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Few surprises in DeSoto, one in Arcadia astonishes

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR



DIXON



KEENE

Tuesday's election held few surprises for DeSoto County. But one man did astonish casual observers, however. Lorenzo Dixon, a former Arcadia councilman who has also run unsuccessfully for commission and the police chief's job, finished a strong second on Tuesday in a four-person race for three open council seats. The city's mayor, Judy Wertz-Strickland, cruised to re-election with about 50 more votes than Dixon. In an unofficial tally, Councilman Keith Keene finished a single vote behind Dixon with 872 votes. Civic-minded Jackie Tucker was outside the circle with 771 unofficial votes.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

ASTONISHES | 2 Arcadia Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland celebrates a return to city council. Councilman Keith Keene also returns, along with newcomer Lorenzo Dixon. Jackie Tucker finished outside the three-person race in a close contest.

Arcadia Bike Fest's huge Saturday, next move considered

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

Wow. No one saw that coming. The first unofficial/second official Arcadia Bike Fest was a success beyond what organizers imagined. Several thousand motorcyclists made the trip to downtown Arcadia. Streets closed to traffic were layered three deep in motorcycles, the riders enjoying the city's small-town atmosphere, the shops full, the restaurants and pubs reporting a day of healthy sales. Food truck owners, vendors, motorcycle stunt riders and others also reported positive results and a cheerful welcoming.

Sponsors and organizers of the one-day festival that included Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson, the *Arcadian* newspaper, Discover DeSoto, Arcadia Main Street Program, the city of Arcadia, Moose Riders, Xtreme Fury Stunterz, JB Heavy Equipment, Combat Barbie Stunts, Rinaldi's Small Engine Repair and others were thrilled with participation from riders as far away as Tampa, Miami, Orlando and Cape Coral.

"Over the top," said Pam Ames, president of the host Arcadia Main Street Program. "Just amazing. We never dreamed we'd have that many people attending." Another key Arcadia Bike Fest planner, Miles Christian-Hart, thanked the city for "opening their doors and hearts and receiving us with such a warm and southern style, down-to-earth welcoming."

Which direction Arcadia Bike Fest and other such events take is under evaluation, Ames said. A third Sunday motorcycle rally and bike runs to benefit Toys for Tots, Shop With a Cop and the Guardian ad Litem program could materialize, for instance.

"Where we're going from here," Ames said, "we'll have to look and budget," adding that one vendor during Saturday's event demanded a warm hug in thanks for the turnout and



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JIMMY PETERS

Saturday's Arcadia Bike Fest team includes Rachel Iffland with Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson in Port Charlotte (left), Andrea Jeter with Arcadia Main Street Program, Pam Ames and Elizabeth Brown, marketing manager for Bert's Black Widow.



for hosting it. Vendors, Ames said, "were beside themselves happy."



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DeSoto Circuit Judge Danielle Brewer and Commissioner James Selph oversaw elections as canvassers alongside Supervisor of Elections Mark Negley. All 15 DeSoto precincts had reported within an hour of polls closing.

ASTONISHES

FROM PAGE 1

Roughly 53 percent of DeSoto's 16,735 registered voters turned out on Tuesday, a sizable number of those in unofficial results choosing state Republicans over Democratic rivals. Like most small Florida counties, voters went red, helping Ron DeSantis nudge Andrew Gillum in the

governor's contest and Rick Scott with his slight edge over incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson.

"I will try to do my best to not disappoint," Dixon told a supporter following a fairly quick one-hour tally after DeSoto's 15 polling stations closed at 7 p.m.

The DeSoto Board of County Commissioners has one new face and a veteran returning to his seat at the Nov. 27 swearing-in ceremonies. Republican

J.C. Deriso dispatched Democrat Mark Anderson with about 58 percent of the votes, while incumbent Democrat Elton Langford carried the evening with nearly 75 percent of the vote over No Party Affiliation candidate Brian Cho Chung Hing, a newcomer in DeSoto politics. Deriso replaces two-term Commissioner James Selph, who retires from public service after 48 years to travel, visit grandkids and work on his honey-do list, he kidded from his seat as a vote canvasser alongside Circuit Judge Danielle Brewer and DeSoto Supervisor of Elections Mark Negley.

Deriso ran an unusual campaign—no

social media.

"It was old-fashioned shaking hands and listening to concerns," he said in a red Make Arcadia Great Again cap. "And I credit Mark (Anderson) with running a clean campaign. I can't say enough about that."

Langford gained some added prominence in July in opposing phosphate giant Mosaic Fertilizer in its bid to mine in DeSoto County. That issue comes before a third-party mediator in the near future, however.

"I am humbled by DeSoto County taking care of me, right to the end," Langford said.



DeSoto Supervisor of Elections Mark Negley explains election details Tuesday after polls closed. Commissioner James Selph (left) served as a canvasser.



J.C. Deriso (right) will serve District 2 as DeSoto's newly elected commissioner. Mark Anderson opposed him in the race.



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DeSoto Ag and Auto's Steve Bahre, fixing pulley things ... and more

By JIMMY PETERS

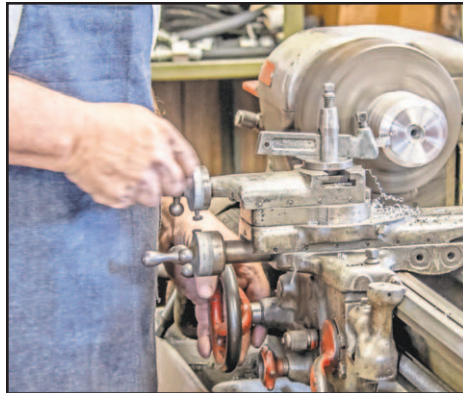
ARCADIAN HOMETOWN CORRESPONDENT

It's no fun when you're out cutting your lawn and you hear the belt come off the mower. You look back and discover the grass is the same height as it was before you ran over it. As you will quickly discover, I'm not very mechanical ... but I took the blade platform off and discovered one of the pulley things the belt goes around was broken. I searched all over Arcadia for a replacement but none would quite fit.

Then someone said go over and show it to Steve Bahre at DeSoto Ag and Auto, he can make it fit. I did. And 15 minutes and \$10 later I had a working part. I was a happy guy.

As I was waiting on Steve, I looked around the machine shop and was in awe of the massive machinery that it took to accomplish the simple job that I brought in. Everything was neat and in order. I could tell the equipment was the kind that would last forever. I had to find out more about this place that reminded me of years past — in high school I had worked at Sarasota Cycle and Key repairing bicycles.

It was in 1973 when Charles Quave incorporated his machine shop under the name DeSoto Automotive. Over the years the name changed to DeSoto Ag and Auto. Steve Bahre has been the machinist at DeSoto Ag and Auto for the past four and a half years. Before that he ran the Computer Numeric Control, or CNC, machines at Pall AeroPower in Fort Myers, where he



Steve turns aluminum on the metal lathe that repaired the writer's lawnmower part.

made parts for helicopters, tanks and jet engines. When his son graduated from high school, Steve decided he'd had enough of city life and moved to Arcadia.

Steve explained of the Arcadia business: "We rebuild engines from start to finish; we repair and rebuild large power units, pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer pumps and pressure-washers. We also turn flywheels, brake calipers and drums; we bore engine blocks and do valve jobs. In addition, we custom make hydraulic hoses for all kinds of machinery."



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY JIMMY PETERS

Steve Bahre makes a hydraulic hose for a customer.

Owner Gabriel Quave added, "We repair the large, six-diaphragm pumps for speed-sprayers in citrus groves, row-crop applications and water-melon farms. These pumps need to be repaired every year. In time they become completely unusable, so we strip them down and save the good parts for the owners so in the future they don't have to pay for brand new

replacement parts."

As soon as I walked into DeSoto Ag and Auto, I realized that the little pulley thing from my lawnmower was a very small job for Steve. But it became just as important to him as it was to me. Now I could get back to my job mowing the lawn.

I thank him. And most of all my wife Kathy thanks him.

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DeSoto

Viewpoint

Craig Garrett — Arcadian Editor

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

OUR VIEW

Charlotte deputies did their job

When someone points an AK-47 rifle at you, there's only one response. If you're armed, you shoot, hoping your shot hits home first.

That's what happened early Monday morning in a McDonald's parking lot in Charlotte Harbor when Charlotte County Sheriff's deputies faced off with an armed man.

According to eyewitnesses and police reports, George Lyman Smith of Arcadia pulled into the restaurant's lot, followed by a person who noticed him driving erratically and called 911. According to the 911 call tapes and the witness, Smith told the police to "come get" me. And warned, they should come "prepared. Tell them if they don't take me out, I'll take them out."

As it turned out, those words were an ominous warning of what was to come.

According to Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell, and reporting by the Sun's Anne Easker, as many as 10 deputies arrived on the scene and ordered Smith to put down a rifle he had snatched from his front car seat.

That's when all the training and practice kicked in for those law enforcement officers.

No one turned cowboy. They first fired bean bag rounds at Smith. They hit him with the non-lethal ammunition, but it failed to faze him.

Then, when he raised his rifle and prepared to fire, a deputy shot him four times. Smith was transported to a local hospital but was likely dead already.

Police shootings have been big news for the past few years. The public always has a question if shooting someone dead is the right thing to do. Why not wound them? Why shoot in the first place?

In this case, one might question why four shots. Why not one or two? But when someone is aiming an AK-47 at you and the fellow officers you train with, know and respect, there is little time to think. You react.

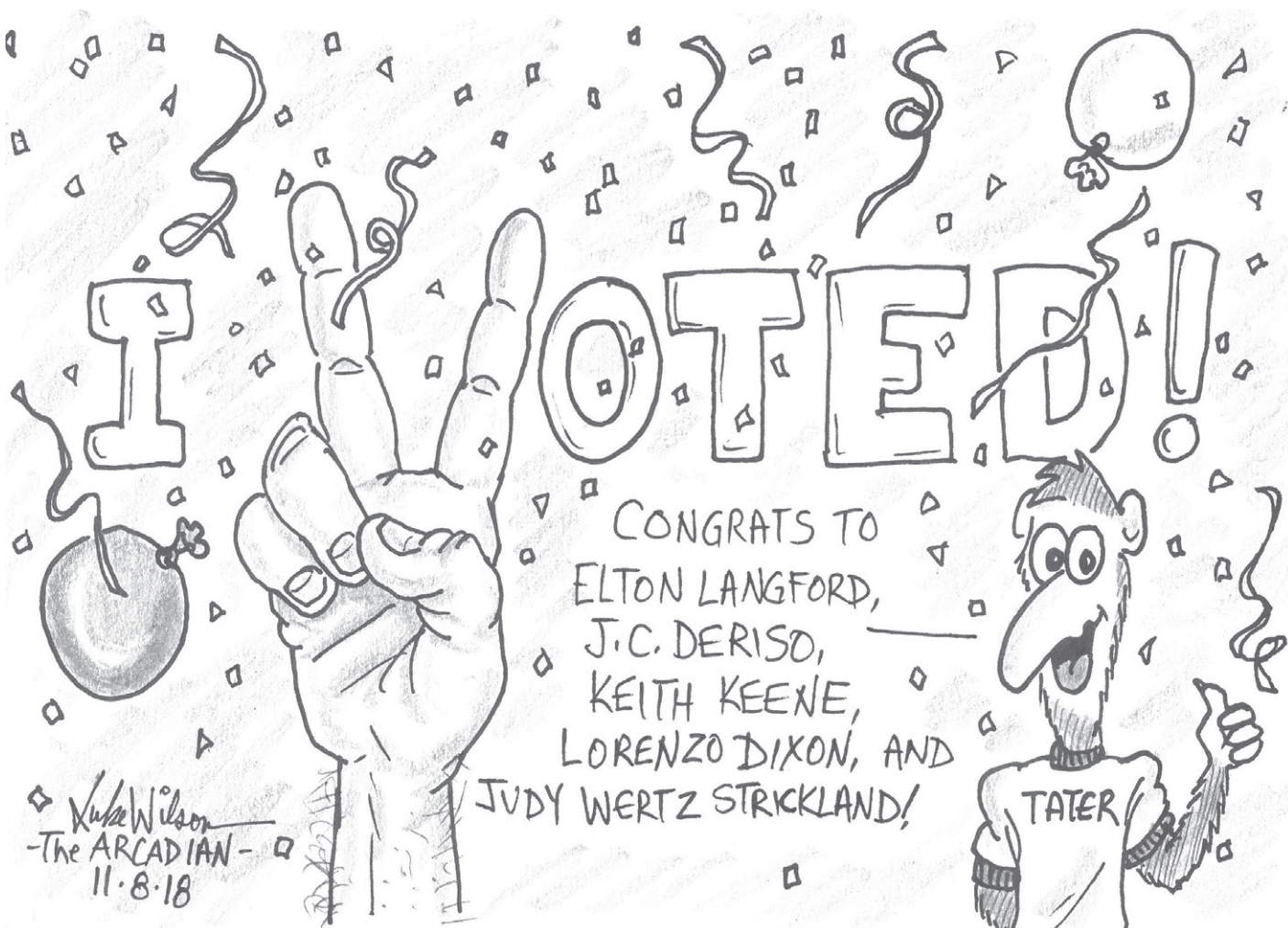
In this case, unless there are details the media is not privy to, the officers did what they were trained to do. They prevented a possible fire fight that could have injured innocent people.

We have had issues with Sheriff Prummell in the past. Even today we question why he refused Monday to release the names of officers involved, stating he did not "want their names plastered all over the news." That is a common policy for Prummell, who has failed to release the names of officers involved in deaths in the past.

But give credit where credit is due. Prummell's officers are well trained. They know policy. They know what to do in a life-threatening situation. We cannot imagine any law enforcement officers anywhere would have handled Monday's situation much different. In fact, we doubt few would have dealt with the situation as well as Prummell's officers.

It's devastating anytime a person is killed, whether is by at the hands of an attacker or by law enforcement. Life is precious. The fallout can be calamitous to those directly involved and to family and friends who must deal with the loss.

Let's be thankful for the well-drilled officers who derailed a confrontation that could have possibly resulted in multiple deaths Monday. They did their job and did it well.



GRITS & PIECES

Battle of the bulge rages on ... but I digest

Has there ever been a person in the history of mankind who has actually enjoyed being on a diet? If so, I'd like to meet him. And then I'd give him a good whack upside his head. Self-inflicted torture is what it is, and here I am, victimizing myself once again. Alas.

There are a number of things that can inspire you to lose weight. Among them are clothes that seemed to have shrunk while you weren't looking, not being able to see your toes, fear that you're digging your own grave with a spoon, bikini season, and having a full-length mirror in the bathroom you shower in. Some of that affected me, but another motivation was being tired of weighing an eighth of a ton. I ain't good at math, but I know weighing that much was adding up to misery for me.

I follow no established diet to the letter. I'm cutting out starches and sweets and drinking only water and coffee. So far so good—down 30 pounds with at least that much to go. Though I am very grateful to whoever came up with the idea for salads, after basically living off them for months now, I am getting tired of channeling my inner rabbit who must eat them.

I'm gladly saying goodbye to some clothes, and adjusting my wardrobe as I go. No more 2X shirts for me, and now I'm somewhere between large and extra large, and I think there should be a size dedicated to what lies between them—we could call it "fat boy."

I've embarked on many diets in the past and have had great results, but ultimately my love for food gets the upper hand and my taste buds hijack me back to Chunkyville. I know I'm really pushing the limit when I hear my bathroom scales



Luke Wilson

troubador55@embarqmail.com

groaning beneath me. I'm scared to get an electronic set of scales that has artificial intelligence, as either it would scream at me to get off it, or threaten to get a restraining order against me!

To me, it's fruitless to weigh myself every day, because the progress seems nil. I used to weigh every week and that was good, but I'm taking it a step further by weighing only on the first of each month, which really shows some progress, but can make me anxious for four weeks at a time.

This may sound whacked or even creepy, but I am saying that if a guy's belly is big enough, when he lays on his side to sleep, he'll feel gravity pull his belly down to the bed, to where he feels like it's laying there beside him. Crazy, I know, but that makes me feel like us guys can finally relate to a woman who is expecting a child. All you potbellied guys like me, think about that next time you try to sleep on your side, and you'll know what I mean.

If I was smart, I'd adopt an exercise regime, which would not only hasten the weight loss, but could help tighten up some old muscles that haven't had any action in a very long time. That may or may not happen, but I wonder if somebody could invent a pill of some sort that would put my taste buds to sleep at mealtime, so I'd be eating only when I had to, rather than stuffing my face with all that is sweet

and savory.

I've thought about swallowing a tapeworm egg and being its "host" for the rest of my life. I've heard that you can eat all you want and never gain weight, so what's not to like? Well, there's always the fact that those scary devils can grow up to 80 feet inside you, so that's out as an option. And then there are the horror stories about not eating enough to satisfy it, so it starts creeping around and finds its way out of your body and raids your refrigerator. That may be an urban legend, but this ol' boy ain't won't be finding out the hard way where it's so or not!

I know that in order to lose weight, some resort to having their excess sucked out of their body during surgery. Seems easy enough, right? I watched a video of that happening once, and it looked much too violent and painful for me! Besides, what if that surgical vacuum cleaner makes a miss-lick and all of a sudden sucks an innard out of you? No thanks—I'll just fight my battle of the bulge singlehandedly, thank you.

I did figure out a way to sort of enjoy my diet, thought, and that's by having a "cheat day." Every Sunday my family gathers for a bodacious feast of home cooking, and while I don't gorge myself, I will eat a little more than usual, and maybe even some dessert. That way the diet isn't endless torture, and I have something to look forward to every seven days. Too bad weeks don't come with two Sundays, I say.

So the battle rages on, and I hope to be victorious. You know, some look for gold at the end of rainbows. As for me and Sundays, I look for biscuits on the horizon. Or cornbread, pie, or cake, but I digress. I mean, digest.

LETTER SUBMISSION POLICY

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

Bright planets in our November sky, when to look

By **VICTOR C. ROGUS**

ARCADIAN SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

Before dawn in early November and looking east, we see the bright planet Venus. If you missed it on Nov. 6, it rested near the slender crescent moon, making for a beautiful arrangement in the pre-dawn sky. But know that Venus will grow brighter all month long.

Next, we had the planet Mercury low on the horizon one day after the new moon on Nov. 7. Mercury will be very low in the southwest just after sunset on Nov. 8. Make an effort to see planet Mercury, as only a very small part of the earth's population has actually seen our innermost planet with their own eyes. This time it will lie very near the slender new moon. Both will be very low on the horizon.

Then we see the planet Jupiter following the setting sun in the evening sky, closer and closer to the sun until it reappears in the morning sky!

The planets Mars and Saturn will pair up with the moon this month, Mars on Nov. 11 and Saturn on the 15th! Mars will continually fade in brightness all month, but it will still shine brighter than a first-magnitude star, looking reddish in color far above the planet. Saturn is dimmer but quit bright,

appearing gold in color to unaided eyes. Saturn will set around 10 p.m. and Mars will set well after midnight.

Since all of these bright planets will be visible to us for most of November, take a moment to consider their distances from us.

Mars is on average 140 million miles from the earth.

Saturn is about 745 to 793 million miles from earth, depending on its orbit.

Mercury, closest to the sun, is about 48 million miles from the earth. This distance can vary greatly, depending on Mercury's orbit.

Venus, which some call earth's sister, lies 162 million miles from the earth ... but at its closest can be a mere 24 million miles away, depending on its elliptical orbit, or its oval shape.

The giant planet Jupiter is at its closest point in an elliptical orbit, an orbit the Earth also possesses, or about 365 million miles from the earth.

These are the brightest planets visible in November. Of course the planets Neptune, Uranus and Pluto are in the sky, but they will not be visible without the aid of a telescope.

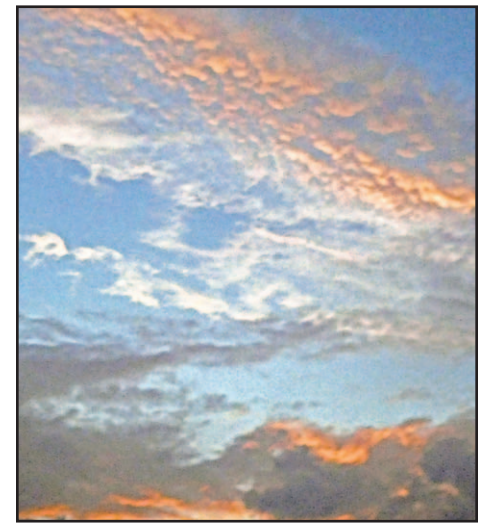
The good news is that these bright objects avail themselves to astronomers not possessing a telescope. A simple



Mercury and the Denebola star peeking at a sliver of November moon. Denebola is the Tail of the Lion of the Leo Constellation.

camera on tripod can produce stunning images of these objects, especially when they are joined in conjunction with the moon.

Notice, too, how all these planets, the sun and the moon travel along an imaginary line in the sky called the "ecliptic." Draw an imaginary line from where the sun sets in the west and the moon rises in the east, that is the ecliptic of all planets. The sun and the



ARCADIAN PHOTOS PROVIDED

November's night sky is filled with wondrous sights.

moon will always lay somewhere on or near that line.

The people living in and visiting Arcadia have a stargazing advantage — the southernly latitude there places planets higher in the sky, making these objects easier to spot. Enjoy the view!

Victor C. Rogus (F.R.A.S.) is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, and former Arcadian living in Sedona, Arizona.

Arcadia Literary Club, next outing in February

By **SUSAN BARNES**

ARCADIA LITERARY CLUB

The Arcadia Literary Club met Oct. 10 at Sunny Day Bistro in Sunny Breeze. President Debi Halvorson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and everyone stood and read the collect. Debi Halvorson then proceeded with the business meeting by thanking Jessica Ritch for arranging the dinner and the Executive Committee for their help in planning this year's program. A special thanks was given to past-president Eloise Johnson for making the Florida themed table favors to kick off our new program year.

This year's theme is "Offerings from the Land of Sunshine." October birthdays were recognized and Club secretary Raye Southwell called roll, read May minutes and correspondence. Beau Carson gave a brief treasurer's report and told members that dues will remain \$20.

In attendance were Sally Aldrich, Laura Amendola, Pam Ames, Susan Barnes, Kim Bonner, Marcia Brown, Beau Carson, Laura Christ, Ruth Dunn, Kim Fender, Darlene Foster, Muriel Hall, Debi Halvorson, Cherie Hollingsworth, Eloise Johnson, Heather Kamberg, Nancy Mabrey, Marilyn McConnell, Bonnie Molloy, Jessica Ritch, Mindy Ryals, Raye Southwell and Janie Watson. Guests included Carol Auster, Michele Keen, Lou Gardner, Sarah Chapman and Gwen Finley.

Second vice-president Nancy Mabrey reported that our annual outing will be (Saturday) Feb. 16. Members and guests will attend a matinee performance of "Guys and Dolls" at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers. Bylaws/Constitution chair Muriel Hall thanked the committee for printing the bylaws in the program book. First vice-president Jessica Ritch read the quote from Beatriz Williams



PHOTO PROVIDED

Muriel Hall, Heather Kamberg, Janie Watson and Debi Halvorson at the Oct. 10 Sunny Day Bistro gathering.

and asked members to look for any changes in the program book.

Following the business meeting, Nancy Mabrey blessed the meal

and prayed for those in the path of Hurricane Michael. Members and guests enjoyed a beautifully presented meal and enjoyed conversation.

Arcadia Writers Group at FSW State College

By **PATTY RAMOS**

ARCADIA WRITERS GROUP

The Arcadia Writers Group presented an inspirational talk to the Lifelong Learning Institute at the Charlotte campus of Florida SouthWestern State College in Punta Gorda. The presentation was the keynote for fall class registration for the Lifelong Learning Institute on Oct. 16.

The group presented readings of some of their prize-winning stories and poetry, along with a multimedia presentation showing how anyone can begin writing for fun and to provide a legacy for their family.

Judy Berger, curriculum coordinator for the Lifelong Learning Institute, noted: "The authors from the Arcadia Writers Group presented a well-prepared and inspirational program that outlined their road to success as published writers. It was quite inspirational and stressed the fact that the group supported, encouraged and cooperated as the fundamental elements that have resulted in their amazing achievements."

Included in the presentation were stories from the newest publication of the Florida Writers Association entitled



PHOTO PROVIDED

Elise Zarli (left), Linda Callen, Patty Ramos, Penny Hunt, and Sarah Hollenhorst lead the group that meets first and third Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m., at Arcadia Village's Cantina Clubhouse. The group is pictured at the FSW State College campus in Punta Gorda for a presentation.

"Where Does Your Muse Live? Florida Writers Association Collection, Volume 10." The collection includes stories selected from more than 500 entries for the 10th anniversary edition released in October. The Arcadia Writers Group had three entries included in the publication. The selected entries from the group were "The Backward Glance" by Linda B. Callan;

"My Mother's Voice" by P.M. Hughes (Patty Ramos); and "Ole Arthur Done Got Aholt of Me" by Elise Zarli. The collection will be available online at <https://floridawriters.net/competitions-awards/collection/>

The Arcadia Writers Group meets first and third Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. at the Cantina Clubhouse in Arcadia Village on State Road 70 East.

Walls in Arcadia for book signing



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nalana Walls (second from left) was in Arcadia on Saturday for a special signing of her book "Hidden Secrets: Unveiling My Truth," the story of her endurance and faith, life lessons that she hopes will inspire readers to heal their lives. It is her first book and family and friends joined in the celebration. Walls is a native Arcadian. Check her social media for details.



Be sure to like us on Facebook!

Daley sentenced to prison for child molestation

Dwayne Daley, 23, was sentenced to three years in state prison for repeatedly sexually molesting two victims under age 12.



DALEY

According to the Arcadia Police Department's arrest report, Daley, of the 200 block of W. Myrtle Street in Arcadia, was arrested in July 2017 after two girls reported that he had molested each of them over an extended period of time. One of the victims said the offenses had begun when she was in second grade and continued for two years after that.

