

# Charlotte Sun



**Pick of the Day**

2006 Buick Lucerne, 44K, \$11,800

In Today's Classifieds!



## BALLOONS, SPIRITS SOAR

Big balloons soared along with the crowd's spirits at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. THE WIRE PAGE 1

## DEMOCRATS DISTANT

Many Democrats in Congress are distancing themselves from Obama after the disastrous rollout of his health care overhaul. THE WIRE PAGE 1



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### SIDE DISH

## This crab house feels like home

Every day, thousands drive by a small house on U.S. 17, a couple miles east of downtown Punta Gorda.

They may not notice the wood front porch where a green parrot named Gaspar greets guests, "Hello." They may not notice the picnic table out front, and they probably don't see the large deck in the back of the 1920s house.

They might notice the house because of all the cars parked around it (too many for a normal house). And as they start to pass it, they may spot the sign out front and say, "Oh, that's Peace River Seafood."

Stop the car ... but not immediately. You don't want to cause a pileup. Instead, carefully make a U-turn and safely pull into Peace River Seafood for lunch or dinner.

Peace River Seafood is one of the reasons you moved here. It's a local, one-of-a-kind crab house you don't find in Ohio, Iowa or Pennsylvania. It's a sit in your shorts, outside at a picnic table, in the winter kind of place (and then take a photo, email it or post it on social media, and rub it in to your northern friends whose toes won't warm until May).

The staff is as friendly as expected at a southern crab house, where they care for you as if you were a guest in their own home. And, in a way, you are just that — especially when you eat inside like I did on a recent windy day.

Kaitlyn Legg welcomed me to a table nestled in a corner next to a fireplace in a room that likely once served as a living room, sitting room or parlor (whatever you like to call it). It's not a large room, but enough for about a dozen or so to eat comfortably. There's another room between the parlor (I feel fancy saying "parlor") and the back deck area for additional indoor seating.

You immediately feel at ease, just as you might at a grandma's or an aunt's house where conversations in the kitchen and among staff (like family members) drift into the parlor.

The interior is filled with nautical-themed items including my favorite sign, "Quit-cher crabbin'." I also liked the clever boat-turned-shelves that holds condiments. Amid the crab wine bottle holder and numerous crab sculptures are hundreds of signed one-dollar bills, which started after owner Kelley Beall remarked "if I had a dollar bill, I'd be a millionaire" for every time a guest announced they come from Maryland, a state known for its crabs.

While Peace River Seafood has the feel of grandma's house (if she had a thing for crabs), don't expect grandma's fine china. You will be served with disposable plates, bowls and cups, which didn't bother me (since I once ate crawfish out of a plastic bag in a woman's yard in Jamaica).

As much as I love the homey ambiance, let's face it: People come here for food — especially the blue crabs and stone crabs (when in season). Lately, Peace River Seafood has been offering \$20 for all-you-can-eat blue crabs, which filled many tables during my recent visit.

This is where I make a confession: I don't like getting dirty while I eat in public. I usually eat ribs with a fork. I rarely eat corn on the cob outside my house. Kaitlyn helped guide me through the menu until I selected the crab cakes, which may be the best way to try blue crab meat and do so in a clean way.

First of all, these crab cakes are so large they should be served with candles for birthdays. Second, they tasted even better than they looked. I ate too much to order dessert, but I'd like to during my next visit to Peace River Seafood, 5337 Duncan Road (U.S. 17).

Christy Feinberg is a senior writer/columnist for the Sun. You can email her at cfeinberg@sun-herald.com.



Christy FEINBERG  
COLUMNIST

# Giving thanks, SHARING BLESSINGS



SUN PHOTO BY SCOTT LOCKWOOD

Englewood resident Bob Cizek feeds a spoonful of dressing to his 6-month-old granddaughter, Laura Castro, at New Hope Community Church's Thanksgiving dinner Thursday afternoon in North Port.



SUN PHOTO BY CLINTON BURTON

Above: James Gerard Ahern of Englewood shows his appreciation for the kindness shown to him by Dena Browning and others at the annual free Thanksgiving meal provided by St. David's Episcopal Church at Indian Mound Park in Englewood Thursday. Once addicted to drugs and alcohol, Browning now serves as a peer mentor working to help others in need.



SUN PHOTO BY GARY ROBERTS

At right: Tina and Mark Corrie are among the homeless who shared a Thanksgiving meal at First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda, which also welcomed folks who live alone or wanted to spend time with friends. The church also delivered food to shut-ins.

## Community celebrates Thanksgiving

By GARY ROBERTS, SCOTT LOCKWOOD and CLINTON BURTON  
STAFF WRITERS

PUNTA GORDA — Like many families across the country, Mark and Tina Corrie are sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, giving thanks for their recent good fortune. There is the part-time job that Tina just found, her new pair of shoes and the bicycles they just received. And there is something more.

"We are very thankful because every morning we

get to breathe life," Tina Corrie said. "And I thank God for that."

But the Corries are different from most families. For the past eight years they have been homeless, living in a tent in the woods near the Bread of Life mission in Punta Gorda.

"Things have been pretty rough," said Corrie, who the previous night withstood temperatures in the low 40s. "Still, we're pretty blessed. We also got blessed with blankets today."

The gifts are from the

church they regularly attend, First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. But now they are at the Life Center of First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda, joining hundreds of others for roast turkey and all the trimmings at an event they discovered on their morning bike ride.

"This is incredible," said Chris Wilkens, a church member and event organizer. "Our waiting area is full and we have a line out the door. Oh, my gosh."

This is the 14th year First

United Methodist Church has hosted a Thanksgiving meal, and not just for the homeless. Folks who live alone or just want to be out are welcome to share in the feast.

"If they come, it's like sitting down at their dining room table. They eat with friends or new friends," said Wilkens, noting that last year more than 700 meals were served.

And it's all thanks to Burnt Store Grille, which supplied

THANKS | 16

## Teacher scores become public record

By IAN ROSS  
STAFF WRITER

A recent state appeals court ruling declaring that teacher-effectiveness scores are a matter of public record has local school officials concerned.

Charlotte County Superintendent Doug Whittaker said the scores do not accurately represent teacher effectiveness, and if publicized could adversely affect the school system and demoralize educators.

Using the scores to compare teachers "would be

like ranking the doctors in Charlotte County based on the death rate of their patients. If you're a pediatrician, you're going to be in great shape. If you're a gerontologist, you're toast," Whittaker said earlier this week.

The scores are calculated with the Florida Department of Education's value-added model, a calculation that is supposed to determine a teacher's effectiveness by comparing students' Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test scores in a given year to their scores in other years.

However, Whittaker said

the scores derived from the DOE's model aren't valid because they rely on FCAT scores.

"The mathematical calculation and value-added formula is a good formula," Whittaker said, but applying it to "a test that has questionable validity (the FCAT) makes its calculation invalid."

Bryan Bouton, president of the Charlotte Florida Education Association — the local teachers union — said another problem with the value-added model's reliance on FCAT scores is the majority of teachers don't

teach a subject covered by the test. This, he said, means that most teachers' scores are based on students they didn't teach.

Bouton, who teaches TV production at Port Charlotte High School, explained that because his subject is not tested in FCAT, "my value-added score is based on the school's overall grade. So if all the English teachers and math teachers in PCHS do their job, then my score goes up."

The DOE's value-added

SCORES | 16

**CORRECTION:** The 24th Annual Lighted Boat Parade in Charlotte Harbor is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. A column in Sunday's paper contained the wrong date.





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COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Softball camp planned

Miss North Port Fastpitch Softball is sponsoring a softball camp for girls of all ages on Dec. 14 at the organization's softball fields, 7508 Glenallen Blvd., North Port. Camp for pitchers and catchers will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; position players and hitters, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guest pitching instructors will include 2005 Auburn pitcher Beth Depietro and current Jackson State University pitcher Brooke Carvey. For those who sign up before Sunday, the cost is \$35; afterward, it will be \$40.

Sign up at www.northportfastpitch.com. Registration includes instruction and a T-shirt for each player, and ends Thursday. Email Jeff Playter at missnorthportfastpitch@gmail.com for more info.

Coast Guard Auxiliary needs volunteers

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary needs volunteers. The Auxiliary is the volunteer arm of the U.S. Coast Guard and a member of the U.S. Homeland Security. The operational unit of the Auxiliary is the "Flotilla" where Coast Guard policies and programs are transformed

into action. The flotillas support the Coast Guard in all missions except military and direct law enforcement. In our area several flotillas provide support on and off the water from Venice to the south end of Pine Island including Charlotte Harbor, Myakka and Peace rivers. No special military, vessel-related or on-the-water experience is required to volunteer, just a desire to promote water safety and help save lives. Volunteers must be at least 17 years old, U.S. citizens, and live here year-round or seasonally. For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Dave Nielsen at 732-616-9016.

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

- Raul Alberto Rodriguez, 25, of Boundary Blvd., Rotonda West. Charge: driving while license is suspended or revoked. Bond: \$500.
- Cynthia Palestine Sheik, 33, 1600 block of Woodlawn Ave., Punta Gorda. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- Darnell Leval Powell, 42, 21500 block of Edgewater Drive, Punta Gorda. Charge: resisting an officer. Bond: \$1,000.
- Clifton Dewain McNealy, 35, 27000 block of Treadmill Drive, Punta Gorda. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license - third or subsequent offense. Bond: \$4,500.
- Cameron Lee Zimmerman, 25, 29200 block of Palm Shores Blvd., Punta Gorda. Charges: grand theft, burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, two counts of dealing in stolen property and two counts of altered ID to a secondhand dealer under \$300. Bond: none.
- Erik Nathan Pruitt, 28, 6800 block of Bernadean Blvd., Punta Gorda. Charges: petty theft and uttering altered bills, checks, drafts or notes. Bond: \$3,000.
- Michael L. Kasankiewicz, 45, 700 block of Aqui Esta Drive, Punta Gorda. Charges: two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$6,000.
- Christopher Brian Daniels, 43, 4000 block of Higbee St., Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of an injunction. Bond: none.
- Patricia Ann Hamilton, 51, 3300 block of Pinetree St., Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation

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.

- (original charge: false owner information of pawned items less than \$300). Bond: none.
- Amy Louise-Sigrid Groover, 26, 21100 block of Bersell Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: battery. Bond: none.
- Ricardo O'Neil Smith, 34, homeless of Port Charlotte. Charge: violation of probation (original charge: battery). Bond: none.
- Christopher David Wilson, 25, 4000 block of Higbee St., Port Charlotte. Charges: four counts of violation of probation (original charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license). Bond: none.
- Douglas Scott Hartt, 44, 2000 block of Hyatt Drive, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$3,000.
- Stephen Henry Gaebel, 22, 23300 block of Farnam St., Port Charlotte. Charges: grand theft of a controlled substance and petty theft. Bond: \$3,000.
- Jason Kenroy Edwards, 29, 400 block of Blarney St., Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$2,000.
- Joe Ogden, 81, of North Fort Myers. Charge: exposure of sexual organs. Bond: \$1,000.
- John Donald McCauley, 61, of Myakka City. Charge: failure to appear (original charge: trespassing). Bond: \$4,000.
- Calla Levi Gerow, 68, of Lake Worth. Charge: failure to appear (original charge: driving without motor vehicle registration). Bond: \$6,000.
- Rogelio Almeyda Sosa, 60, of Kissimmee, Fla. Charges: grand theft; grand theft of a motor vehicle; nine counts of uttering altered bills, checks, drafts or notes; and uttering forged instrument. Bond: \$75,000.
- David Anthony Lighthall, 49, of Estero. Charges: possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$3,500.
- Amy Beth Alderman, 44, 2000 block of Arkansas Ave., Englewood. Charge: DUI. Bond: \$750.
- Keith William Tataryck, 28, 2000 block of Wisconsin Ave., Englewood. Charge: two counts of violation of probation (original charges: trespassing and failure to appear). Bond: none.
- Christopher George Montgomery, 21, 1500 block of SW Holiday St., Arcadia. Charge: violation of probation (original charges: burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, grand theft and failure to appear). Bond: none.
- Amanda Rae Vinton, 24, 21400 block of Meehan Ave., Port Charlotte. Charge: DUI. Bond: \$750.
- William Kyle Campbell, 20, 100 block of Dow Road, Port Charlotte. Charges: possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond: \$2,000.
- Katherine Anne Rosa, 30, of Oakland, Calif. Charges: battery, disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer. Bond: none.

— Compiled by Gary Roberts

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RV Merchandising: Doing it right for 37 years

Ten years ago, Ralph Sink found a solid, family-owned business, bought it and built on it. And that's why RV Merchandising Inc. soon will celebrate its 37th year in business. "I think it's more the personal touch," Sink said of his success. "We're not a big company. I don't sell new units — my business is repairing them. I have more of a personal relationship with my customer than the big companies do, because they're in the business of selling. I'm in the business of repairing." "One of the things that has changed is that we have a Florida dealer's license now," Sink said. "I can go to an auction

and buy a motor home and sell it to somebody a whole lot cheaper than the big companies do." "I'm really particular about what I take in", Sink said, "I don't take junk. I don't sell junk. When it leaves here. I want the folks who bought it to be happy when they're camping." Giving his customers special care has helped keep him in business. "If you take something in for a little-bitty job, they charge you a minimum of an hour. I don't. If it only takes a quarter-hour, we only charge a quarter-hour. And the customers appreciate that."

The reputation of RV Merchandising is hugely important to Sink. "Word of mouth is my biggest asset. Right now, I'm trying to maintain what we've got and keep the integrity that we've got. My turnaround time for parts is a day or two, not two weeks. And that's a big help. I want to keep the reputation going that we're honest and do a good job — we care about our customers." Before buying RV Merchandising, Sink worked for 15 years as a manager with Ferrell Gas in Louisiana and Florida. During that time Sink met the previous owners and found out they were retiring. "They wanted to sell," Sink said.

"It's always been a small, family-owned business and they wanted to keep it that way." Sink said his business does work on insurance claims, rebuilding roofs, body work and all sorts of interior jobs. They also do axles, including bearings, brakes and seals, and install hitches and base plates for towing a car behind an RV. In addition to repairs, Sink also sells propane tanks to be filled for grilling or heating. "We're all about the quality of the work we do," he says. "It's got to be right."



Reprint from 2012 Guide to the RV Lifestyle

**OBITUARIES**

**CHARLOTTE**

**Daniel K. Adams**

Daniel K. "Dan" Adams, 61, of Port Charlotte, Fla., passed away Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013.



He was the son of Carl and Miriam (nee Hunn) Adams, born April 5, 1952 in Wabash, Ind.

Dan graduated from T-M High School class of 1970 in Trotwood, Ohio, and earned his Bachelor's at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, class of '74. He married his high school sweetheart, Joy Erbaugh, June 17, 1972, in Dayton, Ohio. Dan was the former Vice President of Adams Bros. Cabinetry.

Dan will be greatly missed by his wife, Joy; moms, Miriam Adams and Katherine Erbaugh; children, Matthew (Tara) Adams, Kara (Curt) Bennett, Jonathan (Rebecca) Adams and Kelsey (Alan) Veitengruber; siblings, Susan, Tim (Lois), John (Sue), Joel (Ann) and Mark; sister-in-law, Pam Adams; 10 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father; brother, Steve; father-in-law, Lowell "Bub" Erbaugh; niece, Megan Adams; and grandparents.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013, at First Alliance Church, Port Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bittersweet Ministries c/o Jody Dull, 4487 Crawford Tom's Run Road, Brookville, OH 45309 or Focus on the Family www.focusonthefamily.com. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.ltaylorfuneral.com and sign the online guest book.

**Elizabeth England O'Leary**

Elizabeth England "Betty" O'Leary, 83, of Punta Gorda, Fla., passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013, while vacationing with her family in Sarasota, Fla.

Betty retired as Aquatics Director at the Jewish Community Center in Williamsville, N.Y., and as a New York State Swim Official in 1985 at which time she and Jim O'Leary boarded their sailboat and continued to live aboard for the next 14 years until Jim's cancer diagnosis.

Betty is survived by her four children, David O'Leary and Alice McClenahan of New Orleans, La., Barbara Emerson of Tampa, Fla., and Sam O'Leary of Jacksonville, N.C.; seven grandchildren, Gordon, Jim and Brian O'Leary of New Orleans, Elizabeth O'Leary of Jacksonville, Allison and Chuck Emerson of Tampa and Kelley McClenahan of New Orleans; and two great-grandchildren, Conner and Vivienne O'Leary. She was preceded in death by her husband, James O'Leary.

A memorial service will be held at Emerald Pointe in Punta Gorda in February.

**Patricia M. Smith**

Patricia M. Smith, 73, of Punta Gorda, Fla., passed away Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, at her residence. Arrangements are by Paul Schelm Funeral Home in Lake Suzy, Fla.

**ENGLEWOOD, NORTH PORT, DESOTO**

No deaths were reported in Englewood, North Port or DeSoto Thursday.

# A time to remember

By **BARBARA BEAN-MELLINGER**  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

For most people, the holidays are joyous occasions to celebrate with family and friends. But for those who have lost a beloved family member, friend or pet, the holidays can be especially difficult.

