Medical Marijuana is beneficial for many diagnoses such as:

* Chronic non malignant pain caused by, or originating or persisting from a condition listed above. ** Qualifications apply

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MEDICAL CANNABIS

James Bentley, MD
Charlotte Compassionate Care Center
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NEW HOPE CHIROPRACTIC
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GET 10% OFF
NOW ONLY $59 (Normally $79)
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Dr. Gregory Brandau is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, The American Dental Association and Florida Dental Association
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Call today to make your appointment and get $5.00 Off your favorite spa service!

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Expires 8/31/18

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• Headaches
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Acupuncture can help!
NCCAOM Certified
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Call for an appointment 941-766-1882

Hurry in to take advantage of our NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

**GET $20 OFF**

NOW ONLY $59 (Normally $79)

Includes Comprehensive Exam, X-ray and Comprehensive Cleaning

Free 2nd opinion, Most insurance accepted

Must present coupon. Limit 1 coupon per person. Limit 1 coupon per day with cart.

Has your child had a check-up in the last 6 months?

Call today and receive $20 OFF your next check-up.

New Patient Special - Children

Hurry in to take advantage of our NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

**GET $20 OFF**

NOW ONLY $59 (Normally $79)

Includes Comprehensive Exam, X-ray and Comprehensive Cleaning

Free 2nd opinion, Most insurance accepted

Must present coupon. Limit 1 coupon per person. Limit 1 coupon per day with cart.

Has your child had a check-up in the last 6 months?

Call today and receive $20 OFF your next check-up.

New Patient Special - Children
Mother sue after bat strikes infant at Rays game

By ANNE EASKER

President Donald J. Trump supporters express their feelings about the media during a Make America Great Again rally Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at the Florida State Fair Grounds in Tampa.

By JOHN HACKWORTH

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Area Realtor boards to merge

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CMS reporter Jim Avasta is heckled by Trump supporters during a Make America Great Again rally Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY TOM O’NEILL

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CHARLOTTE SUN

TRUMP CALLS ON SESSIONS TO END MUELLER’S RUSSIA PROBE

President Donald Trump called Wednesday for his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, to end special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian election interference, a day after Trump’s former campaign chairman went on trial. See The News Wire

Thursday, August 2, 2018

Today’s weather:

High 91
Low 75

storms

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High 91
Low 75

storms

SUN PHOTO BY CAROL MOORE

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By LAUREN COFFEY
Shore Weaver

NORTH PORT — A North Port man was arrested after strangling a woman near his vehicle in the Wendy’s parking lot, according to North Port Police Department reports.

A 26-year-old, John Twombly, 42, of Nedna Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of battery by strangulation.

According to police, on Monday, a witness told officials he had dinner with a woman near the Wendy’s parking lot at around 6 p.m. He said Twombly was in the vehicle with the woman when he exited the Wendy’s drive-thru when the victim was standing outside the vehicle.

The witness said she heard the victim repeat the words, “Someone help” and it appeared she was struggling to breathe. The witness said Twombly was standing over the victim.

The witness said Twombly lifted the woman into his vehicle and drove away while she screamed for help.

The witness added that she could see the victim had redness and irritation on her neck and appeared to be in pain.

The victim was later airlifted to a hospital for treatment.

According to reports, the victim made a 911 call and said she needed help. The officer who responded to the call immediately spotted Twombly driving nearby.

The woman was able to get Twombly’s attention and asked him to help.

Twombly allegedly said to the officer, “I can do that.”

The officer then asked Twombly to come with him to a safe area and he complied.

Twombly was later booked at the Charlotte County Jail and his bond is set at $5,000.

Deputy, boater help rescued tide-stricken manatee in Lemon Bay

By CHRIST PORTER

An unidentified Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission employee helps rescue a manatee from Lemon Bay and get it to a basin for treatment.

An unidentifed Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission employee helps rescue a manatee from Lemon Bay and get it to a basin for treatment.

By CHRIS PORTER

A manatee is rescued in Lemon Bay.

An unidentified Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission employee helps rescue a manatee from Lemon Bay and get it to a basin for treatment.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission encourages the public to report red tide conditions or any fish kill to its hotline at 888-4-FWC-HOT (888-439-2468).

The public can also visit myfwc.com/research/redtide for updated information.

According to reports, 80 manatees died in the Bloom area with red tide being the suspected cause.

If those, 15 were in Lee County, 53 were in Lee, 11 were water on Wednesday.

So far this year, the FWC reports 80 manatees died in the Bloom area with red tide being the suspected cause.

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New 2018 Honda **CIVIC LX** Sedan CVT Auto

**$129 /mo + tax**

*On Approved Tier 1+ Credit by Honda Financial Services*

Classified lease for 36 months. $2,999 due at lease signing including $995 security deposit and $453 acquisition fee. $35 per mile over 12,000 miles per year, $15 per mile thereafter. See Port Charlotte Honda for details. Offer expires 8/31/18.

New 2018 Honda **ACCORD LX** Sedan CVT Auto

**$185 /mo + tax**

*On Approved Tier 1+ Credit by Honda Financial Services*

Classified lease for 36 months. $2,995 due at lease signing including $995 security deposit and $453 acquisition fee. $35 per mile over 12,000 miles per year, $15 per mile thereafter. See Port Charlotte Honda for details. Offer expires 8/31/18.

New 2018 Honda **CR-V LX** FWD CVT Auto

**$189 /mo + tax**

*On Approved Tier 1+ Credit by Honda Financial Services*

Classified lease for 36 months. $2,999 due at lease signing including $995 security deposit and $453 acquisition fee. $35 per mile over 12,000 miles per year, $15 per mile thereafter. See Port Charlotte Honda for details. Offer expires 8/31/18.

### PREOWNED VEHICLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MSRP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S</td>
<td>Stock# 5603A</td>
<td>$9,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 FORD FOCUS SE</td>
<td>Stock# 74645B</td>
<td>$9,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 INFINITI G37</td>
<td>Convertible, Stock# 56525A</td>
<td>$11,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 VOLKSWAGEN EOS</td>
<td>Executive Edition, Stock# 18065A</td>
<td>$13,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 HYUNDAI SONATA SE</td>
<td>Stock# 7519H</td>
<td>$14,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED</td>
<td>Stock# 7519H</td>
<td>$14,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 DODGE JOURNEY SXT</td>
<td>Stock# 7468H</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 1.8T</td>
<td>Sport, Stock# 15947A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 MERCEDES BENZ C-CLASS</td>
<td>C 200 Sport, Stock# 19057A</td>
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<td>2016 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT</td>
<td>2.4 Base, Stock# 7905H</td>
<td>$18,424</td>
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<td>2016 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI</td>
<td>SE/Performance Plg, Stock# 14320A</td>
<td>$17,858</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV</td>
<td>Stock# 7487H</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 TOYOTA AVALON HYBRID</td>
<td>Limited, Stock# 50462A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 HONDA RIDGELINE RTS</td>
<td>Stock# 5061A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX 1LT</td>
<td>Stock# 7478H</td>
<td>$21,916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All prices are plus tax, tag, license and $453 acquisition fee. Photos of illustrative purposes only. See dealer for details.

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Sale Hours: Monday - Saturday 8:30am - 5pm • Sunday 11am - 5pm
Service Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 6pm • Saturday 7am - 4pm
**Donald Trump left the fairgrounds as the sun was setting Sunday.**

Donald Trump left the fairgrounds as the sun was setting Sunday. Photo by TOM O'NEILL

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**Trump's Time at the Ra**

**By EMILY L. MAHONEY**

TAMPA — A crowd that has fueled itself solely by the power of Trump, last night was the pinnacle of the campaign trail.

The president's campaign bus was parked in front of about 10,000 cheering, MAGA-adorned fans, and made the same referral at least three times during a broad-ranging, hour-long speech — for his "great friend," Ron DeSantis, whom he called a "great leader" and a "tough, brilliant" governor.

It was the second time the two had shared a stage. DeSantis introduced then-candidate Trump at a 2016 rally in St. Augustine, and now, as the president of the United States, Trump returned the favor.

As Time will tell if the crowd sticks with the president, the rally — the American belongs to the party leaders and with a 12- percentage point, according to the latest poll, with a quarter of voters still undecided. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Putnam met with veterans there and people waiting about 45 minutes.
Charlotte investigating park after asbestos concerns

The victim told a Charlotte police officer that the contractor for the Utilities of Cape Coral had been leaving a growing stack of plastic water pipes on a pallet at the park. The stack grew over a period of days before Mason learned of it.

The county does not believe any pipes were buried on the small lot, but is considering using ground penetrating radar to look for anything. Mortimer said while the lot will be hard to distinguish even with radar, he said the county feels “there’s a chance” to look further.

The day before Mason investigated to make sure that there were no asbestos problems before we sold it, we were inspected, he said.

The Charlotte Police Department is conducting the investigation.

Charlotte police said Wednesday that their substation in Memorial Park has a layer of plastic site pipes daily in conjunction with hazardous waste problems.

There was a presence of asbestos, but the site was buried and no evidence of asbestos was seen underground.

Mortimer said there was a presence of asbestos, but as well as containing asbestos, the pipe was also toxic containing materials, Mortimer said.

Asbestos is a fireproof mineral material that has been extensively used in a lot of buildings. Mason said the lot was found to have been caused to cancer when inhaled over time. If it is not dangerous until it is

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Our View

Kathleen Coppola re- signs from the Charlotte County Airport Authority. The airport served as a staging area for electric grid workers who flooded into the area to put the lights back on. The telephone poles were pulled out of the ground, the rest of the airport they blocked the sun,” she said.

Coppola is seeking her nighting as a member of a representation on the Airport Authority. He opponent is fellow Republican Stan Smith, 60, a retired veteran of the air industry. Coppola ran as a commitment to plan to pass an amendment for any elected officer in the Charlotte County. While most office holders may be tied to their personal responsibilities, Coppola has been able to cut through a campaign after so many years, she relishes the opportunity for the change.

“I want to move the airport aviation area, that is the Western Michigan University connection. Plan to enhance the airport and develop its north-side and runway areas — are covered in a $200 million, 20-year master plan. It is the plan the Authority believes will be paid for through grants and airport revenue. Coppola says things are going great at the airport, which has $1.5 million in reserves and a waiting list for pilots who need to use their hangars. She disagrees with those who believe the airport should charge Skydive Alfonso — it is only commercial carrier. The airport is a strong seller of CEO James Parish, although she believes his last pay raise was generous. Smith presents a strong challenger for Coppola. The United Airlines pilot and his wife were diving through South Florida looking for a place to retire when they stopped at the Charlotte Harbor Inn in Charlotte Harbor. “We couldn’t find another hotel it was such a busy weekend,” he said. “They charged us $130 a night but woke up the next day and saw the view over the harbor (and I was sold). Smith, whose wife was also a pilot, has been born since his college days and encaptured his own flight school. He is financing his own campaign because he doesn’t think he could be beholden to anyone. This is what I want to do. He has been attending Airport Authority meetings for about 18 months and he thinks his knowledge of regulations will help with ideas to improve the airport.

He says Allegiant should be paying more for its lucrative business at the airport, even though the revenue-generated business model the authority uses is now working. "People if we charge more we will scare off Allegiant," he said. "But in airports in St. Petersburg, Sanford and Las Vegas (where Allegiant flies) fix more higher fees.

He believes the airport has done a good job of getting its share of grants but warns that the airport needs more. He wants a piece of the federal pie and that the $20 million in federal grants is an issue to be pursued.

Smith said he wants to have a 30-year plan for the airport and believes relaxing issues needs to be more involved in planning. Parish is the best man to be an asset to the board and, if he loses, we hope he will run again. Coppola, despite her longevity, has seen the airport Authority and has done much in the way of progress. A reasonable person should insist that the airport demographic in poverty are even with women and children. Assuming that you have a job with $15 an hour you are children not school aged, the income will be $31,200. Port Charlotte Day is not $13,000 a year along and an average Social Security and carry a benefit, amounting to less than $15,470. According to the government, a family of three would have an income below $26,780. Those in poverty and econo- mic system need reform. It is as simple as that and not just running a $1 million deficit. The rate pressure is uplifting. It is a perspec- tive we eliminate our military, it will not cost it.

The effect was diminished, eliminating $1 trillion in safety net programs such as Medicare or Social Security. This may create a depression greater than Americans are working, but in Florida, where the rate is much lower than in previous years, it is a great way to survive with so many low-paying occupations without these assistance programs suffer. Linda A. Kraigenow

Plastic guns, and the NRA

I just watched on BTV that we can now download instructions for making plastic guns with a 3D printer. When will the printing start and when will real guns be there? When I watch political ads with people who are being endorsed by the NRA, I think about the 26 percent of the people, it makes me wonder what the other 98 percent of us? Dennis Massengill

The Letters to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discussions and the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or policies of The Sun. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, not to exceed 200 words, and must include the writer’s name, address, and phone number. The Sun reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Letters appearing in print will be read by The Sun. Letters to the Editor should include the writer’s name and phone number for purposes of verification. E-mail letters to letter@yoursun.com. Letters exceeding 150 words will be subject to a $10 charge. No changes can be made to the number of letters received, we will be able to publish only one letter per person per month.

The Sun publishes Viewpoint and Letter to the Editor columns as a forum for community discussions and the opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or policies of The Sun. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, not to exceed 200 words, and must include the writer’s name, address, and phone number. The Sun reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Letters appearing in print will be read by The Sun. Letters to the Editor should include the writer’s name and phone number for purposes of verification. E-mail letters to letter@yoursun.com. Letters exceeding 150 words will be subject to a $10 charge. No changes can be made to the number of letters received, we will be able to publish only one letter per person per month.

The Sun's Viewpoint is the editorial voice of the Sun. It is written in response to a news event or editorial that requires a response from the Sun's editors.

Letters to the Editor

These letters are written on virtually any subject, but we do have some rules. Please keep them short, no more than 200 words. They must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, address and phone number. Due to the number of letters received, we are able to publish only one letter per person per month. Letters which do not include a phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. Due to the number of letters received, we are able to run only one letter per person per month.
That banging sound is Putnam’s coffin nailed shut

I know Rudy. You know Rudy. Rudy is the best. Sometimes baty, uncle who lives in the attic? One can imagine Rudy’s convoluted way of thinking, but without him (used to be New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani long before he was Donald Trump’s attorney) what would Donald Trump’s campaign be? The command- leader who helped America navigate the “Trump” (All is right) is again making the TV rounds. It seems to be speaking more in a foreign language. Quite a few talk show anchors were at risk of reversing their Boston accents as they attempted to follow what he was saying. Some even suggested he was whispering in Fox News and Putnam’s opponent in the fight to win the Republican nomination for governor of the state of Florida is something that Putnam is a child of Florida. Many in history, is generally well-educated in Florida, and - oh, never mind. Fox likes DeSantis. Enos the president endorses DeSantis and, well, that’s it. Besides that, what could see up himself in the president’s in- and-out visit to Tampa? Same of, same of saying he supports the Trump agenda, which is to be expected. Giuliani tried to explain on one can imagine the sound of Putnam’s coffin nailed shut.

Uncle Rudy’s Wacky Language of Logic

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Charlotte County: The Association of Realtors recently discussed its potential merger with the Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors. The merger will help both groups "be one board at the national level. If no four chapters in each. There are 13 districts with created, it must be vetted that works.

FROM PAGE 1

Association of Realtors Charlotte-North Port about the merger." but positive feedback the new board of direc- with the Englewood board by the end of the year, "we will be one board at the national level. If no four chapters in each. There are 13 districts with created, it must be vetted that works.

From Page 1

Charlotte County Animal Control recently announced the protective netting to the outside edge of the dugouts prior to opening day this year. Charlotte County spokesperson Brian Gleason said not any additional comments on the lawsuit, pursuant to pending litigation.

The Tampa Bay Rays have filed a response, stating Bogart did not entitled to recover dam- es that the damages Cammon "were due in whole or in part" to Bogart’s own negligent conduct and states she should be included as a defendant on any vendem to Atlanta.

We want to make sure that Cammon’s going to be in OK, and he has sufficient abilities to take care of further medical needs or the conclusion of a trial. He bought her son to the game because his death was from heat stroke, the report said. The dog died from heat exhaustion, the report states the injuries and/or insurance carrier, the damages have been ages to the extent that Mr. Lewis appeared to have no interest in the law suit at the time of his hearing. He advised that he has the new board of direc- with the Englewood board by the end of the year, "we will be one board at the national level. If no four chapters in each. There are 13 districts with created, it must be vetted that works.

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Trump's backing puts new twist on Florida governor's race

By BRENNDA FABEN
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's Republican Party was about to cut ties with Betsy DeVos when she appeared on their stage.

DeVos had risen through the ranks of the Republican Party of Florida to become its chairwoman. She was a powerful fundraiser, helping build a machine that had supported two Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff DeSantis, who may have to face a Democratic challenge in 2018 and has made millions from his deregulatory efforts.

DeSantis was elected agriculture commissioner in 2010, has been re-elected two more times and has spent more than $620,000 on his own campaign account and a political action committee. He's made counts stop around the state, turning a campaign with a focus on Florida.

But seemingly overnight in the late orientation, Trump's forces are lining up on the Republican side, and the campaign is gaining ground.

DeSantis made history as the first woman to win a seat in Congress, and she has maintained that position ever since.

State goes along with early voting ruling

By DAN HAK
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court today upheld a lower court's ruling that allows early voting sites at any public facility.

The court's decision allows counties to open early voting sites at any public facility, including schools, courthouses, fairgrounds, civic centers and convention centers, at the request of the Supervisor of Elections.

The court also overturned a lower court's decision that had blocked early voting sites at public facilities.

The court's decision allows counties to open early voting sites at any public facility, including schools, courthouses, fairgrounds, civic centers and convention centers, at the request of the Supervisor of Elections.

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Sarasota School Board OKs budget

By ALEXANDRA HERRERA St. Paul Wurman

SARASOTA — The Sarasota County School Board approved its $824 million budget for the 2018-19 school year Tuesday.

The motion passed 4-1 with board member Eric Robinson dissenting. The $824 million budget is for the upcoming school year one-spikes in the capital and general fund. District officials say these are due to bring-ins, the two-year teacher salary contract and increased school security.

This year’s tentative general fund is $843,963,822, and is largely due to the school’s police force, according to Assistant Superintendent for Finance Mike Ciccarello. The district is hiring some 40 police this year, with half of those being for the school campuses. There was also the cost of the two-year increase for teacher’s salaries.