She said she never reported it until she learned Daley had also been molesting another girl, beginning when that victim was about 10 years old. The molestation of both victims continued for about three years. Daley was taken into custody on July 27, 2017.

According to Department of Corrections records, Daley was transferred to DOC on Oct. 29 and began serving a three-year sentence for two counts of sexual molestation. His projected release date is July 25, 2020, with credit for time served in the DeSoto County Jail.

Chickering sentenced

Casey Allen Chickering, 44, was sentenced on charges of possession of a new legend drug, trespass and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections on Oct. 29 to serve a five-year sentence.



CHICKERING

According to the arrest report by the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, a deputy saw a Ford pickup run a stop sign, so the deputy tried to pull the driver over. However, the vehicle tried to flee so the officer activated his lights and siren. The vehicle eventually pulled into a driveway and the woman who had been driving ran away, but she was caught trying to hide in a closet. A man with her also tried to resist; he was found to have methamphetamine in his pocket with other drug paraphernalia nearby. He was also arrested.

Chickering had been a passenger in the truck. He was found to have a spoon and syringe which tested positive for methamphetamine. According to the arrest report, he had his pants unbuttoned and "was making overt movements as if he was attempting to get rid of or conceal ... something hidden in his pants." On the ground right next to him, an officer found a "small yellow treasure chest" which contained methamphetamine.

The owner of the home where the driver had tried to hide in the closet did not know any of the three people and had not given them permission to enter.

Chickering was arrested on charges of trespass, possession of meth and resisting arrest by trying to conceal evidence.

He was sentenced to prison for five years and is projected to be released on Jan. 8, 2023. He has filed an appeal of his sentence.

DOC records indicate he has served multiple prison terms in the past dating back to 1991, including charges of burglary, armed burglary, grand theft, escape, resisting an officer with violence and child neglect. Johnston sentenced on burglary charges

Johnston sentenced on burglary charges

Robert Keith Johnston, 35, of Citra, FL, was sentenced to five years in state prison on burglary charges.

According to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, officers were called to a residence on N.E. Ora Avenue in April 2016 when the homeowner suspected someone had broken into their residence through

POLICE BEAT

The information for Police Beat is gathered from police, sheriff's office, Florida Highway Patrol, jail and fire records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction and guilt or innocence is determined by the court system.



JOHNSTON

the front door. The officers entered the house and went to a back bedroom, which was barricaded on the inside. Someone could be heard inside the bedroom.

Without warning, the homeowner kicked down the bedroom door and found Johnston inside.

Officers handcuffed him. He admitted a backpack next to him was his, and that it contained a glass meth pipe. It appeared several items from other rooms had been placed in a box found in the bedroom where Johnston was apprehended.

Johnston's backpack contained screwdrivers, a pry bar, bolt cutters and gloves.

In May 2018 he pleaded no contest to unarmed burglary, possession of burglary tools and grand theft, and was given three years probation. However, in June his probation was revoked because he failed a urine test that showed he had used marijuana, in violation of his probation terms. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced on Sept. 27.

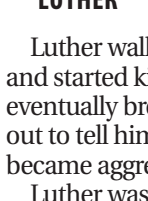
Johnston was transferred to DOC on Oct. 29 and his anticipated release date is Nov. 1, 2022.

He previously served a two-year prison term beginning in 2012 on charges of burglary and grand theft, also out of DeSoto County.

Luther sent to prison for criminal mischief

Brian Oneal Luther, 35, will spend a year in prison on a charge of criminal mischief.

According to the Arcadia Police Department's arrest report, in May police responded to a disturbance at a restaurant on South Alabama Avenue. Owner Darby Ellis said Luther showed up at his restaurant demanding food, and then told Ellis to give him money. Ellis asked Luther to leave.



LUTHER

Luther walked out, slammed the door and started kicking the front window, eventually breaking it. When Ellis went out to tell him to stop, Luther reportedly became aggressive.

Luther was bleeding and was taken to DeSoto Memorial Hospital for treatment before being booked into the DeSoto County Jail.

Luther was arrested and bonded out the next day on \$1,500 bond. However, he failed to appear in court and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was picked up in Pinellas County. Luther ultimately pleaded no contest to failure to appear and was sentenced to serve a year and a day in state prison, followed by two years probation. He was also ordered to pay Ellis \$2,000 in restitution for the damage he caused.

Luther was transferred to prison on Oct. 29 and his projected release date is July 11, 2019. DOC records show he was previously incarcerated on charges of grand theft auto out of Sumter County for a year, and for two years in 2013 for grand theft and burglary out of Lake County.

APD arrests man on multiple drug charges

George Mac Golloman Sr., 45, was arrested by the Arcadia Police Department on Oct. 31 on multiple drug-related charges.

According to the arrest report, an APD officer noticed Golloman riding a bike through Louis C. Anderson Park. The area is known for narcotics. When the officer stepped out of his vehicle



GOLLOMAN

wearing a vest marked "Police," Golloman rode away, then dropped his bike and began running on foot.

According to the report, there had been a black bag in the basket of the bike, which Golloman grabbed as he ran off.

Two other APD officers saw Golloman go down a ditch carrying the black bag, and then come out without the bag. As one of the officers handcuffed Golloman, another retrieved the black bag from the ditch. When he opened it he could smell marijuana and saw what appeared to be cocaine powder.

On detailed inspection and testing, the bag was found to contain marijuana, powder cocaine, crack cocaine and "spice," a synthetic drug. The cocaine had been separated into 59 baggies of about 3.5 grams each, known as "eight balls." There was also a bottle with 5.8 grams of crack cocaine.

The marijuana allegedly totaled 43.9 grams, packaged in 13 bags. In addition, 56.6 grams of spice was recovered, packaged into 20 separate baggies for distribution. Also found was a single hydromorphone pill.

Bond was set at \$67,000. The arrest report indicates Golloman bonded out before police had a chance to question him. Arraignment is scheduled for Dec. 17.

DeSoto County Sheriff's Office records indicate Golloman has been arrested several times in the past for possession of drugs with intent to distribute, dating back to 2011. Department of Corrections records indicate he has been in prison multiple times, dating back to 1992, on charges including robbery, grand theft auto, grand theft, and sale or delivery of cocaine and marijuana. He was most recently released in December 2016.

State Road 70 wreck leaves one in critical condition

The Florida Highway Patrol reported a collision between two vehicles that left one person in critical condition. According to FHP, the wreck occurred around 1:40 p.m. Monday afternoon on State Road 70 east of Lilly Avenue.

Gilardo Vargas Torres, 49, of Immokalee, was driving an International box truck east on State Road 70, as the driver of a Chevy van was headed west. For unknown reasons, the van reportedly traveled into the eastbound lane where it collided head-on with the box truck.

After the collision, the Chevy traveled northwest and ended up facing south in a ditch north of the highway. The truck ended up colliding with a ditch.

Identity of the Chevy driver was not released pending notification of next of kin. The incident remains under investigation.

Woman backs over toddler

The Florida Highway Patrol reported that at about 3 p.m. Saturday, Lakesha Harris, 25, was backing a Hyundai Elantra out of the driveway of a house on S.W. Hibiscus Drive. A one-year-old child was directly behind the car as the driver was beginning to back out. The car struck the child. The child was taken to Tampa General for treatment. The driver was cited for improper backing.

FHP searches for cop impersonator

Florida Highway Patrol Troopers responded to an impersonating law enforcement officer incident on I-75 (Alligator Alley) at mile marker 56 at 10:22 a.m. on Oct. 27. Reportedly, two

Hispanic males wearing camouflage jackets were driving a white pickup equipped with flashing red and blue lights. The occupants of the white truck flashed red and blue lights and used a loudspeaker to tell the driver of a 2017 Hyundai Elantra to pull over. The Hyundai, traveling south on I-75 near mile marker 56, pulled over to a stop. The male Hyundai driver and female passenger were instructed to exit their vehicle, provide their driver licenses and lie down on the grass shoulder. One of the Hispanic males proceeded to steal the Hyundai, fleeing southbound on I-75 toward Broward County, while the other male drove away in the pickup truck. The two victims were left stranded alongside I-75, uninjured. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, contact the Florida Highway Patrol or Crimestoppers. The incident remains under investigation.

FDLE has new predator search app

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has developed a new mobile app making it easier for citizens to see where sexual offenders have registered a residential address in Florida. The "Search Sexual Offenders and Predators" button is one of seven FDLE public services featured in the new app.

The app also allows you to search active AMBER, Missing Child and Silver Alerts, search wanted persons or stolen vehicle information, search unsolved cases in Florida and submit a tip about suspicious activity.

The FDLE App is available for download free of charge in the Google Play store and the Apple App Store. Search for "FDLE Mobile App" in the Google Play Store or for "FDLE" in the Apple App Store.

To use the interactive map to display the registered residential addresses of sexual offenders and predators, location services on the mobile phone must be turned on. However, all other sections of the app are still usable even if location services are not turned on.

The FDLE mobile app does not track your location or store your personal information. It should never be used as an emergency app because it is not monitored 24/7. In an emergency situation, please call 911.

The app was developed in house by FDLE. To download the app, visit <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/MA/Mobile-Devices.aspx>.

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

- Robert Clifton Cochran, 47, 1500 block of Forbes Ave., Arcadia. Charge: possession of a controlled substance

ARRESTS | 21

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OBITUARIES

Josephine Marie Messina

Josephine Marie Messina, 85, of Brooklyn, New York, passed away Nov. 3, 2018, in Englewood, Florida.

Ms. Messina was born April 6, 1933, in Brooklyn. She graduated from Brooklyn High School and remained a native of New York for over 40 years. Josephine moved to Arcadia, Fla., where she lived for the

next 25 years raising her family.

Josephine raised her four boys before returning to work as a secretary at Maassen Oil Co. in Arcadia, Fla. She also worked tirelessly in the family orange grove called Circle 'M' Ranch. She enjoyed cooking for her family, loved Sunday meals with the family around the table and spoiling her grandchildren.

Josephine is survived by her husband of 68 years, Anthony Messina; her four sons, Anthony Messina and his wife Melinda with their two children, Shannon and Anthony; Vincent Messina; Michael Messina with his two children, Michael and Vincent; Thomas Messina and his two children, Michelle and Lori; three great-grandchildren; her brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

Josephine's visitation was Nov. 5 at Ponger-Kays-Grady's Funeral Home, 50 North Hillsborough Ave., Arcadia, Fla. Funeral services were Nov. 6, with burial at Joshua Creek Cemetery immediately following.

Online condolences can be made at www.pongerkaysgrady.com. Ponger-Kays-Grady was entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

George Holman Lane Jr.

George Holman Lane Jr., 73, of Tallahassee, Fla., passed away on Nov. 2, 2018.

Funeral services for Mr. Lane were Nov. 4, 2018, at First Church of the Nazarene. Private family interment will be at Tallahassee Memory Gardens.

Memorial donations may be made to The Baptist College of Florida. Online condolences may be expressed at www.abbeyfh.com.

Words of Comfort
Light always follows darkness.
- Anonymous



Hometown funerals, not for sale, thank you

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

When a few locals heard a funeral home with long ties in Arcadia may be linked to a national chain gobbling up such places, they voiced immediate displeasure, marching over to confront the local owners whose time in town is historic.

The rumors were just that, but ownership at Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral and Cremation Services wanted its story clarified in the hometown newspaper.

"And we were very quick to let them know it's a big 'No!'" about selling the business, said Allyson Ponger Christ, multi-generational funeral director at Ponger-Kays-Grady in Arcadia. "No way we'd sellout."

The story started with the information in October that Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Homes and Cremation Services in Punta Gorda was part of a much larger transaction involving Service Corporation International, a Houston firm with more than 1,500 funeral homes and some 400 cemeteries in 43 states, including 195 in Florida. Kays-Ponger is part of the Arcadia name-sake, but that Charlotte County business tie ended decades ago, Ponger Christ said. As is tradition, new owners retained the Ponger-Kays name to build upon the reputation previous owners, including Allyson's father Edward Roy Ponger, established in the 1960s. The genesis of Ponger-Kays-Grady in Arcadia, with business acquisitions, dates to the 1920s. A Wauchula Ponger-Kays-Grady opened in 2011. Ron Kays and Fred Grady were the partners.

What really ruffled feathers at Ponger-Kays-Grady Arcadia in October was any whiff of a corporate takeover: Ponger Christ, for instance, is adamant that personal service and close attention to every detail in a family's toughest moments are the glue when it matters, she said, something that smaller hometown firms such as hers offer, the ones vanishing so quickly. She and her daughter, Jacquelyn Freeman, in fact, will attend funerals for friends. Because



PHOTO PROVIDED

Three generations of funeral directors/owners in Arcadia are Betty Grady, Allyson Ponger Christ and Jacquelyn Freeman. Each heard from curious and even cross locals about sale rumors of Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral and Cremation Services. A Punta Gorda company with family history and a name connection, instead, was sold. Hometown services remain in Arcadia, the women said.

it's their trade, the pair watch: How and where are the family greeted, is the place inviting, is there a piano or guitar or a singer, and are staff in suit and tie? Both women are mostly startled at the lack of organization, scheduling, at the taped music or staff conduct at larger corporate funeral homes.

"You almost want to stand up and start handling things," Ponger Christ said, her daughter — who has introduced social media and video memorials into the family business that will oversee 250-450 services annually — nodding in agreement. "These are people, families, who should have nothing less than the very best service."

And Ponger-Kays-Grady administers serious service, with a central Florida, agricultural feel. Inside, for example, the foyer seems more like a cozy ranch interior, lots of leather and wood. Services will include performers from church circles in Arcadia. And the staff will connect with family, calling and meeting and following the direction they wish to honor their kin. At the extreme, one such service was at the old rodeo grounds, a cowboy's tribute, so many visitors that grandstand seating was used. And the group

of friends and family, some 2,000 of them, got fed homecooking by church members. Others will deliver a casket to church or graveside in a pickup bed, or a rideless horse with the cowboy's boots in the stirrups is included, or a cowboy's dog rides alongside or stands on a casket to accompany his master to a final resting place. These and the smallest details are the funeral director's responsibility, Ponger Christ said. "There are a lot of unique families in DeSoto County," she said. "It's different here."

These and other traditions in DeSoto and surrounding counties date back decades ... to when Western Union cables notified us of deaths, or a funeral home's hearse served double-duty as the local ambulance, or when Fred Grady answered his bedside phone as emergencies arose over his 75 years in the funeral trade, said his wife, Betty, sitting with the Ponger women on a recent visit. "When it rang, he got up and went," Mrs. Grady said of her husband's mindset, Fred almost wearing a suit and tie to bed over their 60-plus years together.

These touches of humanity for a time in Arcadia won't be lost like tears in rain.



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Armistice Day, 100-year lookback at DeSoto County's sons

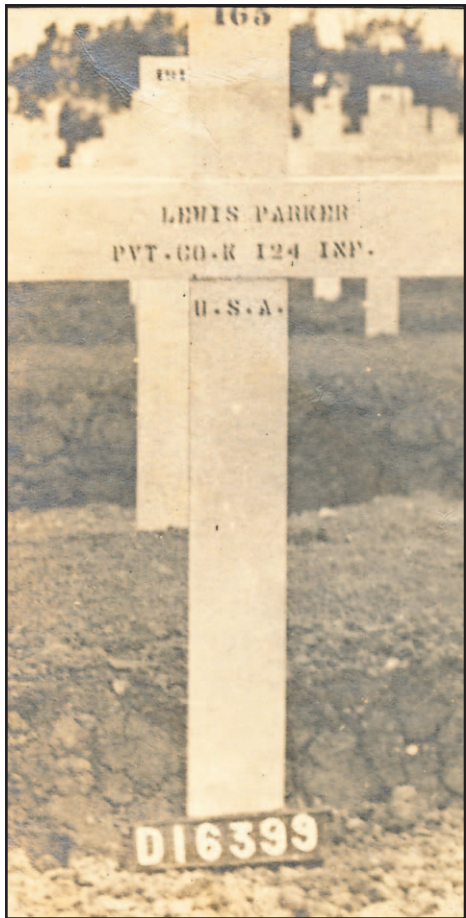
By CAROL MAHLER

ARCADIAN HISTORY EDITOR

Who were the 45 World War I veterans memorialized on the plaque south of the DeSoto County courthouse “erected by the Red Cross chapters of DeSoto County in honor of the sons of DeSoto who served their nation and the cause of humanity in the World War”? When it was dedicated in 1920, DeSoto County included the present-day counties of Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, and Highlands.

About half served “overseas”—probably in France. Nearly half died from disease, including pneumonia, meningitis, bronchitis, and measles. Nine were killed in action, and two were accidentally killed. Three were wounded and honorably discharged, and one was honorably discharged and died before the 1920 plaque. Seven do have not “service cards.”

In July 1919, Congress mandated a “service record” for each person who served in the armed forces during World War I be sent to the Adjutant General of each state from which the person had enlisted. The record was a pre-printed card filled out with information about each veteran. The cards for Florida veterans have been digitized and archived at floridamemory.com.



Lewis Parker's marker in France.

Printed on the cards was the following caveat: “Except the data contained on the first four lines and that relating to battle casualties and physical disability, this statement is prepared as far as practicable from the service record, and no effort has been made to compare data obtained from the service record with other records, except where an error or discrepancy is patent.”

When war was declared on April 6, 1917, only 110,000 men served in the military, so President Woodrow Wilson called for volunteers. Some DeSoto County residents are counted in the 73,000 who responded. Many joined Co. K, 2nd Florida Infantry, inducted into federal service as Co. K, 124th Infantry.

To reach the goal of one million men for the war effort, Congress passed the Selective Service Act in May 1917. On June 5, all men between the ages of 21 and 31 registered. Any men who attained age 21 after that date registered on June 5, 1918, and after that on Aug. 24. On Sept. 12, all men ages 18 through 45 registered. Raymond H. Banks abstracted those who were born and/or registered for the draft in old DeSoto County. Archived on UsGenWeb, his list totals more than 6,000 men.

Residents of the present-day DeSoto County who served include the following: U.S. Army—28 officers, 387 enlisted; U.S. Navy—two officers, 51 enlisted; U.S. Marine Corps—one enlisted.

Of the soldiers who “made the sacrifice supreme” as listed on the plaque, no “service cards” were found for Albert M. Bryan, Grady Lee Burch (born 1892, Hartford, Ala.), D. E. Donahue, Jesse Bryan Lanier (born 1897, Cleveland, Fla.), Carl Siegel, Cecil Tonkin, and Louis C. Vandervelde. However, Pvt. Carl Siegel (born 1890, Chicago, Ill.), who died in October 1918, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, without being born and/or residing in DeSoto County, Pvt. Robert J. Williams of Frostproof, son of Mrs. T. N. Pritchard of Sarasota, (born 1898, Lakeland, killed in action, Aisne-Marne Campaign, France, July 1918) is memorialized.

Unless otherwise noted, each man was born where he resided, and residences are listed by present-day city and county.

Arcadia residents: born 1892, Pvt. V. Argo, son of Annie Argo, died of pneumonia, September 1918; Cpl. George W. Bates died of pneumonia, Camp Wheeler, Ga., Dec. 14, 1917, buried Oak Hill Cemetery; born 1893, Highland, Neb., Pvt. Eugene Irving



Born in 1895, Cpl. Arcadian Jacob F. Stonebraker Jr., son of Jacob and Sadie Maud Stonebraker, husband of Lenora Crawford, died of meningitis at Camp Wheeler, Ga., in April 1918. He's buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Stonebraker's gravemarker at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Blake “slightly” wounded October 1918, honorably discharged March 1919; born 1889, Pvt. Alton Grice, son of Ellen Grice of Wauchula, died of peritonitis, February 1919, buried New



George Bates's photograph embedded in his gravemarker. He died of pneumonia at Camp Wheeler in Georgia.



Marker for Cpl. George W. Bates, who died of pneumonia at Camp Wheeler, Ga., on Dec. 14, 1917. He's buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in DeSoto County.

Hope Baptist Cemetery; born 1891, Pvt. Ben Rowan, son of R. Richard and Sarah Rowan, died of pneumonia following the “Spanish flu,” Camp

SONS | 10



Marion and Lewis Parker of Arcadia. Lewis, the son of Finis and Panola Parker, was accidentally killed the day before Armistice in November 1918. He's buried at Joshua Creek Cemetery.



Veterans Memorial at the DeSoto County courthouse honors its own.

ARCADIAN PHOTOS PROVIDED

Arcadia: 'The Aviation City of Florida' in WWI

By **CAROL MAHLER**
ARCADIAN HISTORY EDITOR

After the U.S. declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the Arcadia Commercial Club (ACC) — a forerunner of the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce — invited the federal government to build an aviation training camp near the city. The Nov. 22, 1917, Lakeland Evening Telegram newspaper reported that the U.S. Department of War had accepted the delegation's proposal: "About 2,000 student aviators will be trained there, and to make preparation for their training the government will spend about three-quarters of a million dollars."

The U.S. Army built two of 32 Air Service training camps in DeSoto County in 1917: southeast of the city, Carlstrom Field opened on Dec. 11 and Dorr Field on Dec. 26. Carlstrom Field was named for Lt. Victor Carlstrom, an instructor who died while training cadets near Newport News, Virginia. Dorr Field was named for Pvt. Stephen H. Dorr, who joined the Officers' Reserve Corps in Fort Myers and was killed while training with the Royal Flying Corps near Toronto, Canada.

The ACC agreed to "construct and operate a line of railway" from the city to the camps. The railroad was completed to Carlstrom by Dec. 31, 1917, but the ACC was not able to fulfill its agreement. Eventually, the Atlantic Coast Line Railway

provided service and extended the tracks to Dorr Field.

Proud of the pilot-training facilities, Arcadia called itself the "Aviation City of Florida" and installed welcome arches to so proclaim at north, south, east, and west entrances to the city. Jack Payne, a real estate agent, used the moniker as the title to a song he composed and dedicated to the "Commercial Club," copyrighted 1919.

A 700-acre site, Carlstrom Field had 90 buildings, including 14 hangars for four to eight airplanes. The 107th, 108th, 111th, 205th, 284th, and 302nd Aero Squadrons trained at the field, and after Armistice they were consolidated into a Flying School Detachment. Dorr Field trained the 76th, 109th, 110th, 240th, 241st Aero Squadrons — also consolidated at the war's end.

The DeSoto County Times in its Aug. 22, 1918, issue reported that Logan Brothers of Tampa won the contract to build a concrete road between Arcadia and Carlstrom Field. A present-day section of that road — named Carlstrom Field Road — joins State Road 31 to Airport Road. The Sept. 12 issue announced that a "camp of convicts" was sent to Arcadia to assist with the paving project.

Logan Brothers also built a concrete section and brick section of a road parallel to State Road 70 East that connected Arcadia to Dorr Field—now the site of DeSoto Correctional Institution. Today, cyclists,

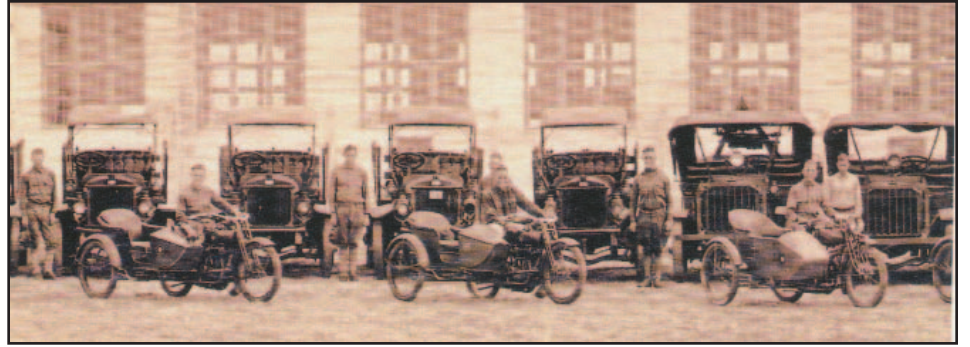


PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE DESOTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

U.S. Army Field Transportation Corps soldiers posing at Carlstrom.

golf-cart drivers, and pedestrians travel between the Winn Dixie shopping center and Arcadia Village or Toby's Mobile Home Park on the "Dorr Field Road."

The Aug. 15, 1918, DeSoto County News announced that "Carlstrom and Dorr fields have been put on the map of the nation, and a great honor has been conferred upon these camps" by Lt. Herbert A. Thorndyke, chief engineer, who proposed "a uniform system for managing all the aviation fields ... [now] adopted by all the camps in the United States."

The Jan. 2, 1919, Punta Gorda Herald reported: "Both Dorr and Carlstrom fields have been noted for their efficiency, having trained large numbers of expert flyers for the war. The records made by both camps have been highly complimented. The

government has spent large sums of money on both camps. At the time they were constructed, the general impression seemed to be that the war would continue for some time longer than actually was the case."

Dorr Field was demobilized in 1919, but an Air Service Pilots' School trained cadets at Carlstrom Field until 1922 when all remaining personnel were transported to a "camp in Texas," according to the June 23, 1922, Punta Gorda Herald. The structures were dismantled and sold as surplus, and the field was closed by 1926.

Trained at Carlstrom Field, John Paul Riddle returned to Arcadia, and the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Corporation rebuilt both "aviation training camps" in 1941 before the U.S. entered World War II—but that's another story.

SONS

FROM PAGE 9

Sevier, S.C., October 1918, buried Joshua Creek Cemetery; born 1890, Roland, N.C., Pvt. Jordan Hunt died of pneumonia September 1918; born 1896, Pvt. Lewis Henry Parker III, son

of Finis and Panola Parker, accidentally killed by a discharge of revolver the day before Armistice, buried Joshua Creek Cemetery; born 1895, Cpl. Jacob F. Stonebraker Jr., son of Jacob and Sadie Maud Stonebraker, husband of Lenora Crawford, died of meningitis, Camp Wheeler, Ga., April 1918, "died for his Country, was called to a Higher

Service," buried Oak Ridge Cemetery; born 1898, Pvt. James E. Watkins, son of T. B. Watkins, killed in action, Battle of Soissons, July 1918, buried Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, France; born 1898, Missouri, Charles C. Willis, died of pneumonia, Camp Wheeler, Ga., Dec. 1917; born 1893, Altamaha, Ga., Henry Augustine Willis was honorably discharged August 1919, may have died January 1920, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee.

