State of emergency declared over algae

By Donald Rodrigue

STUART — The Martin County Commission officially declared a state of emergency Aug. 7 in hopes of freeing up state funds for emergency responses and potential financial aid for area businesses suffering due to the latest onslaught of blue-green algae dumped into the St. Lucie River Estuary by recent Lake Okeechobee discharges.

Dozens of area activists, government officials and environmental experts showed up for the emergency meeting requested by Commissioner Sarah Heard, who wanted the different state and federal agencies to do better coordination of their testing of the algae-laden waters.

“I’m concerned that people aren’t recognizing the risks,” she said. “It seems there are different standards that state has and the DEP [Department of Environmental Protection] has and the Center for Disease Control has, and I want to make sure that we are measuring risk properly. We need to coordinate testing to make sure we are assessing risk and alerting people about the risk that they might be putting themselves into, so I think we need to have federal testing in coordination with our state testing.”

Congressman Brian Mast led off the discussion, highlighting recent congressional successes with funding for Everglades Restoration such as the $561 million appropriated for the ongoing Glades Restoration such as the $561 million appropriated for the ongoing
Two vie for Republican primary in District 83

Hometown News is asking all primary race candidates to answer the same questions in order to give readers the information needed to make their best informed choices for the upcoming Martin/ St. Lucie County primary elections.

There are two candidates in the Republican primary race for the District 83 state representative seat: Sasha Dadan and Toby Overdorf.

Sasha Dadan

What is your full name and age?
Sasha Dadan, 29 years old

Where do you reside?
Port St. Lucie.

Do you have family ties locally?

My husband is a long-time resident of Port St. Lucie. My mother-in-law and father-in-law reside in Port St. Lucie. My brother-in-law also resides in Port St. Lucie. And my mother resides here too, until he passed. My brother-in-law currently serves as a board member on the Martin County Teachers & School Staff (with ID) and as president-elect of the Palm City Chamber of Commerce.

What are your professional qualifications?
I am victim’s right advocate and small business owner. I have spent over a decade advocating for children and families. I started advocating for abused, abandoned and neglected children at the age of 19 as a Guardian ad Litem. I then worked at the public defender’s office where I represented over 3,000 clients and gained a unique perspective of the judicial system. I litigated many cases and fought to safeguard our constitutional Rights.

After leaving the public defender’s office, I helped implement the first injunction for protection project in St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin counties, which gave victims of domestic violence (some of whom were children) a legal representation in court for the first time ever. I represented more than 400 victims. I have equally been involved in my community serving on boards to combat sexual violence and boards dedicated to raising funds to cover children’s medical expenses. Today, I own and operate my own law practice.

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?
Cleaning up our waterways is my top priority. My plan for our water is simple: advocate for federal funding to complete Senate Bill 10, work with the legislature, governor, and our congressional delegation to get the funding we need to make repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike, and finally complete projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the Central Everglades Planning Project. The projects are 20 years overdue. We must clean water before it gets to Lake Okeechobee, and these projects will help clean the water and move it south. The legislature must also invest in water storage and treatment projects and incentivize homeowners to switch from septic to sewer.

What is your full name and age?
Tobin “Toby” Overdorf, 49 years old

Where do you reside?
Palm City

Do you have family ties locally?

My wife and I live locally. I am a 26-year resident and my wife has been here over 30 years. My Mom lives in Stuart and has for about years. My dad was here too, until he passed. My brother-in-law also lives locally, in Port St. Lucie.

What are your professional qualifications?
More than 25 years of small business and regulatory experience. Bachelor of science in biology from Union College, and Masters of biology form Florida Atlantic University. Environmental masters in business administration from FAU. Currently serves as vice president with Engineering Design & Construction. Founded and owned Crossroads Environmental before merging with EDC, Inc. Former co-owner of EW Consultants. Former employee, South Florida Water Management District. Currently serve as a board member on the

Rivers Coalition, the chair of the Martin County Republican Executive Committee and as president-elect of the Palm City Chamber of Commerce previously served on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; Florida Regional Councils Association; and the Florida Small Business Regulatory Advisory Board, among others.

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?
I realize that if Florida does not have a healthy environment, we can not have a healthy economy. Cleaning our waters, as well as restoring the northern, central, and southern Everglades, will allow Florida to be strong for our citizens for generations to come. This is my number one, top priority. I will put to use 25 years of working in, on and over our Florida ecosystem to insure that restoration of our waterways is completed. I will work to lower discharges by having additional storage north of lake and push to enforce current laws regarding pollution of materials coming from Central Florida.
District 25

From page 1

1) Hutchinson Island, Stuart
2) Property owner Brocksmith Road, Fort Pierce

Do you have family ties locally?
My husband Art and I live on Hutchinson Island with our two boxers. Our son Robert, who is expecting his first child, lives in Delray Beach with his wife, Andrea.

What are your professional qualifications?
Recently completed consecutive terms – as a reappointed member of the 17th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission.
Previously served as an Ex-Officio member of the Florida Council of 100
A member of the Board of Florida’s Chamber of Commerce and its Policy Council
Previously served on the Florida Government Efficiency Task Force

What is your full name and age?
Gayle B. Harrell, 75

Where do you reside?
Gayle B. Harrell, 75

What is your family ties locally?
Gayle B. Harrell, 75

Do you have family ties locally?
My wonderful husband and life partner of 53 years, Dr. James Harrell, recently passed away and is with our Lord in heaven. He practiced obstetrics and gynecology here on the Treasure Coast for over 30 years. All four of my children are graduates of our local school district (two of them were born here) and now are successful adults with families of their own pursuing careers in other parts of the country. My parents lived here for over 30 years and are now deceased. I have a cousin who retired after 20 years on the New York Port Authority Policy and lives in Port St. Lucie, as well as a life time of wonderful friends here on the Treasure Coast.

