Heart of a runner

The Fleet Feet 13th annual ‘Run for Your Heart’ 5K/10K and Kids Fun Run benefiting the Martin Health Foundation’s Frances Langford Heart Center was held on Saturday, February 10 at Vista Plaza in Stuart. Running through North River Shores, the event begins and ends at Fleet Feet in Stuart. Over 750 runners crossed the finish line. Here, Melinda Figueroa celebrates crossing the finish line.

County to rehab, replace fire stations

Martin will spend nearly $30 million to rehab/replace fire stations and build a needed training facility

By Donald Rodrigue
For Hometown News

STUART — The Martin County Commission decided to bite the fiscal bullet Feb. 12 and finance the nearly $30 million cost to rehabilitate or replace four of its aging Fire-Rescue stations and construct a cutting-edge training facility adjacent to Witham Field.

The multimillion-dollar cost formed part of a broader $45-million capital improvement project list that also includes the planned relocation of the Public Works and General Services departments off of airport property and other debt consolidation. Commission Chairman Ed Ciampi asked General Services Director Jeff Dougherty to separate the list that also includes the planned relocation of the broader $45-million capital improvement project

See STATIONS, page 111

Town Hall meetings to be held

U.S. Army Corps holds public input sessions on lake discharges while inland residents seek coastal cooperation

By Donald Rodrigue
For Hometown News

STUART — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began town hall meetings across South Florida earlier this month to gather public input for its new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual to replace the Lake Okeechobee Release Schedule implemented in 2008. Governing officials, environmental activists and residents have clamored for the change for the last few years as green algae blooms from the lake have clogged up both the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River estuaries, causing massive health concerns and scaring off tourists by the boatloads on both the east and west coasts near Stuart and Fort Myers. The Army Corps began the series of meetings Feb. 5 in Lehigh Acres and has since held meetings in Okeechobee, Clewiston and Stuart. Others are planned for Broward County, West Palm Beach and Miami Gardens later this month.

Congressman Brian Mast has served as a catalyst for the current change, having invited top officials from both the Army Corps and the South Florida Water Management District to Stuart last summer to speak at a standing-room-only meeting where he insisted lake levels be lowered to 10.5 feet just before the advent of hur-
Community calendar

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

• Learn Lip Reading in Jensen Beach: Lip reading is a valuable communications skill, helpful for those with or without hearing loss. Lip Reading can be a fun activity for all ages and a skill that only gets

See CALENDAR, page 7

ON CARS

Earl Stewart is the owner and general manager of Earl Stewart Toyota in North Palm Beach. The dealership is located at 1215 N. Federal Highway in Lake Park. Contact him at www.earlstewarttoyota.com, call (561) 358-1474, fax (561) 658-0747 or email earl@esyotoyota.com.

I receive a lot of emails, calls, and letters every week from victims of car dealers who were taken advantage of in buying, leasing, and servicing their cars. They mostly call to ask what they can do to get all or some of their money back. These “victims” fall into different categories:

1. The elderly, especially widows, are the most victimized. The reasons for this are that Florida, especially South Florida, is a “retirement” state. Baby boomers and pre-baby boomers make up a disproportionately large percentage of Florida’s population. Not only that, but life expectancies have soared in recent years...81 for a woman and 76 for a man. Men usually predecease their wives. Women’s role in the American culture is a great deal different than in the 1930s, 1940’s and 1950’s. Often, the husband was not only the breadwinner, but the decision maker in the household. Widows of that era are often buying or leasing their first car today. Men and women in their seventies, eighties, and nineties (yes, I have a lot of customers in their nineties) aren’t as sharp as they once were. I’m 78 and I’ll be the first to admit I’m not as sharp as I once was. I’m 78 and I’ll be the first to admit

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1. How difficult it would be for you to get a fair price on a car you were buying in a foreign country where you did not speak or understand the language?

2. There are too many Americans who never had the benefit of a proper education. We have too many high school dropouts and too many high school graduates who still can't read or write as well as they must to function in our society. Lack of a good education is one of America's most serious problems and we're seeing other countries like China, Japan, Germany and India pass us by in educating their children. It's almost criminal how the educated are exploited by car dealers' advertising and sales tactics. How many car dealers' TV advertisements have you seen that you laugh at, knowing that they are totally untrue, “bait and switch” to lure you into the dealership? You wonder who would believe that kind of nonsense. The reason that car dealers keep running those ads is because they work.

3. There are always people with bad, marginal or no credit who must buy a car. In Florida, without an effective mass transit system, a car is virtually a necessity to get to your job or find a job, not to mention the doctor, school, or the pharmacy. People with bad credit are at the mercy of the car dealer. They work.

4. Let's face it; there are too many car dealers ripping off customers? For categories one through five, the answer is our regulators and our lawmakers. But for the last category, "Everybody else", it's themselves. Of course, it goes without saying that most car dealers do business this way? Who doesn't know that most car dealers do business this way? Who doesn't know that car dealers perennially rank LAST on the annual Gallup "Honesty and Ethics in Professions" poll? I recently received an email from a woman who fell in none of the first five categories above. She was terribly victimized by a very unethical car dealer from whom she bought two used cars on the same night. Her email asked me for advice on what she should do. Of course, the "horse was out of the barn" and this makes things more difficult. This woman did not ask for or receive a CarFax report on either used car. Nor did she take either car to her mechanic for approval. She clearly didn't investigate the dealer for reputation.

5. She didn't check any sources like Consumer Reports for recommended used cars. She did not shop and compare prices for similar cars and the list of “did not’s” goes on. If you don't do your due diligence when you buy a car you are equally culpable with the car dealer who took advantage of you.

6. Who should be held responsible for car dealers ripping off customers? For categories one through five, the answer is our regulators and our lawmakers. But for the last category, "Everybody else", it's themselves. Of course, it goes without saying that most car dealers do business this way? Who doesn't know that car dealers perennially rank LAST on the annual Gallup "Honesty and Ethics in Professions" poll? I recently received an email from a woman who fell in none of the first five categories above. She was terribly victimized by a very unethical car dealer from whom she bought two used cars on the same night. Her email asked me for advice on what she should do. Of course, the "horse was out of the barn" and this makes things more difficult. This woman did not ask for or receive a CarFax report on either used car. Nor did she take either car to her mechanic for approval. She clearly didn't investigate the dealer for reputation.

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Advocates urge FEMA to improve housing

By Mike Winikoff
mwinikoff@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — A national coalition that includes dozens of Florida agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations is urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to improve its post-disaster performance.

Specifically, the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition, which is led by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, is calling on congressional committees to ensure FEMA addresses the housing needs of low-income natural disaster survivors.