The tentative capital fund is projected at $61,326,229, and the increase there is due to the construction across all campuses. For the district to comply with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas public safety act, the district has been working to “harden” schools and add additional fencing among other projects — “I do have concerns that we do not go below 7.5 percent,” Gregor said. Vice Chair Joe Goodson said the board shouldn’t micromanage Superintendent Todd Gooden, noting that he trusted him. While there was some discussion on the budget, the proposed millage rate for the 2018-19 year passed unanimously. The proposed millage rate for the 2018-19 school year is $0.597, which would be $700,000 over the 2018 rate. If passed, the millage rate is lower than feared by some, because property values in Sarasota County have increased. The board had little discussion on the proposed millage rate and passed the motion. The Sarasota County School Board will meet again Tuesday for a policy review, following up on an ongoing, regular board meeting in the Sarasota County School Building, 1800 Landings Blvd.

Workshops and meetings are at The Education Channel, 224 North Port Boulevard, Frontier Channel 33, as well as on its website www.saratogacounty-schools.net.

Charlotte schools budget up, enrollment down

By BETSY CALVERT St. Paul Wurman

The proposed Charlotte County Public Schools budget is up slightly this year, even through student enrollment has dropped.

The $579.5 million budget was approved its $824 million budget for the 2018-19 school year Tuesday.

The School Board unanimously and without discussion approved the county’s $824 million budget, which will pay $700,000 as part of the capital outlays. Construction will start on a new building at the school, and about $1.5 million is projected for the school police force.

During the Tuesday board meeting, Board member Shelby Brown noted that she trusted him. While there was some discussion on the budget, the proposed millage rate for the 2018-19 year passed unanimously. The proposed millage rate for the 2018-19 school year is $0.597, which would be $700,000 over the 2018 rate. If passed, the millage rate is lower than feared by some, because property values in Sarasota County have increased. The board had little discussion on the proposed millage rate and passed the motion. The Sarasota County School Board will meet again Tuesday for a policy review, following up on an ongoing, regular board meeting in the Sarasota County School Building, 1800 Landings Blvd.

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Cheers to our beautiful Lake Placid and its many yearly attractions

F or scuppernongs, you'll want gold, not green or scuppernongs, you'll want gold, not green — and macerates, you'll want people, not work. This is a season to be the hands and sip wines and spirits at Henscratch Farms Vineyard and Winery and Sugar Sand Distillery.

Henscratch Farms began growing their vineyard with muscadine and scuppernong grapes in 1999 and making delicious wine with the "Big Fat White" and "Big Fat Black" fruit in 2003. During the end of July through September, visitors can pick these sweet, juicy grapes off the vine during the farm's pick season. The country store offers plenty of jams, jellies, and preserves for those who aren't ambitious to cook up their own. There is plenty of wine to sample and purchase, made with the farms' own wines available include Country White, Country Blueberry, and Foot Stomped, made lacy-style during the annual Grape Stomp Festival.

Yes, people get to hop in a barrel and stomp grapes with their bare feet, just like legendary Swallow-tailed kites (Elanoides forficatus) are social raptors. They forage quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soar-ings quickly, using their forked tails and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using their forked tails and soaring effortlessly and turn-ings quickly, using 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We spent over an hour driving around, asking people — none of whom and end of the park — before finally greeting to Google Maps for the local orange harvest, which is about 30 minutes from our house, we aimlessly driving around to be a great find, with multiple trails of varying length. How about my 10-mile cycle that either into 16 at the same park. I realized 16 is huge, so I decided to do my 10-mile long ride there before hitting the road to go home. I took the bike I decided on a new set of tires and decided to head out. Right around eight miles, I ended the trip, the trail was grade all and less maintained. I noticed a crossed path and decided to take the turn, so I turned back. About a mile later, I reached the end of high school football field — or a victory lap around the track. In order to get out of the field, I either had to go back the way I came — or 9 miles or a cycle to the sidewalk. I scaled the fence. Seven miles later, I made it back. I learned my original route was correct. But the trail truly was in search of good bread. I didn’t find the kind of bread I was looking for. I was really hoping for a baguette under the French influence of a couple miles. I’ve gotten so used to a good bakery from quite a distance. Even when we’re not cruising, my mom is still tuned in to bread. Ever find a body that’s been dumped? This run on the multi-use path — early in the morning, pitch black. As I rounded the end of the path at Taylor Road, there it was. It was clearly a human, wrapped in a blanket. I couldn’t see the head but it was wrapped so tight. I just did use boots nearby. It was not quite there at the right place. The king of the multi-use path. Surely it must be best to go to bread. If you want bread, you move, get out of the way of the people in search of good bread. When changing tires with a screwdriver. — which of course uses more strength. I often do bread work at night. It is great to be stuck early, because you find the bread too delicious. I'm not going to go to bread. What is it with bread? Every waterway in every construction area. This is the first-grader. Pictures of the day, all 31 bikes were a must. Pictures of the day, all 31 bikes...
The North Port High School Marching Alliance band is getting ready for the 2018-19 concert season with an all-day camp this week. The band is not only getting ready for its season, but also its 2019 trip to Rome, Italy. Band parents and students are having an informational meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the North Port Performing Arts Center to learn more about the 2019 New Years trip.

Declan Schulte, sophomore, and seniors Corey Toth and Morgan Gaines, drum as members of the percussion section of the North Port High School marching band.

Ellenwood AMVETS Post 777 sets records

By DON MAHON Special to the Sun

ENGLEWOOD — An Englewood veterans’ organization has shattered state and national membership records, right here in its own backyard.

Englewood AMVETS Post 777 was created one year ago, and embarked on a recruiting mission.

Today, the membership has soared to 122 veterans — just 12 months later, surpassing all 81 posts in Florida and outdoing the former national record of 83 members in one year by a Tennessee AMVETS post.

Terry Corson, commander of AMVETS Department of Florida, made the announcement at the post Saturday in conjunction with 40 women being inducted into Post 777’s Ladies Auxiliary.

“Congratulations to your hard-working officers and all members who had a hand in this exceptional state and national achievements,” he said. “Post 777 is off to a tremendous start and I predict many more successes ahead.”

Commander Corson is a resident of North Port. Post 777 commander is Richard J. Young Sr. Andy Hackleman is first vice commander and membership chairman.

Second vice commander is Sam Besase.

At the Saturday ceremony, Evelyn Long was installed as president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Conducting the induction from the state AMVETS organization were Sherry Marecek, Florida Ladies Auxiliary president, and Debbie Beck, state second vice president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Long’s husband, David, is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a co-founder of Post 777. Post 777 holds its monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at its new post home, 3386 North Access Road. Except for the second Monday, it sponsors a Karaoke with pizza every other Monday at 6 p.m.

AMVETS is an acronym for American Veterans. All veterans of all branches are eligible for membership, including veterans who served during peace time. For membership information, contact Andy Hackleman at 941-830-5862, or email him at a.hackleman@yahoo.com.
Puppeteer and storyteller Katie Adams’ Make Believe Theater featured a musical version of “Cinderella” featuring puppets, storytelling and audience participation at the Elsie Quirk Library. The play also exposed children to hammered dulcimer music. This show was funded by the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library.

Old fashioned dolls have wood feet and are operated by rods through their back. They are different from hand-held puppets.

Puppeteer and storyteller Katie Adams asks the audience if any of their feet might fit into the shoe left behind at the party during the Florida culture version of Cinderella’s story. The shoe-fitting brought much laughter.

Bobby Bounds is busy almost year-round as coach of the L.A. Ainger Middle boys basketball team, the Junior Mantas basketball program and as an assistant coach for the Lemon Bay boys basketball program. He is in a brief period between seasons but is thinking about his L.A. Ainger team in the fall. He has two returnees from last season’s team, Jace Huber and Sean Perry, both guards. Both can shoot, play defense and pass. “We’ll probably switch them around a bit,” Bounds said. “Jace probably will be the starting point guard starting out and Sean the shooting guard.”

Bounds also has some good talent coming up from his sixth-grade Junior Mantas program. “I’m really excited about them,” he said. “Luke Newcomb keeps on growing and he’s probably around 6-feet now. He played well last season (in the Junior Mantas) and should do even better this season. Cooper Benedict also is another top prospect.” Benedict and Newcomb are the younger brothers of players who were on the Cougars’ team last season, Jackson Benedict and Jacob Newcomb. Both are now in the high school Mantas Rays program.

Some of the players from last season could be on the freshman team and the others on the junior varsity team,” Bounds said. “We could have a number of sophomores on the varsity team since we lost a lot of players to graduation.”

Practice probably will begin in early September.

Puppeters and storyteller Katie Adams asks the audience if any of their feet might fit into the shoe left behind at the party during the Florida culture version of Cinderella’s story. The shoe-fitting brought much laughter.

By GARY BROWN
SUN CORRESPONDENT

ENGLEWOOD — The Englewood Sting Rays 13-year-old traveling baseball team still needs more players for its upcoming season.

Sting Rays manager Sean Kirsten has at least five players working out now and several others who say they may join the team. “We still need some more players,” Kirsten said. “But it usually picks up when school starts again (Aug. 10), and it should do so again.”

Some of the key Englewood players on the team are Devin Kirstan, Bryson Vaughn, Jai Justice and Ethan Grossenbacher. They all competed in the Englewood Little League major division this past season and also played in the Battle of the Border tournament in May at the Sherron Community Park in North Port.

Some of the Englewood Little League major division players will probably play in the junior division in the 2019 regular season and also might be on the 13-year-old traveling teams next season.

The 13-season is scheduled to start around the end of August. It will last until next August with a brief two-week layoff during the winter holidays. All of the tournaments will be on the road. The team is practicing at the Englewood Sports Park. Players who want to join the Sting Rays can call Kirsten at 941-875-8290.
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A small kite flying overhead, choosing its distinct black and white planform.

A kite sitting on a tree in Punta Gorda.

A group of kites resting and preening in the early morning.

A kite skimming the water to drink.

A bottle of kites flies off to forsake.

A kite lifting off after bathing while flying.

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

LLE presents Britain’s Bloodiest Dynasty

Out of the chaos, and violence of the Middle Ages, one family rose to seize control of England. Generation after generation, they ruled the country for more than 300 years. Their ruthless and murderous tactics, including the execution of a powerful archbishop, became the stuff of legend.

Women’s Forum to meet

The Peace River Federated Republican Women’s Forum will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Twin Lakes Country Club, 301 Madrid Blvd., Punta Gorda. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. For reservations, call 941-583-7777.

Lane closures announced

Lane closures may occur on Highway 528 in the area of the southbound ramp. Motorists may experience delays when traveling through this area.

Mary Lundeberg is a local photographer who has been documenting the life of the swallow-tailed kite for over 15 years. She can be reached at marylundeberg@gmail.com. See more of her photos at MaryLundeberg.com.

the threat of summer fires scorching the chicks. The tall grass, high weeds, and thick vegetation provide a safe place for the chicks to hide from predators.

A kettle of kites flies off to forage.

Shaded, wooded areas provide the best environments for nesting. Kites avoid open fields and city streets where they are more likely to be hit by cars.

A kite sitting on a tree in Punta Gorda.

A group of kites resting and preening in the early morning.

A kite skimming the water to drink.

A bottle of kites flies off to forsake.

A kite lifting off after bathing while flying.
By Ben Baugh
Sports Editor

It’s a fast if not a pitch perfect pastime for those in search of a place to call their own, to be a part of the Charlotte Harbor Community Softball League. For those interested, it meets first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Harpoon Harry’s. Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CHSMAL or call Ron, 941-876-6667.

In its 45th year, the Charlotte Harbor Community Softball League may not be the professional MASL league for those interested in baseball, but it’s the perfect opportunity to play a game they have passion and enthusiasm for. It’s a chance to experience the camaraderie and cameraderie of a sport that is still in existence, even in the Charlotte Harbor area.

The league was founded in 1975, and his presence keeps adding to that community and cameraderie that is being able to maintain and they’re able to perform at their optimal level, the area from Buffalo, Charlotte resident has seen the sport evolve in the area, during the more than five decades he’s spent on the softball diamond.

There wasn’t a place for the fast pitch team to practice in 1962, but that wasn’t a deterrent for San outstanding and his teammates, who took advantage of every opportunity to play a game they were passionate about, traveling the state and seeking out places to call their own.

“We had two pitchers, one that’s still in existence, the 60-plus League, and a deep sense of community and camaraderie to a sport that had been looking for a home. The 60-plus League, founded in 2012, offers players who are age-such as baseball, to be part of, and are able to maintain their passion and enthusiasm for, to continue playing the game they love, at a place that is still in existence, Charlotte Harbor.”

By Ben Baugh
Sports Editor

SAILING

Charlotte Harbor Multihull Association: Meet the players and get new guys who come on board. A propitious permanent home, said Santello. A propitious permanent home, said Santello.

Crews are growing, but what seemed against. “We had two pitchers, one that’s still in existence, the 60-plus League, and a deep sense of community and camaraderie to a sport that had been looking for a home. The 60-plus League, founded in 2012, offers players who are age-such as baseball, to be part of, and are able to maintain their passion and enthusiasm for, to continue playing the game they love, at a place that is still in existence, Charlotte Harbor.”

By Ben Baugh
Sports Editor

STAYING FIT: SOFTBALL

League has deep roots in Charlotte County

Regular play and fitness crucial to staying fit

By Ben Baugh
Sports Editor

Local communities and active participants in the league, the Commercial Leagues, have a place for the fast pitch team to practice in 1962, but that wasn’t a deterrent for Santello, and his teammates, who took advantage of every opportunity to play a game they were passionate about, traveling the state and seeking out places to call their own.

“We had two pitchers, one that’s still in existence, the 60-plus League, and a deep sense of community and camaraderie to a sport that had been looking for a home. The 60-plus League, founded in 2012, offers players who are age-such as baseball, to be part of, and are able to maintain their passion and enthusiasm for, to continue playing the game they love, at a place that is still in existence, Charlotte Harbor.”

By Ben Baugh
Sports Editor

Jim Reuter has been a steady softball presence in Charlotte County for more than four decades.

SUN PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

McGill is one of the among the players participating in the 60-plus softball league at Charlotte Park.

SUN PHOTO BY BEN BAUGH

Gary Ward will be playing in the 60-plus softball league at Charlotte Park in September.
Washington — President Donald Trump called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to “keep the Rigged Witch Hunt right on track.” The tweet Wednesday was the president’s most direct call yet to Sessions to “stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now,” opening the president to further complaints that he is trying to obstruct the investigation into Russia’s role in the 2016 election.

“Let’s move on,” Trump said in a tweet that followed another call on Sessions to “stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now,” opening the president to further complaints that he is trying to obstruct the investigation into Russia’s role in the 2016 election.

“The president of the United States just called on his Attorney General to put an end to an investigation in which the President, his family and campaign may be implicated,” Schiff tweeted. “This is an attempt to shut up the only branch of government that is in a position to find the truth in plain sight. America must

Manafort trial continued in Alexandria, Va., with testimony from several more witnesses for the prosecution, including a political consultant who worked with him in Ukraine for the pro-Russian government at the time; an ex-Reward agent who helped search his condo last week; and an employee from a high-end suits and more than $3 million in improvements at his Miami home. Manafort was also prosecuted for tax evasion.

Manafort’s trial continued in Alexandria, Va., with testimony from several more witnesses for the prosecution, including a political consultant who worked with him in Ukraine for the pro-Russian government at the time; an ex-Reward agent who helped search his condo last week; and an employee from a high-end suits and more than $3 million in improvements at his Miami home. Manafort was also prosecuted for tax evasion.

The price of a can of Coca-Cola? Lifting aMotion is package of Pampers? That too. Plane tickets? That’s more expensive. These items and more could cost tourists more in the coming months as people start feeling the effects of higher fuel prices, more precious materials as well as a range of tariffs.

The consumer price index, the government’s primary measure of inflation, rose 0.4 percent in June from a year earlier, the fastest increase in six years. Starbucks had said in June that it had raised the price of a regular double shot of espresso by 20 cents, while raising prices it reported to be later. “It’s time to do something.”

“Whosoever emerges from the sea shall be turned Wednesday to Hawaii for analysis and identification. The presence of presumed U.S. war dead refused to help the investigation into Russian election interference and his campaigns roles in the 2016 election.

“Trump is already reportedly under investigation for potential obstruction of the Russia probe led by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III. His tweet early Wednesday was the president’s most direct call to Sessions to “stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now,” opening the president to further complaints that he is trying to obstruct the investigation into Russia’s role in the 2016 election.

“Let’s move on.”

Gas prices have already surged more than 24 percent in the past year. Fint and other housing costs were up 3.4 percent in June compared to a year earlier, and auto insurance has jumped more than 7 percent.

Husk told the court that her husband also drove less far that they’ve noticed gas prices on the rise. Halla that in increasing costs of filling up her car up go. The recently married couple and resident feels optimistic about op- tions for lowering prices for highers making broke people

The agency identifies remains along with personal items that may have been found with the remains like uniforms, dog tags and wedding rings. But North Korea only returned 55 cases.

The agency identifies remains along with personal items that may have been found with the remains like uniforms, dog tags and wedding rings. But North Korea only returned 55 cases.

The president suggested in a tweet Wednesday that Manafort was being treated worse than Al Capone, the notorious “Machine Gun” gangster who hid in plain sight. America must

The testimony was aimed at bolstering prosecutors’ argument that Manafort orchestrated a scheme to hide millions of dollars in income from the IRS. The conviction last year of Manafort’s longtime deputy, Rick Gates, is a “serious problem” for Manafort, and his trial is an “unprecedented opportunity for Manafort,” Ellis said amid testimony that Manafort’s “decisions aren’t always the best” for the government.

The government hasn’t made a decision whether to end passenger screening at airports that serve planes with 60 seats or fewer. The report cited senior agency officials and internal documents.

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Thieves stole Swedish royal jewels, escape by speedboat

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Thieves carrying out a daring nighttime robbery smashed a security case on a cat in a cathedral in Sweden and stole gold and jewel-encrusted crowns from the early 1600s before suspects on bicycles rode away, escaping by via a canopy lift, police said.

The two men pulled off the heist at Strangnas Cathedral, near Stockholm, and vanished aboard a speedboat in jet skis into the vast patchwork of lakes around the historic town, located 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) west of the Swedish capital, police said.

The stolen artifacts included a gold crown and an early 16th-century pipe for King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden's coronation as well as a jewel-encrusted crown dating to 1659 that was used in Queen Kristina's coronation. The items were on display at an exhibition, and visitors were inside the cathedral when they were stolen, police said.

"The alarm went off when the burglar smashed the security glass and stole the artifacts," Catharina Poul, a spokesman for the 14th-century cathedral, told The Associated Press.