Nocatee residents: born 1897, St. Stephen, S.C., Pvt. John Jones died of pneumonia, Camp Ayers, Mass., September 1918, buried Woodlawn Cemetery, Mass.; born 1898, Blackville, S.C., Pvt. James W. Hudson, son of William A. and Rosa Hudson of Wauchula, died of empyema, December 1917, buried Friendship Methodist Cemetery; born 1888, Madison, Fla., Pvt. Samuel Clyde Sessions, son of George and Temperance Sessions, killed in action, Aisne-Marne offensive, July 1918, buried Bartow's Wildwood Cemetery; born 1893, Louisville, Ga., Pvt. George Shellman died of pneumonia, October 1918, buried Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial, France.

Other DeSoto County residents: born 1895, Brownville, Pvt. Cecil E. Montgomery, son of James and Mary Riley, wounded, Meuse-Argonne offensive, September 1918, "died for love of home & honor of his country," buried Joshua Creek Cemetery; born 1890, Hamilton, Ohio, Pvt. Ira J. Fowler of Fort Ogden, son of Amanda E. Johnson of Arcadia, died of measles and pneumonia, October 1918; born 1887, Arcadia, Sgt. Lee Nelson of Fort Ogden, died July 1918, Aisne-Marne offensive, buried Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial, France.

Punta Gorda residents: born 1899, Georgia, William Louis Bunnells, son of Mrs. W. A. Bunnells, died of pneumonia, January 1918; born 1899, Pvt. Leonard Palmer Fulford, son of Earnest and Hester Fulford, died of pneumonia, October 1918, France, buried Lt. Carl Bailey Cemetery; born 1894, Rhine, Ga., Pvt. Paul D. Mobley, son of Dora Mobley, died of meningitis, March 1919; born 1899, Lee Branch, Fla., Pvt. Raleigh Whidden, son of Sylvanus and Emma Whidden severely wounded, Meuse-Argonne campaign, October 1918, discharged February 1919, died January 1920, buried Hardee County's Friendship Cemetery.

Other Charlotte County residents: born 1893, Cleveland, Fla., Pvt. Lewis W. Lanier, son of Sarah Lanier, died of bronchitis, October 1918, buried Fort Ogden Cemetery Wauchula residents: born 1895, Apprentice Seaman Jebtha "Zeb" Lewis Altman, son of Charles and Henrietta Altman, died at the Norfolk, Va., naval hospital January 1918; born 1892, Georgia, Pvt. Isaac "Ike" Davis died of pneumonia October 1918; born 1896, Pvt. Fred Holland, son of Rebecca Holland, died after being struck by a train, January 1919, buried Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery; born 1899, Savannah, Ga., Cpl. William E. Mitchell, Jr., son of William E. Mitchell, died of pneumonia October 1918; born 1895, Bradenton, Pvt. Joseph Milton Webb, son of Mary Webb, died of pneumonia September 1918, France, buried Arlington National Cemetery; born 1897, Pvt. Herger Williams, son of Willoughby and Elvia Williams, died of wounds received in action, Aisne-Marne offense, July 1918, buried Oak Grove Community Cemetery, Wauchula's American Legion Post 2 is his namesake.

Other Hardee County residents: born 1900, Scranton S.C., George W. Cox died June 1917, Portsmouth, Va., buried Bowling Green City Cemetery; born 1898, Detroit, Mich., Pvt. James R. Orr of Bowling Green, son of Mrs. James R. Orr, killed in action, May 1918; born 1899, Bowling Green, Pvt. Hosea Williams of Bereah, son of Henry and Arkansas Williams, died of pneumonia June 1918, Columbia, S.C., buried Lemon Grove's Hart Cemetery with his older brother, Pvt. Maurice Williams of Bassinger, born 1894, Wauchula, "died at Portsmouth, England," October 1918; born 1894, Fort Green, Pvt. Edward Alderman, "son of G. M. and M.A. Alderman, 'Rest Soldier Rest For The War Is Over,' in Hoboken, N.J.," died of pneumonia, September 1918; born 1896, Colquitt Co., Ga., Pvt. Nathaniel Weeks, son of James C. and Mary Weeks of Gardner, killed in action, March 1918, buried Gardner Cemetery; born 1899, Anthony, Fla., Pvt. Arthur Madden of Limestone, son of J. M. Madden of Camilla, Ga., died of pneumonia, November 1918.

Highlands County residents: born 1899, DeSoto County, Pvt. Leslie E. Collier, of Sebring, son of F. E. Collier, killed in action, Somme-Offensive, France, August 1918.

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DeSoto SPORTS EXTRA

Bulldogs start "second season" after 41-6 win

By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS EDITOR

Before the DeSoto County's final regular season game at Lakewood Ranch, I asked Bulldog head coach Bumper Hay what was needed to happen for the team to reach the playoffs.

He replied, "Just win."
The Bulldogs did that with a 41-6 thumping of the winless Mustangs. Hay told the team, "Seniors, this season you finished 7-3. Now your last season in high school starts. Congratulations on the berth (in playoffs), but it doesn't mean a thing if we don't get ready to whip whoever they put in front of us. Whether we go to Hardee or we go to Tampa or wherever we're going, we're going to win a football game."

The team didn't play a perfect game,

but they played a complete game. They did what they were supposed to do and they dominated the Mustangs, which is what great teams do. The Mustangs were never in the game.

Lakewood Ranch drew first blood with a 42-yard field goal, but the Bulldogs came back barking with 34 unanswered points. After another Mustang field goal, the Bulldogs tacked on another touchdown to disappoint the Lakewood Ranch fans who had come out for senior night.

The Bulldogs had the ball for two series in the first quarter and scored on both. First, a 27-yard run by Jay Pelham put the Bulldogs on top, 7-3. On the final play of the quarter, Trayvis Smith went virtually untouched from 23 yards out to give DeSoto a 14-3 lead

WIN | 15

DeSoto Youth Football shuts out Colts, 24-0



PHOTOS PROVIDED

The 2018 DeSoto Youth Football Mighty Mites beat the West Chase Colts, 24-0.



Jackson Hay turns the corner for the DYF Mighty Mites in the squad's win over West Chase.



The Bulldogs's hard-hitting defense causes another fumble in the 24-0 shutout over West Chase.



Cael Nelson breaks a couple of tackles in scoring the final touchdown for the Bulldogs.



Kawain Graham stretches out to make the tackle on the Colt ballcarrier in the 24-0 Bulldog win.



Jakory Thomas picks up a bad pitchout and races 68 yards for a touchdown against the Colts. Thomas would score two touchdowns in the 24-0 win.



Jessica Pugh gives her son Kade a big hug after he made a tackle near the goal line.

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Bulldogs and Pirates battle in youth softball



Bulldog infielders stopping for a quick pic before taking their positions.



Harley Cross makes a nice scoop on a low throw to retire the Port Charlotte batter.



DeSoto coaches visit the mound to discuss strategy during the game with Port Charlotte.



The Miss DeSoto 12U fast pitch softball team for 2018.

Right: DeSoto shortstop Janaisa Jones fires across the diamond to get the runner.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Left: The Bulldogs listen to their coach as they prepare to host the Port Charlotte team.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dillon Evans (53) and Nehemiah Hillard (21) open a big hole for Jay Pelham. Pelham had eight carries for 67 yards in DeSoto's 41-6 win Friday over Lakewood Ranch.

WIN

FROM PAGE 14

after the first quarter.

Sophomore Tony Blanding got his first start as quarterback and had a nice game. He called his own number (14) and reached pay dirt from 14 yards out with 9:10 left in the first half. Four and a half minutes later, Blanding hit Keimar Richardson from 23 yards out to give the Bulldogs a 28-3 lead at the break.

Cousins Nate and Willie Maybell made it a family affair, as they were responsible for the fifth score. Nate intercepted a pass on the goal line and returned it to the 30. William took it to the house on the first play to up the score to 34-3 with a missed extra point.

After the Mustangs hit on another field goal this time from 35 yards out, Blanding found Arnold Mele on a crossing route from 37 yards out. That made it 41-6 with just under six minutes left to play.

Six touchdowns from six different players. The Bulldogs had over 250 yards rushing with Maybell leading the way with 87 on two carries. Pelham led the team in carries with eight, with a total of 67 yards. Neo Hillard averaged seven yards a carry, with 49 yards on seven attempts.

Blanding had over 100 yards passing with two touchdowns. He made some good decisions when under pressure, tucking the ball under his arm and running when he couldn't find a receiver. He made just two poor decisions on passes and they both were nearly picked off.

The Bulldogs only punted twice ... and those were both in the third quarter. Besides Maybell's pick, Ethan Redden also got one on the final play of the game.

DeSoto had only one action penalty in the first half and that was for holding. They had trouble with offsides on the kickoff team and struggled to keep the ball on the field. They got sloppy in the second half and had a couple of personal fouls called on them—two were back to back in their own territory that led to the last field goal.

There is nobody on the team that played during the last season that the Bulldogs made the playoffs. That was in 2014. Neo Hillard had experienced the struggles over the past four years. The senior responded to his feelings after the game.

"I feel so great that we are 7-3. It's time to celebrate. It doesn't matter who we play, we're just going to come with it."

The Bulldogs will be playing at Tampa Jesuit tomorrow night at 7:30.

CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

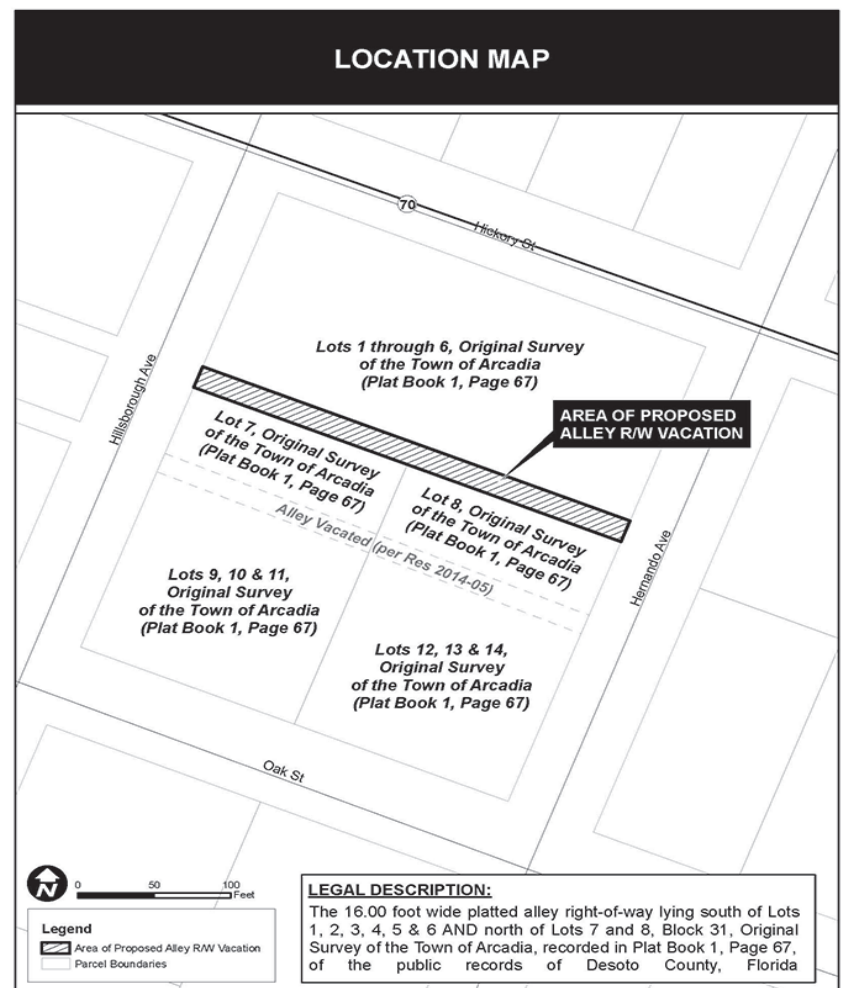
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018, 6:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA, CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018, AT 6:00 PM IN THE MARGARET WAY BUILDING IN THE ARCADIA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 23 NORTH POLK AVENUE, ARCADIA, FLORIDA TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION 2018-29

A RESOLUTION VACATING THE 16.00 FOOT WIDE PLATTED ALLEY RIGHT-OF-WAY LYING SOUTH OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 AND NORTH OF LOTS 7 AND 8, BLOCK 31, ORIGINAL SURVEY OF THE TOWN OF ARCADIA, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 67, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR A COPY TO BE FURNISHED TO DESOTO COUNTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Map below pertains to Resolution 2018-29



ANY INTERESTED PERSONS WHO FEEL THEY ARE AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING AND BE HEARD. ANY PERSON(S) WISHING TO VIEW RELEVANT INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MAY VIEW SAID DOCUMENT AT THE CITY OF ARCADIA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT 23 NORTH POLK AVENUE, ARCADIA, FLORIDA BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 AM AND 5 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

ANYONE WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS MADE AT THIS HEARING WILL NEED A RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE THEY MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS MADE. ANY PERSON WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT 863-494-4114.

Artists painting the streets Saturday, 6th Plein Air Paint-out

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**
DeSoto Arts Council

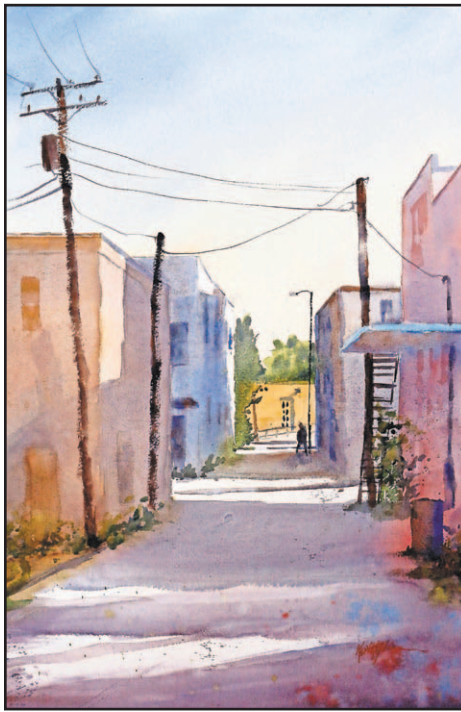
For the sixth year, area artists will be taking to the streets of Arcadia on Saturday, armed with paintbrushes and easels. Their mission: to capture the city's charms and quirky nature on paper and canvas.

DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council will host the Sixth Annual Arcadia Plein Air Paint-out, in which artists will have just a few hours to create a painting that, they hope, will win one of several prizes of cash and art merchandise.

Artists will register between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. at the Tree of Knowledge Park (next to the Oak Park Inn at 2 W. Oak St.) and can then go anywhere in the town or elsewhere in the county, from the scenic banks of the Peace River to peaceful pastures, or even the historic downtown district. Artists will be setting up their easels along the sidewalks where visitors can watch them at work.

At 1 p.m. the artists will bring their work back to the park, frame it, and set it up to be judged. Michelle Held of Sarasota returns to serve as judge. She has won numerous awards and is well known for her plein air paintings of Florida's birds and seascapes.

All participating artists have been invited to set up additional paintings to offer for sale on the day of the event.



Keith Johnson's watercolor from last year's plein air paint-out depicted an alley in downtown Arcadia.

After judging and the award of prizes at 2 p.m., artists will bring their work to the Martin Art Gallery at the office of United Country|Gulfland Real Estate, 207 E. Magnolia St. in Arcadia. A reception will be held there on Thursday, Nov. 15 starting at 5:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Thereafter, the



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

Cory Wright of Sarasota won first place in last year's Plein Air Paint-out with her depiction of a railroad crossing in Arcadia.

art will continue to be on view through the end of the month during normal business hours. Many of the paintings created during the event will be available for purchase.

Artists who have not yet signed up can still participate by registering the day of the event. Come to the Tree of

Knowledge Park in Arcadia (adjacent to the Oak Park Inn

For more information, visit www.DeSotoArtsCouncil.org, click on "Events" and choose "Arcadia Plein Air Paint-out;" or call 863-703-0373 or email desotoartscouncilinfo@gmail.com.

Saluting DeSoto County veterans, parade is Monday



Portrait of veterans at the Sunday Elks dinner.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

Arcadia Elks Lodge was the site for Sunday's veterans appreciation dinner. That annual welcoming started a weeklong celebration of DeSoto County military veterans, which will end on Monday with a downtown parade beginning at 9 a.m. Men in this photo are each armed forces veterans, including Troy Hughes (left), Buddy Mansfield, James Atkins, Art Southwell, John Layford and Ronald Needs.



Service veterans Troy Hughes (left) and Adrian Cline, superintendent of DeSoto County schools.

DeSoto County High School Bulldog Football



Photos by: Steve Knapp

2018 DeSoto County Bulldogs Varsity Football Schedule

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	HOME/AWAY
8/17	7pm	Cardinal Mooney (Kick Off Classic)	L 20 - 30
8/31	7pm	Avon Park	L 13 - 27
9/7	7:30pm	Mulberry	W 43 - 0
9/14	7:30pm	Lemon Bay	W 24 - 22
9/21	7pm	North Port	W 20 - 9
9/28	7pm	Southeast	W 28 - 3
10/5	7pm	Lake Placid	W 16 - 8
10/12	7:30pm	Booker	L 6 - 19
10/19	7:30pm	Bayshore (Homecoming)	W 43 - 31
10/26	7:30 pm	Hardee (Senior night)	L 6 - 15
11/2	7:30 pm	Lakewood Ranch	W 41 - 6

Bulldogs advanced to the state playoffs after their win on Friday night against Lakewood Ranch. They locked in the #7 spot in 5A Region 3. This means that they will travel to Tampa Friday night to take on the very talented Tampa Jesuit Tigers.



Head west on FL-70 W/Hickory St toward N Brevard Ave. Continue follow FL-70 W. 40.7 mi. Use the right lane to take the Interstate 75 N ramp to Tampa 0.5 mi. Continue on I-75 N to Tampa. Take exit 41B from I-275 S 45 min (51.0 mi). Merge onto I-75 N 36.9 mi. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 256 for FL-618 toward Tampa/Port of Tampa 2.4 mi. Continue onto FL-618 Toll/Selmon Expressway Partial toll road 5.6 mi. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 10 to merge onto I-4 W toward I-275/Tampa International Partial toll road 2.4 mi. Use the left 3 lanes to take the exit toward Tampa International Airport 0.6 mi. Merge onto I-275 S 2.8 mi. Take exit 41B toward Himes Ave 0.3 mi. Drive to N Himes Ave 6 min (2.1 mi). Merge onto W Green St 246 ft. Turn right onto N Himes Ave 2.1 mi.

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Charlotte Nymark

There are 10 different Medicare supplement insurance plans named A through N. The plans are standardized by the federal government so that every Plan A, for example, provides the same basic benefits as every other Plan A. This is true no matter

what insurance company offers the plan. The major difference between insurance companies is cost. Not all plans are available in all states.

The plan letters have no relationship to Medicare plans A, B, C or D. All plans must follow federal and

state laws designed to protect you and must be clearly identified as "Medicare supplement insurance."

You have a specific enrollment period for Medicare supplement insurance called the Medicare Supplement Open Enrollment Period. This period begins the first month you are age 65 or older and enrolled in Medicare Part B, lasts for six months and guarantees your right to buy a plan, which means you cannot be denied coverage if you apply during this time.

Even if you miss your open enrollment period, you may apply for it at any time. But you could be denied

coverage or charged a higher premium based on your health history.

The main purpose of a Medicare supplement plan is to help cover Medicare Parts A and B deductible, co-pays and co-insurance. Each of the standardized plans provides benefits for different out-of-pocket costs.

For a look at the various plans, you can see me at Arcadia's Walmart through Dec. 7, or call me.

Charlotte Nymark is a licensed insurance agent not connected with the federal Medicare Program. 863-473-2460, cisinym@gmail.com

'50 Years of Caring Safety & Quality Fair'



DeSoto Memorial Hospital on Nov. 11 turns 50 at its current location. Staff shared details of the departments at a Friday fair.



PHOTO PROVIDED

DeSoto Memorial Hospital celebrated with the "50 Years of Caring Safety & Quality Fair" that was open to the public on Friday, Nov. 11 marks DMH's 50 years at the 900 N Robert Ave. address. Friday's fair gave DMH departments and its multiple community partners the chance to showcase what resources they provide to DeSoto County residents.

Arcadia's shopping selection grows



PHOTO PROVIDED

Arcadia merchant Nicole Adams has opened **Style & Grit, a women's accessories/interior decor shop in a reburished storefront. The Nov. 1 opening brought friends and curious shoppers, a trendy spot that runs 10-5 weekdays, 9-3 Saturdays and by private appointment. 16 S. Monroe, Arcadia.**

Local author's Civil War novel

Sebring's Mark Barie has published (Berringer Publishing) "War Calls, Love Cries," the story of an innocent farm boy whose dreams of love and law school are shattered by the American Civil War. As a result of completing his first novel, Barie has assembled a presentation entitled:



BARIE

"Seven Civil War Facts That Will Shock You." He is available to speak at area high schools, service clubs and veteran organizations on the topic. A former New Yorker, Barie has also written/co-written books on the history of Upstate New York. A copy of his book will be donated to each nonprofit organization or raffled off to one of its members. amazon.com. markbarie.com, authormarkbarie@gmail.com

Gas lowest in seven months, crude's drop continues

Floridians are finding the lowest pump prices since April. The state average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$2.64; 28 cents less than this year's high, and 25 cents more than this time last year.

Gas prices continued their downward trek last week, declining another 6 cents. The state average declined for the 26th consecutive day on Sunday, for a total discount of 18 cents.

Most expensive gas price averages: Panama City (\$2.87), Crestview-Fort

Walton Beach (\$2.79) and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton (\$2.78). Least expensive gas price averages: Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (\$2.52), Orlando (\$2.54) and Punta Gorda (\$2.56).

Why are crude prices falling?

Crude oil prices are hovering near 7-month lows. On Friday, WTI settled at \$63.14 per barrel, nearly \$4.50/b less than the week before, and the lowest daily settlement since April 6, 2018. The weekly average price for U.S. crude

has declined the past four consecutive weeks. Before then, crude prices faced upward pressure amid growing concerns that U.S. sanctions against Iranian crude would cause a global supply shortage. However, those concerns are being quelled by increased production by countries like the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

Crude production in the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Russia all remain strong. U.S. oil inventories rose for the sixth

consecutive week, according to weekly data from the Energy Information Administration. Domestic supplies rose 3.2 million barrels from the week before. Meanwhile, gasoline inventories dropped by 3.2 million barrels. Meanwhile, OPEC production levels for October reportedly reached the highest output levels since 2016 as some members boosted production in preparation for Iran sanctions.

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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Fun stuff, bargain deals, this Saturday

Looking for the best things at bargain prices—plus fun for the whole family?

The DeSoto County Historical Society's 14th annual "Indoor" Yard Sale is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday at the DeSoto County Fairgrounds Exhibition Building, 124 Heard St., Arcadia.

The Society thanks the community for their generous donations of antiques, appliances, books, clothing, collectibles, decorations, electronics, furniture, games and sporting goods, housewares, jewelry, kitchen items, lamps, linens and towels, shoes, tools, toys, and much more.

Norma Banas, president of Society,

said, "We are offering such good quality merchandise, and everything is priced to sell! We also have people selling their own items, so shoppers will have plenty of choices. Our yard sale is also a great opportunity to visit with friends and Society members."

All proceeds from the yard sale will be used to preserve and promote the history of DeSoto County for future generations.

The Society will accept donations for the yard sale at the fair grounds today until 11 a.m., or call 558-6115.

The Society meets at noon today at St. Edmund the Martyr Church, 327 W. Hickory St., and the church's 125-year history will be featured. Lunch is available for \$6 at 11:30 a.m. www.historicdesoto.org, 863-266-5774.

Remembering Smith-Brown School tribute is tomorrow

The HCW Foundation invites everyone to "Remembering the Smith-Brown School, in honor of Charles Washington." The event is 7 p.m. Friday at Pleasant Hill Christian Church, 319 S. Lee Ave. Teachers such as Coach Richard Bowers and his wife Martha Bowers, former students, including the Rev. Samuel Morgan, Class of 1957, and Charlotte Hill Carter, Class of 1958, will share their recollections. There will also be a petition to the state for a traffic light at U.S. Highway 17/M.L. King Jr. Boulevard. Police describe the intersection as dangerous. The HCW Foundation's mission is "to collect, preserve, and share information about African-American history and culture in DeSoto County and to

provide a museum and education center for community outreach." 239-220-8037, helencw2003@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Watch informational event

Advocates will host a Neighborhood Watch informational event next Tuesday (Nov. 13) at the Arcadia Housing Authority office, 7 Booker T. Washington Road, Arcadia. Representatives with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and Arcadia PD will share details on forming and operating a Neighborhood Watch, an activist program from the 1960s empowering citizens in coordination with police to protect their communities from criminals. Your input is needed. The event is at 10 a.m. in the community room.

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Pizza party for DCHS footballers, big 'thank you'

By **STEVE KNAPP**
ARCADIAN SPORTS EDITOR

Bonnie Molloy from the Arcadia Radio Shack and the *Arcadian* newspaper teamed up to give DeSoto County football players a big "Thank You" for their successful season with a pizza party at the Radio Shack store.

Molloy said, "I am a longtime sponsor for the radio broadcast that covers the games every Friday night, but I just wanted to do something special for the team since they have really brought back the spirit of our team and school."

"They have to eat healthy on game day, so the *Arcadian* said they'd help me give them a pizza party with cake and drinks on the day before their last game."

Last Thursday about 50 players and coaches filled the Radio Shack store and finished off all 35 Domino's pizzas, along with a large Bulldog cake. The store was decorated very nicely and everyone had a good time.