"If the grief is fresh, holiday cheer can seem like an affront and celebrations may underscore how alone people feel," wrote Dr. Michael Miller, editor in chief of the Harvard Mental Health Letter.

Kays-Ponger and Uselton Funeral Home and Cremation Services is holding its annual Holiday Remembrance Service to help people who are grieving feel less alone. This year's

**IF YOU GO**

- Kays-Ponger and Uselton Funeral Home and Cremation Services annual Holiday Remembrance Service will be held Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Edison State College theater, 26300 Airport Road in Punta Gorda.
- Kays-Ponger and Uselton candlelight remembrance service in Englewood on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Green Street Church, 416 W. Green St. in Englewood. For more information, call 941-639-1133.

service will be held Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Edison State College theater.

Marcella Brown and other local musicians will perform at the service. Speakers will offer words of comfort and inspiration. The service's planners invited writers from the Peace River Center for

Writers to submit inspirational poems they have written. Three winners will share their poems during the service.

The remembrance service, which had been held for several years at the Cultural Center, was moved to Edison this year. Also new this year is the invitation to those who have suffered the loss of a pet, who many times are as beloved and as missed as human family members.

"The service is open to anyone in the community, not only to those we have served," said Stacy Jones, community relations director for Kays-Ponger and Uselton.

At the end of the service, butterflies will be released. Many people associate butterflies with life after death due to the

metamorphosis they undergo, and many believers testify to the appearance of butterflies after their loved one's death. Even for nonbelievers, they are a comfort and joy to watch.

Kays-Ponger and Uselton will hold another remembrance service in Englewood on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Green Street Church. It will be a candlelight service. Since it is a night service there will be no butterfly release.

Reservations are not necessary to attend either service. Edison State College is located at 26300 Airport Road in Punta Gorda. The Green Street Church is located at 416 W. Green St., in Englewood.

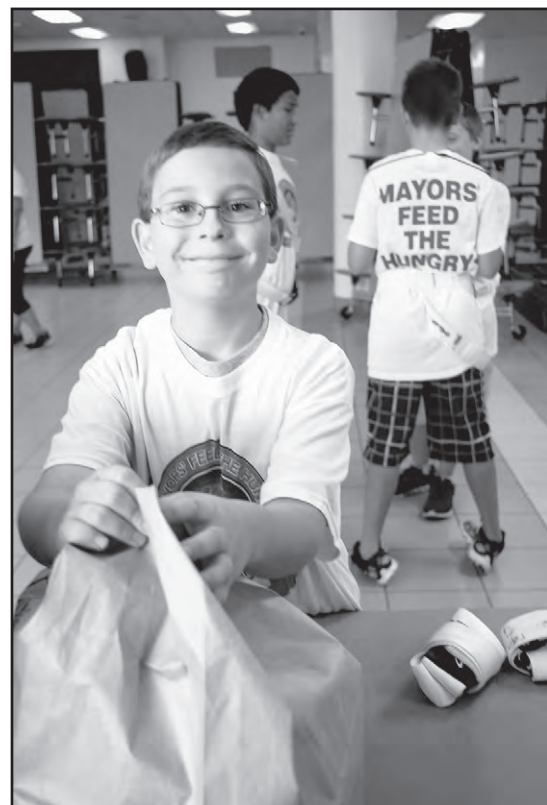
For more information, call 941-639-1133.

## Mayors Feed the Hungry helps 342 families



SUN PHOTOS BY CHEYENNE EMRICH

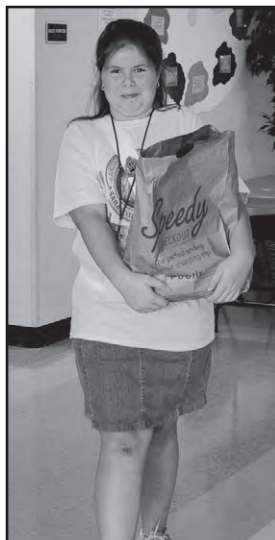
Distribution for the Mayors Feed the Hungry Thanksgiving food drive program was held Saturday at Cranberry Elementary School in North Port, helping 342 local families in need. Here, Kayla Hall, left, loads a turkey into a bag. She and Taylor Auer, 14, a North Port High School student, also volunteered, along with Crystalrae Street.



Cranberry Elementary fourth-grader Robbie Street, 9, smiles as he grabs a bag during the food distribution to 342 local needy families.



Friends Kortney Royer, Genesis Ripley and Haley Delpino, all 10, prepare to help whenever needed during Saturday's event, so North Port residents who might not otherwise have a Thanksgiving dinner wouldn't go without.



Cranberry Elementary School volunteer Woodrow Stewart, 11, loads a bag of food into a car.



From left, Tony Bellino, Joel Swallow, and Randy Carol and Eartha Pitts are the team behind the Mayors Feed the Hungry program, bringing the food to help North Port residents.



At left: Volunteers Carol Walters and Joan Allen work the check-in table Saturday during the Mayors Feed the Hungry food distribution for those in need.

At left: Payton Butsch, 10, a fifth-grader, carries out a bag of food during the Mayors Feed the Hungry giveaway Saturday.

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

In observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, all Charlotte County government business offices and Punta Gorda city offices will be closed today. Other local offices and services will be affected as well, including:

- County Administration Center: closed.
  - Charlotte County Utilities: Customer service will be closed; payments accepted by phone at 941-764-4300, or by electronic billing at www.charlottecountyfl.gov (select "Utilities" from the department list). Standby staff will be on call for utility emergencies at 941-764-4300.
  - Mini-Transfer facilities: Both the West Charlotte and Mid-County centers will be closed.
  - Charlotte County Landfill on Zemel Road: open today.
  - Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau offices: closed.
- Visitors with questions about things to do may call 800-652-6090, or visit www.charlotteharbortravel.com.
- Fire/EMS Headquarters will be closed; all other stations will be open.
  - Sunshine Ride: limited service for reserved services today.
  - Dial-A-Ride: open today.
  - Family Services Center: County government offices at the center will be closed.
  - Charlotte County library administration offices: closed.
  - Charlotte County libraries: closed.
  - Charlotte County Historical Center: closed.
  - Harold Avenue Recreation Center: open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.
  - South County Regional Park Recreation Center: closed.
  - Joseph A. Tringali Recreation Center: closed.
  - Community Services administration offices: closed.
  - Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center offices: closed.
  - Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center: closed.
  - J.M. Berlin/Rotary Skate Park at Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park: closed.
  - Captain Don Cerbone Memorial Skate Park at Carmalita Park: open.
  - Pools: closed.
  - Charlotte Sports Park offices: closed.
  - Charlotte County Sheriff's administration and district offices in Englewood, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda: closed; visitation hours at the Charlotte County Jail will not be affected.
  - Edison State College (including the Charlotte campus): closed. Classes and campus services resume regular hours Dec. 2.
  - Garbage collection for residents of Charlotte County will be as follows: Curbside collection service from Thanksgiving Day through the rest of the week moved one day later; Thursday collected Friday, Friday collected Saturday.
    - Residents and commercial customers of the city of Punta Gorda will not have a change in trash, yard-waste or curbside-recycling collections.
    - Cultural Center of Charlotte County: closed; open for only Thanksgiving dinner.

**SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSE, TRASH PICKUPS DELAYED FOR HOLIDAY**

Many City of North Port and Sarasota County government offices will be closed today for the Thanksgiving holiday. Some county services will be available.

For residents who live in both the city of North Port and unincorporated areas of the county whose regular collection day is Thursday, items will be collected today. For residents whose regular collection day is Friday, items will be collected Saturday.

Because collection times vary, residents should place refuse materials at the curb by 6 a.m. the day of pickup. Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) bus service resumes today.

Libraries will be open Saturday; city and other county offices will reopen Monday. Sarasota County schools and State College of Florida campuses are closed through today.

The North Port Salvation Army food pantry will be closed today, as will the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce office. The Morgan Family Community Center in North Port will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sarasota County's chemical collection centers at 8750 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, and 250 S. Jackson Road, Venice, will be closed today. The Citizen's Convenience Center at 4010 Knights Trail Road, Nokomis, will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today. All three centers will be open Saturday.

The landfill at 4000 Knights Trail Road, Sarasota, will be open today. The landfill administration offices will be closed today.

**JAMES W. MALLONEE, P.A.**  
LAW OFFICE  
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(941) 207-2223  
www.jameswmallonee.com  
(941) 206-2223





SUN PHOTOS BY AL HEMINGWAY

By shopping small Saturday, consumers can find that one-of-a-kind holiday gift or stocking stuffer at a reasonable price and donate to a good cause.

# Big reasons to shop small

By AL HEMINGWAY  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Before entering the Beach Cottage Gifts and Crafts shop in Englewood, a first-time customer might think it is small. Don't be fooled, however, because crammed inside that diminutive building are some real Florida treasures.

And what better time to browse for such unique gifts than on Saturday — Small Business Saturday — when shoppers can earn additional savings by doing that gift buying at any of the participating stores in the area.

Small Business Saturday, sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, was created by American Express in 2010 to raise awareness for the small-business owner in the U.S. during the busiest shopping weekend of the year.

Last year, consumers spent an estimated \$5.5 billion, according to American Express, and this year looks just as promising. By registering their American Express card, people can earn \$10 of statement credit for every \$10 or more they spend at a qualifying small business location Saturday.

Robin Phillips, owner of Beach Cottage Gifts and Crafts, said the small-business owners in Englewood put themselves on the map by offering the best prices possible.

"We know that people go to big-box stores this time of year," she said. "So, I try very hard to sell different items made by local craftsmen and artisans. Many people are on a budget, so many of my items are sold in the \$5 to \$20 range. We can satisfy any price range."

Phillips' boutique features more than 40 Florida artists — everything from jewelry to wood carvings to glassware. She is a participating store with American Express and also offers 20 percent off coupons for additional savings.

"I have hand-painted clothing by Donna Jones," she said, "plus, lots of other in-store specials. You'll find things here you won't find at Bealls. At my shop, expect the unexpected."

In addition to the sales offered by "brick and mortar" small shops, more than 30 merchants in Punta Gorda, North Port and Port Charlotte are participating in the Shop Local Discount Card that provides additional discounts for shoppers.

The program is sponsored by Transaction Point, and the cards are on sale for \$20, with \$18 of that donated to AMIkids Crossroads. AMIkids Crossroads is a local nonprofit organization whose goal is to ensure that foster-care boys are "unified with a loving forever family or have the tools to live independently by providing kids and potential placement families with an integrated continuum of care," according to their website.

The card will allow local merchants to establish loyalty rewards programs that will result



Many small shops in Punta Gorda, North Port and Port Charlotte offer additional savings with the Shop Local Discount Card.



The boondoggle, made from a single cabbage palm leaf by the Calusa Indians and Florida Crackers, were given as gifts to hang on front doors to bring good luck. They are made locally by Diana Joseph and are for sale at the Beach Cottage Gifts and Crafts shop.

in increased sales and, at the same time, educate shoppers about AMIkids Crossroads.

Shoppers in the market for health and beauty products that are affordable, made with natural ingredients, and make great gifts, should visit Lolablue. The North Port-based business was started by Jamie Lovern as a "one-woman show" and has mushroomed to a popular family-owned enterprise.

"This Saturday with every purchase we will give away free a travel-size soap sample," she said. "Customers can choose any scent as long as it is in stock. It's just a little treat to say thank you for coming in and shopping with us."

Closed during the week, Lolablue's warehouse is open on select Saturdays to the public. Her company offers fusion soaps, lip balms, perfume oils, travel-size soap, essential oils, and gift sets. Her products can be found in many spas, salons and boutiques in Charlotte County.

"All of our items are made locally," Lovern said, "with lots of love. This holiday season we will be offering many stocking stuffers and gift sets."

After visiting your favorite small business to buy those one-of-a-kind gifts, take a break and patronize one of the local eateries. In Punta Gorda, the newly opened Deena's Delectables not only serves up breakfast and lunch but many of the baked goods are made right on the premises.

Owner Deena Romer is one of the 30-plus

## GIFT IDEAS FROM SMALL BUSINESSES

**Beach Cottage Gifts and Crafts**  
198 Green St.  
Englewood  
941-214-0367  
Hand-painted shirt sets, \$49  
Hand-blown glass by Rich Fizer, \$28-\$130  
Handmade copper artwork by Al Delavega, \$20-\$70  
Pottery by Nanette Hopkins, \$10-\$69  
Woodcarvings by James Sears, \$60-\$250  
Ribbon necklaces, \$12 each, 2 for \$20

**Lolablue**  
1090 Innovation Ave.  
Suite A-112  
North Port  
941-564-9207  
Holiday Gift sets from \$10  
Peppermint Pyramid Gift Set, \$10  
Stocking Stuffers  
Lip balm, \$4  
Sugar scrubs, \$6  
Body whip lotion, \$6

**Deena's Delectables**  
122 Nesbit St. Unit 114  
Punta Gorda  
941-347-7608  
Chocolate Gift sets, \$6-\$28  
• For more information on the Shop Local Discount Card, visit www.transactionpoint.net/local.  
• For more information on registering for American Express card savings, visit www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small.  
— Compiled by Al Hemingway

businesses in Charlotte County that supports the Shop Local Discount Card to assist AMIkids Crossroads.

"We will be selling chocolate gift sets, chocolate-covered bonbons, chocolate-covered Oreos, chocolate-covered fortune cookies," she said. "We also sell our signature coffee cake, scones, cookies and brownies. They are all great Christmas gifts."

Romer is expanding her bakery and adding a refrigerated bakery case. There is a 10 percent discount on everything in the store for customers who show their discount card.

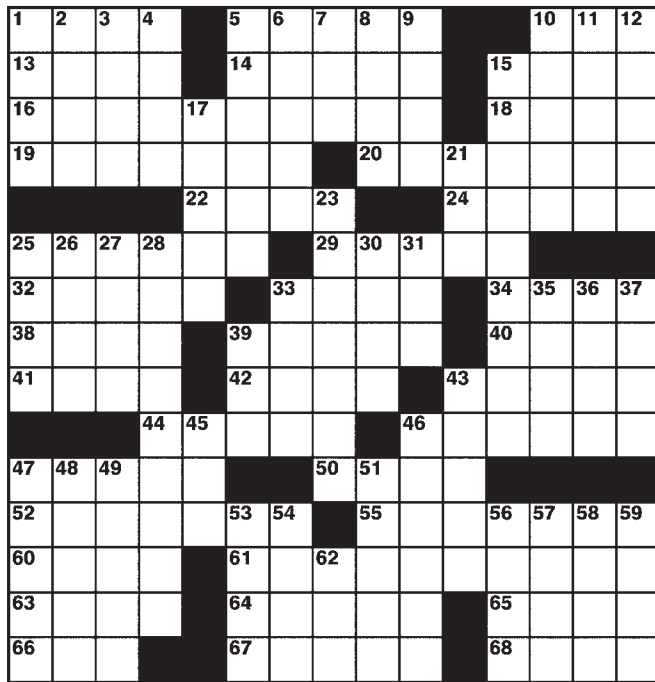
"It's a pretty good deal," she said, "and it goes toward a good cause."

Shoppers needing a break from the hustle and bustle of the big-box stores, and who are searching for that unique, hard-to-find gift, can shop small on Saturday — save themselves some hard-earned cash — and donate to a local charity.

## Newsday Crossword

23 SKIDOO by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**  
1 "If I may say something . . ."  
5 Do battle  
10 Cartoon hit  
13 All  
14 *Fantasia* ballerina  
15 Energetic  
16 Hip-hop song about credit cards?  
18 It'll grow on you  
19 Japanese menu listing  
20 Lasagna ingredient  
22 Rents  
24 Op-ed piece  
25 Kvetched  
29 78-card deck  
32 NASCAR circuits  
33 Whirlybird  
34 Somewhat improper  
38 NPR reporter Totenberg  
39 Offer feedback  
40 Kit-selling chain  
41 It's a small whirl  
42 Effortless  
43 Play really poorly  
44 Duplicate, for short  
46 Unseen air travelers  
47 Subject matter  
50 Polite denial  
52 Dagwood exclamation  
55 Not giving in  
60 Hasty  
61 Substitute for a broken doorbell?  
63 Online activity  
64 Otherworldly
- DOWN**  
1 Tablet downloads  
2 Diamond Head dance  
3 Timeline slices  
4 Fishnet fabric  
5 Indicated the hour  
6 Permissible  
7 Auto-loan fig.  
8 Trade verbal jobs  
9 Kachina doll maker  
10 Watercraft  
11 Antsy feeling  
12 Marine eel  
15 Wedding in a haunted house?  
17 Mosaic material  
21 Tim Cook's title  
23 Hamlet, to Claudius  
25 Gelato holder  
26 All fired up  
27 Cape Town cash  
28 Observe the rules of the game?  
30 One on your side  
31 Spectrum mnemonic guy  
33 Get wind of  
35 Comparable  
36 Coin that Canada no longer makes  
37 Won't shut up  
39 Account exec  
43 Bookstore section  
45 It can mean "green"  
46 Campsite fuel  
47 Olympics symbol  
48 Cornhusker city  
49 Galileo, by birth  
51 More curious  
53 Kind of carpet  
54 Symbol of virtue  
56 Keen on  
57 Prefix for culture  
58 Buzz's moon-mate  
59 *Iliad* setting  
62 Touch of frost



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2013 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 11/29/13

Look for a third crossword in the Sun Classified section.