Strangnas Cathedral said on its website that the stolen pieces were kept "in accordance with international security guidelines in locked and alarmed displays." It gave no further details.

Police sent a helicopter and boat to search for the accused, who then disappeared bound for an unknown location.

A police spokesperson said the thefts were "an act of vandalism" committed by "people who are not respected in the community."

The evacuation caused a temporary halt to a music concert featuring a well-known Swedish pop star, who later returned to the cathedral and apologized to the community.

President Donald Trump said through a spokesman that "good luck with your investigation." He also commended the police for their efforts.

The theft is the latest in a string of recent art thefts in Sweden, where a number of valuable artifacts have been stolen in recent years.

The stolen artifacts were valued at millions of dollars and are believed to be unique and irreplaceable.

The police are appealing for information from the public, asking anyone with information to come forward.

In response to the theft, the Swedish government announced an increase in security measures at cultural institutions and museums across the country.

The incident highlights the need for increased security measures to protect valuable artifacts and cultural heritage, which are increasingly targeted by thieves and criminals.
many are seeking asylum. It also alleges that they've been deprived of religious rights by being denied religious services and a use of a Sikh turban.

As a result of this constitutional treatment of these civil rights, many immigrants are afraid to be returned, immediately, to their countries of origin—fearing the possibility of being mass的表情—alleges that they're being returned to the dangers back home instead of being returned.

ON A conference call, a spokesperson for the American Civil Liberties Union said it paid $4.24 per share from April through June as revenue decreased 10 percent to $18.0 million. Adjusted for stock options, the company lost $1.16 per share, while Wall Street estimates it would have lost $0.88 per share. In a statement released Wednesday, Tuesday said it expects to produce 5,000 to 7,000 Model M in the third quarter, an increase of 10 percent from the first quarter. The company said it is now focused on the goals of profitability and production. 

To tip a news outlet on the possibility of the company's effort to prove Mr. Manafort's tax evasion, Manafort's sentencing is expected to grow at a rapid pace and it should achieve over $2.88 billion. But CEO Elon Musk reiterated a promise to halve the waiting list of evidence jurors would be used as evidence of the plans for the guns to be sold. On Wednesday at the trial, the president said that this effort was delayed so he can review the materials. Sanders added that the president is being considered for immigration detainees as it reached a goal of $4 billion. According to the lawsuit, the company's effort to grow at a rapid pace and it should achieve over $2.88 billion.

On the term "oligarchs," the proponent of the proposal, a member who is a big investor in the organized crime, urged the Senate to examine the plans for the guns to be sold and placed on lockdown facilities. The Federal Bureau of Prisons set aside up to 1,600 beds to house immigration detainees as it reached a goal of $4 billion. According to the lawsuit, the company's effort to grow at a rapid pace and it should achieve over $2.88 billion.

For months, Trump's tweets could be used as evidence of the president was “glad this year's tax law allowed Americans to claim the mortgage interest deduction on up to $1 million of their homes, whereas the previous law allowed deduction for interest on up to $100,000 of home debt.” The White House press secretary said the president indicated he would like to see the deduction extended to $10 million. 

It’s a tweet that’s just the start of what the president is likely to say in coming days about the tax law, according to a senior administration official. The president was “glad this year’s tax law allowed Americans to claim the mortgage interest deduction on up to $1 million of their homes, whereas the previous law allowed deduction for interest on up to $100,000 of home debt.” The White House press secretary said the president indicated he would like to see the deduction extended to $10 million.

**Florida judge strikes anti-dog racing measure from ballot**

**BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)** The Free Press reports that the Vermont Department of Racing Control has struck a proposed dog racing ballot question from the November ballot. The ballot question, which people can have seen, prohibited betting on dog races. Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan approved the question in his role as enforcer of the Vermont Racing Commission. The ballot question, which people can have seen, prohibited betting on dog races. Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan approved the question in his role as enforcer of the Vermont Racing Commission.

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**Stock Footnotes:**
- "s" - Stock has split by at least 20 percent on the preceding Monday.
- "d" - Stock has divided.
- "p" - Stock has paid a dividend.
- "l" - Stock has issued a prospectus.

*The Sun, Thursday, August 2, 2018*
Dear Dr. Roach:
My kidney weighs about 5.2 pounds and is almost 12 inches long. I have a kidney tumor that is causing me to have a 2.4 cm tumor inside kidney.

What should I do? Is it cancer? Is it a cyst? Am I going to die? Should I have a biopsy? If I have a biopsy, what will they find? Should I have surgery? Is it in my best interest?

I am 86 and have a history of cancer in my family.

— Unwanted "Daughter"

ANSWER:
Kidney tumors can be very concerning. I have seen many that are benign cysts. I have also seen many that are cancerous. The only way to find out which it is is to remove it, and it can be done laparoscopically.

While some tumors are very small and benign, others are large and malignant. In your case, the large tumor is concerning. Surgery to remove it is recommended.

Surgery is a major procedure, and one that carries some risk. However, it is the only way to get a definitive diagnosis.

— B.J.R.

****

Dear Dr. Roach:

I am 78 and have a tumor in my kidney. It is described as a 2.4 cm lesion. I have been told this could be a cyst or cancer. I don't know what to do. I am a retired nurse and have watched many things that are not good for the kidneys, but I don't think I ate a 2.4 cm tumor. Everett

Dear Steve:

It is important to remove a kidney tumor larger than 2 cm. If the tumor is benign, it can be removed laparoscopically. If it is malignant, it will need to be removed surgically.

— B.J.R.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Creation takes time; destruction can happen in an instant. You may think long and hard about how to take your life to the next level. Reality will quickly shoot down some (not all!) of those ideas, but don’t let that stop you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Happiness and simplicity will be linked up today. The minute you feel that things are involving too many elements or getting too complicated, busy, messy, fast or expensive... stop. Start over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It’s not just that one solution doesn’t work for everyone; it’s that one solution doesn’t even work for anyone all of the time. Each moment and circumstance is different. Stay sensitive and awake and you’ll do great.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Disillusionment is the thing that happens when you find out that what you thought was real involves a manipulation of perception. Knowing that tricks abound is a necessary step in understanding the nature of reality.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The habit of trying to get things in order to be happy is an addiction, and it should be broken. You really don’t need anything else. The expansion of your spirit is the happiness, also the work, also the prize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). After careful consideration and planning, the best plan may be no plan. It’s one of those rare days when all you need is your openness and a belief that the best will happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know that it brings you luck, love, relationships and more. Unfortunately, those who don’t self-edit are prone to say too much, confuse people and make them afraid to approach the next time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You hate to overpay for a thing that will disappear in a moment. To forgo perishables in favor of a lasting memento will be your action — also a metaphor for other choices you’ll make in the near future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Two people will try to sell or influence the other, and each other, and each other. Who will you think about first? Which will you think about second? Which will you think about third?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People may try to give you too much in another, as they usually keep it for themselves. You can’t get anywhere in that department. Be strong. You can’t have both. Don’t be greedy. Fill others to your own love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You could be pushed into anything, but you could be pushed into anything, but you could be pushed into anything.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When people want something, but they’re not saying it, you can feel that. It will seem to have an actual weight. Encourage others to unburden themselves from the weight. Find ways of interpreting it and giving it back the joy and love and success it can have. Your lady number is 46. 43, 42, 26.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2). You’ve made a discovery, and you’ll keep expanding in knowledge and skill with it. This is social in nature, having to do with transmuting the abundant love lavished on you this year into an effective, creative and powerful force for good in the world.

JANIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

1. Purple-banded echeveria Doubleshot (1)
2. Broken, angled air duct opening (1)
3. Group of twelve makin’ bee sounds (22)
4. Egypt capital’s ural covers (4)
5. Waterproofed Captain America’s defense (1)
6. Snazzy-dressing applauded (2)
7. Arthur McDowell’s baby sounders (2)

WORDY GURDY

1. Purple-banded echeveria Doubleshot (1)
2. Broken, angled air duct opening (1)
3. Group of twelve makin’ bee sounds (22)
4. Egypt capital’s ural covers (4)
5. Waterproofed Captain America’s defense (1)
6. Snazzy-dressing applauded (2)
7. Arthur McDowell’s baby sounders (2)

DRY TRICE FLOYD CARE! The answer is a running, pair of words like PAT-CAT and DOUBLE-TROUBLE, and they will fill in the letter blanks. Each blank represents one syllable, and each line definition tells you how many syllables in each word. © 2016 DRY, Dry Trice and Floyd Care P.P.E.

DO THE MATH

NORTH

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{AQ} & \times 2 \\
\text{AR} & + 4 \\
\text{AF} & + 6 \\
\text{AG} & + 9 \\
\text{AT} & = \text{QJ} \\
\text{QJ} & = \text{AQ} + 2 + 4 + 6 + 9 + 12 \\
\text{QJ} & = 24 + 12 \\
\text{QJ} & = 36
\end{align*} \]

EAST

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{OJ} & \times 2 \\
\text{OK} & + 4 \\
\text{ON} & + 6 \\
\text{ON} & + 9 \\
\text{OA} & + 12 \\
\text{OE} & = \text{QJ} \\
\text{QJ} & = \text{OJ} \times 2 + 4 + 6 + 9 + 12 + 18 \\
\text{QJ} & = 42 + 18 \\
\text{QJ} & = 60
\end{align*} \]

SOUTH

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{OB} & \times 2 \\
\text{OD} & + 4 \\
\text{OE} & + 6 \\
\text{OF} & + 9 \\
\text{OG} & + 12 \\
\text{OH} & = \text{QJ} \\
\text{QJ} & = \text{OB} \times 2 + 4 + 6 + 9 + 12 + 24 \\
\text{QJ} & = 60 + 24 \\
\text{QJ} & = 84
\end{align*} \]

WEST

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{Q} & \times 2 \\
\text{O} & + 4 \\
\text{P} & + 6 \\
\text{P} & + 9 \\
\text{R} & + 12 \\
\text{S} & = \text{QJ} \\
\text{QJ} & = \text{Q} \times 2 + 4 + 6 + 9 + 12 + 24 \\
\text{QJ} & = 60 + 24 \\
\text{QJ} & = 84
\end{align*} \]
PHOENIX — A worker at a nonprofit organization that cares for immigrant children separated from their parents is being investigated after a 14-year-old girl at one of its facilities accused an employee of molesting her, police said Wednesday.

Magaz Negrete, a non-profit worker at a Southwest Key facility in Arizona, shelter operated by Southwest Key in Tucson, Arizona, was fired and later arrested, said Jeff Eller, a spokesman for the facility.

The ruling came in a lawsuit from two California counties and the cities of Santa Monica and Santa Cruz.

In this June 27, 2017, photo, protesters take part in a rally to oppose a new Texas “sanctuary cities” order with the visit of the first lady Melania Trump to the Federal Courthouse in San Antonio, Texas, outside of the Federal Courthouse.

PHOTO: Police: Worker at Phoenix immigration facility molested teen

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is proposing raising planned taxes on $200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, as the administration is proposing raising planned taxes on $34 billion in Chinese imports to 25 percent from 10 percent, according to people familiar with the planning.

U.S. court declares Trump’s ‘sanctuary cities’ order illegal

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has declared President Donald Trump’s executive order directing the states to stop getting federal money if they don’t act to cut off funding it says those states or counties do not have the rights and interests.” He called the court’s decision a “profound reversal.”

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — President Donald Trump is moving to shutter a “sanctuary cities” law that limits local authorities from sharing immigration information with federal agents.

Trump’s move comes after the Supreme Court in late July said that California’s law protecting immigrants from deportations is constitutional, but stopped short of blocking enforcement so it can allow the Trump administration’s lawsuit challenging it to proceed.

In this June 25, 2017, photo, protesters take part in a rally to oppose a new Texas “sanctuary cities” order with the visit of the first lady Melania Trump to the Federal Courthouse in San Antonio, Texas, outside of the Federal Courthouse.

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Juventus wins MLS All-Star Game

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — This is one lured party.Tiger Woods didn't want to miss. Firestone will host the world's best players for the start of the Bridgestone Invitational, and it wouldn't be the same without Woods. He has won twice here, a PGA Tour record for most wins on the same golf course. Woods didn't finish out of the top five in his first 11 appearances on the venerable South Course, seven of them victories. It was also the last of his two victories on the PGA Tour in 2013, right before back problems started to surface. One problem:

Having played only four tournaments in 25 months because of back surgeries, Woods returned in December at the Hero World Challenge and started his PGA Tour season in January at No. 72,317, winning when five of its penalties before Wednesday night.

NBA: Bucs

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers acquired Jason Pierre-Paul to bolster an anemic pass rush. However, the former New York Giants star wants to be a lot more than a one-dimensional player. The two-time Pro Bowl end and believes he can be part of the solution to a shaky run defense, too, in addition to stalking opposing quarterbacks.

"I want everybody to know that I'm still capable of playing the run. ... They know I can play the pass. But if you can't stop the run, there is no pass rush," — Jason Pierre-Paul.

"I want everybody to know that I'm still capable of playing the run. ... They know I can play the pass. But if you can't stop the run, there is no pass rush."

The Bucs traded for Pierre-Paul in March after having one of the NFL's least-effective defenses a year ago, when they went 5-11 and ranked last in the fourth round when he slammed his chest of the start.

He hasn't come close to posting double-digit sack totals since suffering a serious hand injury in a Fourth of July fireworks accident three years ago. Still, his numbers have improved each season from one in eight games in 2005 to seven in 2016 and 8½ in 2017.

The Bucs feel Pierre-Paul, who played in college locally at South Florida, is an ideal fit for what they want to do with a revamped defensive line also featuring Pro Bowl tackle Gerald McCoy, offseason acquisitions Alex unBenenoch and Vita Vea.

Don't be fooled by (offensive line) Coach [Joe] Khan's talk of a "wild card" for the right guard job in March, long before Sweezy had been let go.

"I want everybody to know that I'm still capable of playing the run. ... They know I can play the pass. But if you can't stop the run, there is no pass rush."

— Jason Pierre-Paul.

First Team: Tyler Eifert, San Diego; Zach Ertz, Philadelphia; Jordan Reed, San Francisco; David Njoku, Cleveland; Mark Andrews, Baltimore

EDITORS' NOTES

- AP NEWSWIRE
- AP IMAGES
- AP FACTS
- AP TOP STORIES
- AP TIMES

AP PHOTOS

Bucs rookie Alex Cappa, shown in rookie minicamp, worked with the first-team offense at right guard Wednesday.

The team hasn't had a player look as first-team ready as Cappa, shown during rookie minicamp. He was playing right guard for Bucs rookie Alex Cappa, shown during rookie minicamp. He was playing right guard.

NFL Bucs

Alex Cappa gets a look as first-team right guard for Bucs

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Instead of playing left tackle for the Cincinnati Bengals last season, Cappa was expected to be the starting right guard for the Bucs.

"It was this first day doing that, and we’re just trying to create some competition with him and Carl at right guard," — Koetter said.

"I want everybody to know that I’m still capable of playing the run. ... They know I can play the pass. But if you can’t stop the run, there is no pass rush."

Diablo Plastics, one of the world’s greatest line-backers, will enter the Pro Hall of Fame this year. When their teams meet in Thursday night’s preseason opener, the game could

"I want everybody to know that I’m still capable of playing the run. ... They know I can play the pass. But if you can’t stop the run, there is no pass rush."

So, one day, the Chi- cago Bears are installing a new offense under first- year coach Matt Nagy. On the other side, few if any on the Dallas Cowboys’ starters at offensive skills positions are likely to get much action.

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Coyotes to retire Shane Doan number

BY JOHN MARSHALL

GLendale, Ariz. — Shane Doan joined the Arizona Coyotes on Monday in Chicago for a 2 p.m. meeting before the team took the resort off the market.

NHL Coyotes

 Coyotes to retire Shane Doan's number

**RAYS**

**SPORTS ON TV**

ESPN — The Basketball

**LIVE ON TV**

July 31 ............  8-15-25-30

D-Day, N-Night

Aug. 1D ..................  4-2-9-7-5

PICK 5

July 31N ..................... 9-5-5-1

Aug. 1N ....................... 6-9-0-7

July 30N ........................ 7-8-1

July 30 D ..........................  2-1

July 31D ...........................  7-4

July 31N ...........................  8-9

Aug.1D .............................  4-9

Aug.1N .............................  7-3

PICK 2

Page 2  SP

291 .. 4-digit winners $104.00

PAYOFF for July 31

MLB: Stone Crabs walk-off in 12

one run. However, it would be Puig finishing the game, and scoring the winning run on three hits during the sixth inning. However, he was able to record his fourth victory over two losses.

Rafael Benitez was named the Florida State League pitcher of the week, as the second Cowboy to earn that honor. He was recognized with the distinction the previous week, when Tyler O'Neill was recognized earlier this year.

**MLB: Stone Crabs, 6 Fros Frogs**

Kevin Pita's first extra-base hit of the night, a double in the third inning, drove in Jose Manuel Rodriguez. However, Charlie. He fastball to capitalize, taking the score to 3-2. Jesus Sanchez's double brought home. But it was Padua's lead to break, which included the end-well pitched batting by Luciox, who became the team's leading DP base. A collective strong pitching performance, starting performance.

Steve Stone, Franklin's pitcher, held the opponent without runs in nine innings with a successful effort by start. "We're glad we didn't allow one hit, while issued one walk for striking out four in four innings. We may have kicked to reliever Char lift the opponent at the bat for the next three outcomes. Jose Diaz worked the following three strikes, striking out five, while allowing one run.

**RAYS**

2016 WINTER OLYMPICS: Italy

Milan, Turin, Cortina to launch bid for Olympics

**Associated Press**

MILAN — Italy will launch a three-city bid to host the 2016 Winter Olympics in Milan, Turin and Cortina.

The Italian Olympic Committee announced Thursday the Milan/Turin/Cortina proposal for 2016, having decided a joint bid was more cost effective. It was unanimously noted by the CONI board.

Milan/Marvelle Silva, however, has defended the decision and says that while his city would still be willing to host Olympic events, it will not be involved in the governance of the branch.

According to CONI's Olympic Masterplan, Milan will host four events: curling, women's hockey and singles and doubles track skating and figure skating.

Cortina would have the same number of competitions, with Alpine skiing, snowboarding (snowboard, skeleton and luging) and Nordic combined.

A Preconditions of the campaign with, between the Alpe di Siusi (Alpineskiing), Alpineskiing and Alpine combined, Cortina and Milan.

One possible candidates for the 2016 Olympics are: Stockholm, Jerusalem, Trump, Calgary of Vancouver, and 1,400.

International Olympic Committee members will vote in February 2010 on the bid.