ARCADIAN PHOTO PROVIDED

DeSoto High football players surround Bonnie Molloy at the Radio Shack after their pizza party last Thursday.

Hooked on fishing, Nana's new grandson adventure

By **PRISCILLA MCDANIEL**
ARCADIAN NANA CORRESPONDENT

Got the call from Chris he had four green stickers on his weekly report card and that he was being pardoned by his daddy for a visit with Nana. God bless my son. Friday afternoon I got in the car and went to get my little guy.

He was so excited when I told him tomorrow we were going to try and win a fishing rod and, maybe if we have time, make the splashpad. Nothing like your 5-year-old grandson telling you how much he really, really loves you. If he had said 'Nana, can we go to Disney,' I'm sure I would have said OK after all that talking about how much he loves me!

We got up early and went to the rodeo grounds to find out we were way too early ... so we went for coffee and a donut, in his case milk and a donut. Wasted a little time, then back to the rodeo grounds.

We stopped by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, or CHNEP, booth on the rodeo grounds to see if Chris could get himself a free fishing rod. We were the first to arrive and they were happy to see us. Chris was excited about getting a fishing rod. He didn't have a rod like they were passing out, so he felt like he was graduating to a bigger and better rod, which he was. I had bought him one of those small rods for kids. So, first Chris had to be taught how to tie the fishing knot; he seemed to catch on to that real quick and we were able to move on. I'm hoping he learned enough to tie my knot for me.

Station number two he was taught how to hold and cast the rod. Bingo, got that real



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

Chris shown how to hold and cast the fishing rod.

quick. Next stop was how to measure a fish with a measuring tape—had a little problem but we were on our way in no time. I didn't realize I was traveling with a 5-year-old genius. The next station he had to identify the bodies of water where you would find a bass, a snook, a redfish, in a lake, the mangoves, the ocean. I don't know how, but he was able to figure that out real quick.

Last station bothered him when he was shown the photo of a bird that died from eating trash left on the beaches. Thankful that bothered Chris. I'm pretty sure when he goes to a beach from now on he'll be taking his trash to a container.

Nicole Iadevala gave Chris the last two quizzes ... and when he was done, she gave him the new, shiny blue fishing rod. He was



A new cowboy hat courtesy of Jackie Tucker and a visit with Bonnie Molloy to top Chris's big day.

so happy and so proud that he had three green stickers on his pamphlet, green being a very important color to Chris.

Naturally, he had to show his beautiful blue fishing rod to everyone we saw on the way out. Bonnie Molloy helped him put on the beautiful white cowboy hat that Jackie Tucker gave him. I need to thank you ladies, you made his day.

He says the cowboy hat has to stay at Nana's house so that none of his friends can hurt it. I don't know how they could hurt it, but we are pretty agreeable to him wanting to keep his hat nice.

So it sits here and I look at it and miss the kid.

ARRESTS FROM PAGE 7

without a prescription. Bond: \$5,000.

- Simchah Peleytah Delozier, 30, 7600 block of S.W. River St., Fort Ogden. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: none.
- Jose Luis Gonzalez, 62, 1000 block of S.W. U.S. Highway 17, Arcadia. Charge: trespass by failure to leave property when so ordered. Bond: \$500.
- Camilo Enrique Toj Ramirez, 23, Norcross, GA. Charge: driving without a valid license. Released on recognizance.
- Enrique Roja, 42, no address, Arcadia. Charges: failure to appear and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. Bond: none.
- Darlene Skinner, 26, 2700 block of S.E. Hing Drive, Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$100.
- Alain Vasquez, 31, 1000 block of S.W. Cindee St., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Jose Luis Zavaleta, 21, no address, Arcadia. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment. Bond: \$2,000.
- James Patrick Burns, 52, 5600 block of S.W. Brahma Ave., Arcadia. Charge: DUI with BAC .15 or higher or with person under 18. Bond: \$500.
- John Wesley Jones, 38, no address, Arcadia. Charge: possession or use of drug equipment. Released on recognizance.

- Daven Lee Mayall, 35, no address, Arcadia. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$5,000.
- Phillip Warren Porter, 26, Decatur, AL. Charge: theft between \$20,000-\$100,000. Released on recognizance.
- Bryana Marie Sanchez, 24, 500 block of Clark Lane, Arcadia. Charge: trespass by failing to leave when so ordered. Bond: \$500.
- Darlene Nichole Skinner, 26, 2700 block of S.E. Hing Drive, Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: \$100.
- Alfredo Soliz, 73, 2200 block of S.W. Lois Ave., Arcadia. Charges: resisting or obstructing an officer without violence, and battery. Released on recognizance.
- Nathaniel Robert Wedig, 33, Sarasota. Charge: failure to appear. Bond: \$2,000.
- Lynette Marie Rogers, 59, 100 block of Asbury St., Arcadia. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- George Luis Chanza, 39, 1300 block of N.E. Sunset Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Jennifer Sue Rogers, 38, 1200 block of Esmeralda Drive, Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Hifeice Pierre Stewart, 38, 1500 block of N.E. Nobles Ave., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: none.
- Allen Eugene Clingenpeel, 59, no address, Arcadia. Charge: DUI with alcohol or drugs. Bond: \$500.

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

- Fidel Hernandez Moran, 31, 1600 block of Cherry Drive,

Arcadia. Charges: driving without a valid license, giving false ID to officer and out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$5,000.

- Simchah Peleytah Delozier, 30, 7600 block of S.W. River St., Fort Ogden. Charge: violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.

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

- Juan Gabriel Lopez-Lopez, 36, 1200 block of 4th Ave., Arcadia. Charge: driving without a valid license. Bond: \$250.
- Debra Travis, 44, 3300 block of Post Plant Road, Ona. Charge: out-of-county warrant. Bond: none.
- Maria Esperanza Villegas, 48, Zolfo Springs, FL. Charge: unarmed burglary of a dwelling without assault or battery. Bond: \$250.
- David Arthur Blackney, 51, Zolfo Springs. Charge: knowingly driving without a valid license. Bond: \$250.
- Josie Garza, Zolfo Springs. Charge: driving on a suspended license. Bond: \$250.
- Martin Lee Byers, 31, Zolfo Springs. Charges: failure to appear. Bond: \$25,000.
- Kevin Connor Kunkel, 21, Zolfo Springs. Charges: two counts of violation of probation or community control. Bond: none.
- Cierra Aaliyah Denise Jones, 19, Zolfo Springs. Charges: two counts of out-of-county warrant. Bond: \$5,250.

— Compiled by Susan E. Hoffman

Family Album

FAMILY ALBUM PHOTOS

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

How to decipher a meeting request (Grammar Guy)

You snagged that great job at the hot new tech startup where they play ping-pong on scooters. Congratulations! Your title is probably something like “chief dreamer,” “director of awesome,” or something else vague and millennial-friendly. Now you get an email from the HR director (whose business card reads “VP of Hugs”) which states your paycheck will come biweekly.

Does that mean you’ll get paid twice a week or every other week? With the big stack of cash your CEO just raised, they could probably afford to pay you twice a week, but it’s more likely biweekly here means you’ll get paid twice a month.

Couldn’t your company’s VP of Hugs have also said you’ll get paid “semiweekly?” I’ve always been confused about the meaning and usage of “bi-” and “semi.” In general, the prefix bi- means two or twice. Think about a bicycle with its two wheels or the bicentennial, which happened in 1976 to celebrate the United States’ 200th birthday. Semi- means half. A semiprofessional basketball player is somewhere halfway between an amateur and a pro. A store’s semiannual sale happens twice per year, or every half a year.

So why all the confusion? Both a biannual meeting and a semiannual meeting

occur twice a year, based on how they’re commonly used. I’ve worked for employers who pay bimonthly (twice a month) and others who pay biweekly (every other week). That’s inconsistent, or ambiguous at best.

While vague job titles are all the rage right now, vague meanings for words that describe how often things reoccur are just confusing. This ambiguity isn’t new, unlike the weird startup company titles. I recommend getting a job description in writing that spells out what exactly your new company’s expectations of you are and specify you want to get paid in U.S. dollars instead of a cryptocurrency your founder invented.

When it comes to how often a meeting happens, try to avoid confusion by saying “twice a week,” “every other week,” or “twice a month.” Even though you sound like an Ivy League summa cum laude when you throw around words like “semi-monthly” or “biannually,” you can quickly confuse people, causing them to take extra trips to the VP of Hugs’ office (which doubles as a yoga studio semidaily).

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

Meet the Teacher profiles, making a difference

The DeSoto Educational Foundation offers an occasional Meet the Teacher profile of DeSoto County educators in the *Arcadian*. This week meet DeAnna Smith.

Teacher: DeAnna Smith
Born: Washington, Indiana

History working with students: Second-grade teacher (West Elementary School) 2017-present, fourth-grade teacher (West Elementary School) 2007-2017; Migrant teacher (Nocatee Elementary School) 2007; 4-year-old class (Presbyterian preschool) 2004-2007; stay-at-home mom 1999-2004; second- and third-grade teacher (Memorial Elementary School) 1995-1999; paraprofessional-Pre-K Handicap (1994-1995); part-time tutor West Elementary School (1994)

Education: J.P. Taravella High School, Coral Springs, Florida; primary and early elementary education certification, University of South Florida; bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Human Resources Management, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida

Family: “My husband Matt and I



SMITH

will celebrate 25 years of marriage in November of this year. We are the proud parents of Abby and Emily Smith. Abby is a sophomore at Southeastern University and Emily is a senior at DeSoto County High School.”

Hobbies and interests: “I love traveling and visiting historical sites. I enjoy walking, riding my bicycle and being outdoors. I am also an active member of Calvary Baptist Church. After church, you can find me cheering for my favorite team, the Miami Dolphins.”

Why I became a teacher: “I felt called to be a teacher after spending a summer serving as a youth camp counselor. After completing my business degree, I returned to school to earn my teaching certificate.”

Most rewarding moments as a teacher: “I love teaching students to express what they have learned through writing. Students often think this will be difficult, but they soon find out writing is such a rewarding process. This is also an area where all students can show tremendous growth.”

Something most people don’t know about me: “I love to swim and I was a lifeguard in college. I have reason to smile because I have never had a cavity!”

Thank you to Calusa Agility Club

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Calusa Dog Agility Club has donated \$1,250 to DeSoto County Animal Services, funds to help feed and comfort animals housed in the rescue facility. Raffle baskets and other donations at agility trials at the Turner Center raised the funds. The Calusa Club in Fort Myers regularly visits DeSoto County and was “pleased to give something back,” said Club president Jennifer Canfield, handing a check to Debbie Merkin and Susan Brodowsky with DeSoto Animal Services.



Halloween fun at the DeSoto courthouse



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA MCDANIEL

Very scary annual Halloween festival at the DeSoto County courthouse for the visiting families. Clerk of Courts Nadia Daughtrey (second from left) and her crew turned out to greet little goblins and witches. Uh-oh, Día de Muertos!



Olivia Graves in her Linda the Mermaid gear making it hard not to smile.



This young man has things figured out, working to fill his candy bucket.

Halloween family affair, oh my!



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mike and Katherine McGuigan dressed their family in a Wizard of Oz theme at Don and Sheila Knoche’s home for Halloween. Mike built his Tin Man outfit from scratch. Included in this dynamite family portrait are Tory, Camden, Meghan and Michael. The crew helped the Tin Man get through the night by squirting oil on his joints. Thanks for that!

Getting real at West Elementary, Living Wax Museum project

By **CRAIG GARRETT**
ARCADIAN EDITOR

Teddy Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Rosie the Riveter, these and many other historic figures visited West Elementary on Friday.

It wasn't a post-Halloween thing, rather a fifth-grade social studies project that had students costumed in the gear these historic figures probably wore in their day, said Cindy Streetman, a fifth-grade instructor who introduced the West Elementary Living Wax Museum in 2015. The idea is kids choosing a historic figure, researching and then presenting their project in an essay and in character for a final day where classmates and others visit with them, in costume and playing the role as accurately as is possible. The program started with 38 students dressing in character; 130 made that choice this year.

"You should have heard the buzz in the room this morning," fifth-grade teacher Clara Caudill said. "It's a chance (for them) to show what they know. Was I surprised? Yes, we are very proud of them."

Strolling a courtyard where these children are dressed as the characters they represent, you see George Washington, Barack Obama, DeSoto the Spanish explorer, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks, George Custer, Princess Grace, Elvis and local cowboy legend Matt Condo, to name a sampling of who the students found to be interesting enough to undertake such a serious effort. There was also a sprinkling of historic native Americans and Hispanics, reflecting the large population of youngsters from that culture.

Streetman dressed in the character



Lee Jones as Teddy Roosevelt. At 10, he is the youngest member of the DeSoto County Historical Society.

of Carol Mahler, the energized DeSoto County Historical Society representative who made a presentation to West's fifth-graders, giving them a sense of the families building DeSoto County.

"Every year (they) figure out how they're going to do it better," she said of the students. "It's going great."

Shyann Hudson chose Rosie the Riveter for her project. Hudson, who is 10, read a short narrative of that WWII icon to the judges and other curious

students parading through the gauntlet of characters.

"She was really cool," Shyann, in a red bandana, said of the woman used to inspire as the "We Can Do It" production worker in the 1940s. "It teaches you that women can do whatever they want. Sometimes they just don't know it."

One young man in a mustache and spectacles seemed natural as rain in his Teddy Roosevelt gear. But Lee Jones is also the youngest member of



Abel Nedley was just outside the building for his Elvis impersonation.



West Elementary's Living Wax Museum brought together social studies, public speaking, research and other skills for the one-day event. Historical characters included Shyann Hudson (pictured) as Rosie the Riveter.

the DeSoto County Historical Society, dropped off by his folks at age 10 so that he may become more immersed in local history. You'd almost expect Lee to roar away from West with his Rough Riders, his role as the 26th president so real.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

DeSoto Church Directory

... And Make Your Choice from our Church Directory

 <p>Calvary BAPTIST CHURCH Celebrative Worship Challenging Bible Study Connection With People Sunday School/Life Groups 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Family Contemporary Worship 10:45 AM - Noon 863-494-4345 www.cbcarcadia.org</p>	<p>North Hillsborough Baptist Church (253 N. Hillsborough Ave.) Pastor Ellis Cross 863-494-3455 Worship 11:00 AM Evening Worship 6:00pm Wednesday 6:30pm Thursday Youth Group 6pm</p>	 <p>North Hillsborough Baptist Church Presents Our Annual CANDY!!! FALL FESTIVAL GAMES!!! Saturday November 10th - 11am - 4pm 253 N. Hillsborough Ave. - Arcadia, FL FREE! FREE! FREE! Food and Drinks, Games, Bounce House, Face Painting, Sand Art, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Cake Walk, Snow Cones and Tons of Fun!! Friendly Costumes Welcome (No Scary Ones Please)</p>	<p>First Church of the Nazarene A LIGHTHOUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR 85 YEARS 132 W Gibson Street Arcadia FL 34266 863-491-1422 Rev. Steve Johnson Sunday Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am The VOICE of God will never contradict the WORD of God</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran Church, LCMS 1004 W. Oak Street Rev. Anthony Arias Pastor Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Sunday Worship 11:00 AM All Welcome!</p>	
<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 209 West Hickory Street 494-4434 Rev. Bill Teng Mission: "Take Jesus with you wherever you go" Worship: 11:00am Traditional Worship Casual, Family Oriented Sunday School 9:45 a.m.</p>	 <p>Oak Hill Baptist Church Arcadia, Florida 5104 NW Oak Hill Ave. 863-494-6224 REV. JERRY WATERS Sunday School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:45 am and 6:00 pm Wednesday 6:30 pm for Prayer Group, Youth & Children</p>	<p>See Your Church in this spot Call Tami at 494-5201 for more details.</p>	<p>Fort Ogden United Methodist Church 6923 SW River St. 863.494.3881 Sunday Worship 10:00AM Nursery & Children's Church Provided Monday AA & AL Anon 7:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 11AM-6PM</p>		
<p>See your Church in this spot Contact Tami 494-5201 for more information</p>	<p>PINE LEVEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRIST CENTERED, CHRIST LED. 9596 Pine Level St., Arcadia 863- 494-0044 9am Children Church 9am Contemporary Service 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Service Wednesday Adult, Youth & Children's Programs 7 PM Nursery Always Available www.pinelevelumc.com</p>	 <p>Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church "THE CHURCH IN THE ORANGE GROVE" SUN. SCHOOL 9:45AM WORSHIP 11:00AM EVENING 6:00PM WEDNESDAY 6:30PM 2865 SW CR 661 ARCADIA, FL 34266 863-993-5568</p>	<p>St. Edmund Episcopal Church 125th Anniversary Celebration November 17th 327 W. Hickory St., Arcadia 863-494-0485 Sundays 8am & 10am Misa en espanol Dom 6:00 pm www.EpiscopalArcadiaFl.com</p>	<p>Trinity United Methodist Church "To know Christ and to make Him known" 304 W. Oak Street • 494-2543 Sunday Morning Worship Starting at 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Sun. 4:30 p.m. UMYF Wed. 6:30 pm Bible Study Nursery Available Pastor Louie Mabrey View Service at: trinityarcadia.com</p>	<p>See your Church in this spot Contact Tami 494-5201 for more information</p>



Vote for Your Favorites!

2018 Readers' Choice

Here's your chance to give your favorite local businesses the spotlight! Vote in our 2018 DeSoto Readers' Choice contest to help us recognize the best of the best. Just fill in your choice for the best business in each of the categories listed below.

ENTER TO WIN a \$50 gift certificate to one of the Readers' Choice restaurant picks

when you submit your completed 2018 Readers' Choice voting form to us before December 7, 2018.

SERVICES

- Accountant _____
- AC/Heating _____
- Appliance Repair _____
- Auto Body Shop _____
- Auto Repair _____
- Bank _____
- Barber Shop _____
- Carpet Cleaning _____
- Caterer _____
- Check Cashing _____
- Child Care _____
- Computer Repair _____
- Electrician _____
- Event Decorator _____
- Flooring _____
- Florist _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Hairstylist _____
- Hair Salon _____
- Hotel/Motel _____
- Insurance Agency _____
- Law Firm _____
- Lawn Care _____
- Mail/Shipping _____
- Mortgage Broker _____
- Nail Salon _____
- Painter _____
- Pest Control _____
- Pet Grooming _____
- Plumber _____
- Real Estate Office _____
- Realtor _____
- Signs/Banners _____
- Tanning Salon _____
- Veterinarian _____
- Window Tinting _____

HEALTH & FITNESS

- Assisted Living _____
- Chiropractor _____
- Dentist _____
- Doctor (eye) _____
- Doctor (family) _____
- Doctor (pediatrician) _____
- Doctor (specialty) _____
- Exercise/Gym _____
- Hearing _____
- Home Health Care _____
- Massage Therapy _____
- Pharmacy _____

SHOPPING

- Antiques _____
- Appliance Store _____
- Auto Dealership _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Clothing Store (men's) _____
- Clothing Store (women's) _____
- Electronics Store _____
- Feed/Ranch Store _____
- Furniture Store _____
- Gift Shop _____
- Grocery Store _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Jewelry Store _____
- Liquor Store _____
- Produce _____
- Storage Sheds _____
- Thrift Store _____
- Tires _____

EATS & DRINKS

- Bakery _____
- Bar _____
- Barbecue _____
- Breakfast _____
- Buffet _____
- Chinese _____
- Coffee _____
- Deli _____
- Dinner _____
- Donuts _____
- Fast Food _____
- Fried Chicken _____
- Hamburger _____
- Ice Cream _____
- Italian _____
- Lunch _____
- Mexican _____
- Seafood _____
- Steak _____
- Sweet Tea _____

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- Artist _____
- Bar _____
- Camping _____
- Canoeing _____
- DeSoto County Golf Course _____
- Photography _____

CONTEST RULES

1. All nominations must pertain to businesses, services, places or people located in DeSoto County.
2. You may only submit one completed ballot, additional submissions will automatically disqualify you from voting in the contest. Must be original newspaper ballot. No copies.
3. The questionnaire must be 50% completed or it will be disqualified.
4. All entries must be received in our office by December 7, 2018 at 5 p.m.
5. The winner will be chosen by random drawing.
6. The Readers' Choice Winners will be determined by the highest number of votes from the entries.
7. Contest results do not reflect the views of the Arcadian.

ENTRY FORM

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____

Please mail completed questionnaire to:

"Serving DeSoto County since 1887"
ARCADIAN
 108 S. Polk Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266
 863-494-2434



Nevada's most famous legal pimp Dennis Hof wins state legislative race even though he died last month

See Page 8



AP PHOTOS

In this Oct. 26 photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington.

Sessions resigns

Trump tweets that Matt Whitaker will be acting attorney general

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions was pushed out Wednesday after enduring more than a year of blistering and personal attacks from President Donald Trump, who inserted in his place a Republican Party loyalist with authority to oversee the remainder of the special counsel's Russia investigation.

The move has potentially ominous implications for special counsel Robert Mueller's probe given that the new acting attorney general, Matthew Whitaker, until now Sessions' chief of staff, has questioned the inquiry's scope and spoke publicly before joining the Justice Department about ways an attorney general could theoretically stymie the investigation.

Congressional Democrats, concerned about protecting Mueller, called on Whitaker to recuse himself from overseeing the investigation in its final but potentially explosive stages.

That duty has belonged to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller and closely monitors his work.

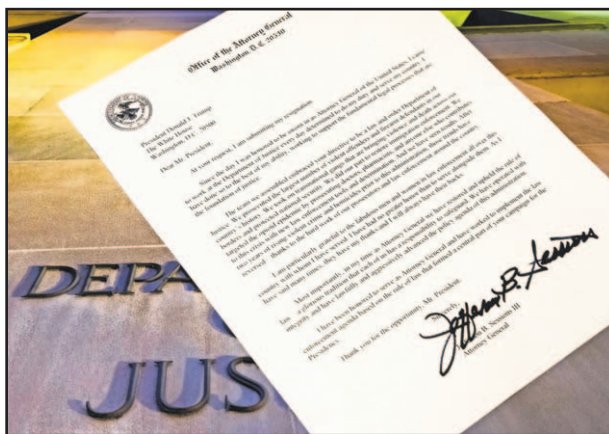
The resignation, in

a one-page letter to Trump, came one day after Republicans lost control of the House of Representatives and was the first of several expected post-midterms Cabinet and White House departures. Though Sessions was an early and prominent campaign backer of Trump, his departure letter lacked effusive praise for the president and made clear the resignation came "at your request."

"Since the day I was honored to be sworn in as attorney general of the United States, I came to work at the Department of Justice every day determined to do my duty and serve my country," Sessions wrote.

The departure was the culmination of a toxic relationship that frayed just weeks into Sessions' tenure, when he stepped aside from the Russia investigation because of his campaign advocacy and following the revelation that he had met twice in 2016 with the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Trump blamed the recusal for the appointment of Mueller, who took over the Russia investigation two months later and began examining whether Trump's hectoring of Sessions was part of a broader effort to obstruct the probe.



A copy of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' resignation letter



In this Feb. 9, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump shakes hands with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, accompanied by his wife Mary, after he was sworn-in by Vice President Mike Pence, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

The investigation has so far produced 32 criminal charges and guilty pleas from four former Trump aides. But the work is not done and critical decisions await that could shape the remainder of Trump's presidency.

Mueller's grand jury, for instance, has heard testimony for months about Trump confidant Roger

Stone and what advance knowledge he may have had about Russian hacking of Democratic emails. Mueller's team has also been pressing for an interview with Trump. And the department is expected at some point to receive a confidential report of Mueller's findings, though it's unclear how much will be public.

Girl Scouts sue Boy Scouts over name change

By TOM McELROY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Girl Scouts of the United States of America filed a trademark infringement lawsuit Tuesday against the Boy Scouts of America for dropping the word "boy" from its flagship program in an effort to attract girls.

In the complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, the Girls Scouts claim the program "does not have a right under either federal or New York law to use terms like scouts or scouting by themselves in connection with services offered to girls, or to re-brand itself as 'the Scouts.'"

"Such misconduct will not only cause confusion among the public, damage the goodwill of GSUSA's Girl Scouts trademarks, and erode its core brand identity, but it will also marginalize the Girl Scouts

Movement by causing the public to believe that GSUSA's extraordinarily successful services are not true or official 'Scouting' programs, but niche services with limited utility and appeal," the complaint said.

The Girl Scouts is among a number of major youth organizations in the nation seeing declines in membership in recent years due to competition from sports leagues and busy family schedules. The organization argued that only it has "the right to use the Girl Scouts and Scouts trademark with leadership development services for girls."

In a statement, the Boy Scouts said it was reviewing the lawsuit "carefully."

"We applaud every organization that builds character and leadership

SCOUTS | 8

Too few doctors and nurses for veterans in some areas

By TIM HENDERSON
STATELINE.ORG

WASHINGTON — As the nation prepares to honor its veterans Nov. 12, many veterans in rural areas and some cities still face long wait times for health care because there aren't enough doctors, nurses and support staff to provide it.

Almost 40,000 of the 335,000 positions in the Veterans Health Administration are vacant, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, which oversees the VHA. The VHA serves about 9 million veterans.

The VHA's turnover rate is less than half the rate for the health care

industry overall.

However, a Stataline analysis of recently released federal figures shows the VHA has a severe vacancy problem in high-cost urban areas such as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and in largely rural states, such as Montana and Colorado.

Montana and Colorado have the highest state job vacancy rates at more than 20 percent, followed by Utah, Oklahoma and Maryland. At the other end, vacancies in Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and Rhode Island are less than 8 percent.

In some ways, the

VETERANS | 8



Gov. Rick Scott, center, speaks at a campaign rally in Orlando



Sen. Bill Nelson campaigns in Orlando

Florida battle for US Senate still too close to call

By GARY FINEOUT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A bitter and expensive clash between Florida's Republican Gov. Rick Scott and Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson remains too close to call, despite Scott's declaration of victory.