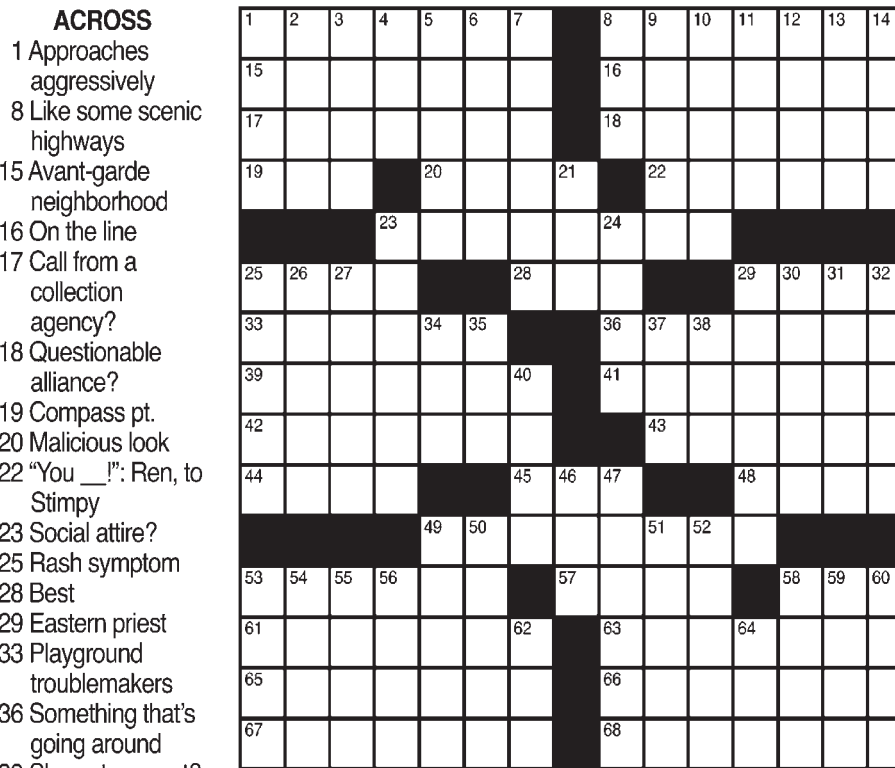
Answer to previous puzzle



11/29/13

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

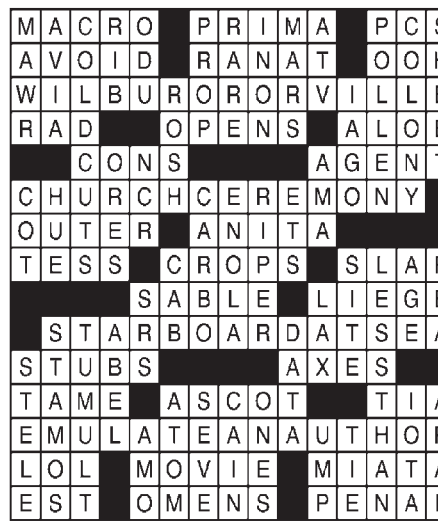
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



By Mark Feldman 11/29/13

- ACROSS**  
1 Approaches aggressively  
8 Like some scenic highways  
15 Avant-garde neighborhood  
16 On the line  
17 Call from a collection agency?  
18 Questionable alliance?  
19 Compass pt.  
20 Malicious look  
22 "You \_\_\_!": Ren, to Stimp  
23 Social attire?  
25 Rash symptom  
28 Best  
29 Eastern priest  
33 Playground troublemakers  
36 Something that's going around  
39 Sheep transport?  
41 Message from the captain?  
42 Internal device on most cellphones  
43 German port  
44 Strong cleaners  
45 "Keep it down!"  
48 Stamp of approval letters  
49 Suggestion from one waiter to another?  
53 Agamemnon's father  
57 Flubs the shot, e.g.  
58 Stranded stuff  
61 Hive workers?  
63 Lasik ray?  
65 Humor  
66 Tease mercilessly  
67 Always-open merchant  
68 New York tribe
- DOWN**  
1 Take \_\_\_  
2 Intimidates  
3 Enjoy some Trident  
4 Anthem preposition  
5 Facial arc  
6 Skin woe  
7 Most like a guru  
8 Avian cry  
9 With "The," 1971 best-seller about an evil twin  
10 So far  
11 Dutch town  
12 Sitcom set in a garage  
13 Japanese wrestler Sato  
14 "\_\_\_ we forget"  
21 Greek consonant  
23 Ancient city whose ruins are in modern Luxor  
24 Wall St. debuts  
25 Perfect  
26 Yellowish-brown  
27 Land of the Minotaur  
29 Get in position for the parade, as a band  
30 Proton carriers  
31 Rationed (out)  
32 Amphitheater  
34 "Arrested Development" narrator Howard  
35 \_\_\_ Miguel: Cozumel city  
37 Confederate  
38 Musical measure  
40 Tint, in a way  
46 Tint  
47 Contract adverb  
49 Put down  
50 Custom  
51 Test, in a way  
52 Rhone feeder  
53 Rose's Broadway beau  
54 Simple shelter  
55 Prynne's stigma  
56 Holder of needles and such  
58 Bit of derring-do  
59 Granny  
60 Qts. and pts.  
62 Côte d'Azur view  
64 Ratio involving ht. and wt.

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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# VIEWPOINT

Derek Dunn-Rankin — Chairman  
David Dunn-Rankin — Publisher  
Chris Porter — Executive Editor

Brian Gleason — Editorial page editor  
Stephen Baumann — Editorial writer

Email letters to letters@sun-herald.com

## OUR VIEW

### CHEC lands Mosaic grant for education

When one thinks about Charlotte Harbor, the body of water is always front and center — and rightly so. But the harbor is what it is today because of the ring of mangroves, tidal marshes, wooded uplands and pine flatwoods that surround it. The preservation of vast stretches of those critical habitats stands as one of the most significant environmental achievements in the entire state.

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, a nonprofit organization founded in 1987, operates living dioramas through which residents, visitors, scientists and schoolchildren can better understand how the health of the harbor depends on how we treat the land around it. The center's staff and volunteers offer educational tours and school field trips of its properties off Burnt Store Road and at Cedar Point Environmental Park, along with hands-on adventures in learning at Ponce de Leon Park in Punta Gorda.

Fundraising is a constant challenge. Charlotte County is a generous supporter, as are the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Public Schools. But corporate funding is key and grants from Waste Management, Kitson & Partners, Smuggler's Foundation and others are the group's lifeblood.

CHEC will recognize another one of those corporate partners, The Mosaic Company Foundation, with a ceremony acknowledging the foundation's \$40,000 grant on Wednesday during its **Young Children and Nature Adventures Program**.

"This funding will help CHEC continue its education programming, which is so important to teach residents and visitors about the area and to help them develop an understanding of human impacts on local systems," said CHEC CEO Jim Thomson.

Representing The Mosaic Company will be communications manager Kaley Miller, who has been a tireless champion of nonprofits in Charlotte County. We applaud her and her company's efforts and congratulate the entire CHEC family of staff and volunteers for their work on behalf of Charlotte Harbor.

### Domestic violence sweep a good thing

Domestic violence is a perplexing, yet far too frequent, crime for law enforcement.

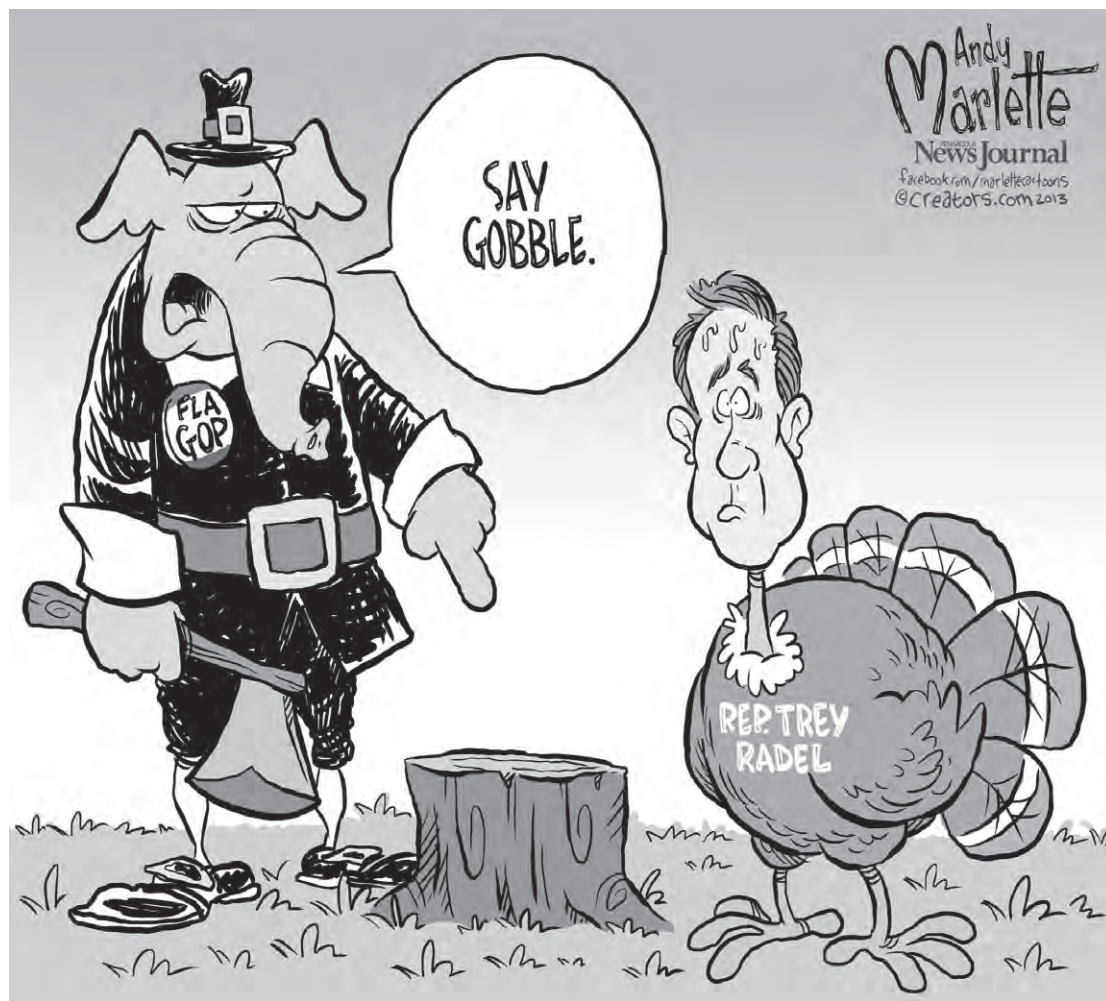
It is a crime that is difficult to prosecute when victims are too afraid to come forward, and too many people who have suspicions or knowledge tend to look the other way — not wanting to get involved.

We applaud law enforcement officials in the state of Florida for a monthlong crackdown on offenders that resulted in the arrest of 5,544 suspects across the state by 33 agencies.

Charlotte and Sarasota counties participated in Operation Safe Families, Oct. 13 through Nov. 9. Charlotte officers arrested 76 people — including 34 for domestic violence and 22 for associated warrants while serving 13 writs of bodily attachment for those failing to pay child support. Sarasota County arrested 45 in all and served 11 writs of bodily attachment.

The crackdown should send a strong message to offenders, or potential offenders. We call on not only law enforcement but every citizen to do their part to stem a crime that not only claims lives but tears apart families and leaves physical and emotional scars that sometimes never heal.

If you suspect domestic violence in Charlotte County, call Citizens for Abuse and Rape Emergencies' 24-hour hotline at 941-627-6000 or the Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center in Sarasota at 941-365-1976.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Put the dogs in their place

Editor:

I can see how people love their pets, but it is time to stop the practice of people with pet dogs taking them into stores and restaurants. I understand and have no problem with service dogs. But now there are people who claim their dog is a service dog, and people who just seem to think their dog is allowed anywhere.

It is particularly disturbing to see a dog in a food cart in a supermarket or sitting in a booth inside a restaurant. I do not want to put my produce in the cart that a dog sat in. I do not want to sit near a dog inside a restaurant. Dogs shed. I am pleased that, after contacting Commissioner Truex, he forwarded this issue for further investigation by his staff.

There are Florida state regulations regarding dogs in outside areas of restaurants which include that the restaurant must have a permit and that dogs are not allowed on furnishings. Restaurant and supermarket owners and managers need to

know the difference between service dogs and pet dogs, and restrict pet dogs from inappropriate areas.

Theresa Behm  
Englewood

### Slow process keeps business from opening

Editor:

How difficult is it to change an address? For the owners of Morales Cuban Restaurant, it's too long.

The owners of Morales Cuban Restaurant quickly made a reputation for themselves in Punta Gorda. A few months ago, they planned a move to Port Charlotte so they could occupy a larger establishment. Newly painted ... new décor ... same artworks ... A stage ... a bar ... They're ready to go, but no inspector.

Another week has come and gone and still no permit to open. Tallahassee has already cashed the permit fee check. Is it the county or state that has prevented a young family the opportunity to open their business?

How much business has been lost? How have their employees been affected? Can your newspaper investigate why government agencies

move so slowly preventing local business people the chance to live their dream?

Bill and Cheryl Schlanger  
Port Charlotte

### Write your congressman

Editor:

To all the people who write and give their point of view, don't forget to write the same to your congressman. Make sure he is not using cocaine or is an alcoholic!

Voicing your ire in the newspaper will fall on deaf ears and carry no weight in the scheme of things. When I read some of the columns in the Viewpoint section I just smile knowing that it gets nowhere.

So write to your congressmen ... I do. And by the way, to the gentleman who gave his viewpoint about the second amendment. Here is something to think about: If the second amendment was to be written today and if the NRA did not have any influence in Congress and if parents were held fully responsible as having contributed to their children's actions, would the second amendment still be written as it reads today?

Robert Rienstra  
Punta Gorda

### The invasion nearly complete

Editor:

Did you hear what happened when the USCG stopped four Mexicans in a row boat near our coast? When questioned what they were doing, they replied, "Invading the USA." The captain asked, "Just the four of you?" Their response was, "We are the last of the invasion force; the other 12 million were already here."

Yes, immigration is an issue. The president of Mexico spoke to Congress saying that our immigration policy toward Mexico was harsh. Of course, Mexico encourages this invasion by not doing enough to prevent its citizens from becoming illegals in this country. After all, these 12 million would be a drain on the Mexican economy, on the other hand they send home over \$15 billion a year to their relatives back home. Why would Mexico try to stop this "foreign aid"?

Why pander to illegal Mexicans while other nationalities, that want to legally come to America, must wait years in their home countries and pay for the privilege of entering our country legally? Our president and Congress are again discussing "a path to citizenship" for illegal Mexicans. Is it only Mexicans?

What's wrong with this picture? We have been raised that there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. The reward should be for doing it the right way.

Why should there be a reward for breaking the law? Therein lays the problem. Our federal government doesn't enforce its own laws. The solution: strong enforcement at all levels.

Lloyd Stilson  
Port Charlotte

### First-timer liked Pitts' column

Editor:

This is the first time I have ever been compelled to respond to a newspaper column, but I just wanted to say that I agree completely with Mr. Pitts' column in Monday's paper. It was spot on.

Terri Loffler  
North Port

## In flood insurance blame game, tensions are rising

Randy Schultz  
Palm Beach Post

If a conservative is a liberal who got mugged yesterday, a populist governor is a fiscal conservative facing re-election whose constituents got mugged by the free market yesterday.

The populist governor is Florida's Rick Scott. In the Church of the Free Market, the governor sits in the first row, on the aisle, gazing rapturously up at the pulpit. As CEO of a for-profit hospital company, he disparaged nonprofit hospitals for not paying taxes. As a new governor in 2011, he thought deregulated property insurance sounded like a swell idea. Deficit spending in Washington? Take a cue from Florida, where we balance the budget (because the state constitution requires it.) A problem in government? Solve it the way a business would.

In June 2012, when Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed legislation to reform the National Flood Insurance Program, Gov. Scott didn't peep. If he was following the issue, he probably would

have approved. In mid-2012, the program was running at an \$18 billion deficit, largely because of Hurricane Katrina. The Biggert-Waters Act was designed to reduce subsidies to property owners in flood-prone areas and make the program more stable. After Hurricane Sandy, the deficit hit \$25 billion.

Two months ago, however, Floridians began learning what it would cost them for the government to run the flood insurance program more like a business. Some new premiums were four, six, even nine times higher. Other Floridians wouldn't pay the jacked-up rates themselves, but the increase would hit those who bought their homes. Talk about a sale-killer.