In 2018, Hurricane Michael devastated parts of Florida as a category 4, the third most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall. Hurricane Michael destroyed or damaged an estimated 40,000 homes in Florida.

According to the coalition, FEMA issued tents for about 500 families to live in while waiting for housing assistance. Those 500 Florida families are still sleeping in the FEMA-provided tents, awaiting housing assistance.

“Nearly four months after Hurricane Michael ravaged the Florida Panhandle, far too many low-income survivors are still struggling to meet their most basic need: a safe, affordable place to call home,” the DHRC wrote in an appeal to Congress to initiate oversight hearings.

“FEMA has proven itself incapable of providing housing for the thousands of households displaced by these and other disasters. FEMA’s slow pace in providing housing assistance is unacceptable and inexplicable. In many ways, FEMA is repeating the same mistakes it made after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.”

Florida has by far the most coalition member groups of any state. Florida groups that are members of the coalition include government entities like the Florida Department of Children and Families, and advocacy or service groups such as New Horizons Of The Treasure Coast, the Florida Housing Coalition, Florida Legal Services, Habitat for Humanity Florida, Legal Services of North Florida, Meals on Wheels South Florida, United Way of Florida, and the University of Florida.

The coalition also includes unions and worker advocacy groups like SEIU Florida and The Farmworker Association of Florida.

The collective goal is ensuring the federal response to disaster recovery prioritizes the housing needs of the lowest income people in the impacted areas.

Over the past three years, “FEMA has responded to five major hurricanes, deadly wildfires, and many other emergencies,” said Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

“Each time, FEMA has failed to meet the housing needs of the lowest-income survivors, including people with disabilities, seniors, families with children, and those experiencing homelessness prior to a disaster. Without proper housing assistance, these households have no choice but to return to uninhabitable homes, sleep in cars or tents, double or triple up with other low-income families, or pay more than half of their income on rent, putting them at increased risk of evictions and, in the worst cases, homelessness.”

The group alleges that FEMA is not complete and equitable recovery for all survivors for these and future disasters. ”

As we were preparing this story, FEMA Administrator Brock Long resigned. Ms. Yentel approved of the resignation, noting that it provides an opportunity to change direction.

“Brock Long has repeatedly failed to address the housing needs of the lowest-income disaster survivors,” Ms. Yentel said. See FEMA, page 7.
Police report

Editor's note: This is a list of arrests, not convictions, and all arrests are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law.

Martin County Sheriff's Department

Tara Cosentino, 34, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Justin Cuthrell, 32, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with possession of a controlled substance, and possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

Erica Dinnello, 33, of Jensen Beach, was arrested Feb. 9 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

David Lawrence, 50, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 10 and charged with utterance of false bank bill/check/draft.

Robert Norwood, 32, of Jensen Beach, was arrested Feb. 9 and charged with aggravated assault.

Michael Wepryan, 48, of Sebastian, was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with assault on a law enforcement officer/firefighter/EMT, introduction of contraband into jail facility, and possession of marijuana under 20 grams.

Heather Beland, 28, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with grand theft of property over $300 and less than $5,000.

Linton Cooper, 40, of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with burglary of a conveyance, and grand theft.

Desmond Lyles, 20, of Hollywood, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with three counts grand theft, and three counts dealing in stolen property.

Hugo Parra-Gomez, 44, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with two counts grand theft.

David Walsh, 42, of Fort Pierce, was arrested Feb. 11 and charged with lewd or lascivious exhibition by offender over 18 years of age, require purchaser to receive obscene material, and exposure in public.

Rodney Hamilton, 52, of Indiantown, was arrested Feb. 12 and charged with two counts possession of a controlled substance, and tampering with/fabricating physical evidence.

Justin Miller, 19, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Feb. 12 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Ashlee Wilks, 42, of Jensen Beach, was arrested Feb. 12 and charged with grand theft, and utterance of false bank bill/check or draft.

Henry Thompson, 37, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 13 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams.

Demetri Myrie, 36, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Feb. 13 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams, driving under the influence with property damage.

Lazaro Hernandez, 34, of West Palm Beach, was arrested Feb. 13 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams, driving under the influence with property damage.

Roderick Harris, 46, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 14 and charged with two counts possession of a controlled substance.

Krystal Baker, 31, of Boynton Beach, was arrested Feb. 14 and charged with grand theft larceny over $300 and less than $5,000, and obtaining goods through fraudulent use of credit card.

Amanda Rincon, 32, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 14 and charged with grand theft over $300 and less than $100,000, and obtaining property through fraudulent means $50,000 or more as scheme to defraud.

Brittany Bond, 29, of Coral Springs, was arrested Feb. 15 and charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle.

Hunter Thompson, 37, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 15 and charged with grand theft.

Desmond Lyles, 20, of Hollywood, was arrested Feb. 15 and charged with larceny.

Roderick Harris, 46, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 16 and charged with grand theft.

Crystle Ramos, 31, of Stuart, was arrested Feb. 16 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams.

Rodney Hamilton, 52, of Indiantown, was arrested Feb. 16 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams.

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Many drivers involved in fatal crashes have had pot in their systems. The money from taxing pot is not enough.

Drive slower on the nice streets
Recently, our neighborhood streets were finally paved and they are so nice and smooth, however most cars and trucks find it necessary to drive faster than ever and the speed limit is 30 mph. I wonder if any of these people have kids who like to play or skate in the beautifully paved streets?

Why do we put up with it?
Why do we put up with train horns blaring all night long, hear more than a mile away from the train tracks. These horns should not be louder than necessary to be heard a block or so away to warn any idiot wanting to ram through the barricades. I live 1.1 miles from the train tracks, yet every night and all night long I am awakened by these outrageous train horns. There is no excuse for it. Why should people a mile away or more from the tracks be forced to hear the blaring horns ten or twelve times per train at 1, 2.5 or 3 o'clock in the morning? It is an assault perpetrated upon millions of people up and down the Florida East Coast. I noticed in highly populated Broward County there are so called quiet zones where no horns are permitted during the late and overnight hours. Call your elected officials and fight back. This assault on millions of people, night after night, cannot be allowed to go on. We never used to hear these horns at all where I am until about two years or so when new horns were installed on these trains. Don’t be silent! Call these representatives or let us go to their homes during the overnight and blame our horns 10 or 12 times every hour and see if that sets a fire under their rear ends…Do something!

Statistics show
A federal government study of crime nationwide indicates 90 percent of murderers had previous criminal records. Doesn’t that tell us that we allow far too many criminals to walk free?

