well as other refreshments as we “wine down” the week and crank up the weekend. Everyone is invited. Make sure you see the five beautiful models by Mattamy Homes, as well, at 11720 Renaissance Blvd.

Saturday, 9 a.m.: Rise and Shine Saturday for the South Sarasota County Community Walk for United Way in Gran Paradiso clubhouse, at 20061 Galleria Blvd. It will be the perfect start for an active day — and all for a good cause. Enjoy a leisurely 2.5 mile walk — friendly dogs on leash are welcome. For information, visit www.UWSSC.org.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Across Tamiami Trail at IslandWalk, an Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday will be a fun, family-friendly event and, if that’s not your family’s scene, maybe the car show at the same time will be more your speed. Enjoy the show in the IslandWalk event Center at 23114 Copperleaf Dr.

Sunday, noon: We suggest starting your day at Grand Palm for a tour of Neal Communities’ beautiful model homes. Make sure to check out the Adventure Lake, nature trails and resort pool — real treasures for Grand Palm residents — at 21209 Wacissa Dr.

Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.: Go visit the new Oasis neighborhood at West Villages for free ice cream treats. Also, get a sneak peek at the models before they are officially open. There will also be ice cream at The Preserve and Island Walk.

Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.: The event culminates in a visit from the Easter Bunny with free photos and an Easter egg hunt, back at Gran Paradiso. Get a closer look at the events at this year’s New Homes Showcase page on our website, MyWestVillages.com.

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Some West Villages backstory

One resident at Thursday’s town hall wanted to know what West Villages was in relation to the city of North Port. Mayor Vanessa Caruso, who was on the commission when the West Villages Improvement District began, offered some history, calling West Villages “a city within a city, only it’s not a city.”

“Back in the day, the property was actually in unincorporated Sarasota County... and they didn’t want any development over by River Road or in North Port at all. They were very worried. “River Road is a Heron Creek-style development. But the city of North Port said... we want the greatest development in Southwest Florida, with landscaping and signs that say welcome to the West Villages district."

Some West Villages residents pay the city they are allocated. Mike said the event left him feeling more included.

“I think they should do it again,” Deb said, although they’re not sure if they can find a smaller venue next time and would like a better understanding of what the taxes West Villages residents pay the city are allocated.”

McDowell added, “While the gym’s acoustics sometimes made hearing difficult, Gran Paradiso residents Debbie and Mike Watchowski found the town hall very informative.

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Sarasota County receives Irma report

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

SARASOTA — As with the planning for any event, reviewing afterward what went right and what went wrong is always helpful.

So it was with Sarasota County, as former Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate delivered his after-action report reviewing the county’s response to Hurricane Irma during the March 14 County Commission meeting.

“The team you built before the hurricane hit your biggest success,” Fugate told the commissioners.

“You responded as one community and that was your one strength. It’s important to keep it going.”

Fugate’s 72-page after-action report covers everything from planning and preparation pre-storm, response during the storm and post-storm actions. One area of particular emphasis focused on shelter operations, as the county hosted almost 20,000 people in its shelters, many of whom evacuated from Charlotte County.

Fugate noted that the evacuation of these residents, who generally went to Cranberry Elementary in North Port, placed additional support requirements on Sarasota County staff. Fugate wrote in his report that this was an expected result because of Charlotte’s low-lying topography, making its shelters susceptible to flooding.

Compounding the situation, he wrote, was the late arrival of these residents at the shelter. Fugate found that this shelter space had been offered to Charlotte on the Tuesday before the storm, but was not accepted until Friday.

“When it became apparent that Charlotte County residents could not remain in their local shelters.”

To remedy this for the future, Fugate recommends that the two counties enter agreements regarding the sheltering of Charlotte County residents, and for Charlotte County employees and teachers have also rallied in support of the referendum, despite several issues surrounding the district.

On Monday night, teachers and students from Heron Creek Middle School stood on Sunter Boulevard and Tamiami Trail waving signs to remind residents to vote on Tuesday.

Budget discussions for the district have begun and Bowden said that the preliminary budget to be presented at Thursday’s School Board workshop and meeting will not reflect too many changes from last year’s budget.

The Sarasota County School Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday for its workshop, followed by the 3 p.m. board meeting in The Board Chambers.

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

THE people who make business work in our local community are going that “extra mile” in the business world. The West Villages Sun wants to recognize individuals who have demonstrated business and professional excellence.

Tell us who stands out!

The people who make business work

I Nominate

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Nominees will be screened by a panel and the Top 40 Business Professionals will be named in our Business Matters magazine on July 21, 2018.

Deadline for Nominations: May 1, 2018.
A new gentle yoga class has been implemented at 4 p.m. on Mondays at Gran Paradiso, hosted by resident Susan Mathews. Mathews, a certified yoga instructor, focuses on full body gentle stretching, balancing and strengthening during the one-hour program which utilizes slow flow yoga poses.

Gentle yoga helps residents focus on mind, body and soul.
Hospitals still waiting for judge to rule

By BOB MUDGE
Staff Writer

Nearly three months after putting their cases into the hands of an administrative law judge, Venice Regional Bayfront Health and Sarasota Memorial Hospital are still waiting to learn the fate of their proposed new hospitals.

Each received preliminary state approval for a new facility in December of 2016. Venice Regional got the OK for a 210-bed replacement facility southeast of the Jacaranda round-about, while Sarasota Memorial was approved for a 110-bed satellite hospital at the southeast corner of Laurel and Pinebrook roads.

But each facility had the right to challenge the other’s approval, as did competing facilities. A trial of all the claims concluded in September, after which the parties were allowed to submit proposed recommended orders to the judge.

It’s his job to prepare a recommended order for consideration by the Agency for Health Care Administration, which then issues a final order.

Florida Statute Section 408.039(5) (b) states that recommended orders are to be submitted “within 30 days after the receipt of the proposed recommended orders.” The last document in these cases was filed Nov. 29.

Neither hospital has any idea when the judge might issue his order.