What are your professional qualifications?
Legislative experience:
Member of The Florida House Of Representatives: 2010-2018, 2000-2008
State appointments:
The Children’s and Youth Cabinet (four times)
The E-Health Advisory Committee (two times)
The Governor’s Drug Policy Advisory Committee (two times)
The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers
Also served as board member and chair of the National Foundation of Women Legislators and on its board of directors; the Florida State Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council (2002-2008), and on the National Governor’s Association State Alliance on e-Health (2004-2008)

What is the biggest issue concerning your community right now and if elected, how do you plan on solving that issue?
Water quality. We live in Florida because of the abundant sunshine during our endless summer. Tourists visit Florida providing tremendous economic value. We cannot have closed due to pollution signs on our rivers, bays and beaches. The federal government in partnership with the State is over $900 million behind in doing their part in the cleanup. The state will need to be an even greater part of the solution to expedite the critical progress needed. I will work tirelessly to fight for funding necessary to invest in the Emergency Estuary Protection Wells. Over 90 percent of the water inflows to Lake Okeechobee come from the Kissimmee River and its northern tributaries. This commitment, if properly funded, will accelerate the cleanup of our water and help to restore our vibrant economy.

As a business woman solving issues in Tallahassee and Washington, DC for 35 years, I will leverage my established relationships. These conversations are already in progress.

Gayle Harrell

See DISTRICT 25, page 13

Striking to the Core!

Chlorine 2.5 Gal ~ 2 for $8
Must present coupon ~ One coupon per household ~ Expires 9/30/2018
Drawing on August 31, 2018

REGISTER TO WIN A FREE XVAC POOL CLEANER
Drawing on August 31, 2018

Open House this Sat. and Sun. 1-4
Tour www.KruegerCreekHome.com
Ocean access waterfront ranch sitting on historic Krueger Creek, CBS construction with a pool, dock, and 6000 pound Lift. Quality throughout this Kelly and Kelly home. Bright Open floor plan with 2800 Sq Ft under air. New Metal Roof!!!

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www.JRMRealEstate.com
PremierRealtyGroup.com
2 N. Sewall’s Point Rd
Stuart, FL
772-287-1777
Community calendar

THROUGH FRIDAY, AUG. 17

• Community, Chamber for Schools (CC4S) School Supply Drive: School supply drive to benefit local students runs from July 18 through Aug. 17. Call the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce at (772) 334-3444 for school supply drop-off locations.

SUNDAY, AUG. 19

• ‘It Takes a Village’: 2-3 p.m., Blake Library, Stuart. Every other Sunday, enjoy an hour of conversation, self expression, and exploration. Topics related to motherhood and infancy will be discussed in an open forum, with focus on creating a non-judgmental and open-minded space for all to share. Information regarding local and national resources related to early childhood will also be discussed. Lap babies always welcome. Free, sponsored by the Friends of the Martin County Library System, Inc. For more information, call (772) 288-5702 or visit library.martin.fl.us.

MONDAY, AUG. 20

• River Solutions, Part 2 — A public forum: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. The public is invited to a non-partisan forum sponsored by Pam Keith, which will bring together candidates, scientists, and environmentalists to present the latest actions on saving our river. Where are we? Now what? Ample time for public questions.

TUESDAY, AUG. 21

• Celebrate Recovery: Each Tuesday at The Grace Place, 1550 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Meant for help in dealing with any type of hurts, hang-ups or habits. Dinner at 6 p.m., large group meeting at 7 p.m., open share groups at 8 p.m., Cross Talk Cafe at 9 p.m. Call (772) 288-3593.

• Overeaters Anonymous meeting: Tuesdays, 6 p.m., St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 623 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, in Smith Hall next to the Cracker Barrel Thrift Shop. No dues, fees or weigh-in. For more information, call (772) 263-2109 or visit oa.org.

• Tuesday Night Car Show: 6:30-8:30 p.m., each Tuesday, weather permitting, in the Lowe’s parking lot, 3620 S.E. Federal Highway, Stuart. Antique, collector and classic cars, plus raffles and 50/50 drawing, and music from the ‘50s and ‘60s. Food and drinks also available. Show is free to spectators, $3 for car owners. For more information, contact Jim Serra at (772) 285-3320 or jimserra117@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22

• Faith and Book Discussion Group: 10 a.m. every Wednesday, Unitarian Universalists of the Treasure Coast, 21 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. In Smith Hall next to the Cracker Barrel Thrift Shop. No dues, fees or weigh-in. For more information, call (772) 285-5522. Visit www.ignitesportsfl.com/program/martin-co-programs, call (772) 221-1419 or (772) 349-5522. Visit www.ignitesportsfl.com/program/martin-co-programs or view more information on scheduling. Find more information on Parks and Recreation’s facilities and activities at www.LoveMCParks.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MyMCParks.

See NOTES, page 15

Community notes

Youth sports program now available at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart

The Martin County Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce Ignite Sports, LLC will offer a preschool sports program at Halpatiokee Regional Park. The program consists of developmental, non-league instruction and is open to children ages 3 to 8. Classes will be divided into age brackets of 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 years of age. Focusing on the fundamentals of the selected sport, instructors ensure a fun, non-competitive, teaching environment. Registration is $90 per child for the six week program, with classes on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5-6 p.m., weather permitting. All programs will take place at Halpatiokee Park, 8303 S.E. Lost River Road, Stuart.

Fall Programs:
T-ball – Tuesday, Aug. 28 to Oct. 2, 2018
Soccer – Thursday, Aug. 30 to Oct. 4, 2018
Basketball – Tuesday, Oct. 23 to Dec. 4, 2018
Flag Football – Thursday, Oct. 25 to Dec. 6, 2018

Spring Programs:
Soccer – Tuesday, Jan. 15 to Feb. 19, 2019
Capture the Flag/Dodgeball – Thursday, Jan. 17 to Feb. 21, 2019
Flag Football – Tuesday, March 12 to April 16, 2019
T-ball – Thursday, March 14 to April 18, 2019

For more information about these programs, call (772) 221-1419 or (772) 349-5522. Visit www.ignitesportsfl.com/program/martin-co-programs to register or view more information on scheduling. Find more information on Parks and Recreation’s facilities and activities at www.LoveMCParks.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MyMCParks.