Nelson has not conceded. His campaign says it's preparing for a recount and will have observers in every one of the state's 67 counties to monitor the process.

Scott's lead narrowed slightly Wednesday morning to 34,537 votes out of more than 8.1 million cast — a margin of less than

one half of 1 percent. Under state law in Florida, a recount is mandatory if the winning candidate's margin is 0.5 percentage points or less.

Chris Hartline, a spokesman for Scott's campaign, criticized the Nelson campaign for pushing ahead for a recount.

"This race is over," Hartline said. "It's a sad way for Bill Nelson to end his career. He is desperately trying to hold on to something that no longer exists."

But the recount is automatic unless Nelson agrees to forgo it. Counties have until Saturday to turn in their first set of unofficial returns. If the margin remains

Here's what a recount in Florida would look like, See page 2

under 0.5 percent at that point, then Secretary of State Ken Detzner is required to order the recount.

Florida was the scene of a monumental recount battle in 2000 that pitted scores of lawyers against each other in the presidential race. George W. Bush won the presidency by 537 Florida votes over Al Gore after the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately declared an end to the counting.

SENATE | 8

Motel 6: \$7.6 million for guests reported to immigration

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The national budget chain Motel 6 has agreed to pay up to \$7.6 million to Latino guests who say the company's employees shared their private information with immigration officials, according to a proposed settlement filed in federal court.

A federal judge must still approve the proposal filed last week in U.S. District Court in Arizona.

The agreement between Motel 6, which is owned by G6 Hospitality in Carrollton, Texas, and guests represented by the Los Angeles-based Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, springs from a class-action lawsuit filed in January.

Calls seeking comment

from the hospitality company's media relations department were not immediately returned Wednesday. Motel 6 in the past has declined to comment on the lawsuit, but has said it takes its guests' privacy seriously.

Fund president and general counsel Thomas A. Saenz said Wednesday the agreement launches a long process allowing potential class action members to have a say in the case.

Under the proposal, Motel 6 could ultimately pay up to \$8.9 million, including reimbursement of legal fees and administrative costs, Saenz said. "We're very pleased with the settlement because it will provide for future protections and compensation," he said.

MOTEL 6 | 8

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

The Sun Newspaper is tweaking the way stocks are listed in the daily paper. We will continue to run a wide range of stocks, but we're trying to eliminate stocks...

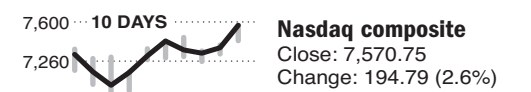
our readers don't want. If you do not see your stock in the paper, please let us know and we will put it in the listings. Email the name of the company and the symbol to nlane@sun-herald.com...

Market indicators: DOW 26,180.30 +545.29, NASDAQ 7,570.75 +194.79, S&P 500 2,813.89 +58.44, 10-YR T-NOTE 3.23% +0.02, 30-YR T-BOND 3.44% +0.01, CRUDE OIL \$61.67 -0.54, GOLD \$1,226.20 +2.40, EURO \$1.1455 +0.042

Money&Markets

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

Table of stock prices with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Includes sub-sections A-B-C, D-E-F, and G-H-I.



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

Table of stock prices with columns: HIGH, LOW, CLOSE, CHG, %CHG, WK, MO, QTR, YTD.

Table of stock prices with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Includes sub-sections J-K-L, M-N-O, P-Q-R, S-T-U, V-W-X-Y, Z-AA.

Table of stock prices with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Includes sub-sections A-B-C, D-E-F, G-H-I, J-K-L, M-N-O, P-Q-R, S-T-U, V-W-X-Y, Z-AA.

Table of stock prices with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Includes sub-sections A-B-C, D-E-F, G-H-I, J-K-L, M-N-O, P-Q-R, S-T-U, V-W-X-Y, Z-AA.

Table of stock prices with columns: Tkr, Name, Last, Chg. Includes sub-sections A-B-C, D-E-F, G-H-I, J-K-L, M-N-O, P-Q-R, S-T-U, V-W-X-Y, Z-AA.

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Table of interest rates: TREASURIES, BONDS, 10-YR. TIPS.

Table of foreign exchange rates: MAJORS, EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST, ASIA/PACIFIC.

Table of commodity prices: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE.

Table of commodity prices: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE.

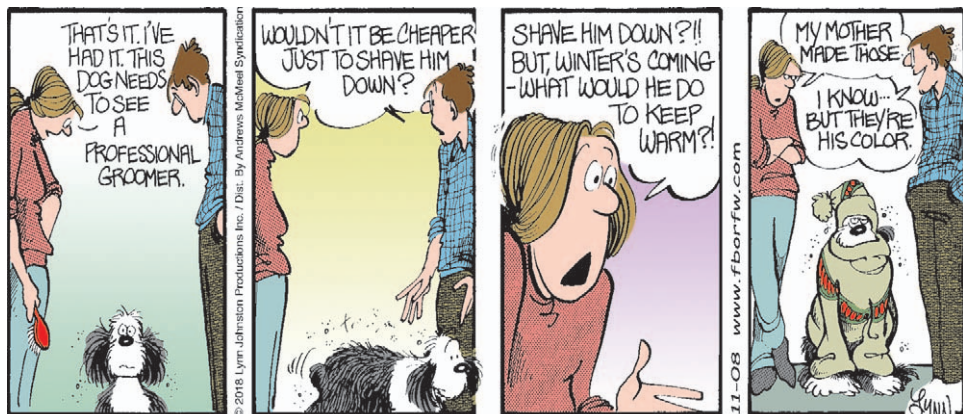
Table of interest rates: PRIME RATE, FED FUNDS.

Table of foreign exchange rates: MAJORS, EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST, ASIA/PACIFIC.

Table of commodity prices: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE.

Table of commodity prices: FUELS, METALS, AGRICULTURE.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



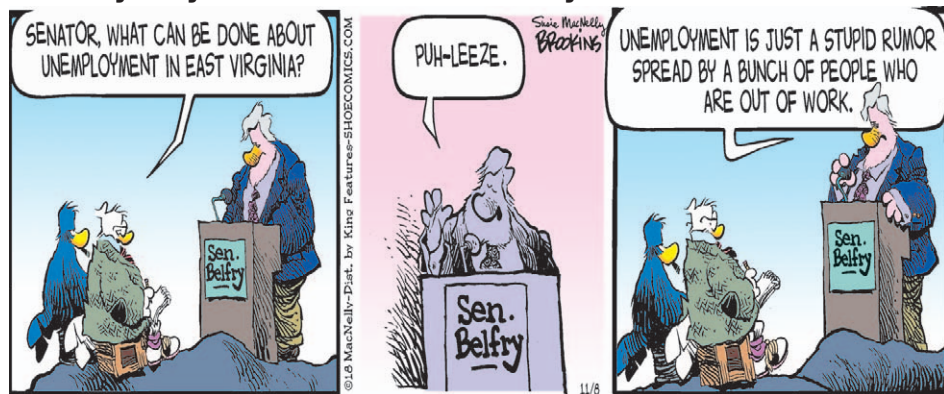
MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



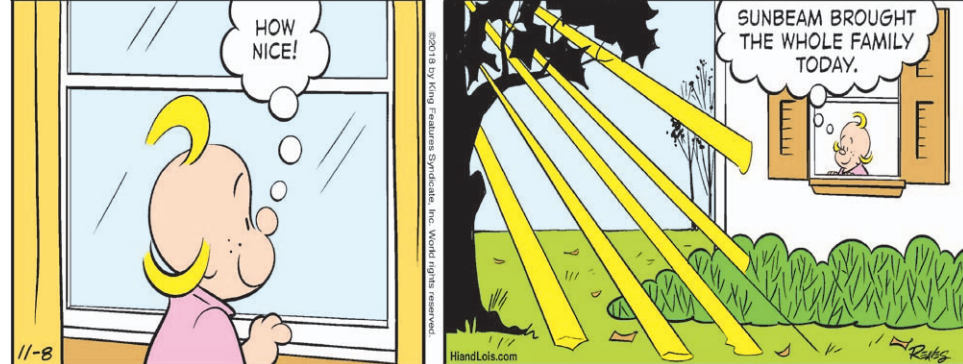
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



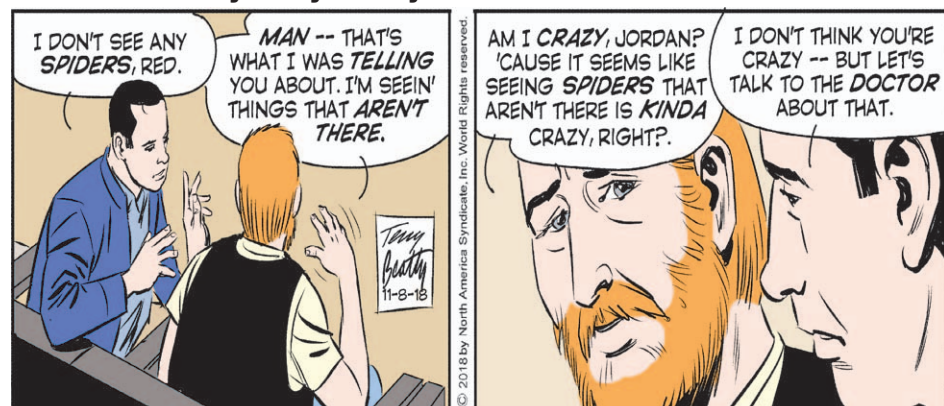
SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



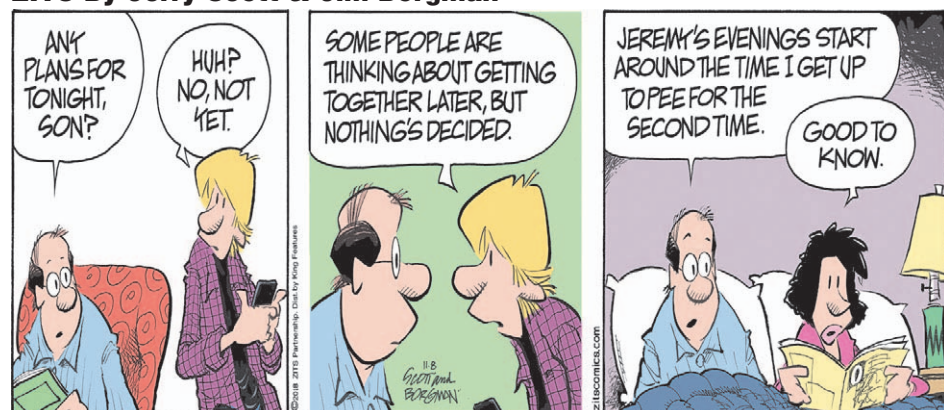
REX MORGAN By Terry Beatty



BEETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



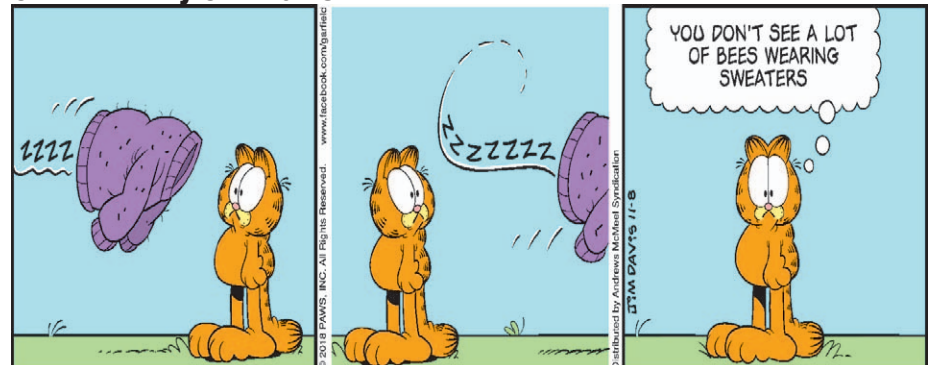
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



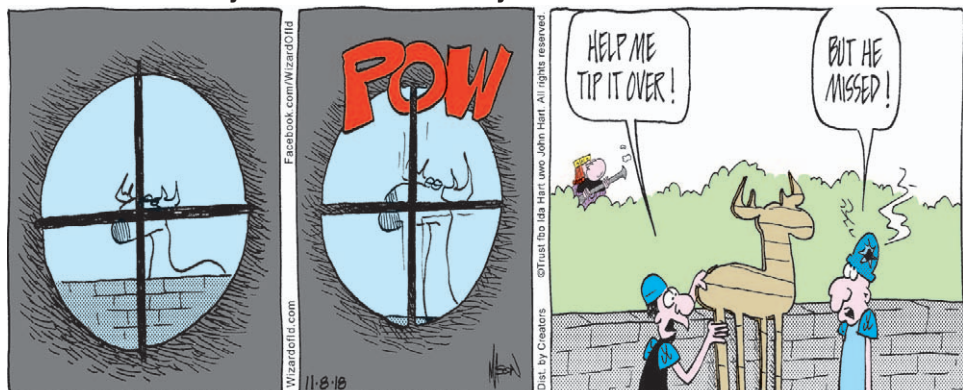
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



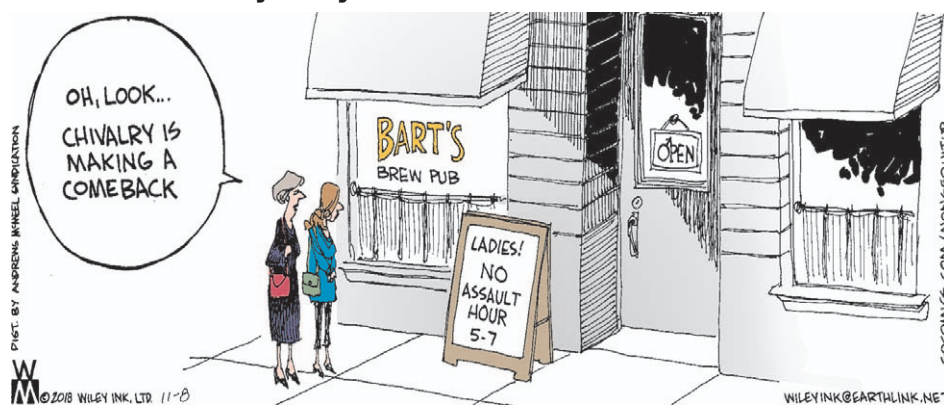
GARFIELD By Jim Davis



THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



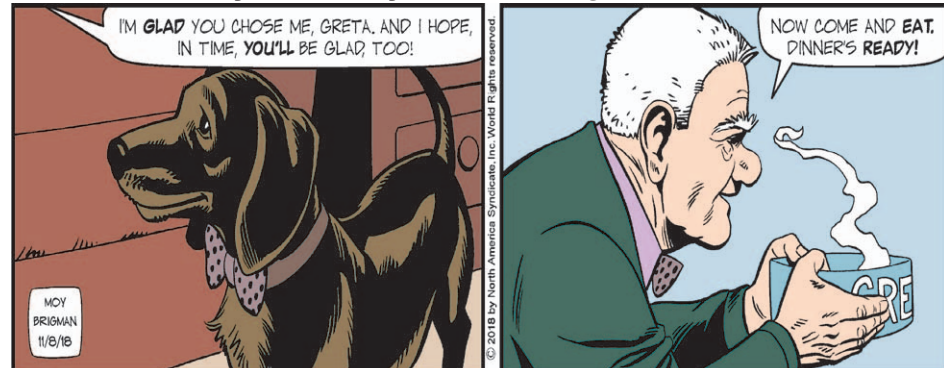
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



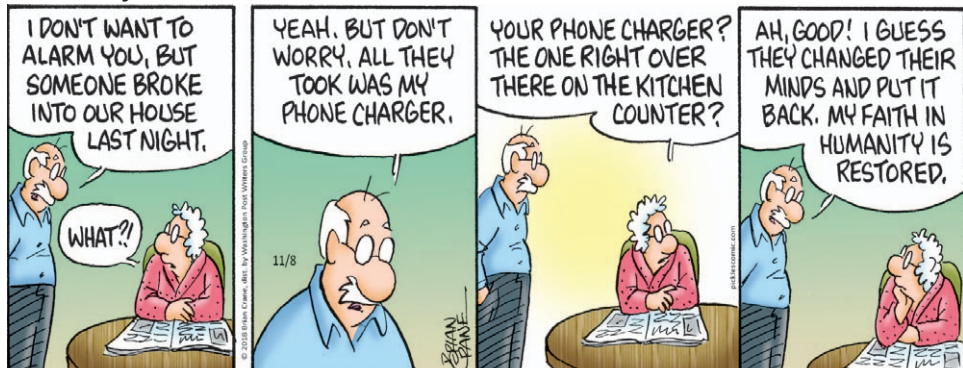
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and June Brigman



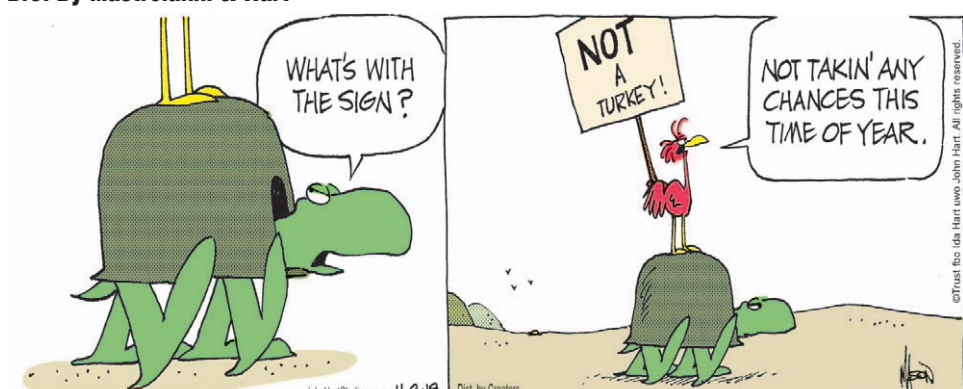
PICKLES By Brian Crane



DILBERT By Scott Adams



B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart



Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like BiPNickel, BiPSpWrt, BiP Grb, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like BrownFA s, Brownswick, Buckeye, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like Cigna, Cimarex, CincBel s, etc.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like CushingRen, CushmanRoi, CustBcp18, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like DxCiHrBr, Dxr300Chn, DxtHrBll, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like EVShDur, EVTXAbdO, EV TxAG, etc.

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks such as FedRtl, FedRtl pM, FedSgnl, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks such as GGP Inc pA, GMS Inc n, GNC, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD %Chg. Lists various stocks such as GpSuprv n, GpTelevia, GuangRy, etc.

G

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like IQM Intlr n, IQM Mln n, IQM HdqMult, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like iStar pFd, iStar pG, iStar pG, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like iSh AdapJp, iSh AdapC, iSh AdapEu, etc.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for L, M, and P-Q.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for N, O, and P-Q.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, Last, %Chg. Includes sub-sections for P-Q and YTD.

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NYSE

Main table containing NYSE stock listings with columns for Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week, Vol, YTD, and %Chg. Includes sub-sections for NYSE and - S -.

Continued from previous page

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stock symbols and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stock symbols and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Lists various stock symbols and their performance metrics.

- U -

- T -

- V -

Continued on next page

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NYSE

Table listing NYSE stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like VanE 12-17 n ITML, VanE USBD IGEM, etc.

Table listing NYSE stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like Voyalnra IDE, VoyalnHD IID, etc.

Table listing NYSE stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like WT PutStr PUTW, WT EMexSt XSXE, etc.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table listing Nasdaq stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like :A-MarkPM AMRK, AACN AACN, etc.

Table listing Nasdaq stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like Adtran ADTN, AduroBio n ADRO, etc.

Table listing Nasdaq stocks with columns: Name, Ticker, Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes entries like All MMA n AMMA, AllncePRes ARPL, etc.

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg, Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes sections for - C - and - B -.

- D -

Continued on next page

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for DrpOkw rt, DrpOkw un, DropCar hrs, etc.

- E -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for E-Trade, eBay, eBay56 n, etc.

- F -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for F5 Netwks, FAT Br n, FBW n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for FT IndMf50, GrElm22 n, GrElm25 n, etc.

- G -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for G-WilliFood, GITheora n, GCI Lb a, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for GRECP hp, GECC, GECL, etc.

- H -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for H&E Epy, HDS, HFFG, etc.

- I -

Table with columns: Name, Ticker Symbol, Div, Yield, PE, High, Low, 52-week High, 52-week Low, Vol 1000s, YTD Last, YTD %Chg. Includes rows for I-AMCap n, IAMXW, IAMXR, etc.

Continued from previous page

Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High, Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes sub-sections for -L-, -N-, -M-, -J-, and -K-.

Continued on next page

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Nasdaq

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as OfficeDpt, OhioValB, Okta n, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as PSHQQQ, ProS Ris n, PrUINBio rs, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol 1000s, Last, YTD %Chg. Includes various stock listings such as SenHous 46, Senhioa n, SensusHl wt, etc.

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Nasdaq

Main Nasdaq table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg. Includes sub-sections for -W-, -V-, and -X-Y-Z-.

-U-

Continuation of Nasdaq table with columns: Name, Ticker, Div, Yield, PE, 52-week High/Low, Vol, YTD %Chg.

Money Market Funds

Table of Money Market Funds with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield.

Continued on next page

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Money Market Funds

Table with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists various money market funds and their performance metrics.

Tax Exempt

Table with columns: Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield, Fund, Avg Maturity, Avg Yield. Lists tax-exempt money market funds.

Toronto stocks

Table with columns: Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg, Name, Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. Lists various Toronto stocks and their daily price movements.

Treasury bonds

Table with columns: Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld, Rate, Date, Bid, Ask, Chg, Yld. Lists Treasury bonds and their yields.

FOOTNOTE: Rate-The annual interest rate the Treasury bond provides to investors. Date-The month and year the bond will expire. Bid-The price investors will pay for the bond. Ask-The price at which investors will sell. A bond price is expressed as a percentage of its original purchase cost of \$1,000. The whole numbers and the decimals which represent 32nds of a point must be converted to dollars and cents; for example, 103.18 equals \$1,035.63. Chg-The change between the preceding day's final bid price and the final bid price from the day before. Yld-The annual percentage return to the investor, based on the bond's current price, if the bond is held until it matures. K-Taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens. n-Treasury note. p-Treasury note; taxes on interest will not be withheld from non-U.S. citizens.

Mutual Funds

Table with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

How to Read the Mutual Fund Tables

Here are the 4,300 biggest mutual funds listed on Nasdaq. Tables show the fund name, sell price or net asset value (NAV), daily net change and weekly net change. Underlining highlights the funds ranked in the top 20% in each of the last 5 years:

Name: Name of mutual fund and family. Obj: The fund's objective group. Abbreviations listed below. NAV: Net asset value. Chg: Net change in price of NAV from previous day. Rtn: The fund's total return, or percent change in NAV for the time period shown, with dividends reinvested. If period longer than 1 year, return is annualized. Rank: Fund's letter grade compared with others in the same objective group; an A indicates fund performed in the top 20 percent; an E, in the bottom 20 percent.

Footnotes: e - Ex capital gains distribution. f - Previous day's quotation. n - No front end load or contingent deferred sales load may apply. p - Fund assets are used to pay for distribution costs - 12(b)(1) plan. r - Redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply. s - Stock dividend or split. t - Both p and r. x - Ex cash dividend d. NA - not available.

Fund Objectives: AL: Allocation - 70-85% Equity, AM: Multialternative, BL: Bank Loan, BM: Bear Market, CA: Allocation - 30-50% Equity, CC: Consumer Defense, CD: Consumer Cyclical, CH: China Region, CI: Intermediate-Term Bond, CL: Long-Term Bond, CR: Multi-Cap Growth, CS: Short-Term Bond, CV: Convertibles, DP: Diversified Pacific/Asia, EB: Emerging-Markets Bond, EE: Energy Equity, EI: India Equity, EM: Diversified Emerging Markets, ES: Europe Stock, FA: Foreign Small/Mid-Value, FB: Foreign Large-Blend, FF: Managed Futures, FG: Foreign Large-Growth, FO: Foreign Small/Mid-Blend, FR: Foreign Small/Mid-Growth, FV: Foreign Large-Value, FX: Foreign Currency, GI: Intermediate Government, GL: Long Government, GR: Global Real Estate, GS: Short Government, HM: High-Yield Muni, HY: High-Yield Bond, IB: World Bond, IC: Trading-Inverse Commodities, ID: Industrials, IE: Trading-Inverse Equity, IH: World Allocation, IP: Inflation-Protected Bond, IS: Trading-Miscellaneous, JS: Japan Stock, LB: Large Blend, LC: Trading-Leveraged Commodities, LE: Trading-Inverse Equity, LG: Large Growth, LO: Long-Short Equity, LP: Energy Limited Partnership, LS: Latin America Stock, LV: Large Value, MA: Allocation - 50-70% Equity, MB: Mid-Cap Blend, MG: Mid-Cap Growth, MI: Muni National Intermediate, ML: Muni National Long, MQ: Miscellaneous Region, MR: Miscellaneous Sector, MS: Muni National Short, MU: Multi-Sector Bond, MV: Mid-Cap Value, MY: Muni New York Long, ND: Trading-Inverse Debt, NE: Market Neutral, NT: Nontraditional Bond, PJ: Pacific/Asia ex-Japan Stock, RI: Target-Date Retirement, RR: Preferred Stock, SB: Small Bond, SC: Communications, SF: Financial, SG: Small Growth, SH: Health, SI: Muni Single State Intermediate, SL: Muni Single State Long, SN: Natural Resources, SP: Equity Precious Metals, SR: Real Estate, SS: Muni Single State Short, ST: Technology, SU: Utilities, SV: Small Value, TA: Target-Date 2000-2010, TD: Target-Date 2015, TE: Target-Date 2020, TG: Target-Date 2025, TH: Target-Date 2030, TI: Target-Date 2040, TJ: Target-Date 2045, TK: Target-Date 2050, TL: Target-Date 2055, TN: Target-Date 2060, TV: Corporate Bond, TV: Tactical Allocation, UB: Ultrashort Bond, VD: Trading-Leveraged Debt, VL: Stable Value, VO: Volatility, WS: World Stock, XM: Allocation - 85% Equity, XO: Infrastructure, XQ: Target-Date 2060+, XR: Option Writing, XS: Long-Short Credit, XP: Emerging-Markets Local-Currency Bond, XY: Allocation - 15-30% Equity. Data based on NAVs reported to Morningstar by 6 p.m. Eastern.