Kim Savage, Sarasota Memorial’s senior communications editor, said they had been expecting to see an order by now. “All we know from calls to the judge’s assistant is that the decision is still being worked on.” Venice Regional Marketing Director Bob Hite said Tuesday.

The outcome of the challenges would have been academic if the state Legislature had repealed the CON regulation of hospitals. The last document in these cases was filed Nov. 29.

Neither hospital has any idea when the judge might issue his order.

Repeal has been a goal of Gov. Rick Scott, a former hospital executive, and bills have been introduced to that end for several years but have failed to make it to his desk.

A repeal bill passed the House in this year’s session but died in the Senate Health Policy Committee after being “indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.”

Now, the state’s Constitution Revision Commission is considering whether to propose an amendment to limit CON regulation of hospitals.

The commission was scheduled to discuss a proposal Tuesday offered by Commissioner Frank Kruppenczuk, an Orlando lawyer appointed by Scott.

Originally, he submitted one to do away with CON regulation altogether, but then proposed a revised version exempting from review a hospital’s entry into a county in which any existing hospitals have infection rates higher than the statewide average.

The Commission has until May 10 to submit its final report to the Florida Secretary of State. Any proposed constitutional amendments would have to be approved by at least 60 percent of the voters in the General Election in November.

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Venice ophthalmologist is nation’s first with new lens implant

By LARRY EVANS
Sun Correspondent

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Dr. Dee Stephenson, ophthalmologist.

Stephenson implanted the lenses for the first time Oct. 24. Through January, she had surgically implanted the lenses in 50 patients. She said her patients are pleased with the results, so she is, as well.

She performs her surgeries one day a week at the Surgery Center of St. Andrews. Bausch & Lomb said the enVista MX60E lens will be available to other eye surgeons in this year.

Stephenson, when asked why she was chosen as the first ophthalmologist in the world to implant the new lens, simply said she has had a long relationship with the company. She has used the company’s technology throughout her career.

Information available on the website of Stephenson Eye Associates indicates Stephenson is also held in high regard by her peers in the field.

Stephenson was president of the American College of Eye Surgeons for the past two years, 2015-2017. She has also served as secretary of that group. She has served on the board of directors of the American Board of Eye Surgeons, and is on the editorial board of CRST, a professional journal.

Stephenson has spoken at international and national conferences, and written numerous articles for professional journals.

She is an associate professor of ophthalmology at the University of St. Augustine.

A Florida native, Stephenson earned her bachelor of science degree at the University of Florida and medical degree at the University of South Florida. She did her internship at the St. Francis Medical Center at the University of Connecticut and was a resident in ophthalmology at the University of South Carolina.

Stephenson said she decided in medical school to go into the field of ophthalmology.

“I just really loved it,” Stephenson, who throughout her career has stayed involved in clinical research and studies.

“The technology associated with ophthalmology is one of the fastest-growing areas of medicine. It’s a great specialty worldwide.”

Advances in technology in recent years are making it possible for ophthalmologists to even better provide treatment for their patients, she said. For example, Stephenson and other surgeons can now treat cataracts and astigmatism with one procedure; patients whose astigmatism
Assistant city manager fired by North Port

By LAUREN COFFEY

STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — After being terminated from the assistant city manager position, Danny Schult is filing a complaint against the city with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Compliance.

Schult had been on paid leave since Jan. 23, after a complaint was filed by Finance Director Charlina Lowrie. Icard Merrill Attorneys and Counselors conducted an investigation into Schult and finished it Feb. 8.

The city filed a separation agreement with Schult, who could choose to leave by March 14 with six weeks of paid time. According to an investigation, Schult and North Port City Manager Pete Welker later said he and Schult are both “willing to argue on his own behalf and on behalf of the business of others.” He added they both have “argumentative” approaches, which is how they communicate with each other.

The main incident occurred on Jan. 11, between Schult and Senior Contract Administrator Alla Skipper. According to the report, Schult became increasingly concerned when it comes to adhering to the city charter. He believed action needed to be taken against Skipper regarding her emails, which he stated were “blatantly insubordinate” and “attributed false statements to him.”

Schult instructed the finance director to counsel a subordinate whom he felt had disrupted the organization. “Bottom line is I instructed the finance director to counsel a subordinate who had disrupted the organization,” Schult said to the Sun, adding he believes he was set up by the Finance Department, and the subordinate was a friend of the city manager.

Other incidents found by Icard Merrill:

• On Sept. 20, 2017, Schult reacted in a “loud and agitated manner” in response to a “small task.” The employee who received the agitated phone call from Schult was able to hear him through the phone in one ear, but also through the wall and down the hallway in her other ear. “You can hear anything through the walls, they’re thin,” Schult told the Sun.
• On Dec. 7, 2017, Schult and North Port Business Advocate Randy Welker had a discussion which increasingly became louder, according to an employee who worked some distance from Welker’s office. According to the report, Schult ended up yelling, which made the employee so uncomfortable she exited the building.

Welker later said he and Schult are both “willing to argue on his own behalf and on behalf of the business of others.” He added they both have “argumentative” approaches, which is how they communicate with each other.

FIRED | 20
The onset of baby bird season is upon us. Beginning the season and topping the list of the first nests to show those adorable fluffy heads, begging for food, are our top predators of the sky: Raptors. These large birds of prey, in nature’s perfect way, are born first because they are at the top of the food chain.

It is during this time that the Wildlife Center of Venice performs on average 20 to 25 re-nests a year. There are many reasons for us to perform these sometimes very difficult and challenging feats. Deteriorating nests, which can sometimes be caused by storms or poor construction by the parent birds or because the tree might not have been sufficient to carry the nest load, are a major issue leading to re-nesting.

Premature fledging is another common cause. Fledging occurs naturally when the growing chick’s feathers have developed sufficiently to begin flying. Side note: Crashes happen during fledging, and many times the first step is a doozy. Before you pick up a young fledging, watch and observe. If it’s learning to fly and not injured and being attended to by the parents, leave it alone.