See NOTES, page 15
**Police report**

**Central Parkway, Stuart.** Non-denominational property valued $300-$5,000, with obtaining with being a fugitive from justice.

**possession of cannabis - under 20 grams.**

**Beach, was charged with five counts of pos -**

**substance.**

**Aug. 9.**

**But We Do.**


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**possession of cannabis - under 20 grams.**

**Beach, was charged with five counts of pos -**

**substance.**

**Aug. 9.**
Rants & Raves
Got something to say?
Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at newsfp@hometownnewsol.com

The Rants and Raves section provides a chance for readers to share their thoughts with other readers. The opinions included are not those of Hometown News or its employees.

Please limit your submissions to 250 words, so that we can include more entries. Readers are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Suspicious show of concern
Rick Scott shows up to show his concern over a problem that he and the republican legislature have had a primary role in creating. For his entire term as governor he has been in the hip pocket of Big Sugar and other industrial polluters, and developers who have been allowed to ignore environmental regulations. He and the republican legislature have refused to implement any controls over pollution discharged into the Lake Okeechobee watershed and have thwarted any attempts to divert water from the lake south instead of east and west.

Now he shows up to lament the problem he has had a significant role in causing. He blames Nelson and the Corps of Engineers. I am no big Nelson fan by any means but Scott’s abysmal environmental record renders his protestations and smearing of Nelson disingenuous at best. Scott will say whatever he feels will get him elected but as soon as he is in Washington he will conveniently forget about all of this and our situation will again take a back seat to lobbyists and contributions.

Yes, the Corps of Engineers could do a better job. Yes, Nelson has let us down. But Rick Scott has been active in aiding and abetting in the pollution of Lake Okeechobee and our water. He’s pocketed tens of thousands of dollars from the polluters and has let them have their way. Don’t forget that at the polls.

Re: Slow drivers

I would like to concur with the writer of the rave concerning ’Slow Drivers’ in the August 3, 2018 issue. I also have driven in the right lane and someone goes flying past me in the passing lane and then IMMEDIATELY pulls over into my lane TEN FEET in front of my front bumper!

It is a terrifying and constant experience on Florida’s Turnpike. I am sure none of these drivers know that in order to pull over safely after passing, you must make sure you can see BOTH of the following vehicles in your rear view mirror (not the side mirror!) before making the move.

I wish we could teach drivers the rules of the road and the traffic laws in such a way that they would not resist learning them. We would all be much safer. Thank you very much. I am very impressed with our local Hometown News. I turn to it weekly for excellent coverage of local events and people. Please keep up the good work.

Partnership should mean lower taxes

Read a recent article on IRMC. The article mentioned that if Cleveland Clinic partnered up with IRMC, this should reduce tax millage amount. This should mean a lower rate for taxpayers! IRMC are already getting more tax dollars based on higher property values, so a double dip by raising millage amount is a JOKE NOT an expansion of programs which mean more taxpayers’ money. That’s the problem with community owned hospitals, they pass things on to taxpayers even if they have poor fiscal management.

Elections

I am very grateful to the Hometown News for your articles about candidates running for office. It is a great way to help educate yourselves about who to vote for. We all know the many flyers and advertisements say what they want to do. Whether they actually do that if they have no track record is not guaranteed. And finally, checking out their campaign finance report tells a story in itself about who they may or may not be beholden to.

I was dismayed to hear that Martin County is not allowing for early voting like Palm Beach and other nearby counties. I do not understand why this is not standard in Florida. Making it harder for people to get to the polls is not fair to those who may have a hard time getting there the day of the elections. Most importantly, let’s all get out and exercise our hard fought for right to vote!

Service vs. comfort animals

Kudos to Publix for educating their customers on the difference between service animals and comfort animals. They are not one in the same.

As a shopper please leave your comfort animals home from stores.

Hope other stores follow, it’s gotten out of control!

Proud to be a reader

And I’m glad I finally get my paper like clockwork now on Friday morn.... thank you!
The rants and raves this week were right on.

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Looking for a home

Little Henry is an amazingly friendly cat. He loves to give hugs and head boops; he even paws at you when he is hungry. Little Henry is currently living with his friends Evan and Peaches in the HSTC feature room and would do well in a home with other cats. He would prefer a home with no dogs – they scare him just a bit. Little Henry is a special needs cat; he is prone to urinary tract infections and urinary blockages. He is on special food to help prevent these from reoccurring in the future. If Little Henry sounds like the purr-fect cat for you, stop by to meet him and talk to an HSTC staff member about his needs.

You can view Little Henry and all of his adoptable friends online at hstc1.org.

‘In Season’ is coming!

Attention, Treasure Coast nonprofits, studios, galleries, museums, playhouses, historical sites, symphonies, tourist sites, community clubs, support groups and more:

The calendar in Hometown News’ In Season publications this year will cover the end of September through April 2019.

For this year, each county’s calendar will focus on local events and also include as many area events of general interest as space permits. This means even more exposure for your events, as well as for your organization, so please send in your info early enough — we’d love to make sure you’re included!

The deadline for submission of events to be considered for this will be Saturday, Sept. 1.

As a general guide for style, format and length, please look at the weekly calendar and Out & about listings we run each week.

Send your calendar items and event schedules by email to news-fp@hometown-newsol.com.

(Or write “In Season” in the subject line of your email.)


For more information, call (772) 465-5656, email us through the address above, or message us through Facebook.

Calendar

From page 5

noon, Eckankar Center of the Treasure Coast, 541 S.E. Central Parkway, Stuart. The public is invited.

For more information, call (772) 223-1188 or visit www.Eck-Florida.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 29

• Town Hall Meeting: Martin County District 3 commissioner Harold Jenkins will host a town hall meeting at 6 p.m., Hobe Sound Community Center, 8980 S.E. Olympus Street, Hobe Sound. The Commissioner invites residents and business owners to have an open discussion and address any issues they feel he should know about. Please understand this town hall meeting will be regarding County Business, this will not be an incorporation discussion. Call (772) 221-2357 or email Colleen Pachowicz at cpachowi@martin.fl.us.