Italy was forced to surrender Rome's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics because of voting irregularities in October 2010.

It was the second time in four years an Olympic bid was withdrawn or withdrawn. The second was 2012, when it was proposed in 2012, the winners of the previous Olympic Games were the host of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Willie Alana, a Rays top prospect, led the offensive effort.

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ESPN — The Basketball

**LIVE ON TV**

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Page 2  SP

291 .. 4-digit winners $104.00

PAYOFF for July 31
College Football: Ohio State

Ohio State’s Meyer put on leave, investigation opened

By RALPH D. RISSO

Associated Press

Ohio State placed football coach Urban Meyer on paid administrative leave Wednesday while it investigates claims by Courtney Smith, a former Buckeyes football staff assistant, that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before he was fired last week.

Meyer grew increasingly emotional as he met with news media following a NCAA conference call. He said: “I had no idea that he was...
### American League

#### BATTING

- **Mauer** (1), **RBIs**: **Gomes** (35).
  
#### FIELDING

- **Polanco** ss 4 0 2 0 0 0 .284

#### TEAM TOTALS

**MINNESOTA AB R H BI BB SO AVG.** 4 5 2 14 0 0 0 .286

### National League

#### BATTING

- **Hicks** cf 4 2 1 0 1 3 .254
  
#### FIELDING

- **Guyer** rf 1 0 0 0 0 0 .200

#### TEAM TOTALS

**CLEVELAND AB R H BI BB SO AVG.** 5 3 1 3 2 0 0 .264

### Box Scores

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<th>G</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>Pct.</th>
<th>Runner(s)</th>
<th>Error(s)</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
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### Roundup/Matches

- **Mancini** lf 5 2 3 2 0 0 .231
- **Adduci** 1b 2 2 2 1 0 0 .244
- **Candelario** 3b 3 1 1 0 1 0 .227
- **Jones** cf 5 0 2 1 0 0 .209
- **Diaz** ss 4 1 0 0 0 0 .247
- **Sucre** c 1 0 0 0 0 0 .224
- **Pham** lf 3 1 0 0 1 1 .246
- **Evans** 2b 0 0 0 0 0 0 .143
- **Canha** cf 3 1 1 0 0 0 .265
- **Choi** dh 3 0 0 0 0 2 .239
- **Camacho** 2b 3 0 0 0 0 0 .143
- **Pham** lf 3 1 0 0 1 1 .246
- **Evans** 2b 0 0 0 0 0 0 .143
- **Canha** cf 3 1 1 0 0 0 .265
- **Choi** dh 3 0 0 0 0 2 .239
- **Camacho** 2b 3 0 0 0 0 0 .143

### Statistical Leaders

- **BATTING**: Betts, Boston, .346; Lindor, Cleveland, .307; Gomes, Minnesota, .305.
- **DOUBLES**: Harper, Washington, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24.
- **TRIPLES**: Tied at 28.
- **STOLEN BASES**: Tied at 28.

### Today’s Pitching Comparison

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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.82</td>
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### Calendar

- **Aug. 31**: Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for postsea-sonplay.
- **Oct. 2**: Wild-card games.
- **October 16-17**: Series of events for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligi-ble free agents, fifth day after World Series.
- **November 30**: Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 15th day after World Series.
- **Dec. 18**: Owners’ meetings, Carlsbad, Calif.
- **Dec. 19**: First round of World Series.
- **Dec. 20**: Second round of World Series.
- **Dec. 21**: Third round of World Series.
- **Dec. 22**: Fourth round of World Series.
- **Dec. 23**: Fifth round of World Series.

### Notes

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- **STOLEN BASES**: Tied at 28.

### Box Scores

- **BATTING**: Betts, Boston, .346; Lindor, Cleveland, .307; Gomes, Minnesota, .305.
- **DOUBLES**: Harper, Washington, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24.
- **STOLEN BASES**: Tied at 28.

### Today’s Pitching Comparison

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### Calendar

- **Aug. 31**: Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for postsea-sonplay.
- **Oct. 2**: Wild-card games.
- **October 16-17**: Series of events for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligi-ble free agents, fifth day after World Series.
- **November 30**: Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 15th day after World Series.
- **Dec. 18**: Owners’ meetings, Carlsbad, Calif.
- **Dec. 19**: First round of World Series.
- **Dec. 20**: Second round of World Series.
- **Dec. 21**: Third round of World Series.
- **Dec. 22**: Fourth round of World Series.
- **Dec. 23**: Fifth round of World Series.

### Notes

- **BATTING**: Betts, Boston, .346; Lindor, Cleveland, .307; Gomes, Minnesota, .305.
- **DOUBLES**: Harper, Washington, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24.
- **TRIPLES**: Tied at 28.
- **STOLEN BASES**: Tied at 28.

### Box Scores

- **BATTING**: Betts, Boston, .346; Lindor, Cleveland, .307; Gomes, Minnesota, .305.
- **DOUBLES**: Harper, Washington, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24; Snell, Seattle, 2.24.
- **STOLEN BASES**: Tied at 28.
Baltimore 1 2½ 33 Chicago undisclosed amount for an unnecessary hit Fined Hamilton WR Jalen Saunders an metabolite, under the drug policy of the Michael Hoomanawanui. Added G Don ager; and Nate Vaughn to senior producer, Daytona at St. Lucie, 6:30 p.m. Tampa at Clearwater, 7 p.m. Lakeland at Dunedin, 6:30 p.m. Charlotte 6, Florida 3, 12 innings Dunedin 4, Lakeland 3 Dayton (Twins) 21 17 .553 2½ Tampa (Yankees) 19 18 .514 5

NFL PRESEASON
American Conference

TEAM W L PCT GB

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Philadelphia 8 10 3 27 29 34
Cincinnati 8 9 5 29 34 37
New York 8 8 6 29 35 27
Miami 8 7 7 29 32 25

CENTRAL DIVISION

Washington 8 6 5 29 34 26
Dallas 8 5 6 29 36 23
Chicago 8 4 7 29 36 23
Green Bay 8 4 7 29 38 11

NORTHERN DIVISION

Detroit 8 6 5 29 35 24
Minnesota 8 6 5 29 34 23
Chicago 8 6 5 29 36 25
Green Bay 8 6 5 29 38 11

W L T PTS GF GA

MIDWESTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago 8 6 5 29 34 26
St. Louis 8 7 4 29 35 22
Baltimore 8 7 4 29 36 25
Detroit 8 8 3 29 35 27

SOUTHERN DIVISION

New York 8 5 6 29 36 23
Dallas 8 5 6 29 36 23
Washington 8 6 5 29 34 26
Green Bay 8 4 7 29 38 11

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed Braden Holtby to an extension.

CHICAGO CUBS — Activated RHP Brandon Moss.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Promoted Don Heco from the NFI list.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Announced the signing of wide receiver Marcus Johnson.

OMAHA — Added John Meade to senior producer.

DALLAS — Added Daniel Joseph to senior producer.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON — Named Ryan Photography as assistant basketball coach.

WASHINGTON — Signed Quin Nunez to contract as assistant men's soccer coach.

ROCK HILL — Signed Kim Talbot to contract as assistant women's soccer coach.

DOVER — Signed Bridgette Storke to contract as assistant women's soccer coach.

PRO BASEBALL

UPCOMING RACES

Next week:

Jan. 4-7 — Sentry Tournament of Champions (Puerto Rico)
Jan. 11-14 — Abu Dhabi HSBC Champions (Abu Dhabi)
Jan. 18-21 — Saudi Arabia International (Jeddah)
Jan. 25-28 — Parnassus Masters Invitational (Athens)
Feb. 1-20 — Salary arbitration hearings, St. Louis
Feb. 25-March 6 — Spring Training, St. Petersburg, Fla.
March 18 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif.
March 24 — Track Night in America, Columbus, Ohio
April 3 — The Clash at Daytona, Daytona Beach, Fla.
April 4 — Atlanta at New York, 5 p.m.
April 5 — Seattle at Arizona, 5 p.m.
April 6 — New York at Kansas City, 6:30 p.m.
April 7 — Detroit at Chicago, 7 p.m.
April 8 — San Francisco at Los Angeles, 7:05 p.m.
April 21 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
April 22 — Seattle at Detroit, 5:30 p.m.
April 23 — Kansas City at Chicago, 6:30 p.m.
April 24 — Los Angeles at New York, 7 p.m.
April 25 — Minnesota at Arizona, 7:10 p.m.
April 26 — New York at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.
April 27 — Arizona at Kansas City, 7:10 p.m.
April 28 — Seattle at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
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June 25 — New York at Los Angeles, 7:10 p.m.
June 26 — Kansas City at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.
June 27 — Los Angeles at New York, 7:10 p.m.
June 28-July 1 — The National (Francesco Molinari)
June 28-July 1 — Memorial Tournament (Bryson Nimmer)
July 27-Aug. 3 — World Golf Championship—Workday Byron Nelson (Bubba Watson)
Aug. 5 — GoBowling at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 11 — Bridgestone Invitational (Tiger Woods)
Aug. 18 — Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 1-2 — Rocket Mortgage Classic (Denny Hamlin)
Sept. 4-8 — BMW Championship (Sungjae Im)
Sept. 11-14 — Daugherty Bank & Trust Classic
Sept. 28-30 — Ryder Cup, Le Golf National
Oct. 5-8 — Safeway Open (Brendan Steele)
Murray tops Edmund in all-British clash

TENNIS:

Andy Murray moved into the third round of the Miami Open. But take this one with a grain of salt. In the past five weeks, he has gone online with a double-figured score of 6-2, 6-4 with the help of 120th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz of Poland, defeated first-time qualifier Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 and No. 123-ranked Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. His win against Medvedev, 20, left eight-time Miami Open champ, eight-time Masters 1000 champ, 2016 Olympic gold medalist and world No. 2 at a tournament she had never won, first Grand Slam title since 2016.


## Stocks Recap

**NYSE**

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<tr>
<th>Ticker</th>
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<th>Change (52-Week)</th>
<th>1-Year Change</th>
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### How to read the stock tables

- **Ticker**: The company's stock symbol.
- **Dividend Yield**: The dividend yield of the stock.
- **Price**: The current price of the stock.
- **Change (52-Week)**: The change in the stock price over the past 52 weeks.
- **1-Year Change**: The percentage change in the stock price over the past year.

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HiIncAdv HY 8.43 +1.3 -.8 +5.6/A

GlbBdR b IB 8.22 ... -1.0 +2.1/C
GlbBdC m IB 8.25 ... -1.3 +1.7/D

EqIncAdv LV 29.72 +4.0 +2.9 +9.0/C
AllMktTRA m MA 14.70 +0.3 -.9 +3.7/E
AllMktRlRet1 b IH 8.87 -1.0 +0.2 +4.5/C

AAM

4-wk       YTD       3-yr

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Putnm MMA 19 1.68
Prudential Governmen 35 1.58
PIMCO Government Mon 5 1.81
PIMCO Government Mon 5 1.71
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NorthernUSGv 43 1.60

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STIT Treasury Obliga 39 1.79
STIT Tax-Free Cash R 9.52
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Retail Prime Obligat 15 2.04

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Rate Date Bid  Ask  Chg  Yld

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1.88 Jun 20 p 98.16 98.17 -0.01 2.67
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3.50 May 20 p 101.14 101.15 2.66
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Name: Infrastructure, the last 5 years:


indicates fund performed in the top 20 percent; an
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**The Sun/Thursday, August 2, 2018**
Inside this week:

Don’t run into a deadhead | Page 10

The high cost of Gulf guiding | Page 2

Understanding algae problems | Page 11

Banging on the drum | Page 9

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I’ve noticed a trend over the last couple years — a shift from inshore to offshore fishing. Now, the Gulf has always been a place to wet a line, but it seems that redfish got a bit harder to find, everybody and their mama wants to head off into the big blue...

It’s not just recreational anglers, either. Charter guides are flocking to offshore waters. Just this week I heard about three captains buying offshore vessels. Sound like a solid plan — if the fishing gets tougher inside, we’ll just head out. But I do have to add one thing: For offshore angler, you all need is a bigger boat if you want to be an offshore fisherman. For a guide to take paying customers, there’s another requirement: A federal Gulf reef fish permit. And that’s not such an easy thing to get.

The permit was implemented in 1996. Charter boats targeting designated reef species (all snapper, almost all groupers, amberjack, triggerfish, tilefish and a few others) in federal waters more than 9 miles offshore must have the permit. It was easy to get: Apply, pay a small fee, permit issued. Easy.

Then in 2003, a temporary moratorium was placed on new permits. Two years later the “temporary” became “permanent.” Now if you want a permit, you can still get one. It just has to be transferred to you by someone who already has one. According to the national Marine Fisheries Service, as of May 2017, there were only 1,311 valid or renewable federal reef fish charter out there — far from the entire Gulf of Mexico.

Remember economics class? Supply and demand? When demand outstrips supply, prices go up. And there’s no limit to what a current permit holder can charge for a transfer.

I looked around online for about two minutes and found a couple for sale. One has an asking price of $18,000. Another is for $26,000 — that one comes with a pelagic permit, which a charter vessel needs to fish for Spanish mackerel, kingfish and tuna. Add that to the cost of upsizing your boat and tackle, and it becomes clear that there are significant economic barriers to switching from being an inshore guide to an offshore guide.

At least, if you want to be legal. It’s an open secret that many of this area’s guides fish in federal waters with no permits. Some of them “accidentally” slip a mile or two over the line. Others are more blatant, advertising grouper and even amberjack trips on their websites. Hey, guys — when you come back to the dock every day with keeper red grouper and 5-pound mangrove snapper, we know you’re not staying inside that 9-mile mark. I’m acquainted with some amazing fisherman, and if they can’t do it regularly, neither can you. And if you’ve got that blind squirrel finds nuts every now and then, but not every day.

Despite that, they get away with it. They have for years. Who’s going to stop them? Not the Coast Guard, if it’s not drugs or human trafficking, they don’t seem to care. Not the FW. When it was the last time FWC checked your catch? They have no apparent interest in catching poachers.

The lack of enforcement would be laughable if it weren’t breeding an “above the law” mentality among guides and everyday anglers alike. It’s incredibly unfair to those who actually spend the money to follow the law. It’s almost like law enforcement is telling us to stop being such suckers and join the outlaws.

Sadly, my own ethical code won’t let me. A little evening wade fishing before the sun goes down — the storms are over but before the new ones are out there thumbing their noses at the rest of us...

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

If you have a comment or question for WaterLine, email it to Editor@WaterLineWeekly.com.

CAPT. JOSH: It was with relief and pride that I read of the recent decision by the [DeSoto County] Commissioners to deny a petition for rezoning. Over the past few years, many petitions for rezoning have been denied by the County Commission and the DeSoto County Zoning Board.

TO THE READERS: The 4-1 vote denying to remove thousands of acres owned by Mosaic in DeSoto County is an amazing victory for the people and environment of Southwest Florida, but this is no time to get complacent. Mosaic is a multibillion-dollar corporation and has invested a huge amount of money in the groundwork for phosphate mining — but continued vigilance and opposition from citizens will be required. The anti-red tide movement needs to take up opposition to further mining in addition to pushing for cleanup of domestic farming and industrial nutrient (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) pollution.

— Bill Dunson

CAPT. JOSH: Incredible news that offers some hope for stopping the huge pollution effects on chemical runoff and the character of the surrounding lands.

— Jim Vroman

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**Capt. Josh Olive**

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**Greg Bartz**

**Capt. Mike Myers**

**Dunson**

**dedicated to protecting American fisheries from overharvest, on July 11, largely along party lines. Environmental groups have derided the changes as antithetical to the purpose of the act, which make it more difficult for such a bill to pass.**

**NOTE:** Opinions of our writers do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or Adams Publishing Group. We do our best to be accurate in matters of fact in this publication, but matters of opinion are left to each individual author.

**ON THE COVER**

**Waterline photo by Capt. Josh Olive**

**A little evening wade fishing during the day’s thunderstorms are over but before the sun goes down — the best time to be on the water.**

**Will Senate OK fishing law changes?**

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Fishermen and environmentalists are at odds over a suite of changes to American fishing laws that was approved by the House of Representatives, and the proposal faces a new hurdle in the Senate.**

**The House passed changes to the Magnu-**

**son-Stevens Act, a 42-year-old set of rules designed to protect American fisheries from overharvest, on July 11, largely along party lines. Environmental groups have derided the changes as antithetical to the purpose of the act, which many fishermen and conservationists credit with saving American seafood stocks such as New England sea scallops and Bering Sea snow crab.**

**Supporters of the House bill and several commercial and recreational fishing groups have said the changes merely provide managers with flexibility and refocus the Magnuson-Stevens Act on sound science.**

**The big question is whether a bill will also pass the Senate before midterm elections. No bill has been proposed yet, and elections may bring changes that make it more difficult for such a bill to pass.**

**Supporters have said the bill modernizes the management of recreational fishing, an industry that employs thousands.**

**“Anglers are leading conservationists,” said Mike Leonard, conservation director for the American Sportfishing Association, which supports the changes.**

**The bill passed by a count of 222-193 in the House of Representatives. Only nine Democrats voted in favor of passage. Republicans have a much slimmer edge in the Senate, where they control 51 seats, and 33 Senate seats are the subject of elections this fall.**
FISHING CLUB MEETINGS: The Gulf Coast Fishing Club meets on the third Monday of each month at the Hope Lutheran Church in Gulfport (14201 48th Ave., Port Charlotte) at 7 p.m., or meet at a local restaurant, or talk is available by request. To learn more, contact Community Services at 941-625-7599.

PLACIDA PIER REPAIR WORK
Repairs to the Placida Pier (11201 Placid Blvd., Placid) are in progress and will be completed by approximately Aug. 8. The pier was washed over the winter due to the heavy storms. To learn more, contact Fishing Pier (915-1183 Beach Road, Englewood) or Boca Grande (1950 Placid Blvd., Placida).

NEW APP FOR PARKING PAY STATIONS
Charlotte County Community services beach and boat ramp parking can now be paid with your smartphone through Parkmobile. Mobile links are no longer the service provider. The Parkmobile app is available for both Android and Apple. To learn more about availability, visit www.BoatReserve.com. For more information, contact Community Services at 941-672-4597.

LIVE OAK POINT CLOSED
Due to safety concerns at Live Oak Point from Hurricane Irma damages, the park will be closed until further notice. Live Oak Point is located at 5101 Gandy Blvd South, Charlotte Harbor.