Sibling rivalry sometimes pits a stronger, healthier or larger sibling chick against a weaker or smaller chick, leading the larger to push the smaller out of the nest. Sometimes health issues, malformations or deficiencies could cause the chick to be pushed out or fall from the nest.

Then there are plain accidents, which may include things such as a simple mis-step or slip to a parent accidentally bumping a chick out of the nest or even a gust of wind blowing the baby to the ground. When a young bird is out of the nest, the first thing our trained rehabilitators and staff do is assess the reason why. If you see a baby bird on the ground injured and you’re questioning what to do, keep it in sight if possible and call the Center.

When you place that call, you will receive instruction from our trained, dispatch staff member on what to do next. We will assess the situation, answer your questions and concerns, and walk you through any problems that may be present to keep you and the bird safe until a rescue arrives.

Many times we will send out one of our rescue staffers to do a site assessment survey. The survey allows us to collect information pertinent to the re-nesting decision and includes locating and checking the quality and viability of the nest, climbing the tree, getting measurements for nest rebuilding if necessary, locating parent birds, and identifying potential hazards.

After the assessment is done, the chick is thoroughly checked by our staff of rehabbers and vets and fed. Then baby is ready to return. This is when our expert climbers come into play. Mike Kipp (Tammy Kipp assiting) and Matt Tosi are two of our excellent climbers. Just this past week, they successfully re-nested two baby great horned owls, a juvenile bald eagle and two baby barred owls.

Recently, Mike also performed a rescue in a very high tree of a gull that was hanging from fishing line. Our climbers — aided by staff members, rescuers and volunteers helping to secure safe and successful climbs every time — are our heroes. The climbs that they perform are spectacular feats of height and skill, and our community owes them a debt of gratitude for risking their lives for the betterment of our wildlife.

The Wildlife Center of Venice is committed to the protection, rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife in Sarasota and Charlotte counties. The WCV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and relies on local donations to continue their mission of helping wildlife. To help, visit WildlifeCenterOfVenice.org. For wild animal emergencies and rescues, call 941-484-9657 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 941-418-4947 after hours, 7 days a week.

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Matthew Corn, DPT, GCC, CEEAA
Doctor of Physical Therapy
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necessitate wearing eyeglasses for decades can now have corrective lenses implanted. The cost of eye surgery varies from patient to patient, depending on individual needs, Stephenson said.

Stephenson keeps up with the advances in her field, but she is something of a throwback to the mid-20th century way doctors practiced medicine: She works alone as a sole practitioner rather than in a medical group with other partners. “I am by myself. That’s very unusual, but I prefer it that way.”

The meticulously restored 1926 home that is now the office building for Stephenson Eye Associates also merges the old with the new: Solar panels are installed on the roof. And so cutting-edge energy technology exists in a building where Stephenson and her friendly staff seek to maintain what Stephenson said is the warmth of a family home.

Her employees, she said, tend to stay with Stephenson Eye Associates for a long time. Clients, many of whom call Stephenson “Dr. Dee,” bring her “eye” art. Patients who look at the office walls can’t help but see eyeballs starting back at them. The eyes are everywhere.

“It has been fun collecting eye art over the years,” Stephenson said. “Some pieces are from my patients.”

Cooking and art collecting are two of her hobbies. “I have an eclectic collection of art.” Most is from New Orleans, where Stephenson, who practiced ophthalmology on Florida’s East Coast for one year before moving to Venice in 1989, last spring co-authored for the journal Ophthalmology Management an article titled “Advice for MDs whose goal is their own clinic.”

Stephenson wrote, “The number one thing I tell new ophthalmologists is to pick a place you want to live and that’s where you need to go. If you’re changing your mind long outside of the nest, you won’t put down those roots.”

How many patients does Stephenson have? “Thousands.” And she is still accepting new ones.
Area health rankings dip slightly

By ANDREA PRAEGERTZ
Staff Writer

In a ranking of how healthy Florida’s counties are that was released this week, both Charlotte and Sarasota counties placed in the upper half of the state.

For those rankings released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Charlotte County’s overall rank for health outcomes—which represent how healthy a county is—came in at 27. In 2017, the county ranked a little better at 22nd. Sarasota County came in at 22nd. In 2017, it was 3rd.

Charlotte County moved up a spot in length of life to place at 13th. Sarasota County improved from 59th to 53rd. There was no change in Charlotte County’s ranking of 18th for life quality.

Other considerations involved health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic issues and the physical environment.

“The rankings show that Charlotte County has strengths in the areas of clinical care, where it ranked 10 out of 67, and health behaviors, where it ranked 11 out of 67,” said Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County Frank Louis Lepore in a statement. “It is only through partnership and cooperation that improvements in the health of Charlotte County residents will continue to be seen,” said Lepore. All sorts of considerations are covered in the rankings. From smoking, obesity, access to exercise opportunities and alcohol, to STDs, uninsured population estimates, children in poverty, violent crime, ratio of doctors and mental health providers to the population, high school graduation rates, unemployment and more.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation calls itself the largest philanthropy dedicated solely to health. As a joint effort between the foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the rankings are a snapshot of the health of counties across the country. Some information from the Florida Department of Health through www.FLHealthCHARTS.com was involved in the rankings.

“The data in the rankings serves as an indicator for counties to determine the effectiveness of their community interventions and other potential areas of need,” said State Surgeon General and Secretary Dr. Celeste Philip in a press release.

The latest State Health Improvement Plan, called SHIP, covering 2017–2021 will be available to the public soon, according to the FDOH.

This week, the FDOH in Charlotte County pointed to success in recent years with more prenatal care provided to women early in pregnancies. Between 2014 and 2016, that increased by about 2 percent with three quarters of women in their first trimesters getting it.

Email: Apraegertz@sun-herald.com

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— SOURCE: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
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In 1886, the total population of the town of Punta Gorda, which was then known as Trabue, was only 15 people. The demographics were pretty even—there were eight Caucasians and seven African Americans—so needless to say, both groups of settlers had an impactful influence on the city’s origins.