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Congress passed a law a few years ago that really "shook up" publicly owned companies. It’s called Sarbanes-Oxley, named after the Congressmen who sponsored the bill. Basically, this law says that the CEO and other high echelon management of a public owned company cannot get off the hook from wrong doings because he or she claims they didn’t know what their employees were doing. I believe the same rules should apply to all businesses, even if their stock is not publicly held. The boss should always be held accountable for the actions of his employees and this should apply especially for car dealerships.

Most of the employees that customers meet in a car dealership are paid on commission. This method of payment is used for car dealerships are paid on commission. Those employees get a percentage of the profit that the company makes on the transaction. Car sales people, parts sales people, and the mechanical advisors or assistant service managers), service sales people (also called service technicians who work on your car are mostly all paid on commission. This method of pay tilts the relationship between the customer and employee in somewhat of an adversarial manner. The employee wants the profit to be as high as possible but the customer wants it to be low. In a car dealership that has talented, fully engaged, and ethical management, this potentially adversarial relationship is kept in a fair balance. Without the oversight of upper middle management and careful hiring practices, some employees will exploit a customer to increase his commission.

What brought the subject of this column to mind was a call I received yesterday from a 78 year old widow from Ft. Pierce. She called to thank me for writing my column and to tell me that she wished she had read some of my columns before she bought her 2005 used Mazda. This was the first car she had bought on her own. Her husband had always taken on this responsibility. She paid the dealership a huge profit on her purchase. She was sold a maintenance package that she believed cost only $25 but it really was $2,500. She was rushed to sign the papers at night because the dealership was closing. In the morning, when she realized the mistake, she drove back to the dealership and asked to back out the sale but was told it was too late. She was told she had signed all the papers and that they had already sold her trad-in even though she had not given them the title. When she asked to speak to the General Manager, three different employees identified themselves as the General Manager. I get a lot of sad calls like this. The owner of that dealership should know what’s going on. I’m giving him the benefit of the doubt by saying that he doesn’t know because if he does know it’s even worse. The owner should look at the big picture and the long term view of his business. You can take advantage of customers and benefit in the short run, but you eventually “pay the piper” when your bad reputation spreads far enough. Most of the bad things I hear about car dealers from their customers are not illegal things. They are simply unethical and not the way one human being should treat another. Refusing to refund the money of an elderly, widow after she realized that she had been taken advantage of is not illegal, but it sure “stinks”. Jim Press is the top executive for Toyota over all of North America and he is also the only non-Japanese to occupy a place on Toyota’s board of directors. He was quoted in the book, The Toyota Way by Jeffrey Liker, as saying “It’s what you do for a customer when you don’t owe him anything that is the true measure of character. It’s like sticking up for somebody who can’t defend himself”. I really like this quote and I have it engraved on a plaque which I give out each month to the employee who wins the “Above and Beyond Award”. This award goes to our employee who does something for her customer above and beyond what the customer would have expected.

If you have a bad dealing with your car dealership, do your best to contact the owner. This is impossible with publicly held dealerships like AutoNation and United Auto Group, but you should be able to talk to their General Managers. If it’s privately owned dealership, don’t give up until you see the owner.
Have patience with your computer

Are you giving your computer enough time to think? It’s a legitimate question; do you allow your computer time to fulfill your requests or do you become impatient and overwhelm it with duplicate requests by clicking again and again when the computer doesn’t give you an answer fast enough? Be honest. The problem is common (even with today’s breed of super fast computers): not giving the machine enough time to complete one task before clicking something else and asking it to start another. It’s easy to become impatient with your machine especially when you become used to it responding near instantly to most clicks. But a problem arises when you “click” and tell the computer to do something that needs some time to complete (like some internet links or rebooting) and before it has completed the task that you asked it to do, you click again (and again and again and again - : ) Sometimes the computer can get so overwhelmed with requests that it just locks up and sits there. So, what do you do? Well, the answer is easy in theory but often hard to implement in reality; you have to be patient and keep in mind what you clicked last – don’t get distracted and forget what you’re waiting for. Wait and pay attention to the clues that your machine is thinking. Consider the lesson of the toaster. When you make toast in the morning you take a slice of bread and put it in the toaster and “click” the handle down and the process begins. How long does it take a toaster to cook? 3 minutes maybe? I don’t know exactly. I haven’t timed it but 3 minutes sounds about right. What you wouldn’t do is pull up a chair and stare at the toaster waiting for it to pop. 3 minutes is an eternity to sit and wait for something to happen. No, when you use a toaster you start it and then go on to make coffee or something else and have faith that it will finish on its own. I’ve used this analogy over the years when dealing with older machines that would often take a couple minutes to boot up. Thirty seconds after rebooting it I almost always hear the owner say, “It never takes this long! Why is it taking so long?” The lesson of the toaster helps me explain that since we are naturally sitting in front of the screen staring at it, we are a “captive to the toaster” forced to stare at it waiting for it to “pop.” If we are doing something that I know is going to take a couple minutes (like rebooting an older machine) I’ll suggest that we walk away, get a cup of coffee and come back to it in a few minutes to see if it’s done. Most of the time this helps to fill the gap and help resist the temptation to do something that might slow things down even more.

How can you tell when the system is still working on your last click or if it has crashed? I guess the most obvious clue would be the hour glass. When you click an icon and the pointer turns into an hour glass (or “spins” in some way), this is just one clue that your computer is trying to do whatever it is that you just asked it to do when you clicked. Another clue would be the presence of a progress bar of some sort. Unfortunately, the hour glass isn’t always present to tell you the machine is thinking and some progress bars can be hard to spot. Sometimes you have to look for more subtle clues like the hard drive activity light on the front of the computer or (if you know what to look for) launch taskmgr.exe and check the status there.

It’s important to understand that not everything that we ask our computers to do will happen instantly. Every day I see people click an icon and then almost instantly I hear “Nothing’s happening!” I wait and sure enough a few seconds later I hear “Oh! There it goes!” Different programs have different requirements that can cause some programs to launch faster than others. Sometimes things happening in the background can cause a program that opened up instantly yesterday to take 20 or 30 seconds to launch today and since you’re forced to stare at it waiting (like the toaster) that wait time seems much longer than it really is.