About swai fish
The debate on Swai fish resulted from the catfish wars where the U.S. catfish industry went after competing countries for supplying catfish to the U.S. market because U.S. fisher-ies were over-fishing locally. The catfish industry falsely accused foreign suppliers of import-ing polluted fish to keep supply of their product high. This same attack extended to other vari-eties. The major suppliers of Swai fish in Viet-nam have been inspected and have found to be superior to our own local suppliers. The writ-er in this weeks paper stated five suppliers used Swai fish from the Mekong Delta. The Swai fish at Publix are farm raised, extremely clean, very mild and delicious. My opinion is that they are much safer than fish caught from the polluted water along much of our coastline.

To the rude note writer
For that totally uninformed, very rude person who left a very nasty note on my car, that has a “DISABLED VETERAN” license plate, stating how dare I park in a handicapped parking place, please become aware of Section 318, 1955, Florida Statutes, that: “provides for any vehicle displaying a Disabled Veteran, Dis-abled Veteran Wheelchair, Paralyzed Veterans of America, International Wheelchair Suffix or Motorcycle Wheelchair Emblem license plate to park in spaces designated for handicapped parking.”

Further, in order to receive the DISABLED VETERAN license plate, that person has to be certified as 100 percent disabled by the Veteran’s Administration.

Keep the area trash free
I’ve lived here in Fort Pierce for eight years as a snow bird and love everything about this town EXCEPT for the unkempt, dirty, litter strewn landscape along our main north south highway, U.S.1. I’d hate to think the citizens of this beautiful town take so little pride in where they live that making it a pig sty by throwing trash out the window has become a way of life. If it’s a passersby that throw trash out their win-dows on their way through, we need more effective police and sheriff patrols to catch the litterbugs and fine them $500 per offense to stop the carnage or allow our citizens to report them with a picture of the littering and let them receive a ticket in the mail with a $100 fine unless they can prove otherwise.

In the meantime - don’t we have prisoners in our city and county jails that can be coaxed to get some fresh air and exercise while making our city beautiful again. I’d even volunteer to supervise the proceedings. LETS MAKE FORT PIECE BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.

Run your heart out
The Fleet Feet 13th annual ‘Run for Your Heart’ 5K/10K and Kids Fun Run benefiting the Martin Health Foundation’s Frances Langford Heart Center was held on Saturday, February 10 at Vista Plaza in Stuart. Running through North River Shores, the event begins and ends at Fleet Feet in Stuart. Over 750 runners crossed the finish line. Mary Jones of Fleet Feet and 12-year-old Sarah Decows-ki of Palm City play around at the finish line.
Meet Smokey!
Hi! My name is Smokey and my best friend’s name is ‘The Bandit’. Don’t worry, he is just a teddy bear that I have had since I was a kitten! That a fourteen year long friendship! I have never been without him and he needs to stay with me at all times.

I was surrendered when my owners downsized; there just wasn’t any more room for me and Bandit. When I arrived I was drinking so much water, it was really concerning for the staff! They had me checked out by the vet and it was determined that I am diabetic! Now, don’t let that scare you! I am in remission and doing wonderfully. Please come down to HSTC and take a peek at me and my friend Bandit! We are looking for a wonderful home to call our own!

Meet Splits at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, 4100 SW Leighton Farm Ave Palm City. For more information, call (772)600-3204 or visit www.hstc1.org.

FEMA

From page 4

Yentel said. “President Trump should use this resignation as an opportunity to appoint someone who is up for the job and who is committed to undoing the harm caused by Mr. Long. And Congress must hold FEMA accountable for its failure to meet the basic housing needs of people with the lowest incomes and to formulate and implement reforms to ensure an equitable disaster housing recovery.”

For more information, visit the National Low Income Housing Coalition Disaster Recovery page at www.nlhcc.org/issues/disaster.

Calendar

From page 2

better with practice and becomes useful for so many aspects of life. It helps them better understand and communicate and is a skill valuable in many ways throughout life. The local classes are sponsored by the Treasure Coast Chapter, Hearing Loss Association of America, and the Fort Pierce Lions Club, at a cost of $65 for the two-day session. Classes are limited to 10 participants. Jensen Beach classes of Lip Reading 101 will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Jensen Beach office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, 1016 Jensen Beach Blvd., February 12 and run through February 28, noon until 2pm. This equals seven days of two hour classes to complete the course. A Certificate of Completion is given at the end. To register for classes, text Cheryl at (772) 488-0123 or email speechreader1@gmail.com. Further information on upcoming lip-reading schedules is posted on www.treasurehearing.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

• Jensen Beach Art League Art Show: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Indian RiverSide Park, 1707 N.E. Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. Free admission. For more information, visit www.jupiterartleague.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

• Predator and Prey: One is the hunter and one is the hunted, but can some species be both? Kids will enjoy a craft project and play a predator/prey game before enjoying a family-friendly walk through Halpatiokee Regional Park. The park’s trails will offer participants an opportunity to scout for signs of animals on the prowl and those looking to escape! Hikers interested in this event should meet at 10 a.m. at the covered pavilion at 8303 S.W. Lost River Road, Stuart. For information on Martin County’s Ecosystems Restoration and Management Division, visit www.martin.fl.us/EcoRestoration.

• Third Saturday Gourmet: 5-9 p.m., near Juno Shoe Girl, 11786 S.E. Dixie Highway, Hobe Sound. Enjoy a range of food trucks, entertainment and vendors, along with the shops along Dixie Highway, in a family-friendly, pet-friendly event. For more information, visit www.hobesound.org.

Chocolate Wednesdays

Join us WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH to get a taste of what’s to come at Hobe Sound’s newest assisted living and memory care community.

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SHERIDANHOBESOUND.COM
Shall be applying for assisted living license
May Smyth honored at Kiplinger Luncheon

For Hometown News
newsfp@hometownnewsol.com

PALM CITY — The Library Foundation of Martin County and Knight Kiplinger honored May Smyth as the 2019 recipient of the Kiplinger Literacy Award on January 28 at Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club in Palm City.

The Literacy Award Luncheon is a highly anticipated annual event as Kiplinger, editor-in-chief of Kiplinger Publications, serves as keynote speaker and provides attendees with some of his well-informed perspectives on finance and politics.

This year, Kiplinger’s remarks to a full-capacity audience focused on the aging of the U.S. population, immigration policy and private savings rates.

On accepting her award, May Smyth said she wished everyone could enjoy the benefits of literacy, regardless of their status. “I think literacy and libraries are made for each other, even in this age of high tech.” In closing, Smyth acknowledged the efforts of all supporters of literacy programs. “To all of you who actively support the Library Foundation of Martin County, thank you so much. Please know that you are helping change lives and society for the better.”