Gov. Scott heard the complaints, and began jawboning for a delay in the rate increases. So did Sen. Bill

Nelson, D-Fla., who had voted for the bill, and Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., whose name was on the bill. Mississippi, where rate increases also were hitting hard, sued the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA supervises the flood insurance program. Gov. Scott pledged Florida's support for the lawsuit, and blamed President Barack Obama for having signed the bill and not offering relief.

The governor has two gripes — one political, and one legitimate. Let's look at both.

It's clear that Gov. Scott will run as much against President Obama as he will against Charlie Crist. In this off-year election, Republicans want to run against the re-elected but unpopular Mr. Obama, while Democrats want to run against the even more unpopular Republican Party. Blaming Mr. Obama for the flood insurance panic fits nicely with Gov. Scott's narrative.

Problem is, the Biggert-Waters Act didn't pass by itself. Congress approved the five-year extension of the flood

insurance program as a package, with the transportation bill and a one-year non-fix of the student loan program. The dysfunctional Congress had to vote on all three to get home for summer recess and campaigning. The vote was 373-52 in the House and 74-19 in the Senate. Plenty of Republicans went along. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., did not, but he was voting against all spending bills.

In addition, the flood insurance bill has some good provisions. Why should all policyholders, for example, keep subsidizing properties that flood repeatedly? The bill eliminates those subsidies. Should vacation homes get subsidized rates? The bill also eliminates those.

If the political case is weak, however, Gov. Scott has a legitimate gripe about whether FEMA is implementing the changes properly. In theory, the agency updates flood maps and raises rates where new mapping shows a higher risk. But how are the maps

SCHULTZ | 9

## 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 will be edited to length as well as for grammar and spelling. All letters must be signed with full name — not initials. An address and telephone number must be included. The phone number and address are not for publication, but must be provided. Due to the number of letters received, we are able to run only one letter per person per month. The Letters

to the Editor section is designed as a public forum for community discourse, and the opinions and statements made in letters are solely those of the individual writers. The newspaper takes no responsibility for the content of these letters. Please send or bring correspondence to the Sun, Letters to the Editor, 23170 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980, or fax to 941-629-2085. Readers with access to the Internet may email Letters to the Editor at letters@sun-herald.com.



# Supporting our children through early learning

About a year ago, Gov. Rick Scott appointed me to the board of directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland (ELCFH) as the private sector member.



Bob McMillan

Little did I know, at the time of my appointment, the vital role played by the 31 Early Learning coalitions covering the state of Florida, yet alone the four counties covered by the Heartland Coalition — Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, and Highland.

Overall, some 400,000 children participate in Early Learning coalitions across Florida. That figure includes those children in School Readiness programs and voluntary prekindergarten. Let me explain.

The School Readiness programs are designed to help underprivileged children get brought up to speed when they are ready to start schools. By underprivileged, I mean poor families and also children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. My daughter, who teaches kindergarten in Arcadia, observes regularly the advantage of School Readiness and family support at home as voluntary prekindergarten

(PVK) is open to all children throughout Florida without regard to the status of the child's family or income. Seventy-one percent of the 233,000 4-year-olds in Florida attend PVK.

Now, take a look at the Early Learning Coalition where I am privileged to serve on the board.

First, the entire staff and board members could not be more dedicated to the mission of the coalition. The mission is very straightforward. It is "... to support families and children in accessing high quality early care and education services ..." In addition, the Heartland Coalition is indeed fortunate to have Anne Bouhebert serve as the executive director.

The number of children served by the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland is around 3,430 with a total budget of some \$14 million for the School Readiness and VPK programs, \$6.5 million of which is allocated to Charlotte County. Beyond funding from the state many of the coalitions benefit from contributions by county governments, the United Way and other not-for-profit organizations. Beyond the education provided, it is very important to keep in mind that there is a rigorous oversight program carried out by the professional staff of each Early Learning coalition.

Providers who participate in the Early

Learning Coalition range from private center-based child care facilities to churches, and from Head Start to family child care homes. In visiting any of these facilities, the one common element is the smiles on the faces of all the children.

At the time of my appointment by Gov. Scott, I could not help but reflect on my wife's role as the head of a nursery school up North. I would always have an expert in child care available.

Anne Bouhebert sums up the fine work of the Early Learning Coalition when she said, "We are committed to ensuring that our services are the best quality possible. We want each child to have a strong foundation

to ensure a lifetime of success."

With that comment, I hope each reader realizes how important, in today's period of family dysfunction and poverty, the work of Early Learning coalitions across Florida will make a difference for the future of deserving children. If you would like to learn more about the Early Learning Coalition, check out the website, [www.elcfh.org](http://www.elcfh.org).

Bob McMillan is a former chairman of the Panama Canal Commission's board of directors, an assistant to President Richard Nixon, a member of the American Medical Association board of trustees and is a part-time resident of Charlotte Harbor.

# Sarah Josepha Hale: The mother of Thanksgiving

It was 150 years ago that Sarah Josepha Hale gave us Thanksgiving as we know it.



Rich Lowry

The influential editor was the best friend Thanksgiving ever had. We are accustomed, in a more jaded and secular age, to wars on various holidays; Hale waged a war for Thanksgiving. For years, she evangelized for nationalizing the holiday by designating the last Thursday of November for it to be celebrated annually across the country.

Besides plugging for Thanksgiving in her publication, Godey's Lady's Book, she wrote Presidents Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan about it before hitting pay dirt with Abraham Lincoln. On Oct. 3, 1863, Lincoln urged his fellow citizens to observe the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving

and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Hale had succeeded in her long-sought goal, but kept — as Peggy Baker notes in an essay about her as "The Godmother of Thanksgiving" — writing editorials about Thanksgiving for another dozen years. You might say that she was a bore and nag on the topic, if her cause hadn't been so splendid and her understanding of Thanksgiving so clear-eyed, clairvoyant even.

Hale saw the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving as the twin festivals of the

American people, "each connected with their history, and therefore of great importance in giving power and distinctness to their nationality," as she put it in an 1852 editorial.

July Fourth celebrated national independence and liberty, while Thanksgiving acknowledged God "as the dispenser of blessings." She argued that "these two festivals should be joyfully and universally observed throughout our whole country, and thus incorporated in our habits of thought as inseparable from American life."

Of course, Thanksgiving had existed on these shores long before Hale took it up as a cause. Her description of a New England Thanksgiving feast in her 1827 novel "Northwood" would have been recognized by

Norman Rockwell, and could apply with equal accuracy to the average American home today. She described the table "now intended for the whole household, every child having a seat on this occasion; and the more the better."

"The roasted turkey took precedence," she wrote, "being placed at the head of the table; and well did it become its lordly station, sending forth the rich odor of its savory stuffing, and finely covered with the froth of the basting."

The dessert course is almost as recognizable: "There was a huge plum pudding, custards and pies of every name and description ever known in Yankee land; yet the pumpkin pie occupied the most distinguished niche."

Thanksgiving had always been held in autumn, Hale explains in

the book, "the time when the overflowing garner of America call for this expression of joyful gratitude." But different states held it on different days, and the holiday tradition was strongest in New England. Hale wanted to guarantee Thanksgiving's place in America's firmament by making it a national day.

She quoted the 19th-century British writer Robert Southey in making her case. "Festivals, when duly observed, attach men to the civil and religious institutions of their country," he wrote. "Who is there who does not recollect their effect upon himself in early life?"

Hale understood the particular pull of Thanksgiving. She wrote in 1837, "It is a festival which will never become obsolete, for it cherishes the best affections of

the heart — the social and domestic ties." (Although her faith in family bonds, reformed around the Thanksgiving table, might have been a touch naive: "How can we hate our Mississippi brother-in-law? And who is a better fellow than our wife's uncle from St. Louis?")

In her 1852 editorial, she predicted that "wherever an American is found, the last Thursday would be the Thanksgiving Day. Families may be separated so widely that personal reunion would be impossible; still this festival, like the Fourth of July, will bring every American heart into harmony with his home and his country." And so it does, still.

Rich Lowry is the editor of the National Review. Readers may reach him at [comments.lowry@nationalreview.com](mailto:comments.lowry@nationalreview.com).

## SHULTZ

FROM PAGE 8

compiled? Why are the rates so much higher in certain areas? Deputy Florida Insurance Commissioner Richard Koon said in an interview that FEMA should take a "more measured

approach. This seems a little dramatic."

It's also much more dramatic in some parts of Florida than others. The Office of Insurance Regulation reported on how the key portion of the flood insurance act — Section 205, or "Reform of premium rate structure" — would affect each city. In Delray

Beach, it would hit just 425 of 8,278 policies. In Palm Beach Gardens, just 18 of 3,304. In Stuart, 65 of 1,178. The biggest effect locally — no surprise — is in Palm Beach, on the barrier island.

In St. Petersburg, though, the change affects nearly half of the city's 38,322 policies. In Dunedin, not far from

St. Pete, the change hits more than half of the 4,447 policies. The same goes for New Port Richey, north of St. Petersburg in Pasco County.

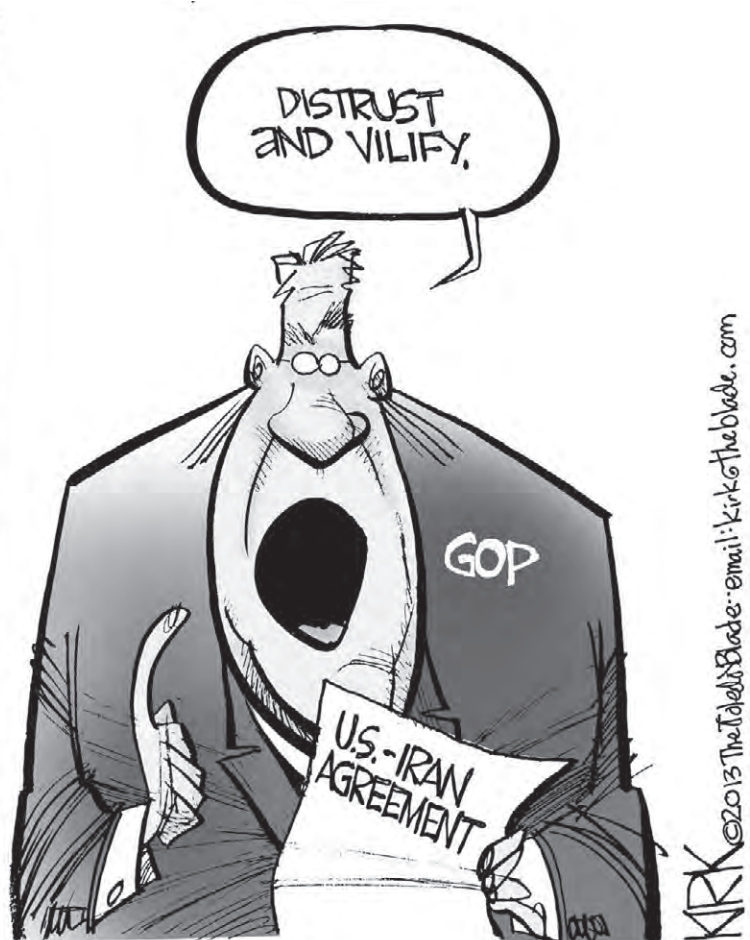
Mr. Koon also points out that Florida pays \$4 into the flood program for every \$1 the state gets back in claims. Mississippi, he says, pays in just 20 cents for every

\$1 back to the state. Are Floridians being socked disproportionately than residents of other states?

For all the anger in Florida, there is no guarantee that Congress will agree to the delay Gov. Scott and others want. The governor does look selective and hypocritical, since he brags about making Florida more

financially stable and criticizes the state-run property insurer, Citizens, for keeping its rates artificially low. But Gov. Scott just got mugged, and he's looking for the first cop he can find.

Randy Schultz is editor of the editorial page for The Palm Beach Post. Readers may reach him at [rschultz@pbpost.com](mailto:rschultz@pbpost.com).



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# A mother tragic and infuriating

**T**he mother did the shooter's laundry on a daily basis as the shooter often changed clothing during the day."

That matter-of-fact recitation, from the just-released official report on the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, encapsulates the enduring contradiction of Nancy Lanza, shot four times in her bed with her .22-caliber Savage Mark II rifle.

The shooter was her son Adam, the disturbed boy she sought desperately to help and ended up enabling. Nancy Lanza, 52 when she died, is a figure at once tragic and infuriating.

To read the state's attorney's report on Sandy Hook is to simultaneously admire Lanza's fierce efforts to help her troubled child and to seethe at the stupidity of her decision to allow him access to — indeed, encourage his interest in



Ruth Marcus

— the weapons he used to murder 27 people.

As the one-year anniversary approaches, unanswerable questions remain — questions that the report can resurface but not resolve. Not only about Adam Lanza's motives — for an act so irrational and heinous no explanation can suffice — but about his mother's behavior.

I tend more toward mommy-empathizing than mommy-blaming, and there is much to empathize with in the case of Nancy Lanza. She was dealt an extraordinarily hard hand in the case of her younger child, and she stuck with it.

By age 6, he was diagnosed with sensory integration disorder; he had difficulty interacting with others and recoiled at being touched. By middle school, he was identified as suffering from Asperger's syndrome, part of the autism spectrum. Nancy Lanza tried home schooling and private school. Nothing worked.

"You never turn your back on your children," she told a family member, according to "Raising Adam Lanza," produced by The Hartford Courant and "Frontline."

The state's attorney's report documents this dogged maternal determination: "The mother took care of all of the shooter's needs. The mother indicated that she did not work because of her son's condition. She worried about what would happen to the shooter if anything happened to her."

Nancy Lanza

structured her life around her son's peculiarities. Workers at the house "were instructed never to ring the doorbell and to make prior arrangements before using power equipment as her son had issues with loud noises."

Adam Lanza "was particular about the food that he ate and its arrangement on a plate in relation to other foods on the plate. Certain types of dishware could not be used for particular foods. The mother would shop for him and cook to the shooter's specifications." When Nancy Lanza considered moving to Washington state so that Adam could attend a special school, she planned to buy a recreational vehicle "as he would not sleep in a hotel."

Birthdays, Christmas and holidays were not to be celebrated. "He would not allow his mother to put up a Christmas tree.

The mother explained it by saying that [the] shooter had no emotions or feelings. The mother also got rid of a cat because the shooter did not want it in the house."

None of this could have been easy. Although they lived in the same house, Adam "would only communicate with her by email." According to one witness interviewed, "when his mother asked him if he would feel bad if anything happened to her, he replied, 'No.'"

Poor woman. But also: misguided, reckless woman. In seventh-grade writing assignments, Adam had "obsessed about battles, destruction and war. ... The level of violence in the writing was disturbing." He spent hours playing video games, many violent (one chillingly called "School Shooting").

And still Nancy Lanza encouraged his interest in guns. She went target shooting with Adam

and his older brother. They took National Rifle Association safety courses. I can understand a parent, desperate to find a way to connect to an alienated child, seizing on a mutual passion. But no person with Adam's bizarre behaviors ought to be around guns, let alone have them within easy access at home.

Few parents have to deal with the likes of Adam Lanza. Many parents, perhaps most, have to learn to find the balance between devotion and denial, empathy and enabling.

Nancy Lanza failed at that task. Searching her house after the shootings, they found a check she had made out to Adam. It was dated Christmas Day, and designated to buy a CZ 83 pistol.

Ruth Marcus is a columnist for The Washington Post. Readers may reach her at [marcusr@washpost.com](mailto:marcusr@washpost.com).

# Talking turkey about Bleak Friday

**F**or children, Christmas may be the favorite holiday, even if their families don't celebrate the birth of Christ. The twinkling lights and aura of magic that suddenly transfigure the most plebeian edifices are nearly as seductive as a round-trip ticket to Never-Never Land.

For adults, invariably, the favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. The reason is simple: Compared to all others, Thanksgiving is a relatively stress-free holiday.

Free of those things that separate



Kathleen Parker

us — religious, political and otherwise — Thanksgiving is a day of *e pluribus unum*. In George Washington's proclamation of 1789, Thanksgiving was designated as a time of duty "to acknowledge the providence of Almighty

God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor ... a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

How far we have drifted.

Hear ye, hear ye, all members of Congress. Thanksgiving is our

favorite holiday for more prosaic reasons as well. No gifts, no costumes, no flowers, candies or treats to buy. All we have to do is gather with friends and family, commune over food and football and, if one so desires, prayer. What's not to love about a day like that?

A few things come to mind: Holiday decorations up too soon, Christmas trees lining supermarket storefronts, Christmas carols too early in stores. Stress and the pressure to purchase suddenly are in the air, contaminating the

purity of our annual day of repose and urging us from our respite.

The once month-long break between Thanksgiving and Christmas shrinks each year so that our last turkey sandwich is hardly digested before consumeritis sets in. Symptoms are well-known and graphic displays are in evidence — packed parking lots and human stampedes; shopping baskets overflowing with huge must-haves; debt and depression when the adrenaline subsides.