Contact Sean McCarthy at 888-752-9049 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com.

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Algae
From page 9

human safety and that currently is not part of the consideration for prioritizing the lake level and how the lake is discharged," she said. "So how do we go about changing that so that we manage water in a completely different way?"

Congressman Mast emphasized the immensity of the task due to a 1940s-era federal charter dictating everything from flood control to the lake's navigability. Even so, he offered her a ray of hope.

"Changing that original piece of legislation in not going to be a tactic that works in Washington DC, just to be very blunt about it," he said. "What we have proposed is essentially setting up a charter to basically supersede those charters that exist, one that would include the health and human safety [component], which is one that should be included in this fight." The Deputy Secretary of Ecosystem Restoration for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Drew Bartlett, also spoke at the hearing and fielded numerous questions from commissioners ranging from algae toxicity to the responsibility of communities north of the lake to treat their own water before sending it down the Kissimmee River. Commission Chairman Ed Ciampi peppered the DEP representative on the water coming from Central Florida.

"I wonder if they have these meetings in Orlando and in communities north of here and if their summers are ruined," he said. "Can you give us some insight on what's happening in those areas? Are they spending hundreds of millions of dollars of their taxpayer money to affect fixes as we are here?"

Mr. Bartlett didn't address the expenditure of those communities, but instead detailed the appropriations success that Sen. Joe Negron has had with projects north of Lake Okeechobee. He admitted, however, that a lot still needed to be done in the region known as the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.

"I would tell you that investment in the entire Lake Okeechobee Watershed is necessary and a lot needs to happen in that watershed, that's Okeechobee cleanup," he said. "I think in the board meeting this week we are signing the contract to do a public-private partnership called Brighton Valley to capture water before it gets to the lake, in addition to all the best management practices and cost-share retrofits we're doing in the watershed."

Florida Oceanographic Society Executive Director Mark Perry also spoke extensively during the ongoing environmental damage done to the estuary by the continual intrusion of fresh water. "It's not just the algae -- it's the discharge itself," he said. "It's all the nutrients and the freshwater that damage our estuary. We already had a freshwater estuary since the middle of May when we had a lot of local runoff and the local canals discharging into the estuary. That fresh water condition is not healthy for our ecosystem because of the silt and sediment that is deposited on the bottom of the estuary over our oyster reefs and our sea grass beds, which have disappeared."

Mr. Perry agreed that keeping lake levels higher during the wet season and allowing them to drop during the dry season would be critical for the estuary's health in the future, citing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' use of pumps in the past to provide drinking water for South Florida during droughts. He believes the Corps' fear of dike failure and flooding during the rainy season is exaggerated.

"At 15 feet elevation, there is a 1 percent risk of breach and failure of the dike," he said. "That's what Sen. Negron kept bringing up and bringing up in years past about why are we concerned about this 1 percent risk. Yeah it's a safety issue, but 1 percent is causing a lot of harm if we're trying to keep it below 15 feet."

More than 20 members of the public spoke during the meeting as well, with many expressing concerns about health issues and area water quality. Mary Radabaugh, the manager of Central Marine and ground zero for mats of floating blue-green algae, brought photo books to show and said she's hosted everyone but the governor on her property to show the impact of the discharges.

"You want documentation?" she asked. "Here's our 2005 algae book; here is our 2013 book when the South Florida Water Management District was doing sampling; this is the 2016 book in which each one of you have come to the marina and witnessed what we've been through. When are we going to make a difference? This is up to you guys, the Commission, to take the lead, to come up with the money to do the testing. We need to know the neurological effects this could be having on me and my employees."

Eileen Dacoby echoed those sentiments, worrying what the future might hold for her grandchildren.

"Well now they're all in school and they can tell you all about the water," she said. "The time has gone by for throwing money at it and having money disappear. What is going to happen to my grandchildren 30 years from now when none of us are here to support them?"

For his part, commercial fisherman William Embrey expressed the angst of the small business owners who've found their livelihoods impacted by the influx of fresh water into the St. Lucie River Estuary and beyond.

"It affects commercial fisherman almost on a year-round basis," he said. "It just gets worse year after year and we're never compensated -- any of the small businesses that are affected by this. I mean everyone's making money off this except us. They've dumped more than $2 million into that dike and not one time have they compensated fisherman and businesses affected by it."

Chairman Ciampi responded to Mr. Embrey directly, saying he agreed that financial aid as opposed to taking on new debt would be the best answer.

"As the county we're going to be looking to do that, and I don't mean loans," he said. "I'd like you to contact my office next week and will give you what we've been working on behind the scenes."

The Commission subsequently voted 4-0 to approve the emergency declaration, with Commissioner Harold Jenkins absent. The Commission also voted unanimously to have staff ask both the CDC and the Environmental Protection Agency for assessing the health risks associated with the algae, as well as asking the federal government to make public health a priority in managing South Florida's waters, to use Amendment One funds only for land purchases for water storage and to rewrite the LORS schedule.
La Forchetta: Where the passion for the Sicilian kitchen runs deep

By Donald Rodrigue
For Hometown News

STUART – If you haven’t had the pleasure of visiting Sicily or would love to relive gastronomic memories made in the Mediterranean, then head to La Forchetta Ristorante & Lounge in Stuart, a little piece of the southern Italian isle in Martin County.

Fortunately I didn’t have to dine alone this time as Gloria was back from her trip to visit family in Colombia.

We visited La Forchetta on a hot summer evening and made mental note of the beautiful outdoor dining terrace for dining al fresco in cooler weather. For an appetizer, Gloria started out with the Fried Eggplant Caprese (Three healthy fritters of eggplant, fresh mozzarella and tomatoes served on a bed of arugula), while I opted for the Grilled Luganege Sausage and Butter Beans served with roasted cherry tomatoes over broccoli rabe.