Continued on next page

Top 20 Mutual Funds

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, YTD, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by year-to-date percent return.

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Total Assets, Percent Return/Rank, YTD, 5-Yr, Pct Load. Lists top 20 mutual funds by total net assets.

Table with columns: Name, Obj, Pct Load, NAV, 4-Wk Rtn, Phone Number. Lists top 20 mutual funds by 4-week percent return.

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Main table listing various mutual funds with columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD, 3-yr Rtn/Rk.

Continued on next page

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Mutual Funds

Table containing multiple columns of mutual fund data: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rrk. The table lists various fund categories such as Calvert, Cambiar, Carillon, Causeway, Center Coast Capital, Champlain, City National Rochda, ClearBridge, Cohen & Steers, Colorado BondShares, Columbia, Dupree, Davenport, Davis, Delaware Inv, Deutsche, Edgwr, Edgwr Lomax, Edgewood, Elfum, Emerald, EuroPac, Evermore, FAM, and Fidelity.

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table listing mutual funds with columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and 5-yr Rtn/Rk. Funds are grouped into various categories like Fidelity Advisor, Fidelity Select, First Eagle, First Investors, First Western, Firsthand, Fort Pitt, Franklin Templeton, Fiera Capital, and Geode.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Table of mutual fund data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like AgriGrAlloC, AgriGrAlloC m, AlabamaMuniBdA m, etc.

Mutual Funds

Table of mutual fund data including columns for Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, and various fund names like Nicholas, EqIncl, HllncInstl, etc.

Continued from previous page

Mutual Funds

Table with multiple columns: Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk, Name, Obj, NAV, 4-wk Rtn, YTD Rtn, 3-yr Rtn/Rk. The table lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

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November 8, 2018

WaterLine

WEEKLY MAGAZINE

THE ORIGINAL,
SINCE 1997



INSIDE THIS WEEK

Ever seen a dolphin porpoise? | P5

A clean rat | P7

The tripletail basics | P12

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ON THE COVER

WaterLine photo by Capt. Josh Olive

Many local anglers think tripletail are found only under crab trap floats, but this one was spotted swimming under a discarded soda bottle.



Changes a-comin'

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK • CAPT. JOSH OLIVE

Our reader survey is well underway, and while we're nowhere near done gathering data, we've learned some surprising things.

For example, hardly anybody uses the solunar tables. This is great news for me, because it means I have a really good reason to not take 20 minutes every week to put them together. The solunar tables are basically the hunting and fishing equivalent of horoscopes: Most people think they're bahooka, and others can't plan their day without them.

If you're in that second group, no worries. I'm not here to judge — I'm here to help. There's a free website where you can get solunar tables that are even more detailed than the ones we've been running in WaterLine. Just go to <http://bit.ly/2REz349>.

Another insight: Not as many of you fish as I would have thought. About a quarter of our survey respondents don't fish. I'm not quite certain what to make of that one, especially in consideration of how fishing-heavy our current content is.

Also, the average WaterLine reader spends more time watching birds and wildlife than any of us would have guessed. In fact, on an average day, there are more WaterLine readers doing that than fishing. I've always believed there was a lot of interest in "non-consumptive" outdoor recreation, but I would not have guessed it was that high.

These results are leading me to rethink how I balance WaterLine and the Outdoor Living section in the Thursday Sun newspapers, which I also edit. A few months ago, I was thinking I'd be moving more of the nature-oriented material to Outdoor Living. Now that would seem to be a mistake, so it's time to come up with a new plan.

We have a larger contingent of RV owners than I realized, and a lot more folks actively engaged in paddlesports. There's also a significantly higher percentage of hunters and

shooters than I had expected.

This is why I love surveys: They're a way to collect hard data that is otherwise really difficult or impossible to guess accurately. As I said in last week's column, I want this to be your magazine, so I think it's really a helpful thing for you to tell me where it's going right and where it's going wrong.

Of course, knowing what you want is one thing — doing it is quite another. Here are the changes you can expect to see phased in over the coming weeks:

- Solunar tables are gone, effective this week.
- Greg Bartz will be refocusing his bass fishing columns into a more seminar-oriented format (similar to our Angling 101 and 201 columns), providing more how-to information. These columns will appear every other week. You'll notice the change in a couple weeks.
- On the weeks Greg's bass column does not appear, he will be writing a column about the RV lifestyle — again, with a seminar format. The first of these is scheduled for Nov. 22.
- Abbie Banks will be providing more practical birdwatching information in her columns, beginning with the one on page 13 this week.
- Jenny Malone will resume her Gun Girl columns sometime in the next few weeks. She's planning to write one a month. We'll add another gun writer so we can have a column every other week. It might be a familiar face or it might be a new one.
- The weeks we don't have a shooting column, we'll have a hunting column. I haven't settled on a writer for these yet, nor do I know exactly when they'll debut.
- I'm now on the hunt for a paddlesports writer, or maybe two. I'm thinking about one to write about paddlesports in general and perhaps one to focus specifically on kayak fishing, which is also more popular than I would have thought.
- The interest in environmental issues was



higher than any other single topic. I know a lot of that is due to the ongoing red tide problems, but I agree with you that we should be paying more attention to it. The trick is to find someone who can explain the problems well without getting overly technical, and exploring things that often need political solutions without getting political. I need to think on this one a bit. Care to offer any guidance?

One other thing that really surprised me: The low percentage of female readers. I would have guessed it was between 25 and 30 percent, but the survey says it's more like 17 percent. A special request to our female audience: If you could take a moment to email me with any suggestions for getting more lady readers, I would very much appreciate the input.

In the meantime, the survey is still up and running, and there are still five \$50 Publix gift cards up for grabs. I'd like to get about twice the number of responses we currently have, so it will stay open for probably the next week or two. You can take the survey at SurveyMonkey.com/r/7TP5FNT or <http://bit.ly/2ABv2ry>, or simply scan the QR code above with your phone or tablet.

Free red tide forum in Boca Grande

Learn about Florida red tide blooms — including the challenging bloom of 2017-18 — during a Boca Grande red tide forum featuring scientists, university professors and wildlife rehabilitators.

The free public forum, co-hosted by Mote Marine Laboratory and the Barrier Island Parks Society, will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Boca Grande Community Center Auditorium (131 1st St W, Boca Grande), followed by a reception with light bites and wine in the Center's Woman's Club room. Speakers from Mote, Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, University of South Florida and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program will each give a 10-

15-minute presentation and then participate in a 20-minute panel discussion.

The event is free and RSVP is not required. Any updates will be posted at mote.org/boca.

The Boca Grande community has faced some daunting impacts from the 2017-2018 bloom of Florida red tide (*Karenia brevis*), ranging from large-scale fish kills and other wildlife mortalities to significant respiratory irritation among beachgoers and impacts on the tourism economy.

The area has also been an important site for research designed to better understand and address blooms — for instance, Mote's recent pilot test of an ozone-treatment system for red tide mitigation in a dead-end canal and

enhanced water sampling and analysis efforts offshore of Boca Grande by FWC in collaboration with Mote.

The area has also been at the center of many public discussions emphasizing great questions — for example, how does Florida red tide differ from the freshwater blue-green algae that may be carried from Lake Okeechobee to the Charlotte Harbor estuary? Can the two influence each other?

These and many other questions will be discussed with the goal of educating and empowering residents, including returning seasonal residents seeking to catch up on this summer's red tide happenings.

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AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR
CAPT. RALPH ALLEN

Have you ever seen a dolphin porpoise?



Page 5

REGULAR FEATURES

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Reader Photos



Dominika with a Boca Grande mangrove snapper.



Paula Williams with a 31-inch red she caught and released.



Rob Gray with a Lemon Bay red he caught and released.



Dave Servis of Punta Gorda with his 45-pound amberjack, caught while season was still open in October.

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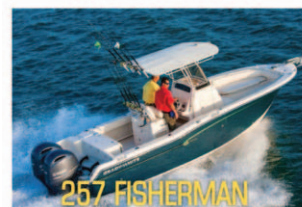
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Want to learn more local fishing spots? Tune in to Fishin' Talk Radio on KIX Country 92.9 FM every Saturday from 7 to 9 a.m. for Spot Check! This week's spot will be **the Venice jetties.**



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This map is not intended for navigational purposes. Refer to a nautical chart for navigation information.

Ever seen a dolphin porpoise?



Photo provided

Bottlenose dolphins have a real thing for playing in boat wakes — as long as the wake is to their liking.

AROUND CHARLOTTE HARBOR • CAPT. RALPH ALLEN

Charlotte Harbor's dolphins are spectacular animals. Dolphins are not porpoises, but dolphins can porpoise. And at times they make quite a show of it as they porpoise exuberantly across the surface at a high rate of speed, sometimes traveling nearly 30 feet at a bound.

If you've ever wondered whether wild animals ever do anything just for fun, then you need to spend some time watching dolphins around boats. The animals are clearly having a good time as they leap and body-surf in the bow wave or stern wake of large vessels. Sometimes they'll spot a passing boat that attracts them and they'll race to it, porpoising across the surface for a quarter-mile or more on an interception course to reach their target so they can drop into the wake.

I have heard it argued that these dolphins are not really playing, that instead they are using the wake of the passing boat as transportation to surf along to wherever they may be headed. I cannot say with certainty that this is never true. Maybe sometimes dolphins do travel via boat wake.

But when I watch pods of dolphins that take up position along the Intracoastal

Waterway in Gasparilla Sound or down towards Cabbage Key, I am sure that they are just playing. When they're "in the mood," they will hang in the ICW and wait for an approaching boat with which to hitch a ride.

Depending on the boat's speed and wake characteristics, they may ride for as little as only a few moments or for as long as a few miles until they decide it's time for a change of direction. Then they'll fall off that boat's wake and pick up a boat going the opposite direction and ride with that one for a while, then repeat the process back the other way.

Sometimes they'll spend hours just going back and forth up and down the ICW hitchhiking with boats. They're not doing this for transportation — it's recreation.

Eventually they will depart, presumably because they do have to go make a living at some point. And since they probably work up quite an appetite by swimming with boats for a few hours, I'd hate to be a small fish anywhere in the vicinity when they punch that time clock.

Transportation or not, those dolphins sure look like they're having fun. Yes I know that it's tempting to humanize wild animals by

imposing our own emotions on them, but when dolphins do flips in the air, swim along upside-down looking up at us, or leap high and turn on their side to smack down flat onto the water's surface with a rifle-shot slap, that sure looks like they're having fun to me.

And here's more evidence: They don't always swim with the boats. Sometimes they're just not interested and completely ignore all passing vessels. They have to be in the right mood to want to play.

Not all boats are created equal in the eyes of the dolphins. It seems to me that a cruising speed of about 9 or 10 knots is about their favorite. Dolphins can go much, much faster than that — up to about 20 knots — but that 9- to 10-knot cruise seems to be the speed at which they're most likely to hang with a boat for a while.

But it's not just about speed. It's also about the wake. My little flats skiff makes barely a ripple at 9 knots so it doesn't get much attention from dolphins. Some larger boats don't do much better. Sorry, sailboaters, but the sleek, tapered, efficient and easy-to-push hulls of even large sailboats don't produce much wake by design, and

that means that they aren't real dolphin magnets. Sailboaters, don't get mad; I know that pretty much every sailboat in our area has had dolphins alongside at one time or another. But there is no doubt that the perfect dolphin boat is a good-sized displacement hull vessel that pushes a lot of water and makes a big wake.

To be a bit more specific, dolphins like stern wakes with steep-fronted surface waves. Those are best for body-surfing and for launching airborne. They also like bow waves, but for a different reason: When the narrow bow of a boat is being driven through the water, it wedges water to the side, creating a underwater pressure gradient or wave in which dolphins like to ride. This is why on some boats dolphins like to take up a position at the very front, just off to one side or the other of the bow.

Capt. Ralph Allen runs the King Fisher Fleet of sightseeing and fishing charter boats located at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda. He is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer, and is a past president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Call him at 941-639-2628 or email Captain@KingFishFleet.com.



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INSHORE & FRESHWATER

ASHLEY L.

ECONOMY TACKLE
Sarasota
941-922-9671

Bait pods are thick around Emerson Point and the mouth of the Manatee River. A few dead fish have been spotted along Lido and Turtle Beach due to red tide, but it's very patchy. Catch-and-release **snook** and **redfish** are on the flats; fish threadfins or whitebait on moving tides. The water may look dingy, but as long as there are no dying fish or heavy smell, give it a shot.

GULF & OFFSHORE

Lots of **mangrove** and **lane snapper** have been coming from 15 to 20 miles. We've also heard of a few **gags** and **cobia** coming in this past week. **Spanish mackerel** have been abundant just off the beaches. Ten to 12 miles out, we're seeing both Spanish and **little tunny** around bait.

BEST BET

Trolling live threadfins has been a good way to hook up with **kingfish**. For big fish, stay within a mile of the beach. Frigate birds are a very good sign.

MALCOLM

COOKS SPORTLAND
Venice
941-493-0025

Action has been hit or miss. **Snook**, **bluefish** and **flounder** have been on the beaches from Caspersen to Blind Pass. The folks who are catching are fishing where the bait is. If you don't see bait in the water, find another spot. Reports of the pier and jetties have been fairly quiet. The water on Okeechobee has dropped a foot and has slowed the bite a bit, but we're looking forward to **crappie** soon.

People are getting ready for **kingfish**, but there have been no offshore reports this week.

Get in the surf with a spoon or small jig and cast for a mixed bag, or try shrimp and shrimp for **whiting**.

JIM

FISHERMAN'S EDGE
Grove City
941-697-7595

Sheepshead, **pompano** and **mangrove snapper** are biting at the Tom Adams Pier, and there have been some good catch-and-release **snook** at the Placida Pier. Bull and Turtle bays have also been producing snook, mostly smaller but a few larger fish too. Try Whidden Creek for **redfish**. Snook and reds are in the potholes and on the dropoffs at low water and under the trees at high tide.

Spotty patches of red tide have been reported from Stump Pass to Boca Grande, but there are lots of fish too. Keeper **red** and **gag grouper** have been caught at 18 miles, along with limits of **mangrove snapper** and loads of grunts. **Cobia** and **kingfish** have been reported as well, scattered from 10 to 22 miles out.

Tarpon from 10 to 20 pounds have been in Buck and Gottfried creeks.

JEFF

CAPT. TED'S TACKLE
Port Charlotte
941-627-6800

The east side of the Harbor has been producing lots of catch-and-release **redfish** and **snook** (remember, redfish season is closed until next year). Lots of snook from 5 to 26 inches have been feeding heavily in the Coral Creek and Placida areas. Some big **trout** have been caught in the harbor, but the anglers have been tight-lipped about exact locations.

Spanish and **king mackerel** reports have been good off the beaches, despite a few red tide patches around. Around bait pods, they're also finding **ladyfish**, **bluefish** and (if you get out past 10 miles) **little tunny** and **blackfin tuna**.

Tarpon are still playing in the deep holes of the Harbor and around the big bridges at night. All sorts of lures, live and dead baits are all working.

ROBERT

FISHIN' FRANK'S
Charlotte Harbor
941-625-3888

Redfish and **snook** have been in the usual spots: Bull and Turtle bays, the east and west walls. Fish pinfish, shrimp and whitebait (if you can find it) right up against the trees. **Trout** are mostly on the outside of the bars in the same areas and in the Boca Bayou area. **Tarpon** are still hanging out around Boca Grande Pass and in the deep holes. Some big **jacks** have been in Alligator Creek and PGI.

Spanish mackerel are from the passes out to 18 miles. **Kings** are in the same area, with some very good fish caught in Boca Pass. A handful of **cobia** are on the reefs and bait pods. **Mangrove snapper**, **sheepshead**, **grunts** and **porgies** are on the reefs from 5 to 25 miles out.

If the weekend weather is as forecast, it should be a great time to go offshore. Take the chance if you can.

CAMERON

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

Sheepshead are in the canals eating fiddler crabs or small shrimp.

Lane snapper and **red grouper** are taking sardine chunks. Look for diving birds; they'll probably have **kingfish** and **little tunny** under them.

Jacks, **Spanish mackerel** and **trout** are hitting silly jigs and Mirrodines on the grassflats around Bokeelia.

JESSE

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

The north end of Pine Island has had a lot of **snook** around from small to medium. Matlacha has had schools of **redfish** and some bigger snook; fish the trees at high tide with soft plastic shadetails. Rat reds are hitting gold spoons fished along the oysters along St. James City. **Mangrove snapper** are pretty hot around the docks and pilings; small live shrimp are the ideal bait.

Lane snapper are good at 10 to 20 miles. **Mangroves** are out a bit farther at 15 to 30 miles. **Yellowtails** have been good at 30 to 35. They're all eating fresh cutbait. **Spanish mackerel** and **kingfish** reports are solid; they're going for anything shiny.

Tripletail are on the crab trap floats. Live shrimp are the most popular bait.

BOB

BAIT N WAIT
Fort Myers Beach
239-466-8737

Sheepshead, **mangrove snapper** and a few **trout** have been biting in the back bays. The mangrove islands and grassbeds have had lots of fish. Both live shrimp and soft plastics are catching fish. If you want to play with **snook**, try a Vudu Mullet or live pinfish around docks or bridge shadow lines.

No reports.

Spanish mackerel have been coming from the piers on Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel. Spoons and brightly colored jigs are good; small live fish are even better.

THE FISH COACH'S TIP OF THE WEEK: How far away from other boats should you be? Simple question, but the answer gets complicated quickly. Ideally, you should stay as far back as possible from other boats that are fishing, especially in shallow water. But what about Bull Bay, where it's not uncommon to turn a corner and find a boat anchored on a mangrove shoreline just a few yards off your course? It's not like you can make a major shift — you'll hit the trees or run aground. How about boats fishing in or near marked channels or in canals? Or on the reefs, where many boats are often trying to get on top of a relatively small piece of structure? Generally, the right answer is this: Stay as far away from other fishing boats as you would like them to stay from you when you're fishing. The Golden Rule applies. And when you screw up (and you will), apologize. — *As the Fish Coach, Capt. Josh Olive offers personalized instruction on fishing techniques. To book your session or for more information, go to FishCoach.net, email Josh@FishCoach.net or call 941-276-9657.*

WaterLine's reader survey is underway, and we want your opinions. To have your say and get a shot at one of five \$50 Publix gift cards, go to <http://bit.ly/2ABv2ry> or simply scan the QR code below with your phone or tablet. Help us make WaterLine the best it can be!





PEACE RIVER WILDLIFE CENTER • ROBIN JENKINS, DVM



You not-so-dirty rat

PRWC photo

Some rats are very different from others. This baby woodrat isn't going to grow up to be a home invader.

Mark Twain was first credited with the quip that "golf is a good walk spoiled" in the Saturday Evening Post in 1948. Oddly enough, Samuel Langhorne Clemens (his real name) died in 1910, so either the author of the Post column was a medium or mistaken. I'm betting on psychic ability, since we all know columnists are never wrong.

I had my own good walk spoiled the other day when I stumbled across a juvenile rat in the middle of the MURT (Multi-Use Recreational Trail.) For those of you who aren't familiar with the concept, this is a paved path beside the roadway that bikers and pedestrians can share to avoid vehicular traffic — especially when there aren't adequate bike lanes; e.g., all of Charlotte County.

Many bikers, especially when traveling with their "gangs," seem to prefer to use the road. If they are using common sense and obeying traffic laws, there's nothing wrong with that. But there are times when it would seem prudent to me for the bikers to use the stinking MURT. Like when they are on a blind curve, idly cruising along, a mere 6 inches away from the MURT, while someone in a vehicle behind them is trying to get to work and is forced to drive two @#\$%5E miles per hour! But I digress.

At first, I thought the young rat might just be a bit of trash that had been thrown from a passing car. (Don't even try to get me started on that tirade!) I had tried to rescue the surviving babies out of the pouch of a dead opossum a few days earlier, only to find out the "corpse" was actually a T-shirt. In my defense, I don't wear my glasses while walking. Maybe I should.

The baby rat was hunched over in the middle of the sidewalk. He didn't attempt to flee as I passed him, so I assumed there was something wrong with him. I walked a few paces before finding a discarded bag (finally, a practical use for litter!) to scoop him into and turned around to head home.

Once there, I examined the little guy. He had a clubbed foot — a possible birth defect, since it didn't look like a recent injury and he seemed too young to have had a grievous injury like that heal already. I didn't see any other marks on his body, so I treated him symptomatically. By evening, he was eating and drinking and pooping up a storm. All good signs. My motto is, "If you want to live, you have to eat." Some animals (and people) want to live a lot!

Some people may wonder why I would go through all this for a rat. Most people are usually looking for ways to kill rats, not nurse them back to health. New readers of this column may be questioning my sanity at this point, while faithful followers have turned my irrational antics into a drinking game. This is why you want to ask your health care and banking professionals if they read my column before relying on their advice, especially on a Thursday morning.

But here's the thing: Rats might just look like rats to you, but they're not all the same. Woodrats are entirely different animal from the rat you're probably thinking of.

Eastern woodrats are native to the central and eastern U.S., from southern New York to the Florida Keys. They are sometimes referred to as pack rats for their propensity to build large, elaborate nests using branches and leaves as well as cast-off (or stolen) man-made items. Unlike invasive species of rats (Norway and black rats, or so-called roof or attic rats), woodrats prefer to live outdoors in their natural habitat. They rarely come uninvited into houses and cause the destruction that their Old World counterparts are so infamous for.

Woodrats are vegetarians, eating a wide variety of plants, nuts, fruits, vegetables and grains. I suppose since they don't consume any dairy products, they should be considered vegans, but please don't hold that against them. They won't try to ruin your dinner party by loudly proclaiming themselves to be better than the rest of the guests because they only eat food without faces. They are also not considered a threat to farmers, like some other rodent species that can devastate entire fields of crops.

Invasive rat species have litters of up to 12 pups that are weaned and capable of reproducing themselves by five weeks of age. Mom can be pregnant with her next litter before she even weans the current one. In contrast, the woodrat is not sexually mature until eight months of age. Litter sizes usually consist of only two to four pups, and a maximum of two to three litters can be produced per year.

Most of the orphaned or displaced baby rats received at PRWC are found when trees are being trimmed or removed, especially cabbage palms. Sometimes burn or brush piles can harbor a family, so take care to check for young before discarding or burning yard waste.

If you consider rodents to be a pest species that must be removed from your property, please consider carefully before using any bait type products. Most of these contain anticoagulants and can take up to a week or two to kill the target species.

For those of you who do not care how the rodent dies, just as long as it vacates your property, this is not the end of the story. When the rat is in a weakened state or after its death, there is a good chance that it will fall victim to a predator — perhaps your or your neighbor's dog or cat, or a wild hunter, even an eagle. The predator that eats the poisoned rat will then be poisoned itself, and often die.

Eastern woodrats are a native species here in Southwest Florida and have many natural predators, including snakes, birds of prey, raccoons and many other mammals. They serve a role in seed dispersal for many

plants. Their homes help protect many other species that share them or take them over when the rats move on.

As a slow-growing and slow-breeding prey species, their numbers are well maintained naturally. If you inadvertently disrupt a nest, leave it as close as possible to the original site and mom will care for the babies there or move them to another safe area. If one or more of the rats has been injured, bring them to PRWC where we will care for them until they are healthy and old enough to be released.

This beneficial native species doesn't

deserve the irrational fear that has been thrust upon it. As Mark Twain also said, "If man could be crossed with the rat, it would improve man, but deteriorate the rat." Or did he?

Peace River Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the care, preservation and protection of Charlotte County's native wildlife since 1978. They are open seven days a week year-round, including holidays. Tours are offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PRWC receives no government funding and relies entirely on private donations. For more info, visit PRWildlife.org, email PeaceRiverWildlife@yahoo.com or call 941-637-3830.

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Searching for the truth



Photo provided

This mess of crappie came from the waters of Lake Okeechobee. Would you eat them?

A LIFE ON THE WATER • CAPT. VAN HUBBARD

I'm tired of all the negative "news" about our algae problems. We are hearing about horror and devastation. There certainly have been very devastating fish kills and we have suffered severe loss of life. However, the other side of this is we do still have fish and healthy places to enjoy our waters safely. What is the truth? The answer is it varies, and we can get yesterday's reports but conditions can change rapidly. Call local sources, check with trustworthy friends and get accurate accounts, not the "all is doomed" end-of-the-world babble.

I'm not suggesting you endanger your health. Of course we all want to avoid problem areas, but media coverage is rarely up to date or accurate — especially social media like Facebook. Take the time to educate yourselves and enjoy any breaks we get, since our local businesses could really use your support.

Red tide blooms are not stable and at fixed locations. They ebb and flow, increase and decrease, and move with the winds, waves and tides. Usually by the time the word or a problem spot gets out, red tide has dispersed and the area has cleared up. Our biggest trouble now is inaccurate news shutting down beach and water-based businesses — which are a huge part of our local economy.

Most of us try to keep reports accurate

for our areas. We don't want to spoil your experience or travels in our areas. Please check with responsible local businesses before you cancel plans. Better businesses will work with you to help decide the best options for your happy visit. Our reputation is at stake and we look forward to happy returning business.

Please remember that all local water-related businesses — charter captains, to be sure, but also tackle shops, marinas, boat dealers, waterfront and seafood restaurants, hotels, etc. — have lost significant income. Many are struggling to survive the negative press from these problems. Consider the actual present conditions when you're deciding whether to visit or go fishing. Bad news gets more ink than good, so help spread the good news when available. We all need help to promote local businesses whenever we can.