Kiplinger had warm words of praise for Smyth’s contributions to the foundation’s work. “What a remarkable honoree you are, and we’ve had a decade of wonderful honorees,” he said. “Rarely have we seen the combination of professional service and volunteer service that you bring to this. It’s really a model to emulate for all of us.”

May Smyth and her husband Vincent discovered Martin County as tourists more than 25 years ago. Five years later, they began a new life here as snowbirds when they joined the Saltfish Point community.

May has a master’s degree in library science and was active in arts in education programs in Palm Beach County. In 1993, she moved to Martin County to serve the community.

“May’s contributions to literacy in Martin County go far beyond fundraising and board service,” said Stacy Ranieri, president of the foundation’s board of directors. “Her enthusiasm, leadership and creativity have inspired us all. We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize May for all of her past and current contributions to literacy in Martin County.”

HOMETOWN NEWS Media Group

has a fulltime opening for Editorial Assistant for the Treasure Coast.

A qualified candidate:

• Must hold a bachelor’s degree in Journalism, English or Media Relations.
• Must be proficient in the English language and AP Style.
• Must be able to adhere to strict daily and weekly deadlines.
• Must be able to use InDesign.
• Must be familiar with TownNews Blox CMS.
• Must have a vast knowledge of email, and all social media platforms.
• Must be self-motivated, pay attention to detail and be familiar with the community news that is provided by Hometown News.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

• Frontline copy editing of press releases.
• Compiling entertainment and community calendars, community notes and other information for the Treasure Coast.
• Pagination of weekly papers and Special Sections.
• Uploading weekly content to website and social media.
• Interaction with the community regarding public events, news stories and media opportunities.

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Photo courtesy of Liz McKinley


Friday, Feb. 22, 2019
February 22nd - March 3rd

February 22 and 23 7:30 PM
Saturday March 2 6:00 PM

Carly Pierce: Tues., Feb 26th
Seth Anthony, Fri.-Sun. Feb. 22nd-24th

- Matt Ingram
- Chris Mabrey-Hypnotist
- *FREE* Laser Tag
- Danny Grant’s Cowboy Circus
- Thundergrass Band
- Robocars
- Funny Little People
- Ben Lewis
- Petting Zoo
- Show Me Safari Racing Pigs

**St. Lucie County Fair**

**IS HERE!!**

February 22nd - March 3rd

Monday Thru Friday gates open at 4 PM
Weekends at noon
Lots of daily gate and ride specials

**Great Family Event**

**PRCA Rodeo**
Friday and Saturday
February 22 and 23 7:30 PM

**Demo Derby**
Saturday March 2 6:00 PM

**The Ninja Experience**
at the fair ALL 10 DAYS!

**Live In Concert**
Carly Pierce & Seth Anthony
See website for Schedule Details

**Everyday**

For all details
StLucieCountyFair.com
or 772-464-2910

AT THE INTERSECTION OF MIDWAY RD. AND OKEECHOBEE RD. • FORT PIERCE
ALL ENTERTAINMENT FREE WITH GATE ADMISSION
Lake
From page 1
ricane season. The congressman said in a Feb. 9 email blast his primary concern was the health of coastal communities facing toxic green algae released by massive discharges in the rainy season.

“Sure goal is definitely no discharges, period,” he said in the email. “But right now, the Army Corps won’t even acknowledge the health risks created by their discharges. Just last summer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discharged water from Lake Okeechobee that was found to be more than 50 times too toxic for human contact.”

The mere suggestion of a 10.5-foot lake level has resulted in an outcry from communities surrounding the lake itself that depend on higher water to support their marinas and provide water for agricultural irrigation. Some of those residents came to Stuart the morning of Feb. 12 to beg Martin County commissioners to work more cooperatively with them on the issue after having attended the Corps’ Clewiston meeting the night before. One of those was former Pahokee Mayor J. P. Sasser who attended the meeting the night before in defense of Lake O communities.

Mr. Sasser told commissioners that most of the people he spoke with at the Clewiston meeting were “very upset with the suggestion” that the lake’s water level be kept at 10.5 feet. He invited both the members of the Commission and Martin County residents to visit Pahokee, saying the previous interaction of the past had stopped for some reason.

“We are not ashamed of our homes, we’re not ashamed of our jobs, we are proud of our communities,” Mr. Sasser exclaimed. “I think if we get to know each other, 75 percent of our issues will evaporate because we’ll realize that we have a common interest. It’s not a divisive interest as some people want us to think and keep jamming down our throats. We have more in common than we do different, so let’s make the commitment to work together.”

One Florida Foundation Director Nyla Pipes also addressed the Board, warning commissioners that Lake Okeechobee is currently in a fragile state and that keeping the water either too low or too high could cause even more damage to the ecosystem known as the headwaters of the Everglades.

“There are negative things happening in Lake Okeechobee, and if we lose that lake, things are not going to get better for us being downstream,” she exclaimed. “The biggest thing we’re seeing in Lake Okeechobee right now is there is literally no submerged aquatic vegetation left — the filter is gone. And that’s [from] a combination of problems, but a lot of it’s because we’ve had several years of where the lake has gone too high.”

Ms. Pipes and others also blame the chemical spraying of hydrilla on the lake’s surface for contributing to the problem, since the plants die and sink to the bottom, creating a layer of muck that nothing else can grow in. She also believes the rotting hydrilla, coupled with other factors, may be actually providing the green alga blooms enough nutrients to survive the winter cold.

“High water, lots of dead vegetation, muck is building up, then we get all those nutrients re-released into the lake every time we get a wind,” she explained. “It’s feeding those alga blooms. There are currently alga blooms over on the west side, and I’ve heard of other alga blooms in Lake Okeechobee at the moment. This is incredibly concerning because we’ve had cold snaps, and those algae blooms should have stopped. Those of us who spend time on the lake are very, very concerned.”

Ms. Taylor, a founding member of Glades Lives Matter, had reserved her harsher rhetoric for representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers in Clewiston the night before in defense of Lake O communities.

She described a coastal elite that wanted to “take our lands, flood the fields, blow up the dike and let the water flow the way it used to.”

“Now they want to take our water,” she fumed. “They want to keep Lake Okeechobee at 10.5 feet, which makes no sense. Unless, of course, you want to punish the people living directly south of the lake who depend on this water for business and for recreation,” Chairman Ciampi told both Mr. Sasser and Ms. Taylor that he had “the utmost respect and fondness for our counties to the west around the lake” and understood the sentiments expressed by her words the day before. He also believes Rep. Mast would be more flexible on the exact level of the lake.