The Blanchard House Museum tells the story of Punta Gorda’s early African-American pioneers, the community of Trabue Woods, and work life and leisure time in the community before desegregation. The house itself was built in 1925 by Joseph Blanchard, a Spanish-American War veteran, steamboat pilot and fisherman. He and his mail-order bride Minnie lived in the home at 623 Fitzhugh Avenue, which is where it sat until it was moved to its current site, three blocks away, in 2002. In 2004, Bernice Andrews Russell, a humanitarian, social activist and historian for the African American community in Charlotte County, opened the Museum. She felt it was important to document the history and contributions of African Americans in Charlotte County.

On the day I visited the Museum, there were only a couple of visitors in the building, but I have to believe that was only because people really don’t know about this place, which is situated on the back of a lot on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard a few blocks from downtown. It really is a very interesting museum, and each wall is filled with information about African Americans’ role in the founding and growth of Punta Gorda.

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The Blanchard House Museum is located at 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Punta Gorda. It’s open from late September until late May. Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge to tour the Museum, but donations are accepted, if you choose to do so. For more information, visit the website at http://www.blanchardhousemuseum.org or call 941-575-7518.

Museum docent Cynthia Buford-Johnson has engraved bricks which are installed in the walkway of the Military Garden, in remembrance of the military careers of her father and uncles.

The Great Migration, the current exhibit is changing exhibits and Gallery holds the Museum exhibit which tells the stories of African Americans who migrated to other part of the country to escape oppression and abuse in the South. Unfortunately, even when they did that, they faced resistance in the job markets they were trying to enter. The Museum exhibit depicts the discourse and open hostility that met many of the workers, who were sometimes forced to take strike jobs because all of the others were closed to them.

It’s a thought-provoking and educational museum, but very sobering and definitely worth the trip.

Debbie Flessner writes the Live Like a Tourist columns for the Sun newspapers. You may contact her at df@flessner.net.
Women Voters.
in a March 26 speech to
political dysfunction
nist, will discuss today's
and syndicated colum-
filling a position.

Director Scott Williams
Development Services
date, Neighborhood
and "direct."

"salty," "testy," "agitated"
Schult's behavior as "dic-

FIRED

Paula Dockery, vet-
the door.
nonmembers. Pay at
Sarasota Bayfront.
Marina Jack restaurant,
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at
receive free pancakes with
hosting an Easter Bunny

Schult was unable to
reprimand.
without pay or a written
pay grade, suspension
retirement with a sever-
tion.

"Just take the report
they gave you with a
grain of salt," Schult
said. "The person who
gave them the report
wanted the people
who know me know this
is a bunch of B.S."
All the employees
viewed in the
Schult get fired. They
stated he had been
a long-standing and
valuable employee in the
city, but observed a
recent change and com-
mitment to the position
in the last few months.
"The current mayor
doesn't like me and
hasn't liked me and
used this as an oppor-
tunity to discharge me," Schult
said. "I've had outstanding evaluations
for 13 years — how
convenient for this to
happen."
Schult was set to retire
from the position in 14
months after 14 years
of service in the city. He
had a countdown clock
behind his desk which
counted down the days,
hours and minutes until
his retirement. While
it was "intended to be
light-hearted," the re-
port says, it could "send
the wrong message to
his subordinates about
his commitment to the
job."
The city conducted a
search for a replacement
for Schult and the
deadline to apply was Friday.
City Manager Peter Lear
said they received 21
resumes that met the
criteria for the position,
and they will work to fill
the spot as soon as pos-
sible. Lear said he could
not comment further on
Schult due to the EOC
complaint filed.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

League of Women
 Voters Luncheon
Paula Dockery, vet-
Florida legislator and syndicated
columnist, will discuss today's
political dysfunction
and how to combat it
in a March 26 speech to
the Sarasota League of
Women Voters.
The luncheon will
be Monday, March 26,
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at
Marina Jack restaurant,
Sarasota Bayfront.
Cost: $25 members, $30
nonmembers. Pay at
the door.
Must reserve at rsvp@
wvssg.org.

Early Bird Kiwanis
The North Port Early
Bird Kiwanis Club is
hosting an Easter Bunny
event. Children will re-
ceive free pancakes with
a donation of a canned
good, with adults paying
$3 per person. It takes
place from 8 a.m.-9:45
March 24, at Buffalo
Wings & Rings, 1081 W.
Price Blvd., North Port.
There will be photo
opportunities with
the Easter Bunny and
free baskets given to
children.

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to participate.

West Villages Sun Thursday, March 22, 2018 Page 20
WWI props recreated at Pine View School

By ED SCOTT

Every year or two, Pine View’s History Club sponsors a campus-wide re-enactment of a historical time period or event. This year, faculty sponsor Jym Froelich, club president Megan Lepak and the club celebrated the 100th year since the end of the first world war — and its ramifications, in uniquely interactive ways.

The event featured a walk-through exhibit of a simulated trench, a three-quarter scale model of a British Mark V tank and an Air Corps tent, among other displays. The Mark V was the first tank to go into battle. It had a top speed of 4 mph, meaning “the average person could probably outrun this thing,” junior Matthew Meesit said.

But could the German Army out-gun it? It was manned by a crew of six, a pilot and five gunners. Meesit said there were rumors that the Germans had a tank that could go 9 mph, “but frankly, those were just rumors.” World War I was known for brutal trench warfare. Students read about that on the walls of the simulated — and elevated — trench. But they most especially enjoyed walking through it when a smoke machine was deployed to simulate a gas attack.

Participating classrooms held presentations or demonstrations for older students. They talked about the politics behind the war. Younger students at the grade 2-12 school for the gifted and talented behind the war. Younger students at the grade 2-12 school for the gifted made war-related crafts and played Battleship. One classroom was a simulated “mess hall” where students sampled food similar to war rations. The final stop of the tour was a memorial to the countries involved and a field of simulated poppies, made from what looked like red cupcake holders.