This year the break was crunched further by Thanksgiving's late date, but the trend of turning fall into one, unrelenting shopping season has been decades in the making. And though we profess to resent the imposition of perpetual holidays, we seem impotent to resist the command to consume.

Black Friday — the perennial, people-crushing, day-after-Thanksgiving sales marathon — is nearly a holiday itself. This year, Thanksgiving Day is the new black as several chains (including Walmart, Best Buy, JCPenney, Toys R Us, Target, Kmart, Sears and even The Gap) plan to open on the day itself.

In so doing, these retailers further diminish the meaning of Thanksgiving while advancing the notion that time is better spent hauling away large-screen TVs than engaging in human communion. The bumper-sticker slogan — "He who dies with the most toys wins" — seems to become a cultural mantra as we abandon any pretense of human purpose beyond consumption.

Despite the seeming inevitability of these trends, many Americans wish it weren't so. A recent HuffPost/YouGov poll found bipartisan aversion to stores opening on Thanksgiving — 65 percent of

Democrats, 63 percent of Republicans and 60 percent of independents say stores should be closed. Yet as Forbes points out, stores wouldn't open if there were no demand.

When the National Retail Federation asked consumers why they want to shop early, most said it was to spread out their gift budgets or to take advantage of deals too good to pass up. Virtue is in the details, I suppose. According to Accenture's annual shopping survey, 38 percent of respondents plan to visit four or more stores on Thanksgiving or Black Friday, and more than one-third say they'll shop before midnight Thursday.

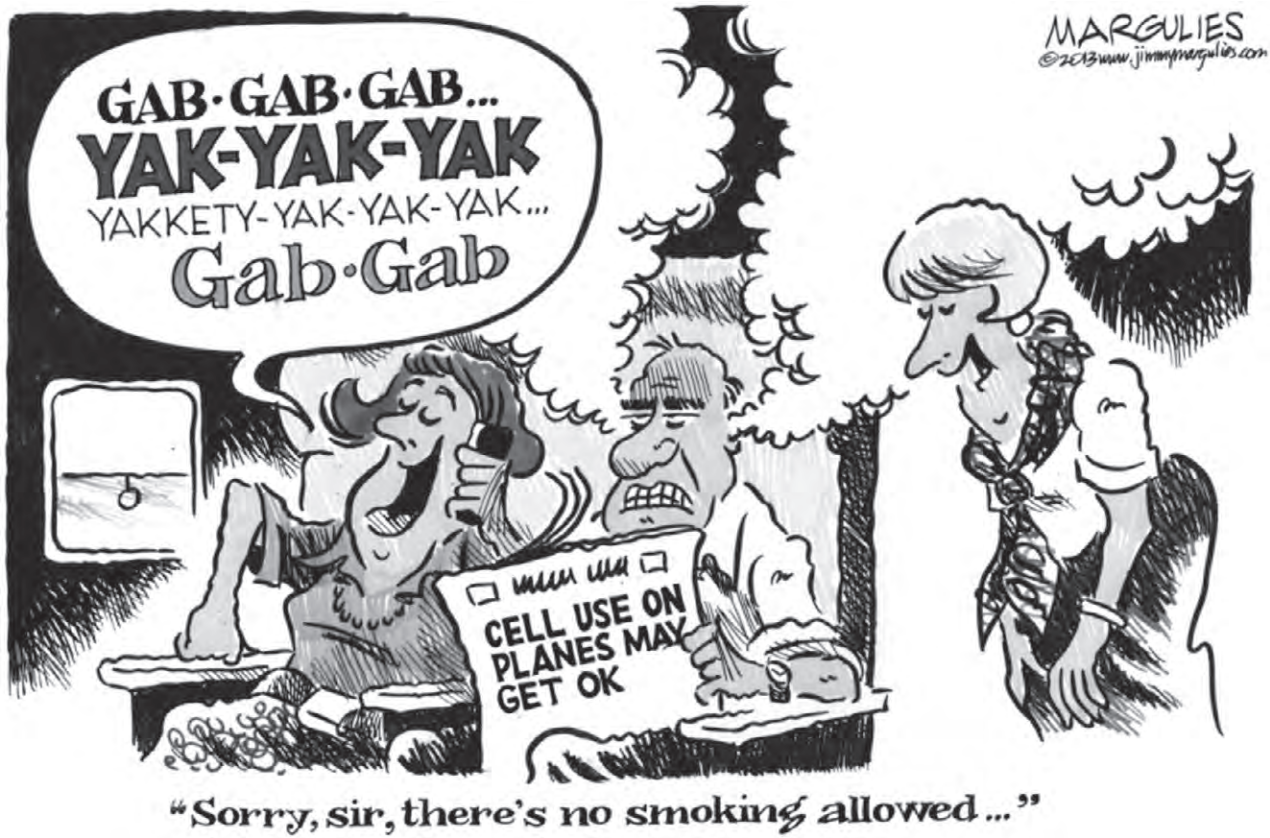
Even so, one more day, one more tradition reduced to its commercial value and a few dollars saved at the expense of humility and gratitude seems a price too high for the procurement of more stuff.

In the scheme of things, this sense of loss is perhaps undeserving of lamentations, but bowing to commercial greed, especially on our national day of thanks, seems a crime against one of our best founding inventions.

If stores erect a sale, they will come. But stores don't have to. Here's a revolutionary concept: Instead, why not demonstrate gratitude for our nation by urging its people to spend time with their families, surely the most valuable insurance for a stable future.

Profits may take a short holiday, but the reward of living in a culture that values human connection and appreciates, in Washington's words from the proclamation, "the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed" — is beyond measure.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Readers may reach her at [kathleen.parker@washpost.com](mailto:kathleen.parker@washpost.com).



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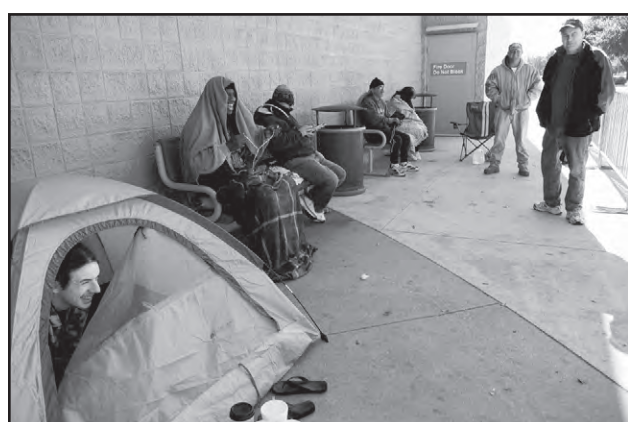
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# Shoppers ready for a frenzy

SUN PHOTOS BY ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH, eallen@sun-herald.com

At left: Kim Campanella, owner of The Bicycle Center of Port Charlotte, does her early morning shopping at 7 a.m. Thursday at the Murdock Kmart. She was buying items to decorate her shop for Small Business Saturday this weekend, as well as getting Christmas presents. She was one of 150 shoppers in line on Thanksgiving morning when the doors opened.



Corey Schmutzler pokes his head out of the tent he pitched at 6 p.m. Wednesday in front of Target in Murdock. Others arrived in front of the store within hours of Schmutzler. Temperatures dipped into the 40s while the group was in line for pre-Black Friday shopping. The first few people wanted a 50-inch TV for \$220.



At left: Jocelyn D'Aquila of North Port emerges from a tent in front of Best Buy in Murdock on Thanksgiving morning. She joined friends Heaven Treadwell and Casey Schmutzler, who were ahead of her in line. The first of the seven tents were pitched on Wednesday afternoon for holiday shopping. The group of about 11 people were serenaded by a guitarist Wednesday night.

# Choir, symphony perform fundraiser



SUN PHOTOS BY BETSY WILLIAMS

"Missa in C minor" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was presented on stage at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center on Sunday by the Florida Gulf Coast University choir and symphony orchestra under the direction of David C. Cole, conductor, and Trent R. Brown, chorus director. The concert was free to the public, with donations being accepted for the Charlotte High Charisma group that will be making a trip to New York City in the spring to perform at Carnegie Hall.



Kevin Seto and Hank Pellegrino warm up just before the start of the "Missa in C minor," concert written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



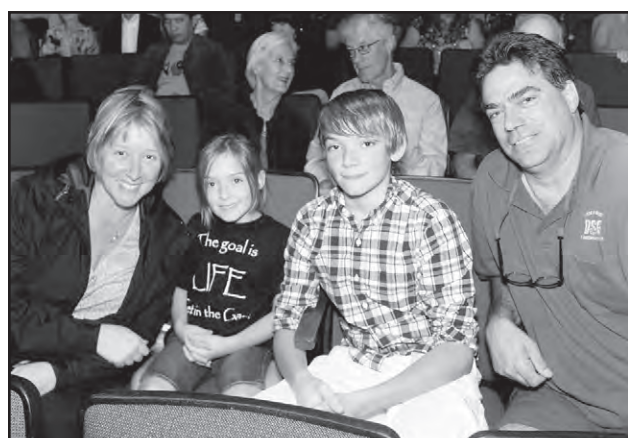
Charisma members Aubrie Mead, Anna Taillon and Amanda Nease prepare the donation buckets that were held at the doors after the free concert to benefit the Charlotte High Charisma's trip to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.



Members of the FGCU University choir filled the risers on stage performing alongside the FGCU symphony orchestra.



At right: Male members of the FGCU University choir under the direction of Trent R. Brown.



The Florida Gulf Coast University choir and symphony orchestra presented a concert Sunday as a fundraiser for Charlotte High School's Charisma choir. Up front and center, the Pellegrino family, Valerie and Mark, Sophie, 7, and Jack, 13, attended the afternoon concert to see Hank Pellegrino, 19, perform on violin with the FGCU University symphony orchestra.



Chris Merrell and Justin Wohlert, members of the FGCU symphony orchestra, which performed Sunday at CPAC as a fundraiser for Charisma, of which sophomore Baylie Crawford is a member.



Emily Bannister on violin with the FGCU symphony orchestra.



Alexys Freeman; Chloe Popoli; Alexandra Quantz, member of Charisma; and Christina Comulada visit before going into CPAC for the free concert Sunday afternoon.



Billy Ottinghaus brought flowers for his girlfriend, Erin Ward, a member of the FGCU University choir.

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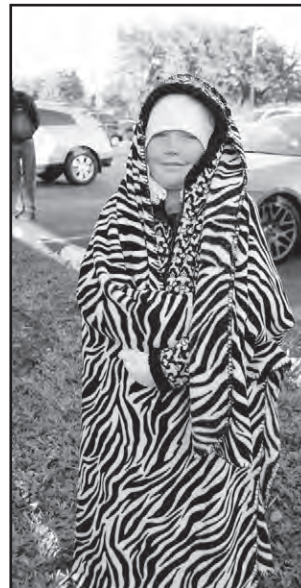
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# Turkey trotters get early start



SUN PHOTOS BY SUE PAQUIN

More than 1,300 runners took part in the 15th annual "Turkey Trot" 5K Run/Fun Walk on Thanksgiving morning at Edison State College in Punta Gorda. All proceeds raised from the event, which is sanctioned by Zoomers Running & Triathlon Club, will benefit the Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity. Emily Soroka and Andrew Sanchez don their turkey headgear for the run.



Haileigh Haymans, 8, wraps a blanket around herself to keep warm.



Keith Harper and his daughter Olivia, 8, cross the finish line together.

At right: Emily Vincent, 12, joined her mother, Heather, for the early morning run.



At left: Joanne Ebbes, 79, is participating in her fourth 5K Turkey Trot. She is already looking forward to running again next year at age 80.



Kathy Kleiber and Susan Davis try to stay warm before the start of the run.



Above: Christi and Melissa Walters, Maria Porter, Pete Walters, David and Monica Porter and Peter Walters assembled after the race. The Walters are from Michigan and the Porters from Indiana, so the morning chill did not faze them.



The mother and daughter team of Karen and Madeline Eklin were accustomed to the cold temperatures because they are from Minnesota.

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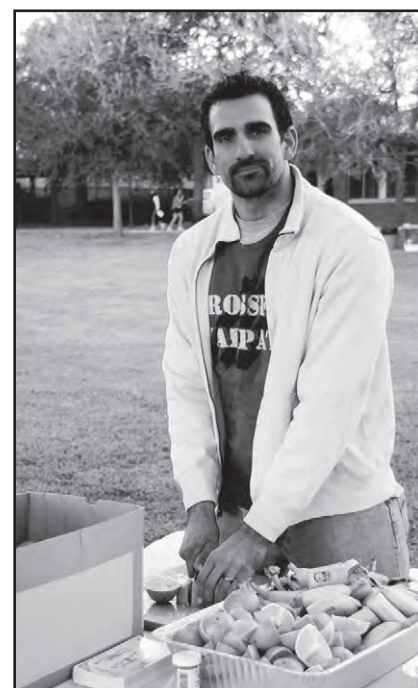
Sisters-in-law Maria and Courtney Palenik braved the early morning chill to participate in their first 5K run.



At left: Bill St. Onge and Jairo Gutierrez stand alongside first-time runner Diana Ospina of North Port.



Regina Sorah, who traveled from Gainesville for the event, pins a bib on her 6-year-old daughter Emily.



Matt Galley of Crossfit Murdock slices up some oranges and bananas for some energy after the run.

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# A legacy of fitness

By **JOHN HACKWORTH**  
SUN EDITOR

PUNTA GORDA — “OK, three steps right, walk, let’s go!”

“OK, jog now. ... Come on guys. Chin up, smile!”

Mimi Ford, her wide smile accentuated by her all-black outfit, walks and jogs among the 30 or so participants in her 9 a.m. Forever Fit class at the Bayfront YMCA — a workout she designed herself. Tina Turner is on the boom box as Ford leads the class like a drill sergeant — only with

compassion and humor.

It’s that compassion and dedication to having fun that have made the 73-year-old fitness director so popular with thousands of devotees in a long career that began in New York and is coming to an end soon in Charlotte County.

A 5-foot-2, tanned bundle of energy, with short-cropped blonde hair, Ford played forward, believe it or not, on her high school basketball team in Leechburg, Pa. She also loved softball and just about any sport

as she had plenty of opportunity for competition growing up with her male cousins.

She earned a master’s in education at Temple University and was happy teaching school, but an exercise class she signed up for in 1980 changed her direction.

“Jackie Sorenson, she was the woman who started group exercise classes,” Ford said. “She had the franchise, and I eventually bought her program and began teaching it.”

Ford led classes at the Capital District YMCA in the Albany, N.Y., area for 25 years while marrying and having a daughter, who now lives in Manchester, Conn. It became not only a source

of income but a way of life for her.

One day, however, while “walking into the Saratoga YMCA, it was gray and snowy and I said to myself, ‘Why am I still here?’”

She and a friend visited Charlotte County and she stayed at the old Best Western in Punta Gorda, just a block or two from the Bayfront YMCA. While visiting, she walked there and watched a fitness class. She decided this was the place for her.

“Someone upstairs was guiding me, I think,” she said.

She applied for a job at the Charlotte County Family YMCA in May 1996 and started that following July. The rest is history. She has accomplished



SUN PHOTO BY DONNELL BATES

With tons of energy, instructor Mimi Ford is seen here at the Bayfront YMCA in Punta Gorda teaching her class.

just about everything a fitness instructor can — including the prestigious Active Older Adult Coordinator and Fitness Specialist designation that qualifies her to be a CEO or coordinator of a YMCA — a position that would pay more money but would not satisfy her need to help people live better lives.

When word spread she was leaving the YMCA, her devotees took it hard.

Glennice Reed, who became a friend through classes with Ford, actually teared up when Ford broke the news.

“I’ve been working out with her for about three years and she is so much fun,” Reed said. “She has fun music and she sings along sometimes. She makes sure you come out of her class knowing you have worked out.”

Jane Eastburn, 80, is another admirer.

“(Mimi) has done private training with me after I hurt my back and she is very special,” Eastburn, who has taught yoga herself, said. “She is a giver.”

Sandy Boulton “slipped and snapped my back in two” and credits Ford with getting her back in

shape after rehab.

“She makes it so much fun,” Boulton said. “She plays some risqué music at times and gets us laughing. She is always so alive.”

Ford — who obviously stays in good shape, watching what she eats but admitting to an occasional bowl of ice cream or slice of pizza — said the decision to retire was tough, and she really had no good reason to do so now.

“I’m not physically tired or unhappy,” she said. “But I do have family I want to spend more time with. And there are some things at the house I have been putting off doing.”

Ford said she is proud of the fact so many people in her classes are able to go off meds for high blood pressure and diabetes. But, most of all, she is happy that she has made them smile and improve their health, balance and flexibility.

“There are people who don’t have that gene to want to help. They might say ‘I don’t care,’ but I do care,” she said. “And if someone takes my class and doesn’t come back, I have not met my goal.”

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# THANKS

FROM PAGE 1

the turkeys, mashed potatoes and gravy; the Publix on Peachland Boulevard that provided most everything else; and to the more than 200 volunteers who made time on this Thanksgiving to cook, serve and clean up for others.