“I know that there’s an adversarial kind of vibe, ‘if it’s hurting us, it’s benefitting you’ but I personally have never felt that way,” he said. “I don’t have an adversarial relationship with you all, and I think that we can get it done. I know Congressman Mast was putting ideas forward, but he reiterated several times, especially after Ms. Pipes had spoken and Commissioner Melissa McKinley had spoken, that there are differences of opinions. I give him a lot of credit for coming forward with suggestions, and he said we would work to make sure that no one was hurt.”

As far as the ongoing Army Corps meetings, Commissioner Sarah Heard said it was critically important for people to show up and express their opinions.

“Should you not only speak, but also submit written comments to the Corps,” she emphasized. “It’s very, very short scope period: It only lasts until March 31, and then the Feds are going to be evaluating and analyzing all of the comments and all the science they receive in creating a new operating schedule for us. If you want to see our water quality and quantity improve, this is your opportunity to make your voice heard.”

For those who missed the Martin County meetings and don’t want to head further south to participate, written comments can still be submitted by mail to Dr. Ann Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019 or via email at LakeOComments@usace.army.mil.
Many of these stations were built decades ago and were built for a different operation/different apparatus as the Fire-Rescue operations have evolved,” Mr. Dougherty said. “None of them can be occupied during a storm event because they’re not hardened.”

The latter fact particularly frustrated Commissioner Stacey Hetherington.

“It’s appalling to me,” she exclaimed. “Our first responders should be there, and that we don’t have a station that’s hardened where they can actually stay when they’re probably going to be needed the most. The whole thing is frustrating.”

In addition, Station 18 lacks sufficient parking space during shift changes according to Chairman Ciampi, who’s visited many of the stations and said the Fire-Rescue personnel there must partially block Britt Road during the process.

“The driveways and the roadways are completely broken up, with huge sunken-in and broken concrete pads,” he said. “The trucks are started up in the garage bays where folks are storing their equipment. Several of the locker facilities are metal mesh, and what the folks have done is tried to protect their gear with plastic or cardboard. As far as I’m concerned, it’s completely unacceptable that we would force people to be in that situation.”

Moving much farther south, Mr. Dougherty referred to the Hobe Sound station as “a very, very old site in desperate need of attention and replacement” and offered the Commission the choice of rebuilding onsite through the purchase of adjacent land or building anew on 12.5 acres of county-owned property about a mile north at Heritage Ridge. The General Services director recommended the latter option, which would allow Station 33 personnel to remain in the current facility until completion of the new building.

“Again, it’s county-owned, and we would not have to buy any property or take anything off the tax roll,” he emphasized. “We could move forward much quicker than if we had to go into a negotiation with a property owner to the south of the existing station.”

Commissioner Sarah Heard then began to pepper both the General Services Department director and Fire Chief Bill Schobel with questions about the $12 million cost for new stations on Hutchinson Island and Hobe Sound.

“I can’t imagine what on Earth we’re going to be building on these two locations that’s going to cost us $6 million apiece,” she said. “I know what construction costs are like, and it just seems exorbitant.”

Mr. Dougherty told her he estimated the cost of new construction at $235 a square foot based on what the Department paid a decade and a half ago to build a station in Jensen Beach.

“Well, we looked at a unit cost and a square foot and broke out in detail the fixtures, the furnishings and the equipment, but we actually went to the Savannah Road Fire Station,” he explained. “We built that approximately 15 years ago, and the cost of construction then until now annualizes 2.6 percent or higher. So, it’s about 45 percent higher.”

Commissioner Heard also questioned the $5 million and $3 million costs, respectively, to refurbish the Britt Road and County Line Road stations, which Mr. Dougherty insisted needed both remodeling and expanding to provide separate sleeping quarters for male and female firefighters.

“It’s a hard sell and expansion because it’s one room where everyone sleeps,” he said, referring to Station 18 on Britt Road. “The building isn’t hardened, we have some site issues to deal with and we have some temporary housing to deal with as well, so we would have to go in and design it site-specific.”

Commissioner Heard also questioned the $9 million cost for the Witham Field training center and wondered why it included a classroom when each individual station had one and the Department frequently utilized the classrooms at the county’s Emergency Operations Center. Chief Schobel insisted the training site needed its own classroom.

“The area in the individual fire stations is just a meeting area for five or six people; it’s not a traditional classroom setting of 20 or 30 folks,” he stated. “That one would be specific to the training area and also host regional classes and so forth, which would help us strive towards a revenue neutral on operating costs for this training facility.”

In spite of Mr. Dougherty basing his cost estimate on a similar facility built in Osceola County in 2016, Commissioner Heard—who cast the lone dissenting vote on all the proposals—said she couldn’t handle the price tag.

“As I recall when this was first proposed within the last couple of years, the estimate was under $4 million,” she said. “It would be wonderful to have everything we want, but what we need is everything we need. These four facilities are estimated to cost $30 million, all at once. It’s a bill that I can’t afford to pay.”

The county’s outside financial consultant, Ed Stull of Masterson Advisors, insisted the numbers were good on the $45 million worth of projects and believed Martin County’s financial position was very strong.

“We’re estimating on a 20-year basis the all true interest costs of somewhere around 3.4 percent, for 25 years around 3.7 percent and 30 years about 3.9 percent, which is very cost-effective financing,” he explained. “The annual debt service for a 20-year bond issue was right around $3.2 million a year, for 25 years about $2.8 million and for 30 years about $2.6 million.”

Commissioner Heard then compared the present request to when the county agreed about a decade ago to pledge impact fees to pay for the Indian Street Bridge and the Green River Parkway. Then the bottom fell out of the construction industry.

“We were still left with that debt, and this is one of the concerns I have now in making this risk based upon 2019 revenues, which could plummet,” she said.

Ms. Kryzda attempted to diffuse those fears, while admitting the Board during the subsequent recession dismantled much of its capital improvement plan in a panic.

“We probably should have seen the foresight to start putting something aside, but instead we stripped those out,” she said. “If that should happen in the future, we as senior staff will be looking at how we can alleviate that situation to the residents here in Martin County.”