Froelich, who is teaching ninth-grade world history this year, said the event provided club members an opportunity to do research and see a long-term project through from beginning to end. It gave other students an opportunity to experience history in a way they wouldn’t by reading a textbook.

The biggest challenge would probably just be living in that trench and eating what they had,” seventh-grader Natalie Goodson said. Classmate Noelle Winegar added that she liked the trench exhibit because you could “share the viewpoint of the soldiers, living in close quarters with bombs and bullets overhead.

Past history club re-enactments focused on feudal Japan, medieval Europe, the Berlin Wall and Pax Romana. They are held about every two years, but Pine View turns 50 next school year, so Froelich said the club may “do a few things ’69. Maybe some Woodstock or the moon landing. It’s the dawning of the age of Aquarius,” he said.

When work begins on that project, Lepak will be off at college (she’s currently undecided).
NASA Ambassador returns to Venice

**NASA Ambassador returns to Venice**

**Rich Heuermann***

**Staff Report**

Rich Heuermann will share the latest science and discoveries of NASA’s space exploration mission, Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., and Friday, March 23, 1 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice, 1971 Pinebrook Road. Heuermann, who spoke at U.U.COV in February of 2017, will present "Starlight Nights," an introduction to star-gazing at the Thursday program.

Both sessions are free and open to the public. No equipment is necessary but binoculars and telescopes will expand the views. The Friday program, "A Quarter Century of Discovery: the Hubble Space Telescope," will highlight the amazing discoveries related to the telescope.

Heuermann will share some of Hubble’s spectacular images of star clusters, dust clouds, planets and galaxies. He also will preview Hubble’s successor, the James Webb Space Telescope, scheduled to launch in the spring of 2019.

This year’s program will feature a 1980s theme in celebration of the first Evening Under the Stars program in 1980. This year’s event will feature the SCF Big Band, the Venice Symphony and fireworks that work to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Evening Under the Stars.

Reserved general admission tickets are $30 in advance or $25 at the gate, children under 10 are free. Reserved general admission tickets are $30 in advance and allow ticket holders to bring their chairs and coolers to the campus between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on April 7 to reserve a spot.

In case of rain the event will be moved to 6 p.m. on April 8 at SCF Venice.

For more information on the event call 941-408-1519 or 941-752-5390, or visit SCF-Foundation.org. SCF Venice will hold its 30th Evening Under the Stars at 6 p.m. on April 7 at the Venice campus, 8000 S. Tamiami Trail.

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Proceeds to Benefit Englewood Elementary School Reading Recovery Program

Saturday March 24th, 2018

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

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**SCF Venice Evening Under the Stars celebrates 30 years**

**By ALEXANDRA HERRERA**

**Staff Writer**

**NORTH PORT — State College of Florida Venice will present the 30th annual Evening Under the Stars on April 7.**

This year’s program will feature a 1980s theme in celebration of the first Evening Under the Stars program in 1980.

This year’s event will feature the SCF Big Band, the Venice Symphony and fireworks that work to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Evening Under the Stars. Guests who attend can sing along to a Michael Jackson medley and other classics from “Footloose” and “Flashdance,” to relive the Evening Under the Stars in the 1980s. Evening Under the Stars begins with SCF’s Big Band at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Venice Symphony.

The evening caps off with fireworks, which according to SCF are going to especially extravagant in recognition of the 30th anniversary. VIP tickets for the event are available through the State College of Florida Foundation, and general admission tickets can be purchased at venues throughout Venice, including the SCF Venice Cashier’s office. For a full list of locations visit SCF-Foundation.org and click on the banner on the main page.

General admission tickets are $20 in advance or $25 at the gate, children under 10 are free. Reserved general admission tickets are $30 in advance and allow ticket holders to bring their chairs and coolers to the campus between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on April 7 to reserve a spot.

In case of rain the event will be moved to 6 p.m. on April 8 at SCF Venice.

For more information on the event call 941-408-1519 or 941-752-5390, or visit SCF-Foundation.org. SCF Venice will hold its 30th Evening Under the Stars at 6 p.m. on April 7 at the Venice campus, 8000 S. Tamiami Trail.

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Talks continue on River Road swap

BY WARREN RICHARDSON
Sun Correspondent

NORTH PORT — According to Sarasota County Administrator Jonathan Lewis, prospects for a potential road swap with the state involving River Road continue to look good.

In an update to the Sarasota County Commission recently, Lewis said county staff had been a part of some “very good discussions” with officials from the Florida Department of Transportation.

“It is progressing,” Lewis said. “We have received some early but positive feedback.”

The county and the Florida Department of Transportation have been in negotiations since last fall over a potential road swap.

The deal would have the state taking over River Road and the expensive improvements to upgrade it, and the county would assume responsibility for one or more state roads in the county.

Two weeks ago, Commissioner Charles Hines said this is the closest the county and the state have ever been regarding the potential road swap. Meanwhile, according to a county memo, other details of the potential deal are beginning to emerge.

According to the memo, included in the materials for the joint meeting with Charlotte County set for Wednesday where River Road is one of the topics for discussion, the county and state have reached a conceptual agreement on a joint funding partnership. That agreement would have each party contributing $7 million in equal shares for an engineering, design and permitting update and rights of way acquisition for that portion of the road from U.S. 41 to Interstate 75.

In return for the state taking over River Road, Sarasota County would take over portions of State Road 758 and State Road 72 according to the memo. Other details involve FDOT funding sources and their uses, construction responsibilities for each side, along with possible funding and construction timelines.

Scuttling previous discussions over a road swap are four bridges in the state roads involved in the discussions.

The county has balked at taking over the bridges due to the high cost of maintenance and repair for these structures, but Lewis previously reported that the state had withdrawn two of the most problematic bridges from the discussions.

Lewis told commissioners Tuesday that further discussions would be continuing with FDOT.

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941-405-3038
Celebrate Spring with the 37th annual Englewood Fine Arts Festival

By CHRISTINE KOURAPIS
Let’s Go Correspondent

One of Englewood’s favorite springtime celebrations will be taking place on March 24 & 25 all along Dearborn Street.