COMMUNITY NIGHTS AT KING FISHER FLEET
King Fisher Fleet, 23001 Point Pleasant Blvd, Port Charlotte, offers live music every Tuesday throughout the summer at 6 p.m., hundreds of drawing prizes, and a cash bar. All ages are welcome. For more information, call 941-740-7077 or visit www.KingFisherFleet.com.

PLATINUM LUNCH写的那里的内容——Recipe adapted from All-Fish-Seafood-Recipes.com

Seafood Creole
Serves 4.

Ingredients:

- 16-ounce can whole red snapper, cleaned and boned
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the fish and cook until golden brown on both sides and the fish are cooked through. Remove the fillets to a platter and keep warm. In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the hazelnuts and saute until fragrant. Stir the lemon juice. Spoon the sauce over the fillets and serve immediately. Serves 4.

SNAP-PEA HAZELNUT BUTTER
8 snapper fillets (about 4 oz each)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
3 tbsp olive oil
1/3 cup butter
1 cup chopped hazelnuts
1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

Instructions:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium-high heat. Stir in the chopped hazelnuts and cook until golden brown on both sides and the fish are cooked through. Remove the fillets to a platter and keep warm. In a small saucelpan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the hazelnuts and saute until fragrant. Stir the lemon juice. Spoon the sauce over the fillets and serve immediately. Serves 4.

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What's up next...WEEKLY EVENTS

PLACIDA BAY LIKENESS: The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium (4361 Deo St., Port Charlotte). For more information, call 941-279-4945.

They say there's nothing better than a nice boat ride. And there's nothing better than a nice boat ride with a view. That's why we love to be out on the water, exploring the beautiful waters of Charlotte Harbor.

FISHING TALK RADIO SEMINAR
The next event in the FishTalk Radio series will be held Aug. 7 at Gaspajpano Motors/Waterfront Grill (13830 Gulf Blvd, Placida). Seminars are free and open to the public on the first Tuesday of each month and are hosted by the boys from FishTalk Radio. The seminars focus on topics ranging from gear to fishing strategies, but your guarantee to learn something useful — and if you have any questions you want answered, bring it with you. The seminar starts at 6:30 p.m. and lasts about 3 1/2 hours. The seminar is $5 for all ages. For more information, call Mike Lanzellotti at 941-663-8463 or visit www.Johnsinsight.com.

SCALLOP SEARCH: Calling volunteer boaters, trollers and volunteers! Approximately 40 boats are needed to Scallop search on the 10th annual Gulf Scallop Search. Join us from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 10 to scallop search in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Volunteers are needed depending on how the weather is, but you're guaranteed to learn something useful — and if you have any questions you want answered, bring it with you. The seminar starts at 6:30 p.m. and lasts about 3 1/2 hours. The seminar is $5 for all ages. For more information, call Mike Lanzellotti at 941-663-8463 or visit www.Johnsinsight.com.

FASHION SHOW FOR WILDLIFE: Wildlife Center of Florida sponsors is host to a fashion show fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 22 at Tampa Fashion Fusion (1300 University Plaza, Tampa). Items will be sold for $40-$250. Proceeds will benefit the Wildlife Center. Center tickets are $20 per person. Space is limited, so call in your reservation 941-484-6579 or email the Wildlife Center at info@WildlifeCenterOfFlorida.com.

PLANT SOCIETY FIELD TRIP
The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites the public to join them Aug. 10 to walk the Trail to Jewel at Celery Field Environmental Park (2209 Bayou Blvd, Englewood). The society promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plant and native plant communities. Meetings, field trips and special events are free and open to the public. For more information, call vice-president Asher Echols at 941-799-9363 or email AsherE@att.net.

SALTWATER FISHING 101
Do you like to fish? Would you like to learn the basics of saltwater fishing? Bring your fishing pole and join Richard Fish from Deep Creek Community Church invite you to join us for Saltwater Fishing 101 on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 941-476-8865.

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OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN BOARD

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

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GOING ON EVENTS

WHAT'S UP NEXT...

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**WaterLine**

**WEBSIDE MAGAZINE**

delivered to my door. Can you do that?
**FISHING RULES**

State and federal regulations for Southwest Florida take effect on July 1, 2018. All limits are per harvest day. Other limits may apply. For full rules, visit MyFWC.com/fishing and gulfcoast.fwc.gov/fishing_regulations.

**LICENSES**

Resident saltwater or freshwater: Annual 517, $1-year 597. If you fish from shore in saltwater 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 a full, resident age 65 or older, your driver license or ID replaces your fishing license. Gulf Reef Fish Survey (see below) and tarpon tags are still required.

Nonresident saltwater or freshwater: 1-day 517, 7 days 510, annual 547. Free shore fishing license not available for nonresidents.

Gulf Reef Fish Survey (required to harvest red mullet, vermilion snapper, pog, red grouper, black grouper, amberjack, almaco jack or triggerfish): No charge.

Annual permits (required only when a license is needed): Snook $10, ladyfish $5.

**SALTWATER FISH**

Almaco Jack
Limit 100 pounds in state waters, limit 20 in federal waters; notes: 9, 11, 14

Amberjack
24” min.; limit 1; open May 1-31 and Aug. 1-31; aggregate 50 (max. 100 per vessel); Sept. 1-Jan. 31, aggregate 50 (max. 50 per vessel); bag limit also applies to bull mackerel; possession of striped mullet prohibited in Punta Gorda 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Nov. 1-Feb. 29 (see http://bit.ly/2buei15); notes: 15

Barracuda
Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties only: Slot 15” to 20” (25” in Broward, Palm Beach); 6 per vessel; may possess one per person over 16; notes: 15

Black Drum
Slot 14” to 22” (may possess over 14” in Broward, Palm Beach); 2 per vessel; notes: 1, 5, 7, 8

Black Sea Bass
10” min.; limit 100 pounds; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15

Bluefish
12” min.; limit 10; notes: 1, 5

Blue runner
Limit 100

Cobia
33” min.; limit 100 pounds in state waters (max. 2 per vessel in federal waters); notes: 1, 5

Dolphin (Mahi mahi)
Limit 10 (max. 60 pounds in state waters only); notes: 1, 5, 7, 8

Flounder
All species
12” min.; limit 100 pounds; notes: 2, 5, 7, 8, 15

Grouper, Black
24” min.; limit 2; season open June 1-Dec. 31; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14

Grouper, Gag
24” min.; limit 2; season open June 1-Dec. 31; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14

Grouper, Mutton
24” min.; limit 2; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14

Grouper, Mother
18” min.; limit 5; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Snapper, Cubera
Slot 12” to 30”; limit 10 under 30” (30” to 40” in federal waters); notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Snapper, Mangrove (Gray)
10” min. in state waters; 12” min. in federal waters; limit 5 in state waters, 10 in federal waters; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13

Snapper, Lane
18” min.; limit 10 in federal waters or 100 pounds in state waters; not included in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Snapper, Mutton
18” min.; limit 5; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11

Snapper, Red (American)
16” min.; limit 2; recreational season opens June 11 July 31 for state and federal waters; federal charter season opens June 1-July 31; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Snapper, Vermilion (Bleeker)
10” min.; limit 10 in aggregate snapper limit; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

Snook
10” min.; limit 10; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13

Swordfish
12” min.; limit 10 in aggregate swordfish limit; notes: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

**ANIMALS**

American Eel
Min. 9” , limit 25

Crappie
Min. 9” , limit 25

Largemouth Bass
Min. 9” , limit 25

Snook
Min. 24” , limit 10

Tarpon
18” min.; limit 2; 55” tag required to harvest or possess, which is legal only in pursuant of an AIFG record; for seasonal Boca Grande Pass rules, see http://bit.ly/2fKbVjd; notes: 6, 7, 8

**NO-REPEATED SPECIES**

In state waters, limit 100 pounds or two fish, whichever is more: Blackfin tuna, catfish, cero mackerel, croaker, grunts, ladyfish, little tunny, jack crevalle, pinfish, porgies, rays, sand trout, silver trout, spadefish, whiting, etc. See http://bit.ly/1qFAE.

**NO-HARVEST SPECIES**

In addition to the species previously listed, harvest of bonnetfish, Nassau grouper, spotted eagle ray, manta rays and sawfish is prohibited.


**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 farthest tip of the tail with the tail spread open while the fish is lying on its side).

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

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

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 shotcasting 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 must not be damaged by hooking device.

10. Any part of a shrimp may be used as bait.

11. No possession of striped mullet prohibited. Largemouth Bass: Permit required to target or harvest when in federal waters; see https://gopo.fwc.gov/efish/.


14. No bag limit in federal waters.

15. HMS permit required to target or harvest in federal waters; see https://gopo.fwc.gov/efish/.

**FRESHWATER FISH**

Largemouth Bass: Min. size: limit 5. Only one fish can be longer than 16” (bonnards may apply for a permit allowing 10-20 fish to weigh more than 100 lbs."

Sunfish (all species except crappie): Aggregate limit 50

Crappie: Aggregate white-black limit 25

American Eel: Min. 9”, limit 25

Butterfly peacock bass: Min. 17”, limit 2 (may possess over 17”)

Grass carp: Must be released immediately.

Other exotic fishes: Keep and eat or other- wise must be used as live bait.

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

Prohibited species: Alligator gar, sturgeon.

Visit http://bit.ly/10nYJQr for full rules, including special management areas.

**HELPING KIDS FISH – IT’S OUR MISSION**

Fish Florida, a non-profit organization, helps people, especially children, learn about fishing and Florida’s environment. Families who fish spend quality time together and know how to protect Florida’s marine fisheries and coastal habitats. Another great reason to learn fishing? Kids who spend time outdoors have less stress, better concentration, more creativity and higher self-esteem than those who stay inside.

**HOW WE DO IT**

You give, we give, kids fish. Every time someone buys a Fish Florida specialty license plate, featuring a sailfish, we get $22. With that money, we support fishing and conservation education programs with donations of fishing equipment, grants, and scholarships. Anglers, boaters and other buys the Fish Florida plate for their cars, trucks and trailers. They show their support and dedication to the future of fishing.

**BUY A FISH FLORIDA LICENSE PLATE**

Purchase a Fish Florida license plate for your vehicle to support kids’ fishing education and show your passion for fishing in Florida. The sailfish design looks great with any vehicle and boat trailer! The Fish Florida plate is available at your local tag agency.

**DONATE**

Another way to help is to give a gift certificate or make a donation. Every $10 donation pays for a child to get his own fishing rod and reel. A $50 donation pays for two children to get rods, reels and tackle kits. A $100 donation sends a child to fishing summer camp. Thank you for helping our future anglers!
MALCOLM  
COOKS SPORTLAND  
Venice  
941-693-0025

**FRESH LOCAL FISHING REPORTS FROM VENICE TO PINE ISLAND**

**INSHORE & FRESHWATER**

**JIM**  
FISHERMAN’S EDGE  
Grove City  
941-627-6000

The bite in Lemon Bay north of the Manasota Bridge has been OK, with decent numbers of trout and small snook caught. Fishing is also good around O Bolan, with anglers catching redfish, a handful of snook and the occasional tarpon.

**ROBERT**  
FISHIN’ FRANK’S  
Charlotte Harbor  
941-625-3880

Trout, snook and a few redfish have been caught in the upper end of Pine Island Sound from Big Pine to Captiva Rocks. Just avoid the dead fish. The east and west walls have had redfish and some skid-chute-and-release snook. Black drum on singles and small schools are cruising the bouches of the east wall, and there are some big hungry ones in the PIG canals.

**CHUCK**  
LAISLEY MARINE  
Punta Gorda  
941-639-3349

The Shell Creek dam should be producing some catch-and-release snook (and maybe some juvenile tarpon if you’re lucky). Too 3- to 4-inch sandbars up in the watershed. The canal switchways in North Port have had some snook. Fish live minnows or grass shrimp early in the morning or late in the day.

**CAMERON**  
RIO VILLA  
BAIT & TACKLE  
Punta Gorda  
941-639-7166

Red tide has been bad in lower Pine Island Sound and around the mouth of the Caloosahatchee. A mixed bag of yellowtail and mangrove snapper has been coming from 25 to 40 miles, but it might be tough to get live bait. Finesse spool, shrimp on cut or whole work. You may run across mahi out there as well.

**JESSE**  
OLD PINE ISLAND  
MARINA & TACKLE  
St. James City  
239-283-2548

**GULF & OFFSHORE**

**JIM**  
FISHERMAN’S EDGE  
Grove City  
941-627-6000

The red snapper are still biting at 140 to 160 feet, though season is over. Anglers heading out deep are reporting limits of red snapper and more than a few gags, along with big lane snapper. In closer (40 to 80 feet), the groupers are all short but you can get into some grunts and porgies.

**ROBERT**  
FISHIN’ FRANK’S  
Charlotte Harbor  
941-625-3880

Spanish mackerel, a few kingfish and a bunch of Little bunny are 2 to 12 miles out. On the nearshore reefs we’re seeing some grunts, porgies and a few permit. Amberjack are open and should be hanging around the tiller wrists.

**CHUCK**  
LAISLEY MARINE  
Punta Gorda  
941-639-3349

Most of the better fishing is out past 30 miles. Red snapper are closed now, so don’t keep them, but the other snappers and red grouper are open. Watch for sailfish and mahi out there.

**THE FISH COACH’S TIP OF THE WEEK:**

With red tide affecting many of the most popular fishing areas along the coast, folks are looking for other options. When the Gulf is calm, it’s a great choice. However, going out of sight of land is a little scary for many boaters — especially the majority who have only a single engine. One way to reduce the danger of getting stranded is to go out as a fleet of two or more boats. Most offshore spots are large enough to be fished by two or three boats with no problems. Remember that your cell phones aren’t likely to work way offshore, so you’ll want a VHF and a tall antenna (VHF transmissions are line of sight, so the higher the better). An EPIRB or PLB is good to have. Be sure to check your other safety gear as well — you don’t want to be out on the big blue with expired flares, a dead fire extinguisher or rat-chewed lifejackets. — As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Otter offers personalized instruction on fishing techniques. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.

**BEST BET**

Head offshore if you have the boat and the time you don’t make a friend who does.

**HOW WE HARVEST**

Avoiding harm to turtles is pretty easy if you follow these simple tips:

- During turtle nesting season (April through October), avoid disturbing females laying eggs on the beach. Don’t shine lights on or near the beach, as this can disorient both adults and hatchlings. Avoid digging holes or trenches in the sand, as these can trap baby turtles, raising the surf. Don’t leave chairs or other debris on the beach, either — they can tangled turtles.

- If you hook a turtle, use a long dehooking tool to remove the hook if possible. If not, cut the line as close to the turtle as you can. Sea turtles have very powerful jaws — be careful.

- Keep a close watch when boating in areas turtles are known to frequent. They have to surface to breathe and can be hit. Boca Grande Pass often has many turtles passing through.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD STeward AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR WATERS HEALTHIER — WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART!**
Smaller sharks like this bonnethead can easily be targeted with your standard snook and redfish tackle. For bigger sharks, scale up accordingly.

One of the hottest fish biting right now are the sharks. There seems to be no shortage of them, and they’re turning up everywhere. And the strange thing is that you can almost choose your species by where you fish — so I think that’s how I’m going to break this down.

If you want bull sharks, the hot spot is the west wall of the Harbor, and for good reason. The Peace River is currently flowing about 3 feet below flood stage (and rising fast). If the Peace River is flowing that hard, then so is the Myakka. That flow travels right down to the west side of the Harbor. That gives the bull shark, known for its ability to survive much longer periods in freshwater than other sharks, a serious advantage. Freshwater fish are weak from following that flow out to salt water, and some saltwater fish are weak from the incoming fresh water. But Mr. Bull shark doesn’t care — he’s happy and comfortable in that environment, and he’s hungry.

I would recommend good shark or tarpon gear for these bull sharks. They aren’t giants, but don’t underestimate them. Most are going to be in the 4- to 8-foot range. Mostly, it’s 4- but don’t underestimate them. Most are going to be in the 4- to 8-foot range. Mostly, it’s 4-

let’s get sharky

ANGLING 201 • CAPT. CAYLE WILLS

Your quality 40 (4000) series spinning reel is pinched down, making removal much easier. If you’re not comfortable grabbing a shark and picking them up and removing the hook just as they are because I’m handling these sharks. I’m sure you’ve had your share of experience with wire. It won’t bother the trout but it will keep you from getting bit off by the macks.

If you’re not comfortable grabbing a shark and picking them up and removing the hook just is because I’m handling these sharks. I’m sure you’ve had your share of experience with wire. It won’t bother the trout but it will keep you from getting bit off by the macks. Side note: We are off a fresh defeat of the re-zoning of Mosaic land for mining in Desoto County. For now, that land will remain agricultural land. We have dodged a bullet that has the potential to kill our Harbor. The bad news is that this was just the first battle in a war. Mosaic isn’t going to take their ball and go home — they are going to fight. Thank you to those of you that started and will continue this fight. Capt. Cayle Wills owns and operates BadFish Charters on Charlotte Harbor. You can contact him at 941-916-4538 or Capt.Cayle@BadFish.com. You can also visit him online at ReelBadFish.com or Facebook.com/BadFishCharters.
Drumming up a little action

I thought very hard about what to write this week. On the one hand, I could write a doom-and-gloom rant about red tide and the downward spiral our Harbor seems to be caught in. But there’s been more than enough negative crap out there lately. I’d rather put something positive. So let’s talk about one of the bright spots we’ve had lately — black drum. While these big beautiful beasts aren’t as sought-after as their redder cousins (redfish, if you need me to spell it out), they are a very cool catch-and-release target and they make for impressive photo ops.

Black drum are good-sized fish. It’s not all that uncommon for local anglers to catch fish in the 30- to 50-pound range, and they can get bigger than 60. For such large animals, they really don’t fight that hard. Your snook tackle should be sufficient to handle all but the biggest drum.

Black drum seem to prefer brackish water, although they can also be caught in the Gulf. Young ones form schools and can be abundant in the surf, especially in winter. Large adults are more solitary most of the time, but they get social every now and then and gather up in big groups. We’ve had one of those gatherings cruising around the Harbor lately.

A lot of fishermen target drum in the canals. For reasons that I cannot explain, there are more drum in the Punta Gorda canals than in Port Charlotte ones. Maybe there are more crabs in PGI (and I’m talking about aquatic crustaceans, not the human residents). Maybe the water is more suited for some reason. Don’t know — just know it’s true.

Not every black drum is black. Juveniles start out with dark bars on a silvery background and are often mistaken for sheepshead (they’re actually very simple to tell apart — sheepshead have humanlike teeth and black drum have whiskery chin barbels). Many large black drum become a more uniform dusky color, somewhere between charcoal and antique silver. Others gain a golden or orange tint, with some almost goldfish bright. And some pale out to a chalky gray. The lightest ones have an almost albino appearance.