The Commission subsequently voted 4-1, with Commissioner Heard dissenting, to approve the fire station rehabs and replacements, as well as the new burn building tower and classroom at Witham Field.
March Upcoming 2019 Events

**Wednesday, February 27 – Palm City Monthly Breakfast**
Monarch Golf & Country Club
1801 SW Monarch Club Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
RSVP Online

**Thursday, March 7th - Palm City Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn**
Sponsor: Edward Jones David Bradford
Monarch Country Club – 1801 SW Monarch Club Drive
Palm City, FL 34990
12:00 – 1:00 pm
RSVP Online

**Thursday, March 14 – Palm City Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**
Sponsor: Center State Bank
2991 SW High Meadow Ave.
Palm City, FL 34990
5:00 – 7:00 pm
RSVP Online

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – Palm City Chamber of Commerce Monthly Breakfast**
Sponsor: Acyoc Funeral Home
Speaker: Helping People Succeed – Suzi Hutcheson – Executive Director
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 am
RSVP Online

**2019 Palm City Chamber of Commerce Board Members**
- President Jan Connolly - Recovery Insurance Adjusters
- Vice President David Guzerra - Rainbow International
- Treasurer Ryan Difazio - HKB CPA’s & Consultants
- Past President Rick Hartman - Hartman Real Estate

- Rex Sorell - Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club
- Suzy Hutcheson - Helping People Succeed, Inc.
- Ann Marie Pericak - Oculair Bank
- Barbara Ewersmeyer - River & Beyond Landscaping & Irrigation
- Bill Norton - White Glove Moving & Storage
- Steve Sullivan - MBV Engineering, Inc.
- Christina Franco - Hampton Inn and Suites, Stuart
- Tyra Waters - Fox Mccluskey, Bush and Robinson, LLC
- Jeff Steph - Teach Wealth Management
- Ex-Officio Jay Oeverdon - State Representative District 83
- Ex-Officio Ed Camp - Martin County Commissioner District 5
- Ex-Officio Michael Delvecchio - Martin County School Board

Business connections for positive change
**Palm City Chamber Chamber of Commerce**
**www.PalmCityChamber.com**

**Palm City Chamber Monthly Breakfast**
Wednesday, January 30, 2019
The Breakfast with Benefits was held at Piper’s Landing Golf & Country Club. Over 100 people attended the Breakfast. Martin Memorial Health Systems was the Speaker / Sponsor for the Breakfast. The Speaker for the breakfast was Dr. Fernando Petry, Chief Medical Officer for Cleveland Clinic. Martin Memorial Health Systems and Cleveland Clinic. Many questions were asked about changes being made.

**Thursday, March 7th - Palm City Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn**
The luncheon was held at Piper’s Landing Yacht & Country Club, located at 6160 SW Thistle Terrace located in Palm City. They served a delicious lunch for all that attended.

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Racing to the Courthouse for a good local cause

For Hometown News
newspaper@hometownnewsol.com

MARTIN COUNTY — We all know the scene in the movie when the good guy is racing to the courthouse just in the nick of time to save the day, right? On Saturday, March 30th, hundreds will gather and Race to the Courthouse to save the day for local charities as the Martin County Bar Association holds its 3rd annual 5K run walk.

This race benefits both the Martin County Legal Aid Society, which is a not-for-profit corporation formed in 1992 that provides free legal services to some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and the Martin County Bar Association’s scholarship program.

Last year’s event hosted almost 200 participants and raised over $3,000. Committee chairman Gene Zweben said this year is off to a great start with the help of Legal Aid Society’s Jane Cornett in procuring early sponsors.

“This is a family friendly event that is open to everyone from competitive runners, to walkers and children,” said Zweben. “Signing up before March 1st has advantages, a guaranteed race shirt and an early bird registration fee of only $30.”

That’s a great deal, as the price increases March 1st. From then until online registration closes on March 28th, it goes up to $35. Race day registration will also be available for $40.

The committee, also consisting of Sara Vickers and Valerie Chesnut, is still welcoming sponsors who will receive recognition.

Runners take off during last year’s event.

Out & about

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

• O-Town Motown: The great sound of soul makes its round trip ticket to its Southern roots with O-Town Motown. From Michael Jackson to Marvin Gaye, O-Town Motown will move your audience both physically and emotionally, bringing to life the golden era of Motown music. This event will be held at Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, 7 p.m. For tickets, call (772) 223-7800 or visit kanecenter.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

• Get ready for the 9th Annual RamRock 5K/8K Run and Walk hosted by Redeemer Lutheran School on Saturday, March 23, 2019. This year the event will take place in the early evening for a sunset run/walk over the bridges in Stuart. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Redeemer Lutheran School safety and security fund to help keep our kids safe. There will be a Kids Fun run which will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the start time of the 5K and 8K race will be at 6 p.m. Participants will begin the race at the Redeemer Lutheran School and head East on Ocean Blvd. They will make their way across one bridge for the 5K and a pair of bridges for the 8K and back to end at Redeemer Lutheran and begin the festivities.

The post-race party will feature refreshments and the awards ceremony. The course is 3.1 miles (5K) or 4.97 miles (8K), and features chip timing by MCM Timing & Results. Awards will be given to the overall male/female winners for each race, overall male/female masters (40 & up) for each race, and to the top three males/females in each age category. The first 200 registered runners will receive a shirt and goody bag. Registration for the race is $30 and will increase to $35 after 3/15/19. Packet pick-up will be held at Redeemer Lutheran School Friday, March 22nd from 2 - 6 p.m. Address: 2450 SE Ocean Boulevard, Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, Stuart, FL US 34996. For more information, visit https://www. Get more information, visit https://www.

See OUR & about, page 17

Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Your thoughts and actions may be spurred on by your emotions this week, Aries. It may be better to wait a few days to make decisions until things quiet down.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you could be in for a roller coaster ride this week, especially as it pertains to spending. Money could fly out of your wallet faster than you can earn it. Exercise caution.

GEMINI - May 22/ Jun 21

Gemini, as long as you have a solid team in your corner, you can adapt well to the changing environment. However, even a superhero needs a break from time to time.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Overcome your resistance and listen to another person’s side of the story, Cancer. Embrace letting this person take the lead on something at work or in your home life.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, friends are lining up to be helpful over the next few days. Take advantage of their generosity, especially if you find yourself feeling under the weather.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, the personalized touches you put on any project will showcase your personality and passion. Think about embracing a crafty task to really display your talents.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, on the surface, it may seem like you have your act all together. But beneath your emotions may be rolling. You may want to let some close people in on your secrets. See SCOPES, page 17

LIVE MUSIC

Harold Seay
Thursday, Feb 28

David Goodman
Fri., Mar. 1

Leah Merrigue
Sat., Mar. 2

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$5 OFF LUNCH
Minimum Purchase of $25

Not to be combined with other discounts. Dine in only. One coupon per table. Exp. 2-28-19
Touring with the Townies

Friday, Feb. 22, 2019

Fred and Maria Vogz took along their copy of Hometown News to North Conway Country Club, New Hampshire. The White Mountains are pictured in the background."

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 more) of our Treasure Coast residents reading the Hometown News in a unique 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.