“Thanks to the Englewood CRA who help us by providing grant money and Olde Englewood Village merchants who allow us to take over a portion of Dearborn Street every March, the Rotary Club of Englewood is able to sponsor our 37th annual juried art show, featuring original works by over 100 artists from the United States and Canada,” explained Rotarian, Carol Peterson whose committee also sells T-shirts designed by a featured artist in their Rotary Club booth.

Proceeds from a $2 gate donation and booth sales benefit the Englewood Youth Foundation, our 501c3 arm, and also support: Lemon Bay High School scholarships, a camp on the Myakka River, the Boys and Girls Club, Kids’ Needs, and a Back to School Bash.

This year’s feature artist, Mel Landon, has created a theme masterpiece entitled: “Lookey Here Fish Camp.” Landon grew up on Australia’s east coast, living and working on the Great Barrier Reef. Now she resides on Florida’s west coast where she loves to explore rivers and Gulf beaches. Having experienced “two worlds” enables Landon to capture the very essence of marine life, she believes, so when producing colorful, one-of-a-kind paintings, she often utilizes reclaimed lumber that adds character to her work.

During this two-day event, visitors and locals seeking diverse artwork, souvenirs or home décor will have an opportunity to meet dozens of returning artists and first-time exhibitors who produce a variety of media including sculpture, painting, jewelry, ceramics and photography. First, second, and third place ribbons and cash awards include Best of Show in both two- and three-dimensional work plus awards in all other categories. People who remember beloved local artist, Ben Eisenberg, one of Englewood’s earliest spring festival organizers, will be pleased to learn that his family will be exhibiting a collection of his works during this show.

Hungry festival attendees will want to drop by Rotary Club President Alfred Current’s booth where he’ll be serving pulled pork plates (pulled from the pig on display) as well as ribs, hot dogs, hamburgers and beef brisket. Rotarians will also offer cold beverages for sale in their huge food tent, and food vendors will provide tasty treats in booths set up along Dearborn Street.

As always, the Rotary Club of Englewood’s spring art festival is offered free of charge, but a two dollar donation, in exchange for a smile sticker, helps to support The Englewood Rotary Youth Foundation, Inc. and other Rotary projects. Over the years the Rotary Club of Englewood has raised over $50,000 for Lemon Bay High School scholarships. In addition to viewing fine art taking place in Englewood’s pedestrian-only artist’s booths along Dearborn Street, shoppers may enjoy browsing through Englewood’s charming art shops, gift shops and restaurants. Free parking is available. The two-day event runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25. For directions and more information about Englewood’s Annual Fine Arts Festival to: www.englewoodrotary.org.

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LET’S GO
The North Port Concert Band will salute the music of Hollywood’s favorite movies tonight with music from “Singin’ In The Rain,” “The Wizard of Oz” and music of Disneyland are some of the selections set to be performed at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, off Price Boulevard in North Port.

Tickets are available at the Performing Arts Center box office, at 6400 W. Price Blvd., at North Port High School. It is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For tickets you may also call 941-426-8479 or 1-866-406-7722 or visit www.northportconcertband.org.
Big Truck Day EGGstravaganza comes to Nathan Benderson Park on March 31

Provided by Sarasota County government

SARASOTA COUNTY — Big trucks and Easter eggs will roll into Nathan Benderson Park when Sarasota County hosts its annual Big Truck Day EGGstravaganza from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

The popular event gives children and adults a chance to check out the vehicles and trucks they see on the streets, honk the horns and meet and speak with the people who operate them. Dump trucks, fire trucks, payloaders, bucket trucks, buses and more will be there to explore.

Now in its 22nd year, the event also includes the EGGstravaganza, with two egg hunts at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in separate areas for kids four and younger and ages 4 and younger and for those 5 and older.

Egg hunt participants must bring their own baskets. Other activities include free kayaking (one-seater and two-seater), stand-up paddleboarding and pedal boat rentals. Participants must sign a waiver and wear a provided personal flotation device.

The activities are free and open to the public, and food will be available for purchase. General parking will be on the island.

Big Truck Day EGGstravaganza is hosted by Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources and Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. For more information, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-361-5000 or visit scgov.net/parks.

Call Sarasota County, 941-861-5000.

Boat Show, Nautical Fest

The Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Boat Show and Nautical Fest is set for April 7-8, at the Englewood Elks Lodge, 401 N. Indiana Ave. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 7, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 8. There will be more than 30 nautical vendors from artists to fishing gear and apparel, local food trucks and ice-cold beverages. Dealer’s include Ingman Marine, Marine Max, Quality Boats & Big Toy. KiX Country will be doing live remote broadcasts. All the festival proceeds will benefit the Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Club for projects & charities they support. For information, visit nauticalfest.com or contact Dave Flower at 941-468-2023.

Lions Easter Egg Hunt

Venice Lions Club invites all blind and visually impaired children to an Easter Egg Hunt with beeping eggs Saturday, March 31, 1 p.m., at West Blalock Park on the island of Venice. The eggs will be hidden and participants will find them by listening for the loud beep. Attendees will need a buddy for assistance.

There is no cost, thanks to the generosity of the Lions Club. RSVP is required; call Lion Shelley at 941-485-2354.
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. response meaning "got it" (5)
2. fragrant Asian rice (7)
3. landlocked African country (4)
4. dish with poached eggs (8)
5. line of hills (6)
6. extremely direct (5)
7. great contentment (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

ER  NE  RA  MI  FR
CH  SI  CT  BE  CI
ROG  AD  ER  FE  DI
JAS  LI  TY  NE  ANK

**JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU**

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

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

**FOR ANSWERS, TURN TO PAGE 19**

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*A Little of This, A Little of That*

*2018 Annual Concert*

*Featuring*

- The Venice Gondolier Chorus
- Sampson and Delilah Duet
- The Sarasota Key Tones Quartet
- The Magic Of Manatee Sweet Adelines
- Comedy from Dewey Singum and How Quartet

*Friday, March 23rd at 6:40 pm at the Venice Church of the Nazarene, 1535 E. Venice Ave.*

*Tickets at the door $15.00*

*For further information, call 941-966-4321*

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**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**Sarasota Film Festival**

**Venice Reception**

March 28, 2018 5:30 - 7:00 PM

*Sponsored by*

Venice Art Center & Venice Gondolier Sun

390 Nokomis Avenue South, Venice

Come walk the red carpet in celebration of the 20th Annual Sarasota Film Festival at the Venice Art Center. We will be announcing the 2018 film lineup as well as our exciting events. Make sure to stay until the end of the event for a chance to win amazing gifts in the raffle drawing.