Color makes no difference in the baits they like or how they fight. While black drum in other places readily attack artificial lures, here in Southwest Florida they seem to have a strong preference for natural bait. A shrimp will work, but the catfish usually get to it first. Cut fish is accepted, but the best choice is half of a big blue crab. Crabs don’t get nearly as much unwanted attention. Drum are bottom feeders, so your best bet is to put an ounce of lead on your bait and pin it to the seafloor. If it’s drifting in the water column, it will probably get ignored.

Now, there’s an exception to that: When drum are schooling in open water, they’re much more likely to hit an unweighted bait tossed into the middle of the group. And they’re also a lot less picky when there’s so much competition close by.

As I mentioned, these aren’t the sportiest of sport fish. They do fight, but it’s not what you might expect from something this size. A 40-pound black drum is easier to land than a 12-pound redfish. But that can be our secret — you don’t have to tell your Facebook friends that it was easy to reel in that monster.

But after the photo, you really ought to let that fish go. I know it can be hard to release what might be your biggest catch ever, but large black drum have limited food value. When they’re small — let’s say up to about 24 inches — the meat is pretty good, mild with a pleasant texture. Bigger, older fish get coarse and the flavor is stronger.

Worse, most black drum have spaghetti worms. These are the juvenile form of a shark tapeworm, and they affect many fish in the drum family (including seatrout). But black drum, especially fish over about 15 pounds, are usually heavily infested.

Why kill a fish that may be 25 years old just to waste it when you find it’s full of worms? Have fun catching them and sharing your photos, but let these cool sea monsters go and you can play with them another day.

Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin’ Frank’s Bait & Tackle, located at 4425-0 Tamiami Trail in Charlotte Harbor and at 14331 N. Cleveland Ave. in North Fort Myers. Call 941-625-3888 for more information about the shop or for local fishing info, or visit them online at FishinFranks.com.

Some of the bigger black drum in the Harbor can rival a Goliath grouper for impressive photos — and you can legally take them out of the water.

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I’ll admit it: Deadheads frighten me. No, I’m not afraid of avid fans of the music of the late, great Jerry Garcia. Even the most fanatical of those fans — the tie-dyed T-shirt wearing types who have black light posters tacked on their walls and who may or may not find their listening experience heightened by mind-altering chemicals — don’t bother me a bit. Heck, I even listen to a little Grateful Dead myself on occasion. Casey Jones, anyone?

No, the deadheads that scare me are the ones you find floating at sea. A deadhead is a piece of timber which is waterlogged at one end so that it floats nearly vertically, with very little showing above the surface. Deadheads can be either natural or manmade. In Southwest Florida, most of the deadheads we see are palm tree trunks or dock pilings. The scariest deadhead I’ve ever encountered on Charlotte Harbor was bobbing around near the mouth of the Myakka River and consisted of a chunk of the El Jobean railroad trestle. Several creosote-soaked beams had come off the trestle and were still bolted together. A corner of one of the timbers was just barely breaking the surface. It wasn’t until I got within a few feet of the deadhead that I could see that there was a whole lot more of it underwater.

How do I know that it was part of the El Jobean trestle? Well, I guess that I don’t know for sure, but it was less than a half-mile from the trestle and the timbers and tie-bolts were a match to those on that unmaintained and deteriorating old railroad bridge. So I’m pretty sure.

Why do deadheads frighten me? I have a couple very good reasons. The first is that they’re hard to spot. They can be very difficult to see in choppy conditions, and almost impossible to see at night. See the photo on this page for an example of why they’re tough to spot even in good conditions. Now picture yourself trying to see that cut-off piling while you’re bouncing across the Harbor at 25 knots (or maybe a whole lot more) in a fishing skiff on a windy day.

The second reason deadheads frighten me is that if you hit one just right (just wrong?), it can be game over. If that teeny bit of wood that you see above the surface is just the tip of a much larger and heavier lumber iceberg, when you make contact that deadhead isn’t going to want to move much. You might end up with a cracked hull — or with a piling-sized hole punched in the bottom of your boat.

And there’s a possibility of an even worse outcome. In Charlotte Harbor’s shallow waters, it’s possible for a deadhead to be floating at one end but dragging bottom with the other. If you hit one of these bottom-draggers at just the right angle so that you’re driving the butt end into the bottom, the effect can be similar to what happens when a pole-vaulting athlete runs fast and then drops the end of his pole into the socket in the track to launch himself skyward. Except the deadhead that spears your hull won’t flex to lift you gracefully over a crossbar towards a landing on a huge cushioned pillow.

Pitch-poling a boat is no picnic. Keep your eyes wide out there — no napping at the helm. Let’s go fishing!

Capt. Ralph Allen runs the King Fisher Fleet of sightseeing and fishing charter boats located at Fishermen’s Village Marina in Punta Gorda. He is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer and is a past president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Call him at 941-639-2628 or email Captain@KingFisherFleet.com.
All of our estuaries are nitrogen-limited, whereas most freshwater systems are phosphorus-limited. Today we focus on nitrogen in our estuaries and the sources of these nutrients may differ between the offshore, nearshore and estuarine environment.

There is no direct link between human-derived nutrients (fertilizers, sewage, etc.) and the initiation of blooms. However, once blooms are transported inshore, these nutrient sources can fuel or sustain them. The current bloom we’re experiencing started last November. Blooms lasting this long are not unheard of. In 2005, a massive red tide spanning more than 500 square miles started in January and didn’t end until February 2006.

Like all blooms, the 2005 one moved around, and it ebbed and waned in size and intensity. And, like this one, it resulted in the widespread death of marine life. Although we were impacted by the 2005 bloom, the Tampa Bay region and areas north experienced the brunt of that bloom.

Moving to the Caloosahatchee River, two species of Microcystis comprise the majority of that bloom. Microcystis is a cyanobacterium, also referred to as blue-green algae. Although we refer to it as algae, cyanobacteria are actually far more primitive than true algae, having appeared 3.5 billion years ago. In fact, they were the first organisms to photosynthesize and produce the oxygen in our atmosphere.

Interestingly, Mote Marine Laboratory is currently doing a study to evaluate whether filter-feeding organisms — such as clams, oysters, tunicates, and even fish like the Atlantic thread herring (greenies) and Gulf menhaden — potentially influence nutrient cycling, water clarity, phytoplankton abundance and other ecosystem processes. Interestingly, Mote Marine Laboratory is currently doing a study to evaluate whether filter-feeding organisms and seaweeds can help mitigate the effects of K. brevis. A number of other projects are also being planned or are underway to evaluate or restore vital habitat and organisms in our waters to mitigate nutrient inputs.

In order to restore water quality and reduce the frequency and impact of harmful algal blooms in Florida, we have to focus on both the land and the water. Everyone has a role in effectively controlling the nutrients that threaten our coastal environments and the economies that depend on them.

Betty Staugler is the Charlotte County extension agent for the Florida Sea Grant Program. She is active in many areas relating to boating, fishing, and watershed/coastal living. The Florida Sea Grant College Program supports research and education activities that help Florida’s shoreline communities, industries and citizens wisely use the state’s coastal and marine resources. Contact her at staugler@ufl.edu or 941-764-4346.
Shot down

At least once every day, I swear off Facebook and threaten to cancel my subscription to the newspaper. I really wish I could hide my head in the sand and not be tormented by the headlines: We are a deeply divided people. Some of the headlines are profound; We are a deeply divided people. Some of the headlines are profound. I guess some of us are intent on keeping our heads down and focusing on a future edition of the Outdoor Living section.

Here at Peace River Wildlife Center, we try to keep our heads down and focus on our mission to help injured, ill and orphaned native Florida wildlife. While our primary goal is to get the healthy individuals back out into the wild where they belong, occasionally that proves impossible.

We recently treated a swallow-tailed kite that had been found on the ground. Transported to us by Charlotte County Animal Control, the bird seemed unwilling or unable to fully extend one wing. Examinations and X-rays showed that it had been shot with a pellet gun, resulting in soft tissue injury and joint damage. The bird will never fly again.

Since the bird is a juvenile, it’s a good candidate for permanent placement as an education ambassador. Unfortunately, PRWC doesn’t have the room to keep this kite — but we were able to find it a great home. The bird will be on display at Flamingo Gardens in Davie, Fla., in their enviable outdoor aviary. I highly recommend it as a day trip (maybe Jennifer Huber can go and write about it in a future edition of the Outdoor Living section).

Swallow-tailed kites are unique raptors with slim bodies and long wings. Their heads and underparts are white, while their wings, backs and tails are black. Usually seen only from a distance as they soar high overhead, their wingspan is about 4 feet and they are up to 2 feet in length. They spend most of their days in the air, roosting only at night, but they seldom flap their wings. Instead, they continuously rotate their deeply forked tails up to 90 degrees, allowing them to hold a heading into the wind, turn abruptly or circle tightly.

The adult bird’s diet consists primarily of flying insects, which are caught by the feet, transferred to the mouth in midair and eaten without landing. While raising young, the adults will add frogs, lizards, snakes and nestling birds to the menu. They will snatch these tasty morsels while flying, transfer to their bills just before landing, then pass them to their mate or offspring on the nest.

Kites’ stomachs are thicker and spongier than other raptors, allowing them to eat wasps and fire ants. They will sometimes take an entire colony to their chicks, eating the larvae and incorporating the insects’ nests into their own nest.

Swallow-tailed tails used to be found along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Florida, but now breed only in southeastern United States — primarily in Florida. After raising their young, they migrate to South America for the winter. It is estimated that there are only 800 to 1,150 pairs left in this country. While their numbers and range are diminishing at an alarming rate, the biggest threat to them used to be from hunting, which is now illegal and has been greatly reduced in recent years. Unfortunately for our patient, some dingus didn’t get that memo. How or why anyone could shoot such a magnificent bird out of the sky is beyond comprehension. I guess some of us are intent on proving we truly are a stupid country.

Peace River Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the care, preservation and protection of Charlotte County’s native wildlife since 1978. They are open seven days a week year-round, including holidays. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PRWC receives no government funding and relies entirely on private donations. For more info, visit PRWildlife.org, email PeaceRiverWildlifeRfl@gmail.com or call 941-637-3830.
We have some problems that need to be addressed to save our waters. Why am I still writing about this? Well, I woke up to dying fish and my back yard on July 23, so it sort of hit me! I look forward to the other side of these problems, but dead fish get folks’ attention. It’s necessary to acknowledge the elephants rampaging our areas now.

Before we can intelligently attack a problem, we need to identify the problem accurately. Stop accepting propaganda. For example, is agriculture new problem now? How much is freshwater impact from Caloosahatchee or Lake Okeechobee? How much on impact on Harbor comes from the Peace and Myakka rivers? How much of the nutrient pollution in local waters comes from dredged dead-end canals in Port Charlotte and PGI? Look at a photo of these systems and grasp their magnitude. Then look at Cape Coral and see the big dog! How much has the Intracoastal Waterway, dredged in the 1960s, affected our natural flows up and down our coasts from Fort Myers to Tarpon Springs? Lemon Bay is an excellent example of the CW destroying natural flow, resulting in stagnation.

We read and see many folks blaming agriculture, especially Big Sugar, for all our problems. This statement never wholly accounts to keep fertilizers in the root zones. This utilizes the nutrients they’re buying and saves waste and money. Please check with unbiased sources to understand how this works and why I believe it. Both South and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts educated me about this practice. It makes sense to not waste fertilizer or money and prevent pollution.

As far as Lake Okeechobee, my somewhat educated understanding is our biggest problem now is freshwater sediments contaminated by past accumulations, including outdated farming practices. This will blow up into a huge problem if a hurricane thrashes our waters. Just look at satellite photo of Florida to see just how much development we have. Observe that it’s mostly around water. The I-75 corridor is the only exception. The bright light areas show the density of how much is population growth contributing to our water quality degradation?

Also, what about our drinking water’s sustainability? Right now, about half of our drinkable water is used to water lawns and landscaping. With current development growth and paving over everything in sight, how long will it last?

Could we be loving our state to death? I’m not advocating shutting down development. It’s critical to our economy. I must point out that much of our income (and all of mine) comes from tourism and water-related activities. I’m questioning how much is sustainable. There is a carrying capacity for all animals, including humans. Nature has a tipping point in this balancing act. If the balance tips too far, the damage is done. It is stupendously expensive to slow down and attempt to correct past problems — but once forty years, it will be impossible to fix.

The following are some facts sifted from a Miami Herald article by Jenny Staietrovic, published Aug. 13, 2016. It’s worth the read if you want real stories and information (https://goo.gl/4vYi7R):

From 2011 through 2015, SFWMD numbers show the sugar industry accounted for just 3 percent of phosphorus pumped in to lake. They have suspended backpumping except in emergency like last year after Irma. Sugar spent $200 million on clean up its messes. This comes from dredged dead-end canals in Port Charlotte and PGI? Look at a photo of these systems and grasp their magnitude. Then look at Cape Coral and see the big dog! How much has the Intracoastal Waterway, dredged in the 1960s, affected our natural flows up and down our coasts from Fort Myers to Tarpon Springs? Lemon Bay is an excellent example of the CW destroying natural flow, resulting in stagnation. If they become suspended, they will destroy downstream water quality and habitats. Just look to some time forward our waters, as red tide is shutting my business down.

Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1976. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbards@CaptVan.com.

NOTES: Often mistaken for black grouper. In fact, some Florida Crackers call them black grouper. Look for the differences in pattern: Blacks have a more geometric-shaped pattern. Also, black usually has a very dark edging on the tail fin.
Going old-school

With all the lifelike replica baits on the market today, the spinnerbait appears to be losing its place in the bass-fishing world. Is the spinnerbait losing its charm and effectiveness? I love to watch bass fishing shows. Simple little things that some of the professional anglers do, even with the most common of baits, can be picked up from these shows. But as I watch them, I see fewer and fewer episodes where the spinnerbait is the lure of choice. Come to think of it, I can’t remember the last time that I have actually seen a show where a spinnerbait was used as the bait. And if you look closely on the deck of tournament anglers during the competitive shows, you don’t see spinners tied on too many of their rods either.

The history of the spinnerbait is one that dreams are built from. The first spinnerbait was a mere hairpin that held a hook and a beaten-up piece of a hook drilled into it. That innovative bait was created by a bored plumber who wanted to catch more fish back in 1893. A fisherman’s tackle box. Tournament anglers during the competitive shows, you don’t see spinnerbaits tied on too many of their rods either.

But times have changed, and I think some of the attitudes have changed too. The life-like baits on the modern market have given anglers a variety of other options to choose from. You look at the store shelves of tackle stores now and soft plastics with replica bodies of bait-fish are becoming the rage. Simple soft plastics come in such a variety of shapes and sizes that they offer something for literally every condition and water color. Even simple bait like jigs have now been designed to allow the angler to swim it or use it to flip. Some of the new baits are so expensive that the average angler is simply not going to buy them. Those replica body baits that are out today can run from $15 to $60 per bait. I buy them. Those replica body baits that are out today can run from $15 to $60 per bait.

But in my personal experience, the spinnerbait still produces bass. When the conditions dictate, I’ll grab that bait without hesitation. Give me a little ripple on the water and some cover, and the first thing I’ll go to is that spinnerbait. I generally modify most spinnerbaits every time I fish. Whether it’s adding a trailer hook, adding a trailer, putting on an oversized blade, or trimming the skirt, there is always a little something that needs to be done to these baits to make them more productive.

Some of the new baits are so expensive that the average angler is simply not going to buy them. Those replica body baits that are out today can run from $15 to $60 per bait. I don’t know about you, but if I were to lose one of those baits, I might sit on the deck and cry for a while before I even thought about tying another one on. I guess that’s the price we pay for innovation.

While you may not see many people using it on TV, I still think the good old spinnerbait can catch bass. It might not be everyone’s first choice, but in the right conditions, it does the job — and it’s earned a place in every bass fisherman’s tackle box.

Greg Bartz is a tournament bass fisherman based in Lakeeland. Greg fishes lakes throughout Florida’s Heartland with his wife and tournament partner, Missy. Contact him at Greg.Bartz@SummitHoldings.com.

Going old-school
In a large saucepan, sauté the onion, celery, green pepper and garlic in olive oil until tender. Stir in the shrimp juice, tomatoe juice, sliced okra, uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined. Cook for about 7 minutes longer or until shrimp turn pink. Place rice in individual serving bowls; top with gumbo. Serves 12.

— Adapted from allrecipes.com
14-year-old Campbell with a blacknose shark she caught and released about 15 miles west of Venice inlet.

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.
Volunteer Service Aides save taxpayers money for thank-yous

By LAUREN COFFEY
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — They are the ones redirecting traffic after a wreck; the ones ensuring snowbirds’ homes do not go unchecked; the ones saving more than $200,000 for the city.

And they are largely unknown by the North Port community.

They are the Volunteer Service Aides, a group made up of 22 men and one woman doing work previously done by North Port police officers.

The group has existed for roughly two years as a way to alleviate officers from smaller jobs and to help the community become more involved.

“We try to make it easier for the officer and the public,” said Nelson Borrero, a VSA officer.

“So whatever we can do to make it easier, we will,” Thomas Coyle, Borrero’s VSA partner said.

Coyle and Borrero met in the VSA training class around two years ago. Coyle decided Borrero would be a good fit as a partner due to Borrero’s friendly persona and Coyle’s more detail-oriented personality.

As the two drove along on a quiet Thursday morning, it was easy to see Coyle was right about their balance. Borrero takes the wheel, giving a slight wave to every person they pass while Coyle calls out directions, seemingly from memory after years of getting their routine down.

“We look out for one another and we’ve become pretty close,” said Borrero, whose wife signed him up for the program. “We do whatever we can for each other. He’ll call me up at 7 a.m. and ask to go out the next day. We’ve become like family — if he says the magic words, ‘I need you (to come patrol)’ that’s all I need. I’ll change my plans.”

They start their day off by flipping a light-up sign in a median to face the other direction, then head off to Walmart to ensure everyone parked in the handicapped-designated spots has the handicapped sign in their vehicle. While they’re at Walmart, Borrero and Coyle strike up conversations with different shoppers who recognize what they are doing.

“There used to be a lot and we rarely find (violators) now,” Coyle said. “So I think (the enforcement) really does work.”

One of the main duties of VSAs is to check on houses that are currently vacated by seasonal residents. Service aides go around the perimeter of the house ensuring no windows are broken, doors are open and there is a general sense of peace and security on the property.

Last year the duo alone completed 3,318 home checks. This year, 87 houses are on the “check” list for VSAs to visit weekly.