Email your photo (at least 1 MB in size) to yourphotos@hometownnewsol.com and 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.

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Out

From page 13

facebook.com/ramrock8k.

MONDAY, FEB. 25

• Letters for Annie: Memories from World War II: Letters for Annie: Memories from World War II is the compelling story of the four Lombardo brothers who all served during World War II. To make it through the tough times they all sent letters to their sister Annie Connerton. While the war is the main focal point of the letters, one also begins to understand how other factors, such as morale, disease, weather and mutiny, affect a soldier at war. John Lombardo, the son and nephew of the Lombardo siblings, will share this intimate portrait of one family’s story that exemplifies the experience of the generation who fought the last World War. This event will be held at Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, 2 p.m. For tickets, call (772) 223-7800 or visit kanecenter.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

• Maggie Worsdale Sings Songs of Johnny Mercer: Johnny Mercer was at the heart of the golden era of American popular music, when it was informed by classic and contemporary jazz. Jazz singer Maggie Worsdale shares the talent of Mercer through his songs and through stories that he often told about himself. This event will be held at Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, 3 p.m. For tickets, call (772) 223-7800 or visit kanecenter.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

• BookMania! Book Club: Discuss "Finding Jake" by Bryan Reardon at 11 a.m., Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. Celebrate 25 years of BookMania! by reading three titles by authors scheduled to appear at the event (which will be held on March 2, 2019). Extended checkout copies of each title are available in advance (starting at the previous book club meeting) at the Blake Library on a first-come, first-served basis.

From page 13

Out

Race

From page 13

tion at the event, in bar association publications, and on social media. To date, the following sponsors have already signed on including law firms Becker and Poliakoff; Fox, McClasky, Bush, Robison; McCarthy, Summers, Bobko, Wood, Norman, Bass, and Melby, P.A.; Guy Yudin and Foster; Jack Sobel; Donaldson and Weston; Lavargna Law PLLC; Kathryn L. McHale LLC; and Zweben’s own firm Zweben Law Group. Other local business that have joined the effort are CenterState Bank, Fleet Feet Stuart, Spiral Media, and Natalie’s Orchid Juice.

Awards at the race will be given to overall male and female winners, masters male and female, and the top three finishers in five-year age groups. In addition, a prize will be awarded to the fastest local law firm.

To sign up on line: www.runsignup.com/Race/FL/Stuart/TheRacetotheCourthouse5k

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• Letters for Annie: Memories from World War II: Letters for Annie: Memories from World War II is the compelling story of the four Lombardo brothers who all served during World War II. To make it through the tough times they all sent letters to their sister Annie Connerton. While the war is the main focal point of the letters, one also begins to understand how other factors, such as morale, disease, weather and mutiny, affect a soldier at war. John Lombardo, the son and nephew of the Lombardo siblings, will share this intimate portrait of one family’s story that exemplifies the experience of the generation who fought the last World War. This event will be held at Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, 2 p.m. For tickets, call (772) 223-7800 or visit kanecenter.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

• Maggie Worsdale Sings Songs of Johnny Mercer: Johnny Mercer was at the heart of the golden era of American popular music, when it was informed by classic and contemporary jazz. Jazz singer Maggie Worsdale shares the talent of Mercer through his songs and through stories that he often told about himself. This event will be held at Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, 3 p.m. For tickets, call (772) 223-7800 or visit kanecenter.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

• BookMania! Book Club: Discuss "Finding Jake" by Bryan Reardon at 11 a.m., Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. Celebrate 25 years of BookMania! by reading three titles by authors scheduled to appear at the event (which will be held on March 2, 2019). Extended checkout copies of each title are available in advance (starting at the previous book club meeting) at the Blake Library on a first-come, first-served basis.

Out

From page 13

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MONDAY, FEB. 25

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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 yourphotos@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)
• Type of fish
• Approximate size of fish
• Area you caught the fish
• Phone number in case we have questions (will not be printed)

**Out**

From page 14

first-served basis. For more information, call (772) 288-5702 or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

• BookMania: 25th annual event, featuring 14 authors and panel discussions, will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Jensen Beach High School. For participating authors and schedule, visit www.library.martin.fl.us/all-about-bookmania

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10**

• Starstruck GALA ‘We Are Family! Celebrating the Past, Building the Future’

**CAPRICORN** - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricom, there is nothing wrong with seeing the world through rose-colored glasses from time to time. Such a positive perspective might change your outlook for good.

**SCORPIO** - Oct 24/Nov 22

So many things hinge upon balance, Scorpio. Make a concerted effort to balance things in your life. You may have to make some changes and experiment.

**SAGITTARIUS** - Nov 23/Dec 21

Your inclination to meet the needs of others this week is commendable, Sagittarius. Just be sure your generosity does not come at the expense of your own well-being.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**

• House of Refuge Lecture Series: Eric Ault presents “Florida Fish and Wildlife

See **OUT**, page 18

**Scopes**

From page 13

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**CAPRICORN** - Dec 22/Jan 20

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**AQUARIUS** - Jan 21/Feb 18

You are adept at staying on track when you need to, Aquarius. This makes you an ideal fitness guru. Try to inspire others to be regimented as well.

**PISCES** - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, do your best to honor requests from friends, associates and family this week. If you pull it off, take some time to recharge.

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ALL THE ABOVE DINNERS Include choice of New England Clam chowder, Bahamian conch chowder, dinner salad or coleslaw and choice of fries, potato, rice or vegetable (excluding pasta dishes). Includes one soda, tea or coffee.

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A strong finish

Run For Your Heart
The Fleet Feet 13th annual ‘Run for Your Heart’ 5K/10K and Kids Fun Run benefiting the Martin Health Foundation’s Frances Langford Heart Center was held on Saturday, February 10 at Vista Plaza in Stuart. Running through North River Shores, the event begins and ends at Fleet Feet in Stuart. Over 750 runners crossed the finish line.

5K overall winner Josh Negron of Port St. Lucie crosses the finish line.

Sevin Bullwinkle/staff photographer

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Dear Putter: It’s not you, it’s me

We all love new equipment. For many, the idea represents a rebirth of our potential. Surely that fancy new putter will help us make those pesky 3-footers that we continually miss. Truth is, that putter in your bag found its way there are some point because it was “the one.”

Over time the magic wore off or something better came along. Before you go out and spend money on a new putter, try something else. Change the grip entirely. I am not talking about a new grip that is just like the old one. Try one of the new grips that helps take your hands out of the putting stroke.

For the longest time, putters always came with a standard putting grip. Then grip companies came out with these huge grips that forced your hands and wrists to “lock in” and this helped many golfers get rid of the dreaded yips.