Margie Hensley, 71, used to attend First United Methodist in the 1990s, but was chased away by Hurricane Charley. Now she is back to serve others.

"We came to church on Sunday and talked to the lady in charge to see what needed to be done," Hensley said. "You don't have to be homeless, you don't have to be poor. Just share a meal and conversation."

Emma Hudson, 10, also is waiting on tables, and letting her own Thanksgiving dinner wait.

"I just want to help and care for the homeless," she said. "Give them good food and make them feel at home."

This was just one sample of the Thanksgiving generosity being served up across Charlotte County.

## New Hope community dinner all about giving

NORTH PORT — Not even temperatures that dropped below 40 degrees in the wee hours of Thanksgiving morning slowed down Ryan Rowan and a cast of volunteers as they smoked 94 turkeys for New Hope Community Church's annual free Thanksgiving dinner in North Port. In fact, the turkeys were done well ahead of schedule.

"All we really had to do was double the amount of charcoal we used," Rowan said Thursday about cooking in the unseasonably cool and windy weather.

Rowan said the weather really didn't matter to him, because cooking the turkeys is something he's done for New Hope for the last seven years. The community event helps feed the needy, homeless and others who cannot afford a dinner for Thanksgiving or just don't have anywhere to go.

"This is a good thing for a lot of good people," Rowan said. "A lot of good people come together to make this happen, so why not be a part of it?"

Mike Saxton, a long-time member of the church who headed up this year's dinner, said the church planned to serve more than 800 people, in addition to making 150 deliveries of meals to people's homes, fire stations and other places all over North Port and



SUN PHOTO BY GARY ROBERTS

Margie Hensley of Port Charlotte serves a table of hungry diners on Thanksgiving Day at the Life Center of First United Church in Punta Gorda.

Port Charlotte. He said that more than doubles the amount of deliveries from last year, when Port Charlotte was not included.

The turkeys ranged from 12 to 15 pounds. All 94 birds were donated, with 80 coming from Walmart. The Heron Creek Subway donated 10 turkeys, and church members donated the remaining four. In addition to the turkeys, hundreds of pounds of potatoes, all the traditional Thanksgiving trimmings and a number of different desserts were available — all free of charge. The event also included spiritual music, giveaways every half-hour — including a 32-inch TV donated by Quality TV — and bounce houses for the kids.

Sexton said the turkeys were finished cooking by 8 a.m. and the carving was done two hours later. More than 100 volunteers took part.

"The community really responded ... and that's awesome," Sexton said. "This has gone amazingly better than I expected."

Volunteers from all over the area helped out, including Canadian Yasmina Petkovski. A cook for Meals on Wheels who does a lot of volunteering in Canada, she decided right away to volunteer when she first heard about the event. North Port resident Valerie Raney said she has a small family in North Port and thought she'd give volunteering a try while she had some free time Thursday.

"This is a wonderful thing the church is doing," Petkovski said.

Englewood resident Bob Ciszek had a special reason for being at the dinner. In addition to helping carve turkeys, he was there with his 6-month-old granddaughter, Laura Castro, for her very first Thanksgiving.

"This is just a wonderful way to spend Thanksgiving," Ciszek said between spoon-feeding Laura bites of



SUN PHOTO BY CLINTON BURTON, cburton@sun-herald.com

Larry Cowlin and Joanne Richardson were busy slicing and plating pies at the End Zone sports bar Thursday while Lou Long gathered food for delivery.

dressing. "We're just here to serve the community and give back. This is about the joy of giving, and you feel a lot better when you give."

## Englewood reaches out to those in need

As a young man, James Gerard Ahern was a lobsterman in Massachusetts.

"I ran the biggest seafood business in Boston," he said.

But government concerns about overfishing put out him out of work. Thursday morning, the homeless Englewood man emerged from the restroom at the pavilion at Indian Mound Park in Englewood, where he and some friends had spent the night to stay warm.

"It wasn't so bad," he said between bites of turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes provided by volunteers from St. David's Episcopal Church. "We go wherever we have to. It's tough, but we survive."

Every year volunteers from the church prepare a holiday feast fit for the finest tables for anyone who can make it to the park. The annual meal is a tradition started by the now defunct Foursquare Church.

With the help of Foursquare, Dena Browning kicked her drug and alcohol dependency and received help for her mental illness. She's no stranger to Ahern, as these

days she's a volunteer with Beacon House, a mental health care facility, and works with St. David's, reaching out to the homeless trying to help them get off the streets, or at the very least, get enough to eat.

"I enjoy going out and helping these guys. Monday through Friday I go to Beacon House to get therapy and then I do whatever needs to be done to help others."

"I've been clean of drugs and alcohol for 14 years. I'm a peer mentor and I'm training to be a certified peer recovery specialist so I can help out more," she said.

St. David's outreach minister Pat Knox said the turnout was lower than expected and much lower than in recent years.

"It was so cold this morning. It was right at 40 and if you have to walk or ride a bike here, you've got a problem," she said. "One homeless man's mother came down and brought him some more clothing."

The weather wasn't an issue at the End Zone sports bar on McCall Road in Englewood. By 1 p.m. new owner Joanne Anders said about 200 people had been served and she was expecting as many more by day's end.

"It's been a steady flow," she said.

Thursday marked the seventh consecutive year the End Zone served the free Thanksgiving



SUN PHOTO BY SCOTT LOCKWOOD

Volunteers, from left, Valerie Raney, Joyce Peterson and Renee Remsen take a quick break during Thursday's community Thanksgiving dinner at New Hope Church in North Port. Church officials expected to serve more than 800 dinners.



SUN PHOTO BY SCOTT LOCKWOOD

Volunteer Renee Remsen dishes out some dressing to North Port resident Andrea Mitchell during New Hope Church's community Thanksgiving dinner Thursday.



SUN PHOTO BY SCOTT LOCKWOOD

Families, friends or anyone who needed a Thanksgiving dinner were welcome at New Hope Community Church Thursday. Here, from left, Gerry Schutta, Diane Miller, Corrina Santy, Ray Richardson and Jackie Beebe all enjoy their meals. Santy, Richardson and Beebe are all new to the area and were celebrating their first Thanksgiving dinner in North Port.



SUN PHOTO BY SCOTT LOCKWOOD

New Hope Church Thanksgiving dinner organizer Mike Saxton prepares to give away a 32-inch TV and several other items during a raffle Thursday. Anyone who ate a free meal also was given a ticket for a chance to win.

meal, but it was the first time for Anders and her husband, Owen.

With the exception of the bar — which was showing football games on television — the restaurant was closed for regular business but was packed with hungry fans of turkey and slices of pie being plated by Joanne Richardson and

Larry Cowlin.

Cowlin, a Marine Corps veteran, started volunteering at The End Zone five years ago and hasn't missed a year since.

"I feel like I'm giving back a little bit in my small way," he said. "It's a good thing."

Email: groberts@sun-herald.com, slockwood@sun-herald.com, cburton@sun-herald.com

# SCORES

FROM PAGE 1

scores are not used in Charlotte County in teachers' evaluations. Instead, the district uses classroom observations

and is working on its own value-added model, which will look at factors outside of FCAT scores such as graduation rates, AP class enrollment and SAT and ACT scores to calculate a teacher's effectiveness.

However, the Florida DOE plans to use its value-added

scores to determine performance pay in the 2014-2015 school year.

Teachers in Charlotte County had mixed reactions to the availability of DOE value-added scores as public record.

Paul Platt, a seventh-grade social studies

teacher at Murdock Middle School, said it's "like a sword hanging over our head."

Platt also expressed concern over the rollout of performance pay next year.

"If it's not developed well ... you're going to end up losing good

teachers because they're going to get frustrated with the system, (and) you're going to end up losing potentially good teachers" because they look for better opportunities in other job fields.

Jennifer Harris, who teaches third grade at Deep

Creek Elementary School, said: "I don't think (the availability of the scores) would have a negative effect. Parents in the community should know (the scores) because Charlotte County is really good at helping teachers grow."

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**NO STOCKS TODAY**  
There are no stock listings in today's paper; the stock market was closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Space hosts busy Thanksgiving



For the six people on board the International Space Station — including American astronauts Mike Hopkins and Rick Mastracchio — it's time for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

— Page 2 —

China sends warplanes into air defense zone



The flights Thursday came after South Korean and Japanese flights through the zone added to the international defiance of rules Beijing says it has imposed in the East China Sea.

— Page 8 —

Another health care law delay



The Obama administration is putting off until next November the launch of an online portal to the health insurance marketplace for small businesses.

— Page 2 —

Electronic tag readers are solving crimes in Florida



Investigators get tips from a tag reader that reads license plates from passing vehicles.

— Page 6 —

Orphans in Philippines speak of typhoon's horrors



The death toll from Haiyan has risen to 5,560 with 1,757 others missing, officials said Thursday. The United Nations said at least 14 million people have been affected, including 1.8 million displaced children.

— Page 7 —

# The Wire



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2013

## Balloons, spirits soar in NYC



The Spider-Man balloon makes its way across New York's Central Park South during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Thursday. AP PHOTOS



A police officer stands on 6th Avenue as a giant fireman balloon passes during the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, in New York.

### Millions line streets for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — The big balloons soared along with the crowd's spirits Thursday as the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade made its way through the streets of New York City.

There'd been some concerns about whether the wind could keep 16 giant balloons grounded, but the cherished tradition prevailed.

"We thought they'd find a way to pull it off," said parade-goer John Mispagel, of San Jose, Calif. "It's really fun seeing so many people having such a great time."

Balloon handlers were keeping a tight grip on their inflated characters and held them fairly close to the ground in tree-lined areas. The wind was around 26 mph.

Mispagel and his wife, Susan, said Sonic the Hedgehog got caught on a tree while rounding a corner near the start of the

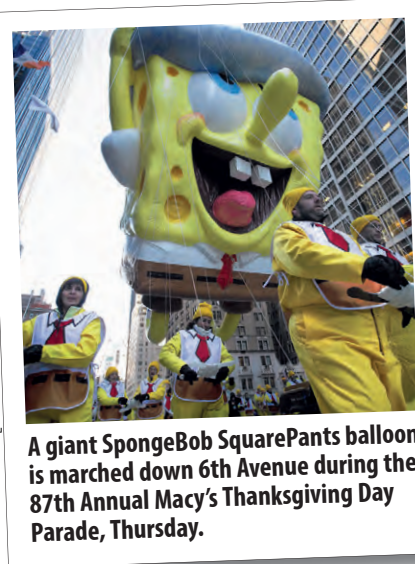
parade route; handlers used cutters on a rope to free the balloon.

The cheering throngs were bundled against a 30-degree chill, but the sun was shining. Some in the crowd lifted

PARADE | 4



A giant Uncle Sam balloon is marched down 6th Avenue during the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday.



A giant SpongeBob SquarePants balloon is marched down 6th Avenue during the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday.



The Wizard of Oz balloon makes its way through New York's Columbus Circle during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday.

### Holiday shopping season begins early

By ANNE D'INNOGENZIO  
AP RETAIL WRITER

NEW YORK — Stores are hoping holiday shoppers will gobble their turkey on Thanksgiving afternoon, but save the pumpkin pie for later.

As more than a dozen major retailers from Target to Toys R Us open on Thanksgiving Day, shoppers across the country are expected to get a jump

start on holiday shopping. The Thanksgiving openings come despite planned protests across the country from workers' groups that are against employees missing Thanksgiving meals at home.

The holiday openings are a break with tradition. The day after Thanksgiving, called Black Friday, for a decade had been considered the official start to the holiday buying season.

It's also typically the biggest shopping day of the year.

But in the past few years, retailers have pushed opening times into Thanksgiving night. They've also pushed up discounting that used to be reserved for Black Friday into early November, which has led retail experts to question whether the Thanksgiving openings will steal some of Black Friday's thunder.

In fact, Thanksgiving openings took a bite out of Black Friday sales last year: Sales on turkey day were \$810 million last year, an increase of 55 percent from the previous year as more stores opened on the holiday, according to Chicago research firm ShopperTrak. But sales dropped 1.8 percent to \$11.2 billion on Black Friday,

SHOPPING | 4

### Dems, Obama distant as 2014 nears

By LAURIE KELLMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — A month after emerging from a government shutdown at the top of their game, many Democrats in Congress newly worried about the party's re-election prospects are for the first time distancing themselves from President Barack Obama after the disastrous rollout of his health care overhaul.

At issue, said several Obama allies, is

a loss of trust in the president after only 106,000 people — instead of an anticipated half million — were able to buy insurance coverage the first month of the new "Obamacare" websites. In addition, some 4.2 million Americans received notices from insurers that policies Obama had promised they could keep were being canceled.

"Folks are now, I think in talking to members, more cautious with regard to dealing with the president," said Maryland

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the senior Democrat on the House Oversight Committee and one of the first leaders in his state to endorse Obama's presidential candidacy six years ago.

Cummings, the White House's biggest defender in a Republican-controlled committee whose agenda is waging war against the administration over Benghazi, the IRS scandal, a gun-tracking operation and now health care, said he still thinks Obama is

DISTANT | 4

### Mexico's booming car industry selling unsafe vehicles

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



AP PHOTO

In this image taken from a March 2013 video released by independent crash-test group Latin NCAP on Tuesday, a Nissan model Tsuru vehicle with no airbags being crash-tested at Latin NCAP's facilities in Landsberg am Lech, Germany.

RAMOS ARIZPE, Mexico — In Mexico's booming auto industry, the cars rolling off assembly lines may look identical, but how safe they are depends on where they're headed.

Vehicles destined to stay in Mexico or go south to the rest of Latin America carry a code signifying there's no need for antilock braking systems, electronic stability control, or more than two air bags, if any, in its basic models.

If the cars will be exported to the United States or Europe, however, they must meet stringent safety laws, including as many as six to 10 air bags, and stability controls that compensate for slippery roads and other road

dangers, say engineers who have worked in Mexico-based auto factories.

Because the price of the two versions of the cars is about the same, the dual system buttresses the bottom lines of automakers such as General Motors and Nissan. But it's being blamed for a surge in auto-related fatalities in Mexico, where laws require virtually no safety protections.

"We are paying for cars that are far more expensive and far less safe," said Alejandro Furas, technical director for Global New Car Assessment Program, or NCAP, a vehicle crash-test group. "Something is very wrong."

In 2011, nearly 5,000 drivers and passengers in Mexico died in accidents, a 58 percent increase since 2001, according

UNSAFE | 4

# Latest health care law delay: small business website

CHICAGO (AP) — The Obama administration is delaying yet another aspect of the health care law, putting off until next November the launch of an on-line portal to the health insurance marketplace for small businesses.

The move, announced Wednesday, was needed because repairs are still underway to the troubled healthcare.gov website, which is the primary way for individuals to apply for insurance, and that has priority, federal officials said.

In a conference call with reporters, administration officials said employers who want to buy marketplace plans for their workers now will need to go through an agent, broker or insurance

company this year, instead of using the government website. The administration said the plan will still allow small businesses to buy coverage but avoid slowing technical repairs to the hobbled federal online site.

Under the law, most small businesses do not have to provide coverage. But firms with 50 or more employees face a mandate to offer insurance or risk fines from the government in 2015.

The healthcare.gov site, where individuals without employer-sponsored health care can shop for insurance, is now smoothly handling 25,000 users at the same time and is on track to meet its goal of handling 50,000 simultaneous users by Saturday,

said administration spokeswoman Julie Bataille. "We have a lot of work left to do in the next few days," she said.

The small business marketplace, also called SHOP, was supposed to provide employers a new way to shop for coverage. The website was to make comparison shopping easier while promoting competition and keeping premiums down. The delay, which doesn't affect states running their own marketplaces, was met with frustration.

"It's disappointing that the online portion of the federal small business marketplace through healthcare.gov will be delayed, and it's important it get up and running as soon as possible," said John Arensmeyer, CEO

of Small Business Majority, an advocacy group that supports the health care law. "However, it doesn't change the fact that the marketplace can offer the most competitive combination of price and quality for small businesses purchasing health insurance."

The National Retail Federation, which has been working to ease the law's requirements for its members, was less generous.

"If the law is so burdensome for the administration to implement, just think how hard it is for small businesses, which are focused on growing a company, hiring new employees and assisting customers," said Neil Trautwein, the group's top health policy official, in a statement.

## NATION

### Navy suspends contracts after scandal

(LA Times) — In a widening scandal, the Navy cut ties Wednesday with a second international company over "questionable business integrity" involving lucrative contracts to service U.S. ships in foreign ports.

The Navy announced that it has suspended contracts with British-based Inchcape Shipping Services Ltd. and its affiliated companies. The firm has provided "ship husbanding" services to U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean.

Navy officials said the suspension of Inchcape is not connected to the investigation into another longtime contractor in the Asia-Pacific region, Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia.

The investigation into Glenn Defense Marine Asia has led to criminal charges in San Diego against two Navy commanders, a Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent, and two Malaysian business executives.

Also, two admirals have been put on leave, a Navy captain transferred to a lesser job, and another captain relieved of command of his ship.