As we savored and shared our appetizers, we both enjoyed the intimate and romantic atmosphere created here by the extended Di Fede Family, who wanted a lounge atmosphere to give its ristorante a more elegant appeal. The ability to enjoy a quiet conversation is one reason we tend to avoid most chain restaurants or those with blaring TVs.

The sophisticated lounge is an attractive spot, and Ritamaria Trovato, the daughter of restaurant founder Domenic Di Fede, says La Forchetta can get noisy at times, like a typical Italian family. It did get noisy for a brief moment at an adjacent table as our server Giordano Tonelli -- Ritamaria’s cousin and a chef here as well -- and his coworkers sang tanti auguri a te, tanti auguri a te -- one of the Italian renditions of happy birthday to the same tune -- to another patron, which prompted Gloria and I to imitate it and try to figure out what it exactly is.

See FORCHETTA, page 13

Out & about

FRIDAY, AUG. 17 – SATURDAY, AUG. 18
• Cult Classic Film Series: Showing ‘The Big Lebowski’ at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flager Ave., Stuart. Tickets are $10; tickets for the seven-film series, which runs Aug. 17 through Nov. 9, are $50. For more information, call (772) 286-7827 or visit www.lyrictheatre.com

FRIDAY, AUG. 17 – FRIDAY, AUG. 18
• Treasure Coast Bonito Blast: Sixth annual tournament benefits the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund. It will be held in Port Salerno. Register before Aug. 17 for $100 for four anglers, with dinner for four for two nights included; $125 on Aug. 17. For more information about the schedule or registration information, call (772) 834-4730 or (561) 376-5036, or visit www.treasurecoastbonitoblast.com/

SATURDAY, AUG. 18
• Dancing like the stars: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Kane Center, 900 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Benefit for the 2018 Treasure Coast Walk to End Alzheimer’s, coming up Sept. 29. Cheer on your favorite local celebrity dancers and support a good cause. Enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, prizes, giveaways and raffles as you cheer. Individual tickets are $30, couple tickets are $50. For tickets or more information, contact Melissa Giarrantano at (772) 579-0922.
• Shipwrecked Adult Party: 6-9 p.m., The Shipwrecked, 1701 N.E. Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. Adults can celebrate the museum’s 10th birthday with carnival style games and food.

Horoscopes

ARIES - March 21/April 20
Aries, you may want to be everywhere at once when the social invitations arrive. But this week you will have to pick your RSVPs carefully. Spend time with close friends.

TAURUS - April 21/May 21
You may have a lot of things on your mind, Taurus. The best way to handle this kind of situation is to find a quiet place and think about all the answers you need.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
A spending spree is not the way to go right now, Gemini. You have to be more responsible with your money. Ask a relative or friend to help you work on a budget.

CANCER - June 22/July 22
Problems have a funny way of sticking around even when you try to avoid them, Cancer. Rather than running from difficult decisions, it is time to meet them head on.

LEO - July 23/Aug. 23
Leo, if you have had an overwhelming week, you can find a restful spot to recharge. Plan a spa weekend or even just a quiet hike through a state park.

VIRGO - Aug. 24/Sept. 22
A change of scenery is something you can use right now, Virgo. Pack up an overnight bag or backpack and hit the road for some spontaneous adventures.

LIBRA - Sept. 23/Oct. 23
Focus most of your energy on a work assignment that needs your attention. Don’t get sidetracked by something now, Libra. Once it is off your plate, you can focus your energy on everything else.

See SCOPES, page 12
Nice Catch!
Heather Sizemore, of Orlando, and Jay Sizemore, of Fort Pierce, caught this dolphin in Marathon, Fl.

Help us celebrate one of the Treasure Coast’s most popular pastimes by submitting a photo of your most recent catch – straight from local waters. Email a photo of you with your fish that is at least 1 MB or 300 dpi in size to news@hometownnewsol.com.

Write “CATCH OF THE WEEK” in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Your name
- City you live in
- Age (if 18 or younger)
- Area you caught the fish
- Approximate size of fish
- Type of fish
- Phone number in case we have questions (will not be printed)

Out
From page 11

17 on the website, www.childrensmuseumtc.org. For more information, call (772) 225-7575, ext. 206.

THROUGH SUNDAY, AUG. 19

- Treasure Coast International Film Festival: Held Thursday through Sunday in Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce. Films will be screened at the new TouchStar Sabal Palms Luxury Cinema 6 in Fort Pierce, and filmmaking seminars, meet & greets, awards, and more will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott in St. Lucie West.

Call (772) 708-1106 or visit www.tcifilmfest.org/film-event-schedule

SUNDAY, AUG. 19

- HSTC Sips for Seniors: 1-3 p.m., The Summit Nursing Home, 5117 SE Federal Hwy, Stuart

Scopes
From page 11

SCORPIO - Oct. 24/Nov. 22

Don’t worry if people do not always understand your intentions, Scorpion. You are a natural born leader, and you have to make some challenging decisions from time to time.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov. 23/Dec. 21

Sagittarius, you may find yourself as the life of the party sometime this week. Embrace the limelight, but make sure to set aside some time for rest and relaxation.

CAPRICORN - Dec. 22/Jan. 20

Don’t let someone who may offer a fresh perspective puzzle you, it’s best to take it to a few other people you trust who may offer a fresh perspective.

AQUARIUS - Jan. 21/Feb. 18

Aquarius, try to be supportive of those around you even when you may not agree with all of their reasoning. Diplomacy will help you keep a good group of friends.

PISCES - Feb. 19/March 20

Pisces, if you can’t figure out something that is puzzling you, it’s best to take it to a few other people who may offer a fresh perspective.
Forchetta
From page 11
ly meant. Italian and Spanish are frequently similar, but Mr. Tonelli explained that this version translated better as “best wishes to you.” For a brief moment when listening to their booming voices, it sounded like a night at the opera.

For her main course, Gloria opted for of the nightly specials on the menu insert, the Pork Osso Bucco, while I on the other hand had to read through the entire menu before settling on the healthy sounding Snapper Capri in hopes of balancing out my aforementioned appetizer.

A word of warning here: Portions are huge, and entrees also include a cup of soup or small salad, so you need to pace yourself. In fact we noticed most patrons getting doggy bags, but I refuse to share any of mine with a canine.