My understanding (and I've survived so far) is this: If fish are healthy enough to bite, they're safe to eat. Also shrimp and crabs I'm told are fine to eat if they're alive when caught. On the other hand, clams, oysters, scallops, etc. are not safe to eat because they are filter feeders. Please share any better reliable info you have, but I'm eating local fish every few days and my health is fine.

Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades do have issues to address. However, those

problems are not having significant impacts locally. Look at a map and see how far away they are from Charlotte Harbor. Yes, dying blue-green algae coming down the Caloosahatchee River from the lake could feed red tide blooms. But what are the real conditions of the waters on Lake O? How could the lake be so polluted yet have great fishing?

Let's look closer to identify the actual nutrient sources. We need water analysis of the lake, the river and all potential impact contributors (like Cape Coral's canals) to specifically identify our nutrient sources. I want to see specific data showing how much of the problem is Lake O and how much the Caloosahatchee's watershed contributes. My understanding is only 40 percent of the river flow at Punta Rassa originates in Lake O. Where does the other 60 percent come from, and what nutrients does it contain?

Big Sugar and agriculture certainly contribute, but can they really be blamed for everything? Can it be that residential sewage, septic and fertilizer outflows have no ill effects? Is blaming ag just a diversion from the real sources? I want facts, not agenda-driven propaganda. The election is over. Let's get serious about solutions, not blame. Blame will solve nothing.

The Everglades must be restored as best we can, but don't expect those fixes to solve the Harbor's trouble. The 'Glades is a

unique watershed, filtering the waters and providing habitat to many unique plants and animals. It used to provide the balance of clean fresh water to nourish and sustain Florida Bay.

With that water lacking, South Florida has devastated areas that once flourished with seagrasses, fish and assorted marine life. These nurseries are critical for everything living in those waters, including conch and lobsters. Ask the old-time Islamorada backcountry guides what we had and then how much is degraded. The 'Glades sheet flow can't be redone as our Creator built it, but it can be restored to help reclaim everything we can.

I wish we could just grab a silver bullet and kill this mess. But the reality is we have long-term problems that require long-term vetted solutions. Those solutions aren't going to be free or cheap, and we're all going to pay somehow. Now it's time to find common ground and start making forward motion. Thank you all.

Next week, let's get fishy — the mack attack is already here.

Capt. Van Hubbard is a highly respected outdoor writer and fishing guide. He has been a professional USCG-licensed year-round guide since 1976, and has been fishing the Southwest Florida coast since 1981. Contact him at 941-468-4017 or VanHubbard@CaptVan.com.

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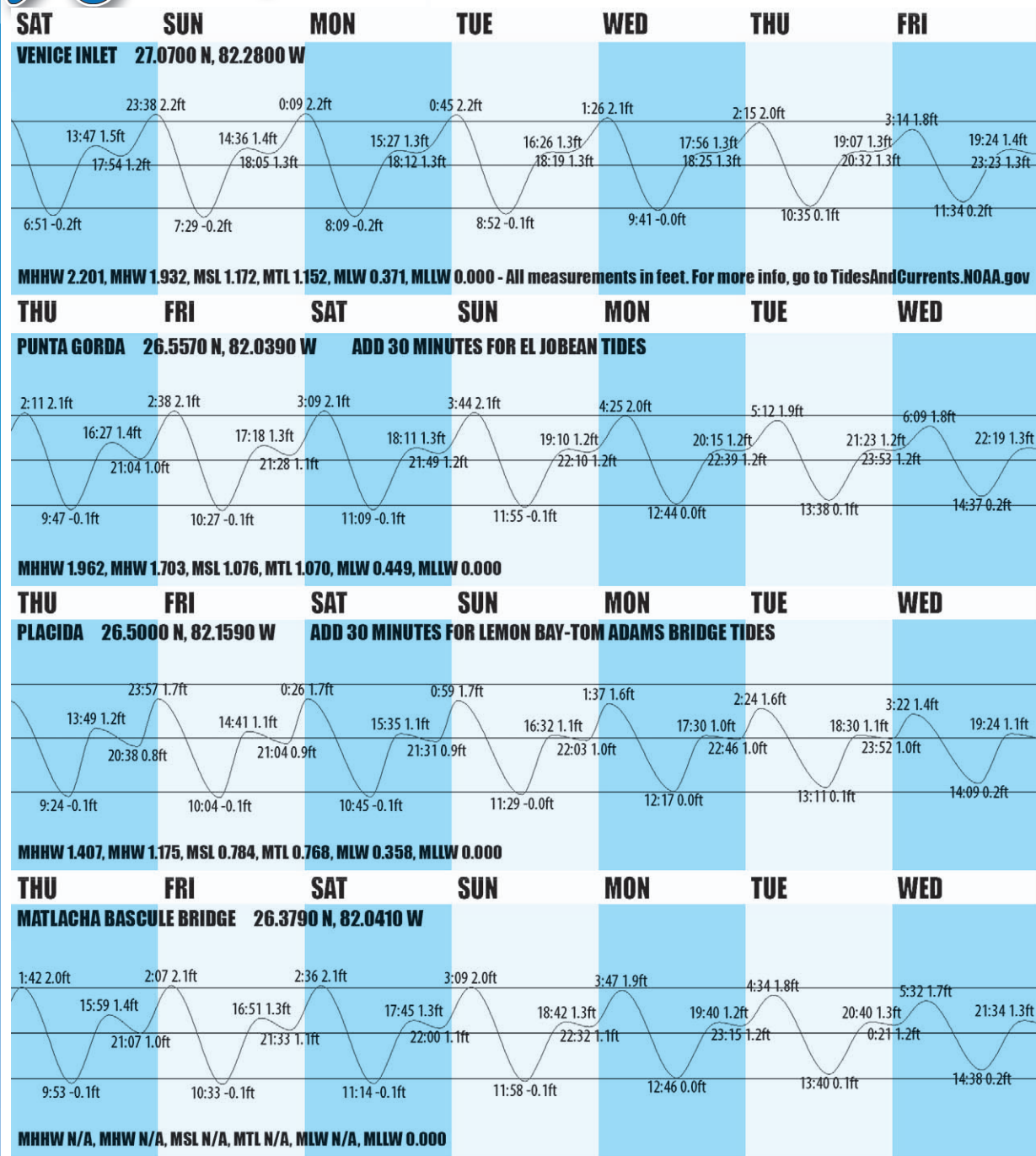
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VENICE INLET			PUNTA GORDA			PLACIDA			MATLACHA		
Saturday	High Tide	0:09 2.2	Thursday	High Tide	2:10 2.1	Thursday	Low Tide	9:24 -0.1	Thursday	High Tide	1:42 2.0
	Low Tide	8:09 -0.2		Low Tide	9:47 -0.1		High Tide	13:49 1.2		Low Tide	9:53 -0.1
	High Tide	15:27 1.3		High Tide	16:27 1.4		Low Tide	20:38 0.8		High Tide	15:59 1.4
	Low Tide	18:12 1.3		Low Tide	21:04 1.0		High Tide	23:57 1.7		Low Tide	21:07 1.0
Sunday	High Tide	0:45 2.2	Friday	High Tide	2:38 2.1	Friday	Low Tide	10:04 -0.1	Friday	High Tide	2:07 2.1
	Low Tide	8:52 -0.1		Low Tide	10:27 -0.1		High Tide	14:41 1.1		Low Tide	10:33 -0.1
	High Tide	16:26 1.3		High Tide	17:18 1.3		Low Tide	21:04 0.9		High Tide	16:51 1.3
	Low Tide	18:19 1.3		Low Tide	21:28 1.1		High Tide	21:31 0.9		Low Tide	21:33 1.1
Monday	High Tide	1:26 2.1	Saturday	High Tide	3:09 2.1	Saturday	High Tide	0:26 1.7	Saturday	High Tide	2:36 2.1
	Low Tide	9:41 -0.0		Low Tide	11:09 -0.1		Low Tide	10:45 -0.1		Low Tide	11:14 -0.1
	High Tide	17:56 1.3		High Tide	18:11 1.3		High Tide	15:35 1.1		High Tide	17:45 1.3
	Low Tide	18:25 1.3		Low Tide	21:49 1.2		Low Tide	21:31 0.9		Low Tide	22:00 1.1
Tuesday	High Tide	2:15 2.0	Sunday	High Tide	3:44 2.1	Sunday	High Tide	0:59 1.7	Sunday	High Tide	3:09 2.0
	Low Tide	10:35 0.1		Low Tide	11:55 -0.1		Low Tide	11:29 -0.0		Low Tide	11:58 -0.1
	High Tide	19:07 1.3		High Tide	19:10 1.2		High Tide	16:32 1.1		High Tide	18:42 1.3
	Low Tide	20:32 1.3		Low Tide	22:10 1.2		Low Tide	22:03 1.0		Low Tide	22:32 1.1
Wednesday	High Tide	3:14 1.8	Monday	High Tide	4:25 2.0	Monday	High Tide	1:37 1.6	Monday	High Tide	3:47 1.9
	Low Tide	11:34 0.2		Low Tide	12:44 0.0		Low Tide	12:17 0.0		Low Tide	12:46 0.0
	High Tide	19:24 1.4		High Tide	20:15 1.2		High Tide	17:30 1.0		High Tide	19:40 1.2
	Low Tide	23:23 1.3		Low Tide	22:39 1.2		Low Tide	22:46 1.0		Low Tide	23:15 1.2
Thursday	High Tide	4:26 1.7	Tuesday	High Tide	5:12 1.9	Tuesday	High Tide	2:24 1.6	Tuesday	High Tide	4:34 1.8
	Low Tide	12:33 0.2		Low Tide	13:38 0.1		Low Tide	13:11 0.1		Low Tide	13:40 0.1
	High Tide	19:47 1.4		High Tide	21:23 1.2		High Tide	18:30 1.1		High Tide	20:40 1.3
	Low Tide			Low Tide	23:53 1.2		Low Tide	23:52 1.0		Low Tide	20:40 1.3
Friday	Low Tide	0:59 1.1	Wednesday	High Tide	6:09 1.8	Wednesday	High Tide	3:22 1.4	Wednesday	Low Tide	0:21 1.2
	High Tide	5:49 1.6		Low Tide	14:37 0.2		Low Tide	14:09 0.2		High Tide	5:32 1.7
	Low Tide	13:27 0.3		High Tide	22:19 1.3		High Tide	19:24 1.1		Low Tide	14:38 0.2
	High Tide	20:11 1.5					Low Tide	19:24 1.1		High Tide	21:34 1.3

WHY IT MATTERS
Baitfish aren't just "free bait" for us — they're also a crucial food source for predatory fish, including the gamefish we want to catch.

HOW WE HARM IT
Over-harvest of baitfish disrupts the natural feeding of gamefish and seabirds, forcing them to work harder for less food. Live chumming with baitfish also changes how and where fish (especially snook) feed and live.

MAKING BETTER CHOICES
It's OK to net and use live bait. The problem is how much is taken and how we use it. These tips will help ensure we have a healthy population.

- Take only what you need for the day's fishing.
- Don't overcrowd your well and kill baitfish pointlessly. Know your capacity.
- If bait dies in your well, put it in the cooler and save it for later. It's great chum for another day. Or donate it to a wildlife rescue organization.
- Avoid throwing a net with mesh that's too large. Gilled baits (called a "Christmas tree") rarely survive — bad for the bait and your net.
- Don't throw too much live chum. A small handful is more than enough most of the time. Better yet, avoid live chumming altogether.
- If you have leftover bait, release it on the flats. Bait released at the ramp will probably die.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GOOD STEWARD AND HELPING TO MAKE OUR WATERS HEALTHIER — WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART!



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What the heck is structure?



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Structure can be as obvious as a massive reef, or it can be far more subtle.

ANGLING 101 • ROBERT LUGIEWICZ

Quick quiz: What do the following three things have in common? A floating coconut. A blade of turtle grass. The Great Barrier Reef. If you said they're all structure, you get a gold star.

If you hang around fishermen for more than a few minutes, you're likely to hear the word "structure." It's a technical term for almost anything in the water. I'm oversimplifying, but that's pretty much the case. Structure is important to fish for two big reasons. First, they can use it to hide from things that want to eat them. Second, because smaller creatures use structure to hide, it's a great place to find a meal.

Anglers usually focus on large-scale structure. Inshore, that would include docks, bridge pilings, mangroves, oyster bars, sandholes and artificial reefs.

Dropoffs — the edges of boating channels, the troughs that run parallel to the beaches, limestone ledges out in the Gulf — are another form of structure that sometimes get overlooked. Hungry predators will sit on the deeper side waiting for unwary prey to pass overhead. This is a strategy that gets much better when there's current flowing, sweeping little fish and shrimp over the drop.

Offshore, most people immediately think of reefs and wrecks as structure. These megastructures do draw in fish, and lots of them. But they also draw in fishermen, because they're relatively easy to find. If you want to have your own spots, it pays to get intimate with your bottom machine, because a lot of offshore bottom structure is very subtle.

Areas of exposed limestone often have hundreds or thousands of small

caves, just big enough for a grouper to call home. This type of structure is often called "Swiss cheese" bottom, and it's incredibly productive to fish these places. Even something as simple as a patch of exposed flat rock can be enough to hold a surprisingly large number of fish in the Gulf's sandy desert. But you'll never locate Swiss cheese bottom, much less bare rock, if you're looking for a sunken U-boat.

Structure doesn't have to be on the bottom. Crab trap markers, floating grass or seaweed, and even changes in water color can be called structure, particularly when you're offshore in open water. Anglers with bluewater experience will tell you that something as apparently insignificant as a floating board is often a fish magnet. When there's no place to hide, baitfish will utilize anything.

Actually, every time you go out on the water, you take structure with you. The moment you turn off your engine, your boat becomes structure. Sometimes fish will seek shelter under or next to your hull when predators are nearby. Cobia and barracuda are especially drawn to a boat that's anchored or drifting. The 'cudas will run circles around you, but the cobes will sit right below the hull. When that happens, just drop a chunk of cutbait over and hang on.

Most fish like structure, but it helps to know the habits of the fish you're targeting since different species use structure in different ways. Some fish like to get right in the thick of structure: Red grouper and snook, for example. Others, such as flounder and

redfish, prefer to sit on the edges.

Generally speaking, actively feeding fish will face into the current and hang out on the upcurrent side of whatever structure they're on. Then there are a few fish that will sit on the downcurrent side of structure, especially pilings or bridge abutments which create fairly large eddies. They're usually not feeding aggressively; instead, they're taking advantage of the calmer water to rest. But if you offer a bait that's not moving fast — say, a shrimp under a cork — it wouldn't be a huge surprise for an opportunistic fish to grab it.

Water flow is always a good thing to look for, and when you find it working in conjunction with structure, the results can be outstanding. Mangrove shorelines hold a lot of fish, but where a creek mouth flows out through the trees the bite is often much better. The creek can be tiny, with just barely a ripple visible, but the effect can be huge.

We could talk for hours about the specifics of structure and how each species relates to it, but I'm going to save that for another day. The point is to get you thinking about how fish see the world around them so you can start trying to see things through their eyes. Once you start doing that, you'll be amazed at how much your fishing will improve — and you can bet that's not a bad thing.

Robert Lugiewicz is the manager of Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle, located at 4425-D Tamiami Trail in Charlotte Harbor and at 14531 N. Cleveland Ave. in North Fort Myers. Call 941-625-3888 for more information about the shop or for local fishing info, or visit them online at FishinFranks.com.

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ANGLING 201 • CAPT. KARL BUTIGIAN

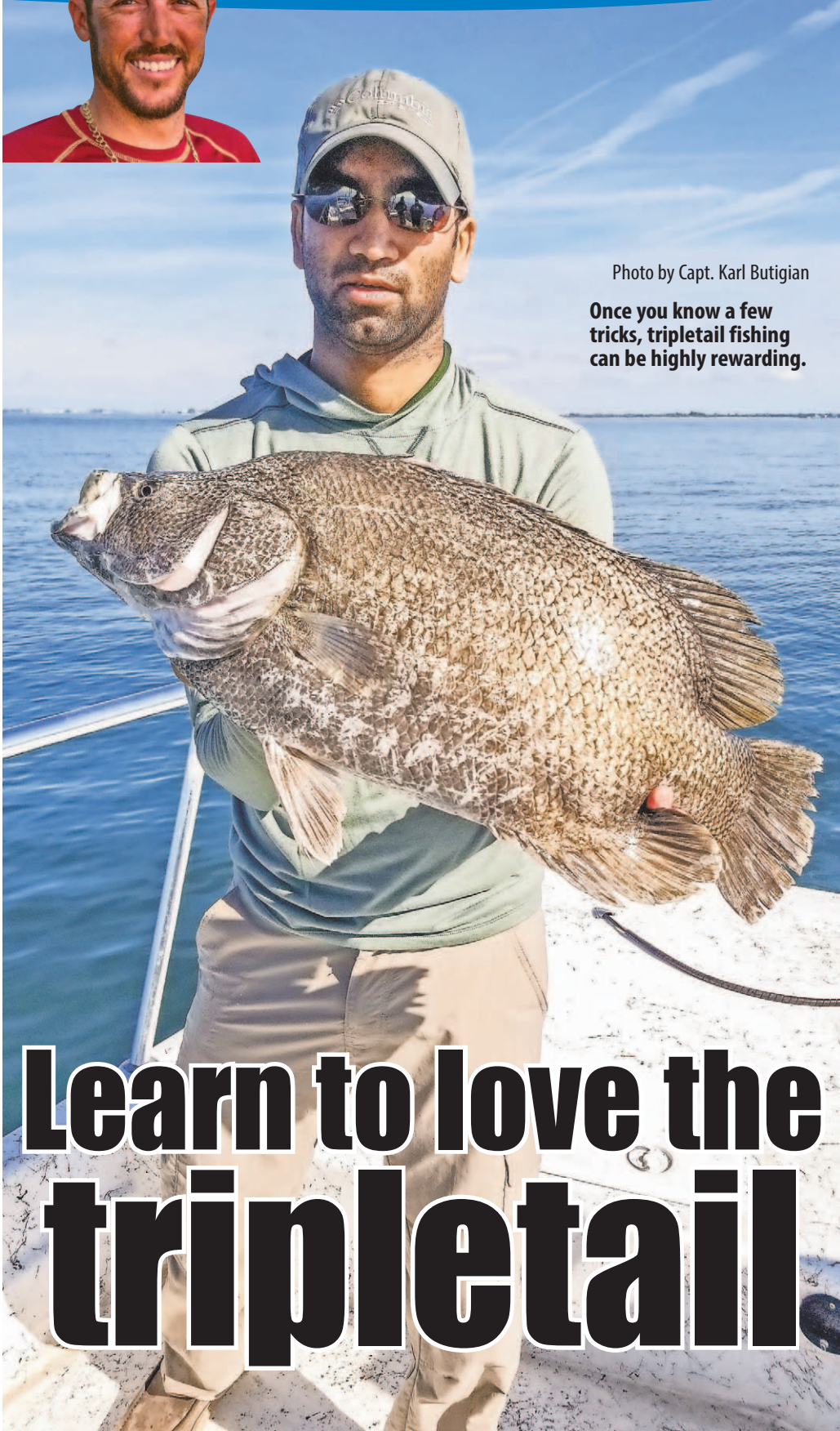


Photo by Capt. Karl Butigian

Once you know a few tricks, tripletail fishing can be highly rewarding.

Learn to love the tripletail.

With water temperatures dropping down to 75 degrees and stone crab traps getting put out in the Gulf, it's almost time for some fun tripletail fishing. Fishing for tripletail can be some of the best and most fun fishing of the year, because you're sight-casting to every fish.

When I head out for tripletail, I always make sure to have a few things on my boat. The first is a full gas tank, because I know sometimes I'll end up driving around a lot. Next is a well full of live shrimp. Tripletail love shrimp, so it's one of the best baits there is for them. Then, I check my stash of floats and make sure there's a bunch.

Tripletail like things that float in the water. Floating grass, debris, wood and even leaves will sometimes have fish under them, so of course they're drawn to crab trap markers. When you get out off the beaches where the trap lines are, you're going to see a lot of people running up and down past the floats. They're hunting for what looks like a brown paper bag floating just under the surface.

You don't have to run on plane to find these fish. A lot of the time, I just keep my trolling motor in the water and idle down the trap lines. That makes it a lot easier to actually catch tripletail because you're not running past them and scaring them, plus you don't have to worry about turning around to find them.

Once I find a trap with a fish or two under it, I figure out which way the current and wind will push me. Then I position the boat upcurrent of the fish so that I can cast my bait and let it float to them. It's important to let the current do the work here. I don't believe many shrimp are going to swim upcurrent toward a predator, so I keep it as natural as I can.

If I'm going for a natural presentation, why the float? Simple: I have seen a lot of tripletail abandon their crab trap marker to swim right under my float. Then they look down and there's a nice little snack for them. Don't be afraid to use an oversize float — it might actually help.

When I am fishing for tripletail, I only allow one angler to cast at the fish. With more people casting at the fish, there's a higher chance for a bad cast — you'll spook them if you cast too close. More

importantly, how many times have you ever seen a school of shrimp swimming along? One shrimp in the water is an opportunity. Two or more is weird.

A lot of people think that you need live shrimp to catch tripletail. Truth is, you don't. Actually, I prefer to use artificial baits. When I'm throwing fake stuff, I get on the back side of the current so that I can retrieve the bait to the fish — again, think about how bait moves with the water.

DOA Shrimp in the clear color are good. Out in the Gulf, the water is clearer than in the Harbor, so the shrimp are usually very pale, almost translucent. You can put this lure under a float if you want. What I like to do is free line them. I they don't hit it with a slow retrieve. I'll reel it up to the fish and then stop. If you see that fish follow you bait down deep, get ready — it's about to go down.

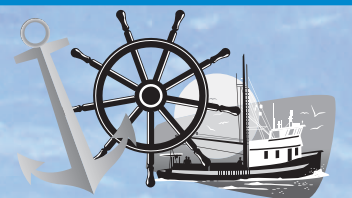
Strike King makes some paddletails and curly-tail grubs that work amazingly well on the tripletail. I use a white tail on a pink Rockport Rattler jighead pink (2/0 hook, eighth-ounce weight). Throw it past them and slowly reel it back, allowing the bait to get as close to the fish as possible. The curly-tail in particular really seems to get them fired up and makes them very aggressive.

No matter what you're using for bait, after hooking up on them it's game on. Tripletail fight hard and jump all over the place. They also like to run around the rope attaching the marker to the crab trap. If this happens to you, relax. Flip your reel's bail open and take your boat around the trap. Don't try to horse the fish around the rope; that will just get you a broken line.

Handle tripletail with care — they have a lot of sharp surfaces, including the gill covers. They're an excellent table fish, but please remember that the size limit is now an 18-inch minimum. Also, don't try to snag or free-net one. To stay legal, you have to use sporting hook-and-line methods. And now that you know how, get out there and have some fun with these fish.

Capt. Karl Butigian lives, breathes and eats Florida fishing. He owns and operates KB Back Country Charters (KBBackCountryChartersFishing.com) on the waters of Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. To book a trip or for info, call him at 941-565-7325.

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VABA photo

This group of birders is ready for whatever conditions the day may bring.

Ready for the field

BIRDING • ABBIE BANKS

It has been quite a few years since I have been to Oscar Scherer State Park on a birding trip. So I was excited to go on Deb Johnson's Venice Area Birding Association trip to Oscar.

Elsa Scherer Burrows left this 460-acre ranch to the state in memory of her father, Oscar Scherer. This large acreage was opened as a state park in 1956. Some years later, Jon Thaxton and The Nature Conservancy worked to acquire adjoining land for the protection of the Florida scrub jay population. What a wonderful area this is nestled along the busy U.S. 41 corridor. It is a must to visit and hike some of the 15 miles of beautiful trails.

Three cars of VABA members merged at the parking area near Lake Osprey. Our eagle-eyed leader Deb chose the three-mile green trail for us. Before we started on the hike, we sighted a little blue heron and a tri-colored heron feeding along the banks of the lake. Patty also spotted an eastern phoebe far across the field sitting on the back of a bench.

It was not long into the hike until we were sighting mourning doves, black and turkey vultures, and extremely far away sat a mature bald eagle high in a dead tree. We also spotted two immature eagles: One in the distance and one closer up. Deb sighted a female indigo bunting, which was a great spot of the morning.

There was a lot of bird song. We heard Carolina wrens, common yellowthroats and several eastern towhee. We even stopped to listen to several sandhill cranes calling. As we listened to them, several of us watched a silhouette flyover head which turned out to be an American kestrel.

We continued our hike searching the trees and sky. Up ahead we spotted a lump crawling across the path. We knew it was turtle but needed to get closer to see what type turtle was honoring us with a visit. Diane and I ran ahead and when we got to see the turtle we were pleasantly surprised to see it was a beautiful Florida box turtle.

The weather was cool and a bit breezy when we began our trek. However, when the sun came out and the shade became rare, it turned out to be another hot and a very humid Florida day. On days like this, I make certain to have a bottle of water with me and a simple snack.

Birders need to stay hydrated, especially in hot and humid areas like Florida. There are times when two bottles of water are

necessary, such as on longer hikes. If you are new to birding, make a checklist and be sure you have water on the list along with your binoculars and other needs. If you have forgotten water, perhaps a birding buddy who has brought two bottles will share with you. Staying hydrated is extremely important. Don't leave home without it.

I used to have a small single water bottle sack which deteriorated over the years and I am looking to find one just like it — maybe in an antique shop, since it was well over 25 years old. Since it's gone, I carry a sack with a mesh pocket on the exterior that a water bottle fits into perfectly.

I can carry the sack over my shoulder and head, swinging it around back to avoid interfering with my camera or binoculars. When I want a drink, I just reach around and grab the bottle. It's very convenient. My trail sack was free with a donation to the Nature Conservancy. It is heavy-duty cotton and very lightweight. I have gotten many birding sacks with donations over the years.