### Diet drug to get another shot at FDA approval

(LA Times) — The makers of the proposed weight-loss drug Contrave said this week they have taken a key first step in showing that the medication does not boost the heart and stroke risks of those taking it, and they announced plans to return to the Food and Drug Administration to seek its approval in the coming weeks.

Contrave, an investigational drug that pairs the antidepressant and anti-smoking drug bupropion with the anti-addiction medication naltrexone, could be approved by the drug agency for the U.S. market as early as June.

In June and July of 2012, the FDA approved the marketing of Belviq and Qsymia. But Contrave was rebuffed by the FDA in February 2011.

### Publisher sued for publishing Malcolm X's diary

CHICAGO (Chicago Tribune) — When editors at Chicago's Third World Press purchased the

rights to publish a book containing Malcolm X's diary, they saw it as an opportunity for

readers to view the last year of the civil rights leader's life through his own words.

But earlier this month, just days before the official release of "The Diary of Malcolm X, 1964," the family of Malcolm X filed a copyright infringement lawsuit in Manhattan federal court against Third World Press.

U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain issued a temporary restraining order preventing the publisher from selling the book.

At issue is whether Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Al-Shabazz, who is the book's co-editor along with journalist Herb Boyd, had the authority to sell the rights to her father's diary to Third World Press.

# Short sale deals dying as judges send homes to auction

LAKE WORTH, Fla. (Cox Newspapers) — Jodi Watson raced to finish a short sale on her Lake Worth home before it could be sold to the highest bidder at the county's foreclosure auction. With a buyer-signed contract and an initial blessing from her lender, the sale meant less credit damage, a release from unpaid mortgage debt and relief from years of loan modification letdowns.

In the world of Florida foreclosures, her case had moved at lightning speed — 17 months from summons to judgment. As the Oct. 21 auction crept forward and with her short sale still wending through a notoriously slow process, Watson pleaded for an auction delay. Her bank agreed.

A Palm Beach County circuit court judge did not.

Five years into the Great Recession's unrivaled real estate crash, the housing landscape in Florida is now shaped as much by the courts as homebuyers, Realtors and lenders.

Hundreds of thousands of foreclosures still crowd Florida's dockets — 285,750 as of Sept. 30. The judiciary has been given money and marching orders to clear them.

It's understandable judges are wary of canceling foreclosure sales — the final step in closing a case — after hearing for years that short sales and loan modifications were nearly done deals, only to have them delay the inevitable.

But attorneys, homeowners and Realtors complain the processing push is killing legitimate deals that are more likely to succeed today because of rising home prices

and National Mortgage Settlement mandates. The 2012 settlement with the nation's five largest lenders restricts foreclosures from moving forward if there is an active loan modification or short sale pending.

Watson's home was bought at auction for \$112,900, \$37,000 less than what it would have sold for under terms of the short sale contract.

"I don't understand why the system works the way it does," said Watson, 43, who landed in foreclosure after her lender's advice to stop making payments if she wanted a loan modification. "I don't know real estate law and all that stuff. I just scratch my head because it doesn't make sense."

Last week, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Diana Lewis heard case after case of requests to cancel foreclosure auctions because short sales and loan modifications were underway. Lewis has a reputation of no-nonsense rulings and little patience for delays.

In August, Lewis sent Marlene Marrero's West Palm Beach home to auction despite a bank plea that the sale be canceled because of short sale negotiations. Marrero stood before Lewis last week asking the auction be set aside so she could finish the short sale.

Lewis reluctantly agreed after Marrero's Realtor promised she could get the deal done.

"The more time you give them, all they do is put it on the back burner," Lewis said, responding to a different request for a delay because of a loan modification.



AP PHOTO

In this still image taken from video posted by NASA on Tuesday, NASA astronauts Rick Mastracchio, left, and Mike Hopkins show some of the turkey and green bean casserole they plan to eat for their Thanksgiving meal in a video made aboard the Earth-orbiting International Space Station.

# Space hosts busy Thanksgiving with launch, comet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Space will serve up a banquet of activities on Thanksgiving, featuring a comet kissing the sun, a zero-gravity freeze-dried feast in orbit and a rocket launch attempt:

**First course:** Comet ISON, which was discovered a year ago, is making its first spin around the sun and will come the closest to the super-hot solar surface at 1:37 p.m. EST. It may take a few hours before astronomers know if the comet survived its brush with the sun. If it survives, and maybe even if it doesn't, people in the Northern Hemisphere will have a good chance of seeing the comet — or its remains — in the first two weeks of December just before sunrise and after sunset. It won't be visible with the naked eye on Thursday, but NASA has a fleet of telescopes trained on ISON.

**Second course:** For the

six people on board the International Space Station — including American astronauts Mike Hopkins and Rick Mastracchio — it's time for a traditional Thanksgiving feast. But don't expect them to be carving a succulent bird. In a video from space, the two astronauts showed off their menu, all in small sealed packets: irradiated smoked turkey, thermostabilized yams, cornbread dressing, potatoes, freeze-dried asparagus, baked beans, bread, cobbler and what Hopkins called his favorite — dehydrated green bean casserole. It comes with a view from space that is juicier than any turkey on Earth. "Though we miss our families, it's great to be in space," Hopkins said from 260 miles above Earth in a taped message.

**Dessert:** Residents of Florida's Space Coast may get to see a rocket thunder through the sky around dinner time if all goes well.

Private firm SpaceX of Hawthorne, Calif., will try again to launch its Falcon-9 rocket between 5:38 p.m. and 6:44 p.m. EST from Cape Canaveral Air Station. The large rocket didn't launch in a first attempt Monday because of a technical glitch. The rocket is carrying a 7,055-pound telecommunications satellite for a Luxembourg firm. This is part of a growing trend of newer rocket firms — SpaceX is headed by PayPal founder Elon Musk — launching more and signing up nongovernment customers, said Harvard astronomer Jonathan McDowell, who catalogues launches worldwide. Thanksgiving and November are often a quiet time for space, but not this year, he said. It will be the first Cape Canaveral launch attempt on Thanksgiving since 1959 — that one failed when the rocket exploded seconds after liftoff, according to McDowell.

# College admission offers may get easier to obtain

LOS ANGELES (LA Times) — After a long stretch of rising competition in college admissions, the numbers this year may

be on the side of students like Davone Morales, an Eagle Rock High School senior. He and his classmates nationwide are lucky

to be part of the smallest group in years applying to college.

The population dip won't bust open the doors to Stanford, Harvard, UCLA and other highly selective campuses. But many experts predict it will be somewhat easier to obtain admission offers from good schools. And colleges are working harder to court applicants.

To students, the demographic dip offers a bit of hope after months of writing essays, taking entrance exams and gathering recommendation letters. This is crunch time for these seniors: University of California applications are due Saturday and the deadline for most private colleges is weeks later. Students typically don't find out where they've been accepted until the spring.

The numbers of high school graduates across the country rose from 2.6 million in 1996-97 to a peak of 3.4 million in 2010-11, as the children of later baby boomers matured into 12th-graders. Then a decline began and the low point will be this year's 3.2 million nationally, according to a report by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

**Marissa Alexander released from jail on bond**

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — The Florida woman awaiting a new trial in a controversial “stand your ground” case is free on bond.

First Coast News reports that Marissa Alexander was released from jail Wednesday. According to the Duval County Clerk of Court, she must remain under house arrest and electronic monitoring while awaiting trial.

In 2012, Alexander was sentenced to a mandatory 20-year prison sentence for firing what she insisted was a warning shot during a fight with her husband. She tried to invoke Florida’s “stand your ground” law but the judge threw out her self-defense claim, noting that she could have run out of the house to escape her husband but instead got the gun and went back inside.

An appeals court ruled in September that the judge in the case gave improper jury instructions, and a new trial has been set for next year.

**Officials announce license-free fishing days**

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Florida Gov. Rick Scott is waiving fishing license requirements for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The governor and state wildlife officials have declared Friday, Nov. 29 a license-free freshwater fishing day and Saturday, Nov. 30 a license-free saltwater fishing day.

“License-free fishing days serve as a great opportunity for families to enjoy the incredible fishing opportunities that Florida has to offer,” Scott said in a statement. “After the Thanksgiving holiday, families will be able to head to the water with their visiting guests and experience some of the best fishing in the world.”

Each year, the state authorizes eight license-free fishing days to help grow the fishing industry and promote conservation stewardship. All other fishing and boating rules and regulations still apply. In addition, the state’s fish and wildlife agency runs promotion programs that allow anglers to win prizes for catching and documenting certain species of fish.

Beginning in 2014, all of the sanctioned fishing days will fall on the same weekend days from year to year. Officials hope the regular schedule will encourage anglers and businesses to plan fishing trips around the events.

**Head of ‘Fly High’ scam pleads guilty to fraud**

MIAMI (AP) — A South Florida man is facing up to 20 years behind bars after pleading guilty to fraud through a company called Fly High Investments.

Court records show that 27-year-old Daniel Paez pleaded guilty this week to securities fraud and will be sentenced Feb. 4. In addition to the prison time, Paez could be fined up to \$250,000.

Prosecutors say Paez obtained at least \$500,000 from investors between September 2010 and April 2012 by promising them a guaranteed, fixed rate of return and ability to withdraw money whenever they wished. Paez used telephone solicitation and the Internet to attract investors.

Instead, authorities say Paez spent most of the investors’ money in gambling casinos and for his personal benefit.

**Couple dead in apparent murder-suicide**

BIG PINE KEY (AP) — Authorities have identified the victims of a Florida Keys murder-suicide as a Texas couple with a criminal past.

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office reports that 49-year-old Jim Ovecka and 54-year-old Michelle Chapman were found dead Monday morning on Big Pine Key.

Their car was running with a hose running from the tailpipe to a back window. But investigators say Ovecka used a handgun to shoot Chapman in the head, and then to shoot himself.

The couple previously owned of a seafood restaurant in Corpus Christi, Texas. They were accused of theft after customers began complaining in late 2011 of overcharges to their credit cards.

Ovecka and Chapman were arrested in Tucson, Ariz., earlier this year. They were sentenced in September to 10 years of probation and ordered to pay back around half of the \$200,000 they stole.

**Electronic tag readers are solving crimes**

TAMPA (AP) — The Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office recently got a tip a stolen vehicle had been seen near the University of South Florida. Investigators sent deputies to the area, found the car and arrested the two men inside. Both were charged with grand theft auto.

The tip didn’t come from an alert citizen. It came from a tag reader that reads license plates from passing vehicles, a process similar to the one used to bill motorists on toll roads in Tampa Bay and throughout the state.

Unlike that system, though, the sheriff’s office tag reader sends the license plate information through the National Crime Information Center and Florida Crime Information Center databases. If a “hit” arises — a stolen car, say, or a car registered to someone with an outstanding arrest warrant — the system flags that information for deputies.

The tag reader is the latest weapon in a growing arsenal of high-tech devices used by law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Police departments and sheriff’s offices say the system’s ability to process thousands of license plates a day is an effective, low-cost way of solving car thefts and catching criminals.

The notion, though, that the government is capturing information about the whereabouts of thousands of law-abiding motorists every day has raised privacy concerns. The growing popularity of tag readers prompted the American Civil Liberties Union to conduct a national study on the issue this summer.

“The real problem is what happens with that data that they collected



AP PHOTO

Images from tag reading camera systems are monitored at the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office District One. One camera shows northbound and southbound traffic along 15th Street at 122nd Avenue. Other monitors are positioned around the area.

about you,” said Florida ACLU spokesman Baylor Johnson. “Who then has access to that data? If you have done nothing wrong, there is no reason they should keep that data.”

Hillsborough County’s tag reader consists of two cameras installed on a pole at 15th Street and 122nd Avenue and has been in use for about a year. The tag reader software was included when the sheriff’s office received a \$1.3 million federal grant in 2010 for equipment and installation of the Eye on Crime surveillance system in the neighborhoods around USF.

The \$25,000 device is the only one in Hillsborough County; its results will determine whether the pilot program is broadened.

So far, it’s been a hit with authorities.

“The system has been extremely successful,” said Major J.R. Burton, who oversees the sheriff’s office District I operations where the tag reader system is located. “I would love to see it expanded.”

The system’s value to law enforcement is its ability to record huge numbers of license plates and run that information through crime databases. For instance, the two cameras installed near USF read 1.3 million

tags over a 90-day period, a rate almost incalculably higher than deputies would have been able to do on their own.

The tag reader system recorded 1,159 hits, including stolen plates, stolen vehicles, vehicles used in commission of a crime, wanted persons and missing persons. Using information from the tag readers, the sheriff’s office has been able to recover eight stolen vehicles in the last 90-day cycle, Burton said.

“We love it,” he said. “If you can solve a handful of cases you ordinarily wouldn’t solve, why wouldn’t you invest in it?”

The cameras are useful in other ways, too, Burton said. When someone shot bullets into a car on 15th Street, not far from where the tag readers are installed, investigators reviewed the video, saw the car and its license plate, and went to the home of the person to whom the vehicle was registered.

Although the case remains under investigation, deputies have been able to advance the case with help from the tag reader cameras, Burton said.

“In my book, it paid for itself that day,” Burton said. “That was a lead we would have never have had.”



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**Congressman: Has NASA let go of enough unused property?**

ORLANDO (Orlando Sentinel) — NASA is in the midst of a huge yard sale at Kennedy Space Center, peddling unused hangars, assembly buildings, launch complexes and even a landing strip to commercial space companies.

But at the request of U.S. Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., Congress soon may be asking whether the space agency is cleaning out the closets thoroughly enough.

NASA is trying to save millions of dollars it spends maintaining rocket-launch properties it no longer needs because of the space shuttle’s retirement while hoping to fuel the emerging

commercial space industry at Cape Canaveral.

Mica said he will call for a congressional hearing early next year to explore NASA’s options for land or buildings that might no longer be needed among the 140,000 acres and scores of facilities at KSC.

Mica has not suggested that NASA is hoarding assets. But he said he wants to have a look as part of his ongoing crusade to spotlight federal property that’s wasted or underused.

At stake is how extensively KSC is transformed into a multiuser spaceport, with the Air Force, NASA and commercial space

companies working side by side to develop and launch or fly whatever they need.

Leaving the facilities unused is not without cost. A report issued by NASA’s inspector general in February estimated that the agency is spending more than \$1.3 million a year to maintain the shuttle landing strip, and as many as seven launch-related facilities are underutilized or may not be needed anymore, costing \$29 million a year.

NASA already has put a few facilities in private hands, while others have been mothballed or demolished to reduce maintenance costs.

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**NATION**

**\$5M bail for suspect in deaths of mom, children**

PARSONS, Kan. (AP) — The man suspected in the deaths of a southeast Kansas woman and her three children and arrested after a massive manhunt was being held Wednesday on \$5 million bail.

Labette District Judge Robert Fleming signed an order that gives prosecutors until Dec. 10 to file charges against David Cornell Bennett Jr., 22, of Cherryvale, who was arrested late Tuesday.

Bennett is being held in connection to the killings of 29-year-old Cami Umbarger and her children.

Their bodies were found late Monday night in Parsons, about 35 miles from Independence. Details about how the victims were killed or their relationship to Bennett have not been released by authorities.

**Police: Sisters locked in, abused, watched by cameras**

TUCSON, Ariz. (LA Times) — The two girls, ages 12 and 13, stood at a neighbor's house shortly before 4 a.m. Tuesday and began pounding on the door, knocking frantically on a nearby window. They were barefoot and trembling. The couple inside opened the door and was shocked when the girls told them they had been imprisoned in a home across the way.

Tucson police on Wednesday said three sisters — 12, 13 and 17 — had been confined to their bedrooms for many months, where music or a static sound played at all hours and surveillance cameras pointed at their beds 24 hours a day. Sometimes they weren't allowed to go to the bathroom, forced to relieve themselves in their bedroom closets, police said.

**LA-area man fires on police, holds 2 hostages**

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — A gunman fired several shots at a pair of police officers, hitting one, and held two hostages for nearly nine hours — but all came away from the standoff without serious injuries.

The worst injury Wednesday occurred when an Inglewood policeman was shot in his bulletproof vest. He suffered blunt force injuries and was set to spend the night in another hospital as a precaution, police said.

The second officer in was not hit but was hurt when she fell down in the chaos that followed, Madia said. She was treated at a hospital and released.

The 45-year-old gunman and the girlfriend and her 14-year-old daughter who he held hostage in their house all came away unharmed, police said.

**Gay couples sue to block Texas marriage ban**

AUSTIN, Texas (Cox Newspapers) — Two same-sex couples, including two Austin women legally married in Massachusetts, have asked a federal court to void Texas' ban on gay marriage, arguing that it improperly discriminates against an unpopular minority and treats them like second-class citizens.

Citing a string of U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have lent momentum to gay rights activists, the lawsuit asks U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia of San Antonio to issue an injunction immediately blocking Texas from enforcing a law and state constitutional amendment limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

**Orphans in Philippines speak of typhoon's horrors**

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP) — The teenager with unruly hair in a ponytail wipes tears from her eyes as she holds her feverish 3-year-old brother, who clings to her and lets out a sob of his own now and then. They have been inseparable ever since they lost their parents to Typhoon Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surge.