Complimentary appetizers and cash bar. This event is free and open to the public.

**FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND MORE INFO, VISIT SARASOTAFLMFFESTIVAL.COM**

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Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival is Friday, Saturday and Sunday March 23, 24 and 25.

The Seventh Annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival, two separate events, will be taking place on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24. Moderated panel discussions and a master class will be held on Friday at the Venice Center Mall Community Room, 240 Tampa Ave. W., and a free Book Fair for authors to showcase their books on Saturday at Centennial Park, 200 W. Venice Ave., next to the Farmers’ Market.

To learn more about specific authors and events taking place go to www.venicebookfair.com or contact them at info@venicebookfair.com.

On Saturday afternoon from noon to 2 p.m. at the Venice Center Mall Community Room, 240 Tampa Ave. W., authors who register and pay a $20 fee will be offered an exclusive opportunity to meet individually with a professional publisher and a professional editor. After pitching their books, authors will receive valuable publishing advice.

To learn more about specific authors and events taking place during the Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival go to www.venicebookfair.com or contact them at info@venicebookfair.com.

**By CHRIS KOURAPIS  SENIOR CORRESPONDENT**

The Seventh Annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival, two separate events, will be taking place on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24. "The Venice Book Fair Committee discovered that featuring moderated panel discussions and a master class on Friday at the Venice Center Mall Community Room and a free Book Fair for authors to showcase their books on Saturday at Centennial Park worked very well for both authors and festival attendees. It’s important, however, for people to pre-register and pay a $20 non-refundable fee for Friday’s events, as space is limited," explained Event Chairman Andy Britton, whose committee includes: Alex Glavine, Ann Hall, Don Hay, Jean Trammel, Nancy Pike, Judith Keefer, James Hagler, Camille Cline, Kim Cool, Linda Wilson, Peggy Davidson, John Stone and Pam Johnson.

"It’s also important to note that all proceeds benefit Venice Heritage Museum Inc., a 501c3 fundraising arm of two historical Venice sites: the Lord Higel House and Venice Museum and Archives. All speakers, editors and literary agents donate their time for this charitable event, and dozens of volunteers, including Venice High School students, assist authors and vendors unload their vehicles and set up booths," added Britton.

On Friday, writers and aspiring writers who have preregistered may opt to attend one or all moderated panel discussions and learn more about character development during a scheduled Master Class taking place at the Venice Center Mall Community Room, 240 Tampa Ave., W. From 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Kim Cool, Stacy Dekeyser and Clarissa Thomasson will discuss "Today’s Youth Market." From 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Don Bruns, Susan Klaus, Diane Sawyer, and Richard Wickliffe will discuss how "Four Authors Tell Their Story" and from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Richard Hagberg will teach a master class entitled: "Developing Characters.”

From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. participants are invited to meet guest speakers in person during a wine and cheese reception. Saturday’s free-to-the-public Book Fair takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. along 200 W. Venice Ave. at Centennial Park, next to the Farmer’s Market.

Last year’s committee chairman, Don Hay, will MC events from the center gazebo, and 24 booksellers and vendors will be greeting customers at their booths throughout the day. Festival attendees can expect to meet 15 authors of children’s literature, twenty fiction (and other) authors and 16 authors of nonfiction works.

Booths manned by nonprofit groups who sell books to support their organizations include: Friends of Venice Public Library Inc., Sarasota Authors Connection, Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime, Literacy Volunteers of S. Sarasota County, Venice Heritage Inc. and the National League of American Pen Women, Sarasota branch.

Author and vendor booths will be set up at Centennial Park in Venice as they were during last year’s Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival. On Saturday afternoon from noon to 2 p.m. at the Venice Center Mall Community Room, 240 Tampa Ave. W., authors who register and pay a $20 fee will be offered an exclusive opportunity to meet individually with a professional publisher and a professional editor. After pitching their books, authors will receive valuable publishing advice. To learn more about specific authors and events taking place during the Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival go to www.venicebookfair.com or contact them at info@venicebookfair.com.
Suncoast Humane Society’s Critter Classic looking for sponsors

Although sold out with golfers, Suncoast Humane Society is still welcoming local business and group sponsorships to support our 10th Annual Critter Classic Golf Scramble. This popular charity event will be held Saturday, April 21, at the prestigious Riverwood Golf Club on State Road 776.

The Critter Classic is one of the most important fundraisers for Suncoast Humane Society. Last year, the tournament raised nearly $40,000 in support for the Suncoast Humane Society. “The Critter Classic is always a popular event with many new and returning golfers, including myself! We’re excited for another day on the outstanding Riverwood greens for a fun, yet competitive, scramble, followed by a buffet lunch and raffle prizes,” said Phil Snyder, executive director of the Suncoast Humane Society. “The Critter Classic is always a fun event with many new and returning golfers, including myself! We’re excited for another day on the outstanding Riverwood greens for a fun, yet competitive, scramble, followed by a buffet lunch and raffle prizes.”

This being our 10th anniversary of the event, we are determined to make it the best one yet. Whether you’re sponsoring, donating or playing, we couldn’t raise these critical funds without you and we cannot thank you enough!”

Although golfer registration is currently sold out, there are a variety of sponsorships available from $50 - $2,500. The Critter Classic is heavily promoted by Suncoast Humane Society and is consistently covered by local media outlets, offering valuable exposure for business supporters. Donations are also currently being accepted for the exciting raffle held after the tournament. Anyone with questions or further ideas of how you can get involved is encouraged to contact Events & Outreach coordinator Sarah Lapton at 941-474-7884 ext 405 or slapton@humane.org.