We both opted for soup, with Gloria going for the Lobster Bisque (a creamy delicacy packed with chewy bits of the crustacean) and myself choosing the much more savory packed with chewy bits of the crusta-

We wound up our dining experience with a shared slice of decadently rich coconut cake, accompanied by espresso for me and decaf coffee for the lady.

For those already familiar with the La Forchetta location on Lost River Road, you’ll find no pizza in the Federal Highway location, the Italian mainstay that’s irrevocably linked to the Di Fede culinary history. The family tale, as told by Ms. Trovato on part of the menu and to us in person, began with her maternal grandfather Giorlando Sanfratello who emigrated to New York from Palermo in the 1970s. Mr. Sanfratello began working at his brother’s pizzeria in Times Square, where he learned how to hand toss pizza and eventually opened his own pizza place in Brooklyn. His daughter, Rosalia, had already learned from Ms. Trovato’s nonna (grandmother) how to make fresh tomato sauce and other Italian staples. Although Ms. Trovato’s mother said she would never marry anyone in the restaurant business, she eventually married a Sicilian from Palermo, Mr. Di Fede, and the rest is gastronomic history, Italian style, that spread throughout New Jersey and eventually reached the Treasure Coast. La Forchetta Ristorante & Lounge last November.

Ms. Trovato says although she and her sister Francesca Di Fede both went off to college and initially pursued other careers, their love for having grown up among the pizza boxes of their dad’s empire drove them back home to the family business. They also remained true to their Italian roots and married men from Sicily, who both work in the restaurants. Obviously the family’s Sicilian legacy will continue to grow with Ms. Trovato’s three-year-old son Nicolas, who speaks both Italian and English.

“This is where our passion is,” his mother said. “This business is all we know and love.”

La Forchetta Ristorante & Lounge is located at 1624 S.E. Federal Highway in Stuart, Florida. For more information, call (772) 472-7333 or visit the website at www.laforchetta.net.
Touring with the Townies

Phil Berzinski, of Vero Beach, took along his copy of Hometown News to Havana, Cuba. He’s pictured here in Revolution-Square on May 9, 2018. Thanks for taking us along!

Are you a fan of the Hometown News? Well, we are inviting you to take us along on your next adventure. Each week, we will feature a different reader-submitted photo that showcases one or exotic place. Whether you take a trip to the Grand Canyon or a cruise to the Bahamas, bring your Hometown News with you and have someone snap a picture. Include your first and last name, the city you live in and the location/date of where the photo was taken. Type ‘TOURING WITH THE TOWNIES’ in the subject line.

Ocean-view golfing is a dream come true

Even though we live in Florida, finding a golf course right on the ocean, that many of us can play, is not the easiest of tasks. Florida has 1,350 miles of coastline, second only to Alaska. Yet, most of the few courses that we do have right on the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, are very private.

We recently took a short drive up the interstate to Palm Coast, home of the beautiful Hammock Beach, a Salamander Resort. The resort, which is located right on the Atlantic Ocean between Daytona Beach and St. Augustine, features a pair of fantastic golf courses and accommodations ranging from the quaint, cozy lodge to two and three bedroom condos, to villas or suites. Since I was dragging the entire clan with me a three bedroom place was in order.

After a peaceful three-hour drive, we arrived at the Lodge overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, checked in and were directed to our home for the weekend. For the weekend we enjoyed a gorgeous three bedroom condo right on the resort’s 2.5 mile stretch of pristine beach. From our sixth-floor perch we could see most of the resort, and even spotted a dolphin swimming in the waves.

Our condo was named “Cinnamon Beach.” One look at the beach and we knew exactly how it got its name. The beach wasn’t the sand that most of us are used to, but instead tiny pieces of crushed shell, the color of fine cinnamon. The view was breathtaking and immediately relaxing.

A dream come true!
Notes

From page 4

Strike Out Hunger Night to benefit food bank

Join Treasure Coast Food Bank for “Strike Out Hunger” Night at First Data Field as the St. Lucie Mets take on the Tampa Bay Yank- ees. It takes place Thursday, Aug. 23, from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

The St. Lucie Mets players will be wearing custom “Strike Out Hunger” jerseys, which will be auctioned to support Treasure Coast Food Bank’s efforts to fight hunger. Treasure Coast Food Bank will be holding a food drive at the field. Anyone donating non-perishable canned food will get a ticket to the game, compliments of the St. Lucie Mets. Raffle tickets will be available for pur- chase at the Treasure Coast Food Bank booth prior to the game for an entry into a drawing to win a special, team-autographed Strike Out Hunger jersey.

“We’re excited to partner with the Mets on the second annual Strike Out Hunger Night, and thankful for their ongoing sup- port of Treasure Coast Food Bank,” said President and CEO Judith Cruz.

Strike Out Hunger Night is one of several ways the Mets also have packed food for the Backpack school food program, held food drives, and autographed handmade bowls for the St. Lucie County Empty Bowls project. For more information visit https://www наблюда.com.

Out

From page 13

for wildlife, learn about natural items washed ashore and and pick up litter along the way. This is a free event, but reservations are required. For information or reservations, call the Nature Center at (772) 546-2067.

FRIDAY, AUG. 24

• Movie Night with the Sheriff: 6-9 p.m., The Grace Place, 1550 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Enjoy free hamburgers, hotdogs and popcorn from 6-7 p.m., then watch “Peter Rabbit” from 7:30-8:45 p.m. For more informa- tion, call (772) 320-4737.

• Splash & Movie Night: 5:45-9:45 p.m., Sailfish Splash Water Park, 931 S.E. Ruhnke Street, Stuart. For all ages. With every admission ticket, participants enjoy exclusive waterpark access followed by a movie in hi-definition while floating on an inner tube. Movie is TBA. Movie starts after sunset. Tickets are $10.95 and available online only. There are a limited number of tickets for each movie due to the maximum capacity in the pool. For more information, visit www.sailfishsplash.com.