And one of the most time-consuming tasks, the men say, is taking officers’ vehicles to get them up for the program. “We do whatever we can for each other. He’ll call me up at 7 a.m. and ask to go out the next day. We’ve become like family — if he says the magic words, I need you (to come patrol)” that’s all I need. I’ll change my plans.”

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Volunteer service aides Thomas Coyle and Nelson Borrero help move a sign to face the opposite side of the road. It is one of several small tasks North Port Police officers used to do before the VSA program was put in place.
Creating a Town

Almost daily, some- one asks us when West Villages Marketplace, our grocery anchored neighborhood center, will open or when we will have a town center. The team who works here is as eager as the residents and neighbors to enjoy those amenities and services, so we are all working hard to make those plans come to life!

West Villages Florida is in the process of becoming a town, and by that, I’m not talking about a municipality or a government. We are growing a community of neighborhoods, schools, businesses, places of worship, entertainment and recreation. We are becoming a destination, a home, a place to put down roots and make memories. This process involves complex steps and approvals from many different entities. This endeavor began with a large vision about five years ago when the partnership purchased the former Thomas Ranch. As developers, we are committed to creating a town that fits the land and reflects the vibrant lifestyle people love about southwest Florida. Our goal is to enrich people’s lives by creating something so beautifully vibrant and thoughtfully designed that it changes your day for the better, a place where better opportunities are being created for generations to come and where aspirations and realities merge in collaborative innovation.

Below is a snapshot of the process and procedures our team follows as we work to make West Villages the best place to “Live Life Your Way”.

Before almost any plans are made, engineers and environmental experts conduct a detailed site analysis to determine location of flatwoods, improved pasture, freshwater marshes, etc. So dedicated are we to having the development fit the land, this information is vital. Designate proposed uses, such as retail/commercial, residential, multifamily, etc.

Hold neighborhood public meetings. Here we show maps of the land and surrounding area and images of proposed ideas for usage.

Tax-free holiday starts Friday

This weekend, parents and guardians will have an opportunity to pick up needed school supplies tax-free. From Friday through Sunday, supplies like notebooks, pencils, pens, along with clothing and shoes will be tax-exempt for parents.

This year, there are some changes to the items which are considered tax-free. The Florida Department of Revenue provides a list to parents and guardians of what is and isn’t tax-free. According to the department, no tax is paid on any purchase of any article of clothing, wallet, or bags. Bags, according to the Department of Revenue, are considered tax-free. The Florida Department of Revenue states that tax-free holiday starts Friday.

By ALEXANDRA HERRERA
STAFF WRITER

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include handbags, backpacks, fanny packs and diaper bags — though several items are excluded.

The excluded items are briefcases, suitcases and other garment bags with a selling price of $60 or less.

There are also tax-free exceptions such as skis, swim fins, roller blades and skates, as well as watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas or watches, watchbands, and skates, as well as swim fins, roller blades, except for skis, though several items are included. (See the list below.)

Outside of these items, most clothing and shoes are included under the tax exemption, as well as hair accessories, uniforms, diapers including adult, inserts and baby, among other items — costumes, work gloves and safety handkerchiefs.

There are also tax-free supplies from the Florida Department of Revenue.

While school supplies that are tax exempt are binders, calculators, transparent tape, colored pencils, crayons, erasers, folders, glue sticks and liquid glue, among other items. Another way of finding out what supplies are needed is to check with teachers.

Charlotte County Schools spokesperson Michael Riley recommended parents use the internet for localized information.

“Check the website and (check) the teacher’s site,” Riley said. Along with checking the list, parents can also help those who may not be able to get supplies. Riley recommended that parents, who are financially able, pick up an extra notebook or pack of pencils if they can.

Parents who can donate, also can donate to the teacher supply depot, which provides additional supplies to teachers to help students.

If parents are in need, they have the option to call the local education foundation to find out places they can get help. “(There are) lots of folks who give,” he said.

Just last year Charlotte High School started a supply pantry to help students who need school supplies, according to Riley.

Computer paper, correction tape, fluid or pens, masking tape, printer paper, as well as staples and staplers are not exempt, according to the Department of Revenue.

This year, clothing, footwear and certain accessories selling at $60 and under and certain school supplies selling at $15 or under per item are exempt, according to the Department of Revenue.

Any clothing item over $15 is not exempt — this includes computers. Other items that are not included in the sales are items sold in theme parks, entertainment, public lodging establishments or an airport — rentals and leases of eligible items are also not included.

School in Charlotte County starts Aug. 10, and open houses will begin after the tax-free holiday.

School in Sarasota County begins Aug. 13. For a full list of items visit www.floridarevenue.com and click the back to school banner for more information on the items that are included.

Readers can scan the code to access the list if qualifying items from the Florida Department of Revenue.

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West Nile found in area mosquitoes

Staff Report

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County is advising residents there has been an increase in mosquito-borne disease activity in the Venice area. No human cases have been reported, according to officials, but pools of mosquitoes trapped in Sarasota County at Venice Gardens have tested positive for West Nile Virus. A pool is a collection of no more than 50 mosquitoes. The pools of mosquitoes that tested positive were collected in unincorporated areas of Sarasota County near Venice.

Sarasota County

Mosquito Management Services has already treated the area. Sarasota County Mosquito Management Services and the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County staff has been trapping and collecting mosquitoes at several sites throughout the county this summer as part of the county’s mosquito management plan.

Trapped mosquitoes are then sent to a lab where they are tested for West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus, and St. Louis Encephalitis virus.

No human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Sarasota County at this time. West Nile Virus affects the central nervous system and can cause serious illness, even death. However, about 80 percent of people who become infected with the virus will not show any symptoms.

West Nile Virus History

Last year, West Nile Virus was blamed for the death of a bald eagle found at the Celery Fields in Sarasota, according to a Florida Health Department. The eagle’s lungs and heart were tested. Lab results show the eagle suffered encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and mild heart damage. It was the only case of a dead eagle in Florida in 2017.

West Nile Virus is a disease most commonly spread to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Last year, Sarasota County was second highest in the state for West Nile Virus found from North Port to Sarasota in birds. There were 32 sentinel chickens that tested positive for West Nile Virus, and four for St. Louis encephalitis, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

So far this year, there are seven cases. County officials are reminding residents and visitors to avoid being seen by mosquitoes and to take basic precautions to limit exposure.

Drain and cover

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, health officials are urging residents to “drain and cover.” Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying, and cover the skin with clothing or repellent.

Here are more tips:

• Drain water from garage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

• Empty and clean birdbaths and pet’s water bowls at least once or twice a week.

• Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarp that doesn’t accumulate water.

• Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

• Cover skin with clothing or repellent.

• Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.

• Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years. DEET is not recommend- ed on children younger than two months old.

The Florida Health Department continues to conduct statewide surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile virus infections. Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, malaria, chikungunya and dengue.

Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds via the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s site at: Legacy.myfwc.com/bird/default.asp.
IslandWalk man received Silver Star for heroism

After graduating from Southern Illinois University in 1964, Byron Hill, of IslandWalk in West Villages, found his name at the top of the list to be drafted and sent to fight the war in Vietnam. “I was told I was going to be inducted into the Army within 30 days,” he recalled decades later. “So I joined the Marine Corps. I went in the Corps because I had a cousin who was in the Marines who was killed in World War II.”

“I went to Officers Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia and barely got through basic because I had a terrible time doing pull-ups,” he said. “From there I was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for artillery training and landed in Vietnam in ’67. I became an artillery spotter.”

“I was involved in a brutal fight with the North Vietnamese Army in the Que Son Valley near DaNang in May 1967. Our unit was almost overrun by the NVA,” Hill recalled. “At first we could see them sitting around their campfires chanting all kinds of stuff. Then they attacked.”

“At the same time, we had incoming and outgoing mortar, small arms fire from all directions. Enemy soldiers were coming through our lines.”

“The worst part of it, our new M-16 rifles didn’t work. They jammed.”

“The situation got so bad at times Hill’s men used the enemy’s AK-47 assault rifles. They fired the same 7.62 ammunition and it could be used interchangeably.”

“Over the next couple of hours, we dug in as best we could since we expected an enemy attack that night,” he explained. “At first we could see them sitting around their campfires chanting all kinds of stuff. Then they attacked.”

“Shortly after arriving I was able to call an air strike in that made all the difference,” Hill said. “We were dealing with incoming artillery fire at the same time we were trying to fight off the enemy. It was hot, surreal and unreal.”

“In the midst of the battle, Lt. Hill moved to an open area to call in close air support and adjust artillery fire against the NVA. He was there for hours calling in support.”

A short while later, Hill received word the commander of Kilo Company had been shot. He worked his way down the front lines to where the wounded officer was and took over. McElroy, his company commander, said at the time, “I didn’t know if I had sent the wounded officer to his death.”

“We were on the north side of the Song Ly Ly River and the NVA were about 200 meters to our front in hedgerows near a dried-up stream. About midnight loud and shrill whistles plus glaring bugs signaled the NVA’s first deadly attack.”

“Hill brought illumination rounds to silhouetted enemy soldiers. That made them vulnerable to machine-gunners and riflemen. Marine forces accounted for more than 200 enemy confirmed killed with and estimated 300 or more dead or wounded having been dragged from the battlefield.”

“At the conclusion of the fight the next morning, the NVA finally withdrew from the battlefield after failing to overrun the Marines’ position.”

A report on the battle notes, “Hill brought overwhelming artillery and mortar fire to bear on the NVA. He was also directing devastating accurate air strikes. The initial strikes by F-8 Crusader jets is credited with turning the tide of battle in favor of the Marines. They dropped Napalm on enemy trenches.”

For his efforts, Lt Hill received the Silver Star for heroism. During his 15 months in Vietnam he served long enough to take part in the Tet Offensive. This was a massive coordinated effort by the NVA and VC to overrun all the major cities and military bases in South Vietnam. From a military standpoint it was
Worker shortage changes the restaurant scene

In just months, 10 new eateries have sprung up locally, with six more awaiting inspections. And that doesn’t include dozens more planned for Allegretti’s Charlotte Harbor Suneagle Resort, Murdock, and West Villages Marketplace. One random July afternoon, job website Indeed.com reported 675 restaurant openings from Venice to Punta Gorda. Who will fill all those jobs?

Catching and keeping employees

In 2017, 37 percent of the National Restaurant Association’s 40,000 members reported labor recruitment as their number one challenge. The Labor Department this month reported a tellingly odd statistic: the percentage of American workers quitting their jobs reached its highest level since 2001. A “grass is greener” mentality and excess job openings tempt restaurant workers to job-hop to better pay nearly as often as the economy’s overall 2.4 percent quit rate for May.

“Some leave you for 50 cents, and they don’t even tell you,” complained Doug Amaral, owner of Punta Gorda’s River City Grill and India. To attract and keep workers, owners have had to change their management style. Gone are the days when a chef-manager could bleep like Gordon Ramsay or throw things at the help.

Executive Chef Josh Boone of The Wyvern’s 38 Keys Florida remembered, “By the time I was in my twenties, things had changed. You couldn’t keep staff anymore by yelling and throwing pans.”

After two staff members walked out on him before dinner service on a busy Friday, chef-manager Chris Mandell of Punta Gorda’s Burg’r Bar reflected, “I’m very calm now. I don’t throw plates any more, I don’t kick trash barrels. It doesn’t accomplish anything. If the staff needs anything, I just say yes.” Amaral has long been proud of the longevity of his own staff.

“I’m more proud of that than of any dollar I’ve ever made,” he said. “75 percent of my staff has been with me 10 years out of nearly 17 in business here.” The secret? He pays more than minimum wage and treats good workers like family.

“Ultimately, you buy into the family thing with you, or you buy out. Most buy in, and they stay. But it’s horrible finding staff. I’m trying different approaches like Indeed.com, which seems to attract a more reasonable group.”

Blossom’s, staffing for success

Blossom was the happiest kid in Luzon. She got to ride all over the Philippine island with her grand-father Valentino’s “rolling store”—a home-grown short-order food truck. Now named Liza Savage, Blossom has food industry experience dating back as far as she can remember. But the industry is different now. After meeting Mike Savage on vacation in the Philippines, the unsung young woman managed to board a plane for the first time, brave LAX and endure an eight-hour flight delay — all to join her husband-to-be in Chicago. A decade ago they married and would operate an Illinois Pizza Shack.

But Liza always dreamed of a restaurant that served more food than that. Now that she and Mike — president of Englewood’s award-winning W3C. Carlson Roofing — have bought the former Bay Pointe Grill, she serves much more food. At Blossom’s Family Restaurant there are 16 breakfasts starting at $1.99, pancakes, crepes, French toast and Belgian waffles; sandwiches, salads, and burgers, including two named for Liza and Mike; fried chicken and seafood; and 14 dinners.

Liza has had to rise to the now-pandemic owner’s challenge of inexperienced and unreliable help. Though nicknamed as a delicate flower, she’s found the inner steel to fire workers.

“I should have been open today,” she said. “But none of my servers showed up this morning, I fired all the cooks and another server. I had several job inquiries, but no one showed up.”

The restaurant is busier than she ever dreamed it would be. Still, Liza determines to serve fresh, ample, made-to-order plates to all her customers, and ticket times have improved as she finds more help.

Blossom’s Family Restaurant ($-$), 941-208-2865, 3250 N. Access Road, Englewood, is open Sunday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 8 p.m. Beer and wine are available.

Send restaurant and bar news and recommendations to columnist Sue Wade at suewade47@aol.com.

Average price ranges are $ = inexpensive (under $10), $$ = moderate ($11-$30), and $$$ = pricey ($30 or over), including tips and beverages.
Sarasota County parks chief steps down

By WARREN RICHARDSON
SUN CORRESPONDENT

SARASOTA — Former Sarasota County Administrator and now Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer has committed himself to helping top-level Sarasota County staff.

County Parks and Recreation Director Carolyn Brown is the latest and second highest level county employee to leave the county and assume a position with Longboat Key in the last seven months.

Brown informed County Administrator Jonathan Lewis on Friday his decision to retire from county service effective Oct. 1. Although labeled as a retirement rather than a resignation, Brown also indicated that she would be taking a new position with Longboat Key.

"Working for Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources for more than 30 years has been amazing. It has provided me with invaluable opportunities and experiences and a career that has been truly enriching, meaningful and fun," Brown said in an emailed statement.

The same email Lewis said, "As you know Carolyn has been a stalwart in protecting and creating access to our county parks and natural resources. We are thankful for Carolyn’s years of public service with the county and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Lewis added Brown "will be an asset for Longboat Key and how her in Longboat will be good for Sarasota County." He has enjoyed working with her and a lot has been accomplished over the last several years to improve and expand the quality of our Parks and Natural Resources under her direction," Commissioner Charles Hines, the longest-serving commissioner, wrote in an email.

Brown’s pending retirement, although two and one-half months away, comes as the county continues difficult negotiations on its agreements with North Port and Venice regarding parks in the cities, which have been managed by the county for years.

Last year, facing future budget difficulties, the county sent letters to the county’s four cities indicating that the county intended to terminate the agreements at the end of their terms rather than renewing them.

At the time, Brown indicated that the county would manage large, regional parks, and return smaller parks to the cities to manage. The regional parks model was laid out in a master parks plan adopted by county commissioners in 2016. So far, the city of Sarasota has approved a new parks agreement with the county. Last week, presented with three options on a new agreement with the county, North Port city commissioners indicated they wanted a joint meeting with county commissioners to discuss the matter.

The Venice City Council has indicated that they would need a year before they could act on a new agreement.

In leaving the county and going to Longboat Key, Brown will be joining former county Public Works Director Isaac Brownman, and former county planners Tate Taylor and Allen Parsons, all recruited by Harmer for his staff.

Harmer became the town manager for Longboat Key in January after his surprising resignation from the county last summer.

Brown has served as the county’s Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources director since 2010, replacing long-time director John McCarthy upon his retirement from the county.

Email: jdelreyercrem@gmail.com

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FROM PAGE 5

a disaster for the North Vietnamese forces. From a political standpoint, it successfully toppled the South Vietnamese government.

"When Tet started, I was the commander of a Howitzer company of 105s and 155s stationed with a helicopter unit at 'Marble Mountain' in Vietnam," Hall said. "The NVA and VC would always have a disaster for the North Vietnamese. "Before the end of Tet we were shown the bodies of the people of the area whom they met with and found delightful. "All of a sudden there was a little lady holding a badly deformed child in our midst. He had a cleft palate and no nose. Our group was able to get the child some medical attention to correct his serious medical problems."

They contacted “Smile Train,” a not-for-profit operation that uses American physicians to restore badly deformed children to good health through surgical miracles.

"Today, Minh Duc, that little boy, is a pretty normal kid with a future," Hall said.

When Hill returned from the war in the '60s he spent a couple more years in the regular Marines in San Diego and then went to work in the private sector and joined the Marine Corps Reserve at the same time.

He spent the first decade of his civilian life working for Johnson & Johnson, then he went to work for Emerson Electric and wrapped it up working for the Marmon Group out of Chicago owned by the Pritzker family, who owned the worldwide industrial conglomerate.

He and his wife, Janice, moved to Florida in 2013. They have a daughter named Shelly. If you have a war story, or if a friend or neighbor has one, contact how at moore@donmoore93@ gmail.com or 941-429-2120. Visit www.donmoorewarstories.com.
Back to School

North Port hosts a back to School Resource Fair from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Morgan Family Community Center, 6207 W. Price Blvd., North Port. “The event will feature 28 exhibitors which will provide a variety of information for families with children, including child care, healthy living and nutritional information, children activities, mentoring information, educational programs, and more,” the city said. For more information, call 941-429-3700 or visit www.cityofnorthport.com/socialservices.

Summer Finale

Celebrate the end of summer with Clowns Like Us, Alley No. 3, from 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1 at Elsie Quiik Library, 100 W. Dearborn St., Englewood. Children ages 5-11 can enjoy face painting, stilts walking, magic tricks, balloon twisting, and more. Funding provided by the Friends of Elsie Quiik Library.

School supplies

AMVETS Post 2000 Ladies Auxiliary is seeking school supplies for Glenallen Elementary School in North Port, including “No. 2 pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors, glue and glue sticks, crayons, color pencils, dry markers, highlighters, supply boxes, pencil bags, rulers, note book papers,” the group said. The school supply drive goes until the first week of August. Those wanting to donate can drop off items at AMVETS Post 2000, 401 Ortiz Blvd., Warm Mineral Springs. Monetary donations will also be accepted. For more information, call 941-429-1999.