I also have a hiker's fanny pack. There are mesh pockets on each side that hold water bottles, and it has a zippered pouch to hold snacks, a cellphone and whatever else you need. Many sporting goods stores sell these types of fanny packs. I purchased mine at J.N.Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. I like to support the refuge stores of all the places I visit. Some of the group carry small lightweight backpacks instead. These can be found in almost any discount or big box store and are quite inexpensive.

We wandered down to a charming little bridge, and I had to document this mighty group of Amazons, hiking in 96 percent humidity without much complaining. On the final mile, we mostly sighted more of the same birds but we did get to see the newly built eagle's nest. As we exited the trail, we were anxious to get to brunch for much-needed sustenance and conversation.

Our thanks to Deb Johnson for a fun day with a great group and a wonderful experience at Oscar Scherer State Park. If any readers would like to join us for a future trip, just email me for info.

Abbie Banks is a member of the Venice Area Birding Association, a group of folks who want to enjoy the environment and nature without the cumbersome politics of an organized group. For more info on VABA or to be notified of upcoming birding trips, visit AbbiesWorld.org/references.html or email her at Amberina@aol.com.

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2002 Key West 1900 CC w/2002, 4 st, 115hp, and 2013, 9.9, 4 st, Yam motors, T-top, aluminum trailer, 3 swivel seats, \$13,500.00 941-483-6867



15' 2013 BOSTON WHALER 150 SS W/ MERCURY 60 HP 4 STROKE (174 HOURS)- OPTIONS: GALV. TRAILER, GARMIN GPS W/ FISH FINDER, STAINLESS STEEL ROD HOLDER, BIMINI TOP & MORE \$16,945 401-413-9647
TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



2006 Sea Ray 320 Sundancer w/ Merc. Horizon inboards (closed cooling) 490 hours very clean options: Gen, Air, colored hull, Garmin GPS & VHF, ex. Aft bimini, full cockpit enclosure & more \$72,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or
Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



17' SUNCAT Several To Choose From! Please Call Punta Gorda's Com-Pac Dealer 941-833-0099 or 941-639-2320



2008 Marquis 40 SC w/ Volvo IPS w/ joystick docking 435's only 285 hours: excellent quality & craftsmanship- Options: larger Volvo IPS, elec. Skylight, 13 KW Diesel Gen, RaymarineGPS-Radar, autopilot \$325,000 call Tim 401-413-9647 or
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19' 2016 SEA RAY 190 SPX W/ MERCURY 150 HP 4 STROKE 132 HOURS W/ TRAILER- ONE OWNER EXCEL/ CONDITION: OPTIONS: BOW & COCKPIT COVER, SONY STEREO, SKI PYLON, GAMIN ECHO COLOR GPS, BIMINI TOP \$32,945 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR
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2008 SEA RAY 185 Bowrider w/ Merc. 3.0 (135 hp) (255 hours) & trailer- excellent cond, inside stored, new exhaust manifold 2017, Options: trailer, blue gelcoat, bimini top, cockpit & bow cover, Garmin GPS- depth finder & more \$13,995 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



19' CAROLINA SKIFF DLX, Impeccably maintained throughout. 285 HP Yamaha w/285 hours, Always Flushed after each use. Tires on 4wheel Trailer don't look like they have been used! Bimini Top, Power Pole, All NEW Cushions! Shown by Appointment in Port Charlotte. Skip Mansfield 941-769-0468 (Bkr)



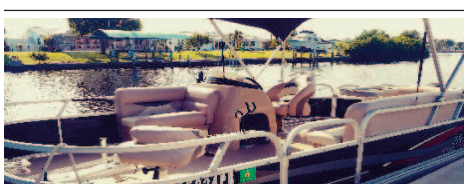
2014 Avalon Pontoon 2785 EL AMBASSADOR w/ Honda 250 hp 4 stroke(150 hours) & trailer. Options: Sports arch, cockpit refridge, inverter, dual batteries, Garmin GPS & VHF, Jensen premier stereo & more \$62,895 call Tom 941-244-4792 or
tom.healey@marinemax.com



1988 PACIFIC SEACRAFT DANA 24. SHE HAS A YANMAR DIESEL, GOOD SAILS, READY TO CRUISE..... \$46,900.00. CALL ED @ PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS 941 833 0099 OR CELL 941 628 0167



2014 Boston Whaler 27 Vantage dual console w/ T-Merc. 225 hp Verados only 90 hours- exc. Condition- options hard top, windlass, 12" Garmin GPS-FF weather curtain enclosure, Cockpit refrig., Bow & cockpit cover & more \$139,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



20'-2014 TRACKER PONTOON BOAT with trolling motor, DF/GPS, w/ 60 HP Mercury Big foot. No trailer. Ex, Cond. \$16,000 540-223-7842



2015 BOSTON WHALER 27 VANTAGE T- MERCURY 225 HP VERADOS (64 HOURS) EXCELLENT CONDITION: OPTIONS: HARD TOP, COCKPIT & BOW CVR., FISH PKG., WINDLASS, GARMAN 12" GPS-VHF, FUSION STEREO -TURN KEY \$159,915 CALL ROB 941-313-2184 OR
ROB.BIRCHFIELD@MARINEMAX.COM

WaterLine WEEKLY MAGAZINE
Got a boat to sell?
Call 941-429-3110



2016 BOSTON WHALER 345 CONQUEST W/TRIPE MERC. WHITE 350 VERADOS W/ JOY STICK DOCKING - LOADED: PLATINUM PAINTED HULL, T- SIMARD 12" SCREENS GPS-RADAR-AUTOPILOT, COCKPIT AIR, OUTRIGGERS, AFT SUN SHADE, PREMIUM STEREO & MUCH MORE \$419,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR
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READY TO LIST YOUR BOAT? 941-429-3110

New boat time

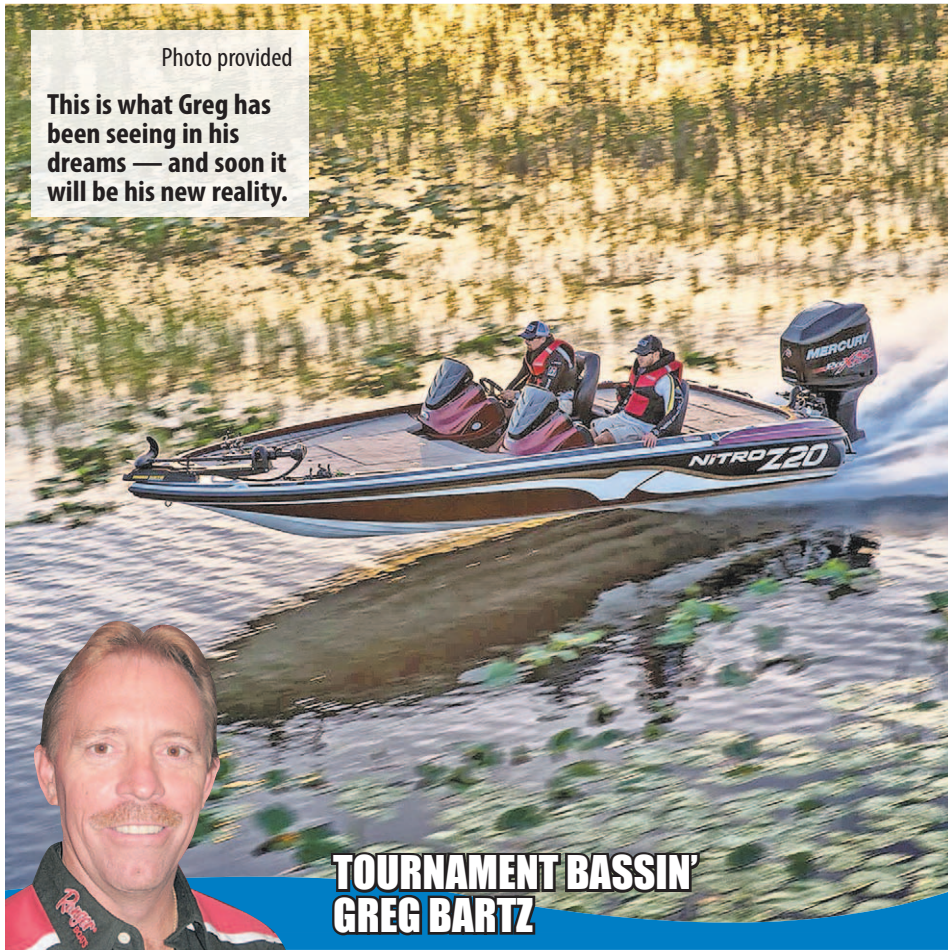


Photo provided
This is what Greg has been seeing in his dreams — and soon it will be his new reality.

TOURNAMENT BASSIN' GREG BARTZ

For the past year and a half, I have been on the fence about whether to buy a new boat or to hang on to the boat I have and simply repair and replace things as I go. I love my boat. It's a 22-foot Ranger with a 250-hp Mercury on the back, and it's never stranded me as long as I have owned it. But sometimes, you know it's just time to go new.

In the past, I have written a few times about possibly selling my boat. For one reason or another, the timing never seemed right. Something would come up: Selling our rental house, getting a new vehicle, maintenance at the house we live in, almost cutting my thumb off, and so on. There was always something that derailed my plans going forward that made me pull back and stay with my current boat.

When most people decide to get a new boat, it's usually because they're no longer happy with their current boat. That couldn't be further from the truth for me. My big Ranger runs great in heavy winds and rough water. I love the boat for that reason. Outside of normal maintenance and wear on the boat and the motor, I haven't had any issues with it.

So why get rid of it now? Well, here's the truth: I'm not getting any younger, and I've always wanted to buy a brand-new bass boat.

Today's boat buyer has so many options. You can pick the size boat that fits you, the motor size and sometimes brand you prefer, your favorite brand of electronics and where you want all of them mounted, trolling motor and size, your pole anchors (either Talon or Power-Pole) — even your own color scheme. Are you kidding me? It might force me to get a new truck just to make everything look "cool" as I roll down the highway, but hey, why not? It might be the last time I can pull this off before I retire.

I have settled on a fairly reasonable number for my big Ranger. I am listing it for \$10,400. My goal is to have it up on Bass-

Boats4Sale.com before the day is out and see what kind of interest it will draw. It needs carpet and new upholstery. But the battery chargers, batteries, power steering cylinder, aerators and alternator are all new this past year. It has a 9-inch side-scan Humminbird and a 36-volt Minn-Kota trolling motor.

According to the book numbers on it, in fair condition, it should be able to draw a little over \$14,000. But right now, I would prefer to simply get it moved because I have a window where by putting in my order for the new boat, it will take six weeks for it to be built, rigged and delivered. After our Classic tournament is over for our club, I have exactly eight weeks to get that new boat ordered and delivered. So it is more important to me to move my current boat and make room for the new one.

What am I looking to buy? Well, I have become enamored with the new Nitro boats. I am looking at a 20-footer with dual consoles and a 225-hp four-stroke Mercury. I am leery about going down in hull length because I've been spoiled by my Ranger, but from all accounts, the ride between the 20- and 21-foot boats is not that different. So I decided to go with the 20-footer with pro package rigging. I won't scare you with the price of this new rig — but like I said, my window of opportunity is now, so I am going to take advantage of it while I can.

So finally, the decision has been made and I am definitely moving on to a new boat. I am excited to get it, but I plan to finish my season off strong in my current boat and send her to a new home with one last first-place finish under her belt. That's the plan, anyhow. I just need the bass to cooperate. But considering where we're fishing, I feel pretty good about my chances to do that.

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

SCAMPI FOR TWO

- 12 jumbo shrimp
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp butter
- 2 tsp finely chopped shallots
- 4 cloves of fresh garlic, finely chopped
- 1 lemon, squeezed
- 4 oz sherry
- 4 oz brandy
- Salt and pepper to taste

Peel and devein shrimp, leaving tails intact for presentation. In a medium pan, sauté olive oil, butter, and garlic for about 1 minute. Add shallots and shrimp and sauté for another 2 minutes on each side of shrimp. Flame with brandy. Add sherry and sauté for about 2 more minutes. Serve over rice or your favorite pasta. Serves 2.

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



— Recipe from FishEx.com

BOATERS' BARGAINS



SOLD
2016 SEA RAY 290 SUNDECK OUTBOARD W/TWIN 250 MERCURY VERADOS WITH JOYSTICK PILOTING (210 HOURS) RAYMARINE GPS, VHF SEADEK, INFINITY FLOORING, TRANSOM SUNPAD PUMP-OUT HEAD COCKPIT AND BOW COVERS DOCKING LIGHTS AND MORE... \$145,950 CALL MARINEMAX VENICE 941-485-3388



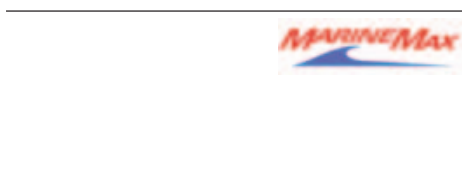
22' 2013 Sea Ray 220 SunDeck w/ Merc. 260hp -190 hours- new exhaust risers/ manifolds- options: 2 tone hull sides, cockpit & bow cover, fresh water shower, fresh detail ready to go \$31,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



2016 STINGRAY 191C with only 30 Hours on a Yamaha 115hp 4 stroke outboard. Bimini, Chartplotter and much more. Lift kept beauty. \$25,000 Call Rick's cell 845-234-5170 at PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS



22' 2016 CROWNLINE 22 ECLIPSE E2XS W/ YAMAHA 150 HP 4 STROKE, ENCLOSED HEAD W/ SINK, POLK AUDIO STEREO, LED LIGHTING, TEAK LOOK SOFT DECKING, SKI PYLON & MORE \$47,895 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



2017 Boston Whaler 170 Dauntless w/ 90 hp Merc. 4s- like new 22 hours, trailer, bimini top, Garmin GPS, bow cushion, SS rubrail & more. \$37,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com



22' Fun Deck Hurricane 1992 with 1999 Yamaha 200HP Motor & Rocket Trailer \$3800
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2017 BOSTON WHALER 23 VANTAGE DUAL CONSOLE W/ WHITE MERC 350 HP- LIKE NEW- LOADED W/ OPTIONS: C HARD TOP, WINDLASS, VACU FLUSH HEAD, FISH PKG, COCKPIT & BOW COVER, 12 RAYMARINE GPS- VHF & MORE \$ 124K CALL TIM 941-244-4790 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



22.5' 1991 SEARAY Bowrider w/trailer, NEVER IN SALT WATER, This family owned fresh water boat is in amazing condition. Boasting a 7.4 liter, 454 cid Bravo engine that has been serviced regularly. This vessel has been kept at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, always under cover, and is now garaged in Punta Gorda. \$11,000 727-492-2659



2018 BOSTON WHALER 32 VANTAGE (DUAL CONSOLE) W/ TWIN MERC. WHITE 350 VERADOS 150 HOURS - LOADED- JOY STICK DOCKING, HORIZON BLUE HULL COLOR, RETRACT. AFT SUN SHADE, FISH PKG, PREMIUM AUDIO, 16" RAYMARINE GPS/VHF & MORE \$ 359,950 CALL MARINEMAX 941-485-3388



22' 1999 Lowe Triton SunCruiser Pontoon with brand new Bimini Top 1999 Johnson 50 HP Outboard Motor. With Single Axle Trailer \$6,000.
Crystal Cay Center 941-639-6603 WWW.CRYSTALCAY.COM 4225 Taylor Road, PG



2018 SEA RAY 260 SUNDANCER W/ MERC. 6.2 MPI- LIKE NEW OPTIONS: GENERATOR, AIR, WINDLASS, SPORT ARCH, SIMRAD GPS-RADAR-FISH FINDER LOADED. \$119,950 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



23' 1998 Aquasport Walkaround 2004 Yamaha 300 H.P. 2017 Aluminum Tandem Trailer with brakes. Above average condition boat, loaded w/electronics. Great family fishing & cruising boat. See full details & virtual water test video @ 17Marinell.com 941-575-4835



21' 2016 BOSTON WHALER 210 DAUNTLESS W/ 200 HP MERC. PRO (49 HOURS) VERADO- PERFECT SPORT UTILITY- ONE OWNER OPTIONS: UPGRADED 200 VERADO PRO, POWDER COATED T-TOP, COLORED HULL, 12" GARMIN GPS, FUSION STEREO, BOW CUSHIONS, FRESH WATER SHOWER & MORE... \$64,545 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM



23' 2003 CAPE CRAFT- W/ 2 STROKE MERCURY SWSERIES. 2010 TANDEM AXLE TRAILER (BUNK), COMPARTMENTS FOR HEAD & STORAGE, 3 STORAGE COMPARTMENTS WORKING LIGHTS, ANCHOR W/ 300' LINE AND BALL RETRIEVER, 5/2018 UPGRADES! NEW CANVAS ON T-TOP, RE-UPHOLSTERED SEATS, 2 NEW BATTERIES, LIVE WELL PUMP, GARMIN CHART PLOTTER & FISH FINDER, BILGE PUMP, THERMOSTAT, TRIM TABS & MOTOR TRIM & MORE! \$10,500. 941-315-0708



21' Ebbtide Deck Boat 2000, Volvo 5.0 Engine just rebuilt only 1 hour running time Boat \$9,995 Trailer \$1,580



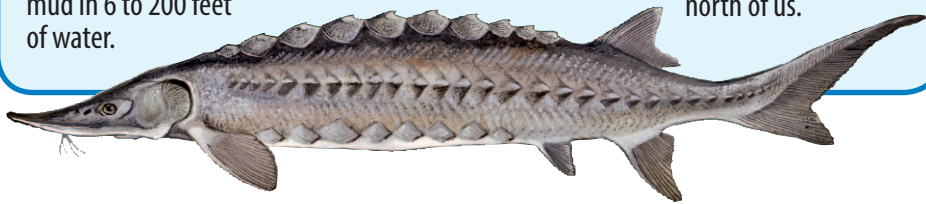
24' Bayliner 2455 Ciera Sunbridge, Chevy 350 Mag, 315 HP Electronic Fuel injected "No Trailer" \$6,000.00

Crystal Cay Center 941-639-6603 WWW.CRYSTALCAY.COM 4225 Taylor Road, PG
READY TO LIST YOUR BOAT? 941-429-3110

FISH PROFILE • GULF STURGEON

SIZE LIMIT: n/a
BAG LIMIT (per harvester per day): Harvest prohibited
LOCAL AVERAGE SIZE: Historically, 10 to 100 lb
MAXIMUM SIZE: About 220 pounds
FOOD VALUE: Probably good.
HABITAT: Adults spawn in large rivers and the young grow up there, then move out into estuaries and finally the open sea, where they are found over sand or mud in 6 to 200 feet of water.

LEGAL METHODS: Pole and line or rod and reel only; must be released immediately.
FISHING TIPS: Sturgeon are rarely targeted but are sometimes caught by fishermen using shrimp, crabs or pieces of cut fish on the bottom.
NOTES: Gulf sturgeon are native to the Charlotte Harbor region but are not currently known to be living here. They are most abundant in the Suwannee River system, approximately 150 miles to the north of us.



BLACKENED BLACK DRUM

- 2 tbsp paprika
- 1 tbsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp ground white pepper
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp celery seed
- 1 tsp kosher salt, or to taste
- 2 pounds black drum filets
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges
- 4 slices white bread
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

A clip-n-save seafood recipe provided by



— Adapted from AllRecipes.com

In a small bowl or jar with a lid, make the spice blend. Mix together the paprika, onion powder, garlic powder, white pepper, black pepper, cayenne pepper, oregano, thyme, celery seed and kosher salt. Coat the fish filets with the spice mixture, and allow to sit at room temperature for no longer than 30 minutes. Heat a cast iron skillet over high heat. Add oil and heat until it is almost smoking. Place the filets in the pan, and cook for about 3 minutes per side, or until fish is opaque and can be flaked with a fork. Remove from the pan, and place onto slices of white bread. Pour pan juices over them and squeeze lemon juice all over. Do not underestimate the white bread. It gets quite tasty soaking up all the juices. Serves 4.

LOCAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

- SARASOTA POWER SQUADRON — 941-400-6467**
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 9 a.m. Nov. 3
 Marine Radar 7 p.m. Nov. 29
- VENICE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-408-8591**
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 8:30 a.m. Nov. 17
- PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON — 941-637-0766**
 How To Use A Chart 8:30 a.m. Dec. 1
 Using GPS..... 1 p.m. Dec. 1
 America's Boating Course (8 hr)..... 9 a.m. Dec. 8
- CAPE CORAL POWER SQUADRON — 239-549-9754**
 America's Boating Course (12 hr)..... 7 p.m. Nov. 12

— Provided by Ron Jones

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

PROGRAM	START DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
About Boating Safely	Nov. 10	Cape Coral	724-681-2878
Weekend Navigator	Nov. 12	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
Suddenly in Command	Nov. 15	Venice	941-492-5904
About Boating Safely	Nov. 17	Fort Myers	734-626-0261
About Boating Safely	Nov. 24	Punta Gorda	941-639-3811
GPS for Mariners	Nov. 26	Venice	941-492-5904

— Provided by Dave Nielsen

THE CAPTAIN SCHOOL

PROGRAM	START DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Call for upcoming classes			239-549-0271

— Provided by Jack Sanzalone

BOATERS' BARGAINS

25' GS 249 Glastron 2001, Bimini & Side Curtains, 250 HP Volvo V-8 Low Hours. GPS. No Trailer \$11,950

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 4225 Taylor Road, PG

31.5' 2015 BOSTON WHALER 315 CONQUEST w/ WHITE MERCURY VERADO 4 STROKES & JOY STICK PILOTING. (215 HOURS) ONE OWNER, INSIDE STORED. OPTIONS: KOHLER GENSET, COCKPIT AIR, T-12" SIM-RAD GPS-RADAR- FF, CANVAS ENCLOSURE, UNDERWATER LIGHTS, & MORE. \$264,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM

26' 1998 Bayliner Ciera 2655 Rebuilt 5.7 V-8 Mercruiser Low Hours. New canvas & upholstery. No Trailer \$15,900.

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 4225 Taylor Road, PG

31' 2012 Sea Ray 310 Sundancer w/ T- Merc. 5.0 MPI's (180 hours) axis/ joy stick docking. Major B service & prof. detail 8/18- Options: Gen., air cond., windlass, Raymarine GPS- VFH, auto pilot, cockpit grill & fridge, cockpit cover & more.. turn key **SOLD call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com**

26' Sportcraft 2001 w/Hardtop. Twin Merc 150 Optimax New Canvas & Batteries. \$18,900 Alum Trailer \$1,500 Extra

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33' 2010 SEA RAY 330 SUNDANCER W/T- MERC. 350 MAGS W/ AXIUS JOYSTICK DOCKING, AIR, GEN, FULL EISEN-GLASS COCKPIT ENCLOSURE, WINDLASS, SUNPAD, SEA DECK FLOORING, CUSTOM CANVAS COCKPIT COVER & MORE \$ 129,945 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM

REDUCED!
27' Grady White 1995, 272 Sailfish. Yamaha twin 200 HP Outboards. 2009 Rocket aluminum trailer ~~\$27,900~~ \$25,900.

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34.5' 2015 BOSTON WHALER 345 CONQUEST W/ TRIPLE MERCURY 250 HP VERADOS- BOW THRUSTER, BAIT STATION WITH ELECTRIC GRILL, HELM AIR CONDITIONING, FULL STRATA-GLASS BRIDGE ENCLOSURE, GENERATOR & MUCH MORE \$ 339,845 CALL TIM 401-413-9647 OR TIM.BLANCHARD@MARINEMAX.COM

29' Bayliner Avanti Series 1989 Yamaha Twin 200 HP Out Boards NO TRAILER! \$14,900

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39' - 2008 CRUISER SPORTS COUPE TWIN VOLVO DIESELS, DIESEL GENERATOR, 2 AC SYSTEMS (ONE IN COCKPIT), A MUST SEE CALL SHELLI 941-662 7951 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS

30.6' 2014 GRADY WHITE 306 CANYON center console w/ T Yamaha 300 hp (only 206 hours) under war. & custom trailer: One owner, very clean & well equipped options: T-top, twin Garmin 12" screens, VHF, stereo, windlass, bow filler cushions, enclosed head & more ..\$168,950 call Jeremy 941-376-3345 or Jeremy.bradshaw@marinemax.com

39' 2016 CONTENDER 39 CENTER CONSOLE W/ TRIP. YAMAHA 300'S ONLY 109 HOURS- ONE OWNER EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAN & FAST. SHE IS CONTENTER'S FLAGSHIP A SERIOUS FISHERMAN'S DREAM. LOADED W/ OPTIONS: SEA KEEP GYRO, T-GARMIN 16" SCREENS, AUTO PILOT RADAR, TOO MANY TO LIST PRICED TO SELL \$ 369,950 CALL JEREMY 941-376-3345 OR JEREMY.BRADSHAW@MARINEMAX.COM

13' 2018 BOSTON WHALER 13 SUPER SPORT W/ 40 HP MERC. "LIKE NEW"- THE UNSINKABLE LEGEND- OPTIONS: BIMINI TOP, CUSTOM CAPTAIN SEATS- ALL COAST GUARD EQUIPMENT INCLUDED & FULL DETAIL \$15,995 CALL TOM 941-244-4792

40' 1997 SEA RAY SUNDANCER, Twin 350HP Inboard Caterpillar Turbo Diesel engines and much more at \$140K CALL SHELLI 941-662-7951 PUNTA GORDA YACHT BROKERS

31' Larson 310 Cabrio 1996, with Enclosure, Bimini & New GPS.Twin 5.7 Mercruiser W/Alpha 1 Gen II Drives \$18,900. No Trailer available!

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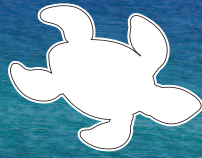
12' Achilles Model 340 Inflatable Boat, Fiberglass Bottom. Very Good Condition. Foot Pump, Rated to 30HP \$600. AVAILABLE: 6 HP Suzuki 4 Stroke Motor. Brand New, Never Started! 6 Year Warranty. With Boat \$2,100. 312-656-6073

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All-Day



Nov 16th
The BLOCK Party
5-9pm



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