SUNDAY, AUG. 26 – TUESDAY, AUG. 28

• Auditions for ‘25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’ Open auditions will be held at the Barn Theatre in Stuart at 7 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. (Sign in at 6:30 p.m.) The show dates are Nov. 1 through Nov. 5. For more information, visit www.barn-theatre.com/25th-annual-put- nam-county-audition.

For the Think Machine

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS


DOWN


Stammer

From page 14

Stammer

or as short as 5,509- yards, allowing every golfer a chance to find the right blend of fun and challenge. The course’s signature hole is the eighth. This par-3 features an island green. From any tee box, this is one intimidating hole.

The back-nine begins with a 636- yard par-5. This is the longest hole on the course, no matter what tees you have chosen. There is also one of Tom’s sod-fenced bunkers placed at the front-cen- ter of the green. This is a truly fantastic hole.

The 15th hole is a short risk-reward par-4. The sharp dogleg right tempts you to cut the corner and leave yourself with a short edge approach. Get too greedy and you’ll find yourself in a huge bunker area or worse, in the water.

The finishing hole, featuring a pan- oramic view of the golf course from its elevated teeing ground, is fantastic. Long hitters will have a chance to reach the green in two on this par-5, but must be careful to carry the stone bulkhead guarding the green.

Watson placed a priority on driving the ball well to conquer this layout. Many of the fairways are tight, protected by beautiful oak, pine and natural fauna, but drives in the fairways tend to roll more than you are used to. A tribute to Tom’s love for links golf. Thankfully, the greens are large and generous.

Tom only designs a couple courses each year, and he certainly puts a lot of care and effort into those to make them as wonder- ful as possible. It certainly shows here. Between the great golf course, the beautiful accommodations and the family having a fantastic time, I hardly noticed the heat. Hammock Beach Resort has packages for golfers and non-golfers alike. Give them a call at (866) 502-6228 or visit the website at www.hammockbeach.com.

Contact James Stammer at stammer- golf@yahoo.com.

Answers Located in the Classified Section

SUNDAY, AUG. 26 – TUESDAY, AUG. 28

• Auditions for ‘25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’ Open auditions will be held at the Barn Theatre in Stuart at 7 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. (Sign in at 6:30 p.m.) The show dates are Nov. 1 through Nov. 18. No singing from the show; no a capella singing — an accompanist will be provided. Dress comfortably for the dance aspect of the audition. The Barn Theatre welcomes all newcomers and no shows are provided. For more information, visit www. barn-theatre.com/25th-annual-put- nam-county-audition.
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DEALING WITH NEUROPATHY PAIN?
INTRODUCING A NEW CLASS IV LASER WHICH IS THE MOST POWERFUL, EFFECTIVE AND SAFE LASER CURRENTLY FOUND IN THE COMMUNITY

“Before finding Wiedner Wellness Solutions I could hardly walk or stand. The pain was horrible. Now after just a few weeks of treatment I’m standing, walking and finally sleeping through the night! Thank you to both Dr. Wiedner and his staff for giving me my life back!”
— Jerry W.

CALL TODAY!
“My staff and I are so confident that we can help you relieve your back & neck pain, we are offering a free consultation where we will address your specific conditions and customize a plan to get you feeling better. No drugs, no surgery, just relief. Call today to secure your appointment!”
— Dr. William J. Wiedner

Who is a candidate for treatment?
There are many types of symptoms that can be relieved including:
• Tingling or numbness
• Feels like something is in your shoe but there’s not
• Abnormal sensations
• Feels like you have socks on, even though you are barefoot
• It is becoming harder and harder to walk
• Losing your balance more often
• Stumble into things
• Unbearable foot pain
• Feels like pins and needles
• Restless legs
• No longer can feel hot or cold sensations
• Spontaneous pinching, sharpness, or electric shocks

Most insurances accepted for treatment
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(Must dial area code)
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www.wiednerneuropathy.com

Local doctor offers FREE CONSULTATION to those suffering from chronic back and neck pain

What makes Wiedner Wellness Solutions approach so different?
The doctor and staff of Wiedner Wellness Solutions, have made it their mission to treat patients with the latest treatment innovations. After years of study, training and trials, they have chosen only the most effective nonsurgical options and have brought them together all under one roof.

• Neurolumen — An innovative, industry-changing medical device that works to reduce pain and increase circulation. This pioneering approach combines the restorative properties of light therapy with the therapeutic benefits of electrical stimulation. The resulting synergy of technologies provides the most effective pain treatment available today and is FDA approved.*

• NeuroCure — Advanced electroanalgesic German technology which improves function of degenerative nerves that are desensitized from medication or disease while rehabilitating joints. This high tech solution to pain is exclusive to Wiedner Wellness Solutions and is the first device of its kind found in the Southeast.

• Cold Laser — A gentle, non-invasive treatment that is successful in treating joints and nerves. These treatments help stimulate healing in soft tissues and most patients feel a warm soothing sensation with immediate relief.

• Rebuilder — The only device that duplicates the exact waveform and frequency of a healthy nerve signal, with over 90% success rate in patients reporting improved quality of life after treatment.* Dr. Wiedner will discover if nerve damage is causing pain during your FREE consultation.

• Nerve Stabilization Therapy — A unique combination of all above treatments, plus chiropractic care, nutrition, structure, stretches & exercises and active daily lifestyle guidance.

• Bemer – The most comprehensive therapeutic device in the field of Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy (PEFT). It is designed to aid the body in restoring functional blood flow, oxygen and delivery of nutrients to all cells by 30%, while sustaining cellular health, eliminating waste, increasing performance, repairing and regenerating the body. There is no technology like it in the world.

• Aspen Laser Therapy - works by flooding the tissues with photons, energizing the damaged cells and increasing circulation to the pain area. This produces a cascade of healing responses in the body, reduces inflammation, thereby reducing or even eliminating your pain. Treatments take just a few minutes, and the therapeutic effect continues to soothe and heal long after your treatment.

Each treatment program may combine one or all of the above treatments depending upon the patient’s needs and lifestyle. All testing and procedures are done in one location for convenience.

SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 25 CALLERS!
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