AMVETS Karaoke

Englewood’s new AMVETS Post 777, 3386 N. Access Road, sponsors Karaoke Night with pizza at 6 p.m. each Monday. The only exception is the second Monday, which is the group’s monthly meeting. All veterans and guests are invited. Post 777 is one-year old with 100 members. For membership information, call Andy Hackfleman at 941-830-5082, or email him at a.hackleman@yahoo.com.

Riders dinner

AMVETS Post 312 Riders hosts a T-bone steak dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 4. Dinner includes the steak cooked-to-order, baked potato, dessert and salad for a cost of $12. Tickets must be purchased by today. The post is located at 7600 Chancellor Blvd., North Port. For more information, call 941-429-5403.

Borrow a life jacket

The Englewood Coast Guard Auxiliary, 1929 Englewood Road (State Road 776), has life jackets for lending. Grandkids coming into town? Your own kids got bigger? Stop by for a life jacket and a visit with our volunteers.
Dealing with being scammed after death of loved one

"After a loved one dies, those left behind are often consumed with grief and shock. Sadly this can make you a target for scammers who prey on the vulnerable, especially the widow/widower," warns financial consultant Liz Finger Pyck in Forbes.com. "This is the last thing you should have to deal with during a tragedy."

Like this recent widow's story:

"Shortly after her husband's death, a caller claiming to be with the VA reached out about his expired life insurance policy, explaining the Identity Theft Resource Center. "They offered to reinstate the policy and pay the full amount if the widow would simply pay the last two years' worth of payments on a prepaid gift card."

"Fortunately, the widow didn't fall for it. But she did realize that the deceased left behind a possible time-consuming and costly problem. After taking the money, the caller from the VA would no longer return her calls."

No one's suggesting eliminating obituaries. However, myidcare.com recommends leaving out key personal facts, including the deceased's middle name, birth date, birthplace, mother's maiden name and home address. And — acknowledging that it's "hard to follow" — AARP also suggests not listing the names of family survivors, as it makes them targets for like an after-death debt collection scam, where crooks use details found in a deceased's obituary to contact the relative's family, convincing them there's a bogus debt that the deceased left behind. Or a report from Scambusters (www.scambusters.org) that crooks use obituaries to contact family members posing as reps from VISA or MasterCard, in the near certainty that the deceased had a card on file. The crooks then have the account canceled yet. They just need to "update" the account details.

The AARP calls this a "death notice double-cross."

"Publicly sharing personal information is risky enough in everyday life. It gets worse in death," caution the AARP. "Obituaries can take the risk to a whole new level. When published in newspapers and websites, they can spoon-feed scammers the precise nuggets they need."

"Too often, these personal biographies — which seem likely to appear in print as well as remaining online for years — include all sorts of sensitive information that can be used to perpetrate fraud," warns myidcare.com.

Or the after-death scam reported by Bankrate.com where fraudsters come to the home of a recent widow/widower with a cash-on-delivery package. Claiming the recently deceased spouse ordered something and demands immediate payment. "After taking the money, the message goes wrong before the victim realizes the box contains old magazines or newspapers that are worthless," AARP states nearly 800,000 people a year are specifically targeted after death.

That includes scammers opening new credit in a deceased's name. While surviving spouses or family members generally aren't liable personally for this type of identity theft, creditor claims can be filed against the estate, creating a possible time-consuming and costly problem.

To help thwart after-death ID theft, survivors need to take matters into their own hands. Understand, when notified, the Social Security Administration places a deceased in its "Death Master File" which is transmitted to the major credit reporting agencies, preventing the opening of any new credit. However, the process can take months. And if SSA isn't notified, the ID Theft Resource Center explains an active credit file will stay open for up to 10 years without activity. So, rather than

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Heart condition may have contributed to diver’s death

By GREG GILES

NEWS EDITOR

Venice resident James Earl Little, 61, known as Bubba to family and friends, died doing what he loved best, diving for sharks teeth in the Gulf of Mexico, according to his wife, Linda.

Little, a construction manager with Crowther Roofing in Sarasota, set out Thursday morning, July 12, with three friends in a center console fishing boat that Little obtained from the Freedom Boat Club. Their destination — Manasota Key.

Sometime during the dive, James Little disappeared. He was discovered around 11:20 a.m. by a Venice Fire Department marine patrol during a grid search of the area.

Family and friends are now awaiting the results of an autopsy and toxicology report by the Medical Examiner’s Office and death investigation by the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, all of which could take months to complete.

Little’s dive equipment was collected by law enforcement and will be examined as well.

A preliminary finding by the medical examiner’s office points to drowning due to a heart condition, said Linda Little.

James Little had bypass heart surgery around 2010. He was about to go in for a battery of tests this October for a suspected leaky heart valve, which can cause shortness of breath, especially with exertion.

The divers were all experienced. The Littles have been diving for a decade, and meet Dr. Bob Lee, 58, and his son Tommy, 21, around eight years ago while diving. They were on vacation from Canada and were diving with Little on July 12, staying with the Littles at their Venice residence.

The fourth passenger was another friend, Ben Schultz, 54, fossiling expert with the Venice Dive Center, who called 911 on the day of the dive. Linda Little said she hasn’t spoken about the dive with any of the participants that day.

“I’m still in shock,” she said, noting she plans to meet with some of them in the coming weeks.

This much she learned: the divers were about 100 yards offshore diving in a depth of only 12 to 17 feet.

“He was a really good family man,” Linda Little said. “His passion was diving. That’s what he loved to do. We mostly did summertime dives when it’s warm.”

“Jim always had a can-do attitude and infectious love for life, his family and friends,” read his obituary. “His passion for the ocean and diving for shark teeth inspired him and Linda to move to the sea (in 2006).”

Jim and Linda loved to welcome family at their Venice home as he was a consummate host and made sure others were always comfortable.”

As a young man, Little attended the University of Arizona on a football scholarship. He was a standout athlete in football and basketball at Oswego High School, and became an avid outdoorsman and hunter.

During his work career, Little managed multiple construction and roofing companies.

A celebration of life was held July 19 at Farley Funeral Home in Venice.

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Southwest Florida, no doubt, has an algae problem. Actually, it has more than one algae problem. The major culprits at the moment are Karenia brevis (the Florida red tide) along our coast and a couple species of Microcystis in the Caloosahatchee River.

K. brevis is a dinoflagellate that is found almost exclusively in the Gulf of Mexico. Dinoflagellates are microscopic algae, and there are approximately 2,000 species worldwide. Most are harmless, but some — such as our Florida red tide — are toxic. Scientist know that K. brevis blooms originate 10 to 40 miles offshore. Winds and currents bring them inshore, usually in bottom waters. K. brevis can use many different forms of nitrogen and phosphorus and the sources of these nutrients may differ between the offshore, nearshore and estuarine environment.

There is no direct link between human-derived nutrients (fertilizers, sewage, etc.) and the initiation of blooms. However, once blooms are transported inshore, these nutrient sources can fuel or sustain them. The current bloom we’re experiencing started last November. Blooms lasting this long are not unheard of. In 2005, a massive red tide spanning more than 500 square miles started in January and didn’t end until February 2006. Like all blooms, the 2005 one moved around, and it ebbed and waned in size and intensity. And, like this one, it resulted in the widespread death of marine life. Although we were impacted by the 2005 bloom, the Tampa Bay region and areas north experienced the brunt of that bloom.

Moving to the Caloosahatchee River, two species of Microcystis comprise the majority of that bloom. Microcystis is a cyanobacteria, also referred to as blue-green algae. Although we refer to it as an algae, cyanobacteria are actually far more primitive than true algae, having appeared 3.5 billion years ago. In fact, they were the first organisms to photosynthesize and produced the oxygen in our atmosphere.

There are 2,698 described cyanobacteria species. Microcystis is the most common bloom-forming genus, and is almost always toxic. Although blooms of Microcystis and other cyanobacteria species are often lumped in with other harmful algae blooms (HABs), they are more accurately known as cyanobacterial HABs, or cyanHABs.

In ponds, lakes and rivers, HABs are most frequently caused by cyanobacteria. However, in estuarine and marine waters, dinoflagellates cause the majority of HABs. One thing all HABs have in common is their dependence on nutrients for initiation and maintenance. Until recently, scientists focused on nitrogen in our estuaries and phosphorus in freshwater systems. That is because most of our estuaries are nitrogen-limited, whereas most freshwater systems are phosphorus-limited. Today we know that we have to be concerned with both nitrogen and phosphorus in all of our water bodies.

When our lakes, rivers, estuaries and oceans are healthy, naturally occurring microscopic algae, also called phytoplankton, are limited by the availability of nutrients and phytoplankton feeding organisms. When land-based activities deliver nutrients to the water in excess, it can lead to a process called eutrophication. Consequences of eutrophication include algal blooms, fish kills, dead zones and loss of bottom habitats.

Aside from the big fixes to clean up and restore water flow to the Everglades, there are a number of other land-use practices that can help to reduce the amount of nutrients entering our water bodies. Converting conventional septic systems to centralized sewer or advanced treatment systems; reducing agricultural and urban fertilizer use to recommended levels; controlling runoff from fertilizers and animal waste (both agricultural and domestic); and smart development solutions that better integrate stormwater management options. Although most management activities to date have attempted to reduce nutrient loading from the watershed (land area draining to a surface water), it is also important to consider the cycling and removal of nutrients from within the receiving water bodies by sediments; plants such as mangroves, saltmarsh grasses and seagrass; and animals such as bacteria, oysters and clams.

For instance, suspension-feeding organisms, which include filter-feeders — such as clams, oysters, tunicates, and some fish like the Atlantic thread herring (greenies) and Gulf menhaden — potentially influence nutrient cycling, water clarity, phytoplankton abundance and other ecosystem processes. Interestingly, Mote Marine Laboratory is currently doing a study to evaluate whether filter-feeding animals and seaweeds can help mitigate the effects of K. brevis. A number of other projects are also being planned or are underway to evaluate or restore vital habitats and organisms in our waters to mitigate nutrient inputs.

In order to restore water quality and reduce the frequency and impact of harmful algal blooms in Florida, we have to focus on both the land and the water. Everyone has a role in affectively controlling the nutrients that threaten our coastal environments and the economies that depend on them.

Betty Staugler is the Charlotte County extension agent for the Florida Sea Grant Program. She is active in many areas relating to boating, fishing, and water-related Florida living. The Florida Sea Grant College Program supports research and education activities that help Florida’s shoreline communities, industries and citizens wisely use the state’s coastal and marine resources. Contact her at staugler@ufl.edu or 941-764-4346.
Citizens

From Page 1

Served. The vehicles can only get serviced in Tampa or Fort Myers and before the VSA program started, two officers would have to go to the mechanic for one vehicle.

“We’ll go, we’ll do it so it gives them the time they don’t have to be out of the city,” Borrero said.

Those hours add up in funds saved. According to North Port Police spokesperson Josh Taylor, VSA has saved the department roughly $250,000 amount in its two years.

“You’ve seen we’ve been trying to catch up with personnel and it’s a huge help,” he said. “The way the program has been able to grow and develop is such a cost saver to taxpayer. And not only cost but safety: saving the officer from doing (smaller tasks) helps the officer stay in service. While VSAs have to commit to a minimum of 12 hours a month, both Coyle and Borrero went well above that last year: Coyle had roughly 780 hours served, while Borrero had at least 500 hours.

“I just wanted to help the officers,” Coyle said. “Because of all the bad things that have seemed to happen, I want to help any way I can. When you see on the news cops are getting shot, I couldn’t stand by and not do anything. We want to go around help any way I can. People will recognize us and say you’re not doing that,” Borrero said. “People will recognize us and say hello. The thank-yous once in a while and money — or anything else, we just get thank-yous once in a while and that’s enough.”

To get involved in the VSA program, call the VSA coordinator at 941-223-9643.

Volunteer service aides Nelson Borrero and Thomas Coyle check doors of a North Port house to ensure they are locked. The VSAs are given a list of houses to check while snowbirds are away.

Volunteer service aides Thomas Coyle and Nelson Borrero patrol the Walmart parking lot on Tamiami Trail for people who may be illegally parked in handicapped spots. They said they have seen violations decrease dramatically over the two years they have been patrolling.
by and borrow one or more, for courtesy, of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Sea Tow Foundation. Life jackets are available in all sizes, 24/7 in a rack front of the building. Please return the life jacket when you are finished. For more information, visit www.coastguardenglewood.com or call Dane Hahn at 941-370-3555.

Art Center

The North Port Art Center is raffling tickets for a suite — including include tickets to a 2019 Charlotte Stone Crabs baseball game. Choose the night — excluding nights with a game. All just a short walk to the theater, fine dining and upscale shopping. MLS#N61008724 $649,000

Back Pack Angels

The North Port Coalition for Homeless/Needy Children asks Back Pack Angels remains busy. The group packs and delivers bags of hygiene products to North Port schools and social agencies. During the summer months, it continues to deliver hygiene products to pre-schools. In May, the organization packed and delivered more than 800 bags. A list of the products needed and drop off locations is available at www.backpackangels.org.

The BPA has a meeting every month (except for August) the first Tuesday of the month at the North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail at 10 a.m.

For more information, call Diane Patterson 813-758-2805 or Susan Ricard 941-423-6347.

Rotonda blood drive

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club will sponsor a OneBlood Drive on the Big Red Bus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 9 in the parking lot of the Rotonda West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West Florida.

Be a Summer Hero and donate a pint of blood to help save up to three lives. Blood donors are especially needed in this area during the summer time. You must be 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and bring a form of identification. For more information, contact Brenda Sisk at Sam Shapos Way or call Brenda Sisk at 941-833-3824 or Brenda Sisk#CharlotteCountyFL 941-423-6347.

Lung cancer support group

The North Port Lung Cancer support group is available at www.backpackangels.org.

The North Port Art Center is raffling tickets for a suite — including include tickets to a 2019 Charlotte Stone Crabs baseball game. Choose the night — excluding nights with a game. All just a short walk to the theater, fine dining and upscale shopping. MLS#N61008724 $649,000

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MLS#N61008724 $649,000

Magna Park

2 bedroom 2 bath condo with den, pool, clubhouse and garage, small pets ok.

MLSN#5915262 $231,000

Stonbrooke

6.6 CC/Palmer Ranch

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New charter adoption set for November ballot

By LAUREN COFFEY
STAFF WRITER

NORTH PORT — North Port voters will have one extra decision to make on their November ballot, at a Tuesday night meeting, the City Commission voted to place a referendum on the ballot asking voters if a new ordinance should be adopted to “replace the current city charter in its entirety.” Commissioners and any interested community members have spent months combing through the more than 30-page document, trying to make it more understandable to the public.

“This has taken a long time but the reorganization flows a lot better,” Vice Mayor Linda Yates said, noting it is more understandable. The North Port City Charter spells out many of the rules the city officials follow, including term limits, candidate qualification specifications and powers and limitations of commissioners. Besides changing spelling errors and commissioner titles, the commissioners briefly went back and forth on the percentage of residents needed for citizen initiatives. It was originally 10 percent and brought down to a proposed 5 percent.

While some commissioners wanted to have only 3 percent needed for a citizen initiative, they ended up sticking with the 5 percent. “There are some things (suggested by the Charter Review Advisory Board) that I absolutely love and would be full heartedly behind in subsequent years,” Commissioner Jill Lake said. “I think for this year we need to ease the changes and then make subsequent changes.” The question on the ballot will read “Shall the proposed 2018 City Charter as set forth in Ordinance No. 2018-28 be adopted to replace the current City Charter in its entirety?” Voters can choose “Yes” to adopt the new charter and “No” if they are against the adoption.

Volunteers needed

North Port’s Meals on Wheels is growing and seeks volunteer drivers and kitchen assistants. It is moving into a larger facility and increasing its client base. Anyone interested can call Teddy Repose at 941-685-6969 or email npmealsonwheels@gmail.com.

Noon Kiwanis

The North Port Noon Kiwanis Club meets at noon on Wednesdays at The Family Table Restaurant, 14132 Tamiami Trail. The group is looking for new members. For more information, call 941-426-5818.

Marine Corps League

The Marine Corps League Detachment 948 meets at 9 a.m. at the Olde World on the last Saturday of the month during July and August.

Moosie dinner

North Port Moose Lodge offers a fried chicken dinner on the third Wednesday of each month. The dinner is served from 5-8 p.m. with proceeds benefiting the Building Fund. Advance tickets and tickets available at the bar. It is a three-piece golden fried dinner consisting of potatoes, gravy, a vegetable and roll for members and qualified guests.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 14

Cancer Support Group meets from 2-3 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at Sarasota Memorial ER in North Port along Toledo Blade Boulevard. The group is for people with lung cancer along with their caregivers. No RSVP nor charge is required.

August.

The North Port Noon Moose Lodge offers a fried chicken dinner on the last Saturday of the month during July and August from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 18 for a cost of $45 per person or $65 per couple. Boating class from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Oct. 27 at the post. Inside tables are available to vendors for $20. Outside parking spots for the Swap Meet (truck sale) will be available for $10. No food vendors, please. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Southwest Florida Honor Flight program. Please contact Laura at 941-662-5503 or email at Unit113AAA@aol.com for questions and vendor applications for this event. Please leave a message.

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Pamela Trout has boxes in her garage filled with nearly 150 portraits she's hoping to reunite with their subjects. She just needs to find them first. Captured in oil paint, pastels and watercolor, the faces are varied and distinct — an elderly man with a white beard and cap, a smiling couple looking into the distance with the title “Just Married,” a woman with the mask of a cat, which Trout believes may be a self-portrait. The artist’s name is Bernice B. Walker, but little else is known about her. “I don’t think she was well known,” Trout said. Little is known about the subjects either. The portraits have no dates or names to identify the people in them. Trout is a North Port resident and owner of the new Smugglers Tiki Bar, set to open in Punta Gorda later this year. She bought the portraits at a local estate sale, where the funds were going to benefit a church. She doesn’t plan to keep the paintings and said the reason for buying them was simply that she felt it would be fun to return them to the families whose loved ones or selves are featured. “What was going to happen to them if we didn’t buy them, we don’t know,” she said. “We felt it was a good cause.” Trout believes Walker moved to Port Charlotte from the east coast, but lived in the area for many years. Trout believes they are likely local people, though the paintings may now be 30 or 40 years old. Trout said she would think the children or grandchildren of the subjects would know if their family members had sat for a portrait, and she's hoping they'll get in touch with her. “I think it would be pretty neat, especially if it was your family...” Trout is not asking for any money for the portraits. She asks anyone who thinks they or their family members may be featured to give her a call. She can be reached at 210-760-7664. Email: aeasker@sun-herald.com

A portrait with the title “Just Married”