In total, the show is expected to raise $776. The Critter Classic Golf Scramble is one of the most important fundraisers for Suncoast Humane Society. Last year, the tournament raised nearly $40,000 in support of the organization’s programs, which expand our reach to over Sarasota County, Boca Grande and beyond.

If you would like to learn more about the Suncoast Humane Society’s Critter Classic or how you can support the cause, please visit our website at www.humane.org or contact us at 941-474-7884 ext 405. Whether you’re sponsoring, donating or playing, the Suncoast Humane Society is grateful for your support.”

Saratoga County, Boca Grande and beyond.

“We filled up with golfers in record time this year,” said Phil Snyder, executive director of the Suncoast Humane Society. “The Critter Classic is always a popular event with many new and returning golfers, including myself! We’re excited for another day on the outstanding Riverwood greens for a fun, yet competitive, scramble, followed by a buffet lunch and raffle prizes. This being our 10th anniversary of the event, we are determined to make it the best one yet. Whether you’re sponsoring, donating or playing, we couldn’t raise these critical funds without you and we cannot thank you enough!”

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The ins and outs of gift cards and returns

On March 15, Toys “R” Us announced it was filing for bankruptcy, closing all its stores — including Babies “R” Us — and liquidating inventory.

If you, or anyone you know, has gift cards from either store, the Federal Trade Commission warns they’ll only be honored until April 15. “Advice from Toys “R” Us have stores in Fort Myers. In addition, the FTC notes Toys “R” Us says its customer service representatives is to use your gift cards as soon as possible, whether in-store or online,” states the FTC.

“However, even if you don’t have a Toys “R” Us gift card, this incident should serve as another wake-up call that regardless of any expiration, gift cards are worthless if a company or merchant goes out of business. If filing bankruptcy, they’re considered unsecured and unprotected debt. Toys “R” Us joins a number of major retail bankruptcies over the last few years. Remember The Limited, Linens-N-Things, Blockbuster, Circuit City, Radio Shack and Borders? They’re all gone, along with any unredeemed gift cards. In the Borders bankruptcy, for example, the Wall Street Journal reported the defunct retailer estimated customers never redeemed 17.7 million gift cards worth $210.5 million by the time it shut its doors in September 2011. The Journal noted that retailers in bankruptcy can stop accepting gift cards at any time. Industry experts estimate about $1 billion worth of gift cards purchased go unspent every year. So, if you’re sitting on any of that unredeemed gift card money — including balances you may have forgotten about — use it now, especially if it’s a “closed-loop” gift certificate or card. That’s because since 2007, under a strong, consumer-friendly Florida law, retail “closed-loop” gift certificates or cards — those sold by Florida stores and restaurants, and only usable with the issuing merchant — can’t expire or have any post-sale charges or fees. Florida’s Department of Consumer Services enforces this law, with the ability to impose an administrative fine not to exceed $100 for each violation. And with the Toys “R” Us inventory liquidation, the FTC offers something else to consider. “Purchases from a company that’s going out of business are usually ‘final sales.’ That means you should choose wisely because you probably won’t be able to return the item for a refund. Even if store credit is an option — you’d want to use that quickly too.”

The FTC notes that failing to comply with post-sale charges or fees. California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, for example, require retail establishments to “conspicuously post” or display non-refund policies.

READER ADVOCATE

David MORRIS Columnist

honor until April 15. However, even if you don’t have a Toys “R” Us gift card, this incident should serve as another wake-up call that regardless of any expiration, gift cards are worthless if a company or merchant goes out of business. If filing bankruptcy, they’re considered unsecured and unprotected debt. Toys “R” Us joins a number of major retail bankruptcies over the last few years. Remember The Limited, Linens-N-Things, Blockbuster, Circuit City, Radio Shack and Borders? They’re all gone, along with any unredeemed gift cards. In the Borders bankruptcy, for example, the Wall Street Journal reported the defunct retailer estimated customers never redeemed 17.7 million gift cards worth $210.5 million by the time it shut its doors in September 2011. The Journal noted that retailers in bankruptcy can stop accepting gift cards at any time. Industry experts estimate about $1 billion worth of gift cards purchased go unspent every year. So, if you’re sitting on any of that unredeemed gift card money — including balances you may have forgotten about — use it now, especially if it’s a “closed-loop” gift certificate or card. That’s because since 2007, under a strong, consumer-friendly Florida law, retail “closed-loop” gift certificates or cards — those sold by Florida stores and restaurants, and only usable with the issuing merchant — can’t expire or have any post-sale charges or fees. Florida’s Department of Consumer Services enforces this law, with the ability to impose an administrative fine not to exceed $100 for each violation. And with the Toys “R” Us inventory liquidation, the FTC offers something else to consider. “Purchases from a company that’s going out of business are usually ‘final sales.’ That means you should choose wisely because you probably won’t be able to return the item for a refund. Even if store credit is an option — you’d want to use that quickly too.”

The FTC notes that failing to comply with post-sale charges or fees. California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, for example, require retail establishments to “conspicuously post” or display non-refund policies.

If they don’t, consumers are entitled to a refund within a prescribed time frame. Florida residents can file complaints with the Department of Consumer Services at 800-435-7352.

Regardless of any disclosures, it’s important to ask all retailers their specific refund or exchange policy BEFORE making a purchase.

Here’s an idea: After reading this column, go through your sock drawer and see if you can find a surprise shopping spree.

David Morris is the Sun’s consumer advocate. Contact him c/o the Sun, 23170 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980; email dmorris@sun-herald.com; or leave a message at 941-206-1114.

Reader Advocate

FREE CATARACT SURGERY!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MISSION CATARACT 2018

Every year, Center For Sight participates in Mission Cataract, an annual event where we perform 100 free sight-saving cataract surgeries for people without means to pay.

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