My suggestion is that the next time you are convinced that the magic has gone from that putter of yours, try an inexpensive fix first. Try switching to a fatter grip. They may not be for everyone, but for most, they can make quite a difference.

One of the least expensive grips to try comes from Lamkin (www.lamkingrips.com). The Jumbo putter grip is less than $10 and is one of the first to come out with truly oversized putter grips. Over the years, the line-up of grips has increased dramatically. In fact, if you cannot find a grip from this company that fits your eyes and feel, you may want to give up putting.

There are no less than 10 grips in the Super Stroke line. You can choose from flat, to square, to pistol grip shaped, to round, and more. They come in various sizes to fit all sizes of hands and preferences. There is even a grip specifically designed for those who prefer the claw-grip putting style. If you watch any of the professional tours, you will see a large number of pros using these.

The first oversized putting grip that I became fond of comes from Garsen Golf (www.garsengolf.com). These are not the huge fat grips that some companies present, they are more in-between.

The shape of the Quad series turns your elbows into your body and sets your shoulders back. This relieves tension, prevents wrist action and promotes a putting stroke made using a shoulder rotation. With the Max series, your palms face one another and the wrists want to fall in a natural, arced position. The result is a solid, one-piece stroke that is easier to repeat on a consistent basis.

Golf Pride’s (www.golfpride.com) new Tour SNSR grips come in three shapes and sizes. The innovative SNSR material delivers exceptional feel and feedback. Its soft feel promotes a lighter grip pressure that helps create a smooth stroke.

Originally the Tour SNSR came in a straight non-tapered design or a pistol grip. Coming in March, you can also choose from a pro-contour shape that comes in the same 104cc and 140cc sizes as the originals.

If you want to try the “local” guy’s product, check out SwitchGrips (www.switchgripsusa.com) out of Miami. Every series from SwitchGrips features the ability to back-weight the grip to enhance feel and increase accuracy. The grip comes with a 2g weight with 8, 14 and 20g weights available as options.

The Player Line comes in a variety of colors and shapes. The grips are interchangeable, meaning that you never have to cut off or destroy the grip to try a different shape or size. Just switch out the grip portion.

SwitchGrips’ patented rubberized finish is perfect for Florida weather conditions and dries easily. For the truly unique golfer, you can choose from leather, snake, ostrich, stingray and alligator hides.

I have seen a grip from Flat Cat Golf (www.flatgolfcat.com) transform my best friend’s putting. He used to be so bad, that he putted with a hybrid. No more.

Flat Cat comes in four designs, each putting the face of the putter in the palm of your hand. The sides of the grip are in a parallel plane with the face of the putter to promote a more fluid stroke.

Each of the four designs comes in five sizes. The Solution line comes with a weighted cone placed below the hands to help smooth out even the worst of strokes. The Tak line uses a tacky rubber compound, perfect for wet and humid conditions.

There you have it. Don’t toss that old putter! Re-grip and find its magic again.

James Stammer has been an avid golfer and golf enthusiast for nearly 40 years. He hosts the Thursday Night Golf Show on WSTU 1450-AM. Contact him at stammer-golf@yahoo.com.
Celebrate the big day with a Margarita smoothie

Since today is Margarita Day, let’s celebrate with a Margarita smoothie.

My wife had a fit when I mentioned the idea. She is among the millions of Americans that like to juice and make Smoothies for good health. I explained my version was healthy, because it is made with fresh lime juice, heart of watermelon, agave syrup, and Tequila from all natural blue Agave cactus, which, of course, is a natural alcohol spirit that promotes good blood circulation.

Her response was very clear. It’s a margarita daquarri! Finally she agreed it did sound good, except the healthy part. I decided to do some research on the subject and was pleasantly surprised on how much I learned. Smoothies have been around for a long time. Mediterraneoan and Eastern cultures have been enjoying pureed fruit drinks for hundreds of years. It wasn’t until the early 1990s that Americans began to enjoy the pureed drinks that were popular in other countries.

Safe refrigeration did not come along until around 1930s and, before that time, making them unsafe. With the development of safe refrigeration, it was the perfect time for a gentlemen named Stephen Poplawski to invent the blender. Everyone now could enjoy frozen juice and milk blended. You could make a milkshake at home just like at the soda fountains.

In 1935, Fred Osius improved the original blender and invented the Waring Blender, which has influenced pureed creations. The health benefits of juicing and smoothies was pioneered by TV fitness star Jack LaLanne. Because of his TV show, he reached millions of Americans when he publicized the benefits of healthy eating. Many of his recipes are still used today.

Now we know about Smoothies, but what about my idea of a Margarita smoothie? A Margarita recipe uses Tequila, lime juice, a little agave syrup, and specially blended fruit as well as lactose-free blends.

Now try my Margarita smoothie, and it’s healthy too, remember?

**My Margarita Smoothie**

**Ingredients**
- 2 shots Tequila
- 1 cup half and half
- 2 cups ice
- Juice from 2 limes
- 1 tablespoon agave syrup

**Directions**
Mix in blender until smooth. Be careful it will sneak up on you. That’s another health benefit, it relaxes the muscles. My wife calls it something else, but I can’t repeat it. Enjoy!

Costa Magoulas is dean of the Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality and Culinary Management at Daytona State College. Contact him at 386-506-3578 or magoulc@daytonastate.edu.

Friday, Feb. 22, 2019

RESULTS WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR AD IN HOMETOWN NEWS!
CALL CLASSIFIED 772-465-5551
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of Charles John Deleon,
Deceased.
No. 19CP-000047

AFTER THE DATE OF DEATH
All creditors of the personal representative, or other persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent, who have not previously filed their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE, are NOTIFIED that: All claims not filed WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH WITHIN THIS NOTICE ON WHICH THE PRINCIPAL DEBT IS DUE AFTER THE DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

Notice of Sale

Estate of Charles John Deleon.

Notice of Sale

FOR MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF DOUGLAS P. CIBULS
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0000848

Notice of Sale

IN RE: ESTATE OF PENNY L. FANNY a/k/a LAURA B. FANNY
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0000841

Notice of Sale

IN RE: ESTATE OF HARDY D. HOLLAND,
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0001394

Notice of Sale

IN RE: ESTATE OF HAROLD YOST
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0001396

Notice of Sale

IN RE: ESTATE OF HAROLD YOST
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0001395

Notice of Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF CARMEN SCHMALL,
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0001520

Notice of Sale

IN RE: ESTATE OF CARMEN SCHMALL,
Deceased.
FILE NO. 2019CP-0001521

Notice of Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF IVETA D. BACON,
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FILE NO. 2019CP-0001397
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