"The water was so strong. Also the wind and the rain," 15-year-old Shylyny Therese Negru said. "Our house was cut into two."

She and her three surviving brothers, ages 3, 6 and 12, are among an unknown number of children in the eastern Philippines who lost their parents to the massive Nov. 8 storm. Zafrin Chowdry, a spokeswoman for UNICEF, said the agency is helping to rapidly trace the families of affected children and to connect them with relatives.

The death toll from Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons on record, has risen to 5,560 with 1,757 others missing, officials said Thursday. The United Nations said



AP PHOTO

In this Nov. 21 photo, Shylyny Therese Negru, 15, holds her youngest brother, Rainier Aaron Dacuno, 3, as they sit in a relative's home in the town of Burauen, the Philippines.

at least 14 million people have been affected, including 1.8 million displaced children.

The storm almost completely flattened the seaside neighborhood where Shylyny's family lived in Tacloban, a coastal city devastated by the typhoon. She and

her brothers now live with their mother's aunt in Burauen, a farming town about 40 kilometers from Tacloban. Friends gave them the clothes they now wear.

"It doesn't matter if we lose everything, as long as we can have our parents here," said Shylyny,

a high school student who dreams of becoming an accountant or a journalist. She accepts that her parents are dead; she only wishes to find their bodies, and the body of a brother who did not survive.

Shylyny said she climbed to the ceiling of the family's two-story home when the water suddenly rose. She and her brothers clutched wires and anything they could hold on to.

"The last time I looked, my mother was just beside me, but when I looked again she was gone," she sobbed.

Her 12-year-old brother, Richard Chris Negru, held on to their mother's hand, but she could not move because her legs were pinned under debris.

He said she told him to hold on to his younger brothers, to take care of his siblings and to be a good boy. Then she let go, and was swallowed by the rising water.

The children's father was able to carry the two younger boys to the ceiling, but he, too, disappeared in the water soon after. Richard Chris took the two boys and

they managed to reach a neighbor's rooftop.

Shylyny tried to save her 10-year-old brother, Richard Lawrence Dacuno, who was mentally disabled. She held him but struggled as the water rose, and when she was hit by debris she lost her grip.

"I thought I would not survive because I really did not know how to swim and I was already feeling weak," she said.

She grabbed a neighbor by his shirt, and he helped her reach higher ground. She found her other brothers in the neighbor's rooftop.

Richard Lawrence's body was found in the stairs of a neighbor's house later that day. Rescuers placed his body by the roadside with other corpses. The siblings' grandfather Ricardo Negru Jr. left him there overnight to look for Shylyny's cousin. When he returned, the body had been collected. More than two weeks later, the family is still searching.

The grandfather said the boy was likely buried in one of the city's mass graves, but he did not know where.

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PARKER WATCHES, \$250

**luxury cashmere**

FROM ALEX MARIE, \$79

Selection varies by store. If your selection isn't available at the store nearest you, we'll gladly order it!

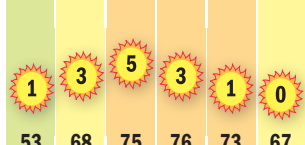
UGG® Australia product contains real fur from sheep or lamb. Fur origin: Australia, European Union or United States. Real fur has been artificially dyed and treated by UGG® Australia.

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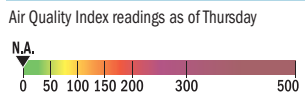
CONDITIONS TODAY

UV Index and RealFeel Temperature Today



8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

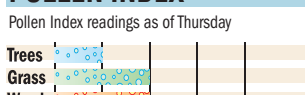
AIR QUALITY INDEX



0-50 Good; 51-100 Moderate; 101-150 Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200 Unhealthy; 201-300 Very Unhealthy; 301-500 Hazardous

Main pollutant: not available Source: sggov.net

POLLEN INDEX



absent low moderate high very high Source: National Allergy Bureau

ALMANAC

Punta Gorda through 5 p.m. Thursday Temperatures High/Low 70°/41° Record High 88° (1973) Record Low 37° (2008)

MONTHLY RAINFALL

Table with columns: Month, 2013, 2012, Avg. Record/Year. Lists rainfall data for Jan through Dec.

Weather forecast table for Today, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday with icons and temperature/rain chances.

AIRPORT

Table of airport delays for Ft. Myers and Sarasota with flight numbers and status.

SUN AND MOON

Table showing sun and moon rise/set times for Today and Saturday.

SOLUNAR TABLE

Table of solunar periods for Minor and Major tides throughout the day.

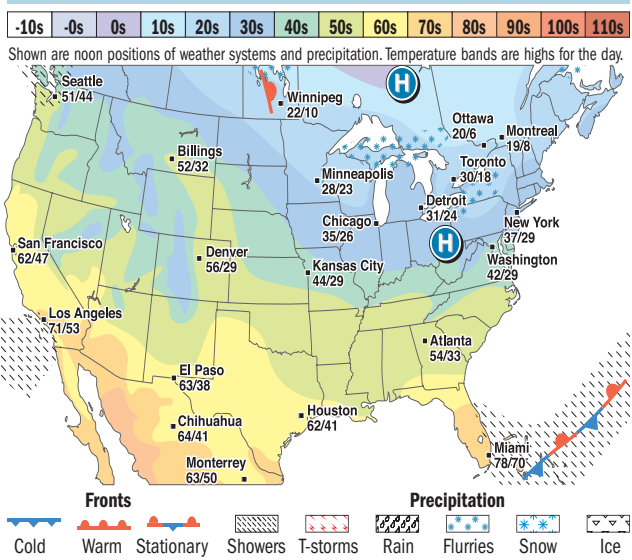
TIDES

Table of tide times for Punta Gorda, Englewood, Boca Grande, El Jobean, and Venice.

FLORIDA CITIES

Large table of weather forecasts for various Florida cities including Tampa, Orlando, and Miami.

THE NATION



U.S. Extremes (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday) High 75° at Opa Locka, FL. Low -9° at Alamosa, CO

Table of weather forecasts for major U.S. cities like Albuquerque, Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles.

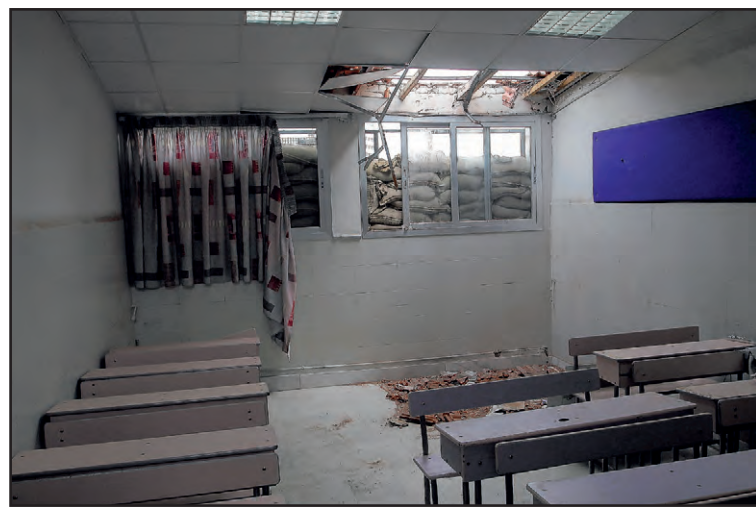
WORLD CITIES

Table of weather forecasts for international cities including London, Tokyo, Sydney, and Mexico City.

Fear in Syrian capital as mortar shells rain down

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — They fall randomly, often during rush hour, smashing into schools, businesses, churches and homes in the Syrian capital and leaving a trail of death and terror in their wake.

recent weeks has centered on Christian-majority areas in the Old City, where many residents now barricade themselves at home and schools are half empty.



This Tuesday, Nov. 12 photo shows damage from a mortar strike at the Yuhana al-Dimashqi School in Damascus, Syria. They fall randomly, often during rush hour, smashing into schools, businesses, churches and homes and leaving a trail of death and terror in their wake.

Bishop Luca al-Khoury said in a telephone interview. On Thursday, a mortar shell landed inside the Russian Embassy in Damascus, killing one Syrian and wounding nine, including guards.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Iran sanctions eased, but pinch still felt

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The sanctions relief offered to Iran by the U.S. and five world powers has begun to get the gears of commerce slowly turning again in an economy that remains in shambles.

China sends warplanes into air defense zone

BEIJING (Washington Post) — China said Thursday that it had sent warplanes to patrol its newly declared maritime air defense identification zone, ratcheting up a dispute over an island chain that has turned into a dangerous standoff in the region.

AP sources: Plan calls for ship to destroy weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — Destroying Syria's deadliest chemical weapons on land would come with vexing diplomatic and security problems as well as environmental issues.

Karzai: US drone strike killed child, may not sign deal

KABUL (Washington Post) — Afghan President Hamid Karzai accused the United States of launching a drone strike that killed a 2-year-old child Thursday and vowed to not sign a long-term security agreement if similar attacks continue.

Thai prime minister pleads for end to protests

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's prime minister begged protesters Thursday to call off their sustained anti-government demonstrations and negotiate an end to the nation's latest crisis.

Market bombings, attacks across Iraq kill 29

BAGHDAD (AP) — Three car bombs exploded at outdoor markets and on a street full of shops near Iraq's capital, the deadliest of a series of attacks across the country that killed at least 29 people Thursday, officials said.



## PIRATES PLAYOFF COUNTDOWN

**T**ODAY: Port Charlotte travels to East Lake for a state football playoff game. Join us Friday night for live coverage:



**TWITTER**  
Follow us @SunCoastSports for live updates during the game.



**FACEBOOK**  
After the game @SunCoast Sports for Football Final.

### SPORTS ON TV: Today's menu

#### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**MIAMI (8-3, 4-3 ACC) AT PITTSBURGH (6-5, 3-4)**  
3:30 p.m., ABC (99.3 FM)

The Hurricanes stirred the echoes during a 7-0 start this season, but reality and a slew of injuries set in over the next three weeks in blowout losses to Florida State, Virginia Tech and the Blue Devils. Miami avoided calamity by drumming Virginia last Saturday. A victory over the Panthers and more than a bit of help over the weekend could propel the Hurricanes to a rematch with the Seminoles in the ACC title game. The Hurricanes have won the last seven meetings between schools.

— Preview story, **PAGE 4**

#### SIDE DISHES

**Noon** — Iowa at Nebraska, ABC  
**2:30** — SMU at Houston, ESPN2  
**3** — Arkansas at LSU, CBS  
**3:30** — Florida International at Florida Atlantic, FS1  
**7** — Washington State at Washington, 7 p.m. FOX  
**8** — South Florida at Central Florida, ESPN  
Oregon St. at Oregon, FS1

#### HOCKEY

**PITTSBURGH (16-9-1) AT TAMPA BAY (16-8-1)**  
4 p.m., Sun Sports (620 AM)

The Lightning, coming off a 4-2 victory on Wednesday against Philadelphia to spoil Vincent Lecavalier's return to the Tampa Bay Times Forum, trail the Penguins in the NHL's Eastern Conference only because Pittsburgh leads the newly-minted Metropolitan Division. Both teams have 33 points, tied for second overall in the East behind Boston's 34. The Lightning have won seven in a row at home. Anders Lindback was in net against the Flyers but Ben Bishop, who beat the New York Rangers 5-0 on Monday night, could return. He left Wednesday morning's skate with a yelp of pain after taking a puck off his right hand near his thumb, but coach Jon Cooper said he was fine. The Penguins, who beat Toronto 6-5 in a shootout on Wednesday, lost Paul Martin for 4-6 weeks after the defenseman broke his leg in an overtime loss to the Bruins on Monday.

#### SIDE DISH

**1** — N.Y. Rangers at Boston, NBC

#### BASKETBALL

**MIAMI (12-3) AT TORONTO (6-8)**  
7 p.m., Sun Sports (99.3 FM)

Playing his fifth game in Cleveland since leaving the Cavaliers in 2010, LeBron James almost felt welcomed. He led the Heat's victory on Wednesday night with 28 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. "Of late, there have been some cheers here," Dwayne Wade said. "At the end of the day, he's from Ohio. I think some fans are proud of that." The Southeast Division-leading move on to play tonight at Air Canada Centre in Toronto against the Raptors, who lead the Atlantic Division despite a losing record.

#### SIDE DISHES

**7** — San Antonio at Orlando, Fox Sports Florida  
**7:30** — Florida State at Florida, ESPN 2

AP PHOTO

**LeBron James, right, dunks during Miami's 95-84 win Wednesday in his return to Cleveland.**



### PREP FOOTBALL: Port Charlotte



SUN FILE PHOTO BY TOM O'NEILL

Port Charlotte fans have had plenty of reasons to turn out and cheer the Pirates this season, thanks in part to a defense that will be put to the test by the team speed of East Lake in today's Region 7A-3 final in Tarpon Springs.

# Give them the 'D'

## Port Charlotte's senior-laden defense fuels postseason success

By **ROB SHORE**  
SPORTS WRITER

So now, the question becomes this: How good is this Port Charlotte defense, anyway?

So far, the answer has been awfully good. Elite, even.

Is the defense good enough to carry the Pirates to a state semifinal? That could be the question tonight when Port Charlotte faces East Lake in the

Region 7A-3 final.

Yes, the offense featuring Traige McClary and the Pirates' seven-headed monster at running back will have questions asked of it, too. But when the Eagles have been held under 40 points only twice all year, the question naturally drifts to a team's defense.

After the Pirates' clinical 35-0 victory against Melbourne last week, the question became how good

could that defense be?

"The sky's the limit," defensive lineman Greg Patton said in agreement. "I tell you what, we come in to the film room, to practice, we just grind every day in practice. The sky's the limit for us."

It was hard to digest there might be more to this defense, a group that decimated Melbourne. But that seemed to be the case for a unit that features eight seniors.

"Everybody's not even at 100 percent healthy,

**DEFENSE | 6**

#### PIRATES AT EAGLES

**WHO:** Port Charlotte (10-1) at East Lake (12-0)  
**WHAT:** Region 7A-3 final  
**WHEN:** Today, 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** East Lake H.S., Tarpon Springs  
**COST:** \$8  
**IF YOU'RE GOING:** Take I-75 N to exit 228 and merge onto I-275 N. Take exit 30 for FL-686 W/ Roosevelt Boulevard. Follow signs for County Road 296 W and merge onto 118th Ave N. Turn right onto County Road 611/49th St. N and continue to follow County Road 611. Keep left to continue on County Road 611/McMullen Booth Road. Slight left onto East Lake Road S. Turn left onto Ridgeline Boulevard. Turn right onto Silver Eagle Drive.

### NFL: Tampa Bay

#### SCOREBOARD

Detroit 40, Green Bay 10  
Dallas 31, Oakland 24  
Baltimore 22, Pittsburgh 20

— Coverage, **PAGE 3**

## Bucs' Banks stakes out high-profile position

By **RICK STROUD**  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

TAMPA — Positioning is everything to a cornerback, and it's no accident that Tampa Bay rookie Johnthan Banks' locker is adjacent to that of Darrelle Revis. They are left just man to man most afternoons, talking about opposing receivers, money, life, family — you name it.

"I've done what he's said the whole season, and it's worked," Banks said motioning to Revis.

The second-round pick from Mississippi State has had a lot to discuss with Revis.

In addition to becoming the third player in the organization to contract MRSA, the staph infection resistant to antibiotics that has shortened the seasons of kicker Lawrence Tynes and guard Carl Nicks, Banks also went through a stretch during which he gave up scoreboard-changing plays and a shoulder injury sustained Nov. 17 against Atlanta.

But always, there was Revis in his ear and on the opposite side of the defense, locking up the No. 1 receiver while Banks handled the

**BUCS | 3**

#### BUCS AT PANTHERS

**WHO:** Tampa Bay (3-8) at Carolina (8-3)  
**WHEN:** Sunday, 1 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, N.C.  
**TV:** FOX  
**RADIO:** 103.5 FM, 620 AM, 1580 AM

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL: Central Florida

# Sibling rivalry contributes to Knights' dream year

#### BULLS AT KNIGHTS

**WHO:** South Florida (2-8) at UCF (9-1)  
**WHEN:** Today, 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bright House Networks Field, Orlando  
**TV:** ESPN  
**RADIO:** 970 AM, 1220 AM

#### STATE SCHEDULE

##### TODAY

Miami (8-3) at Pittsburgh (6-5), 3:30 p.m.  
FIU (11-0) at FAU (5-6), 3 p.m.  
S. Florida (2-8) at UCF (9-1), 8 p.m.

##### SATURDAY

Florida St. (11-0) at Florida (4-7), Noon

By **PAUL TENORIO**  
ORLANDO SENTINEL

When Cliff McCray Sr. put his young twin sons, Jordan and Justin, on bicycles for the first time and shoved them off, it did not take long to spark a competition.

The twins have always thrived thanks to natural rivalry.

From the classroom to backyard football to the trampoline or anything else, the brothers' passion

for being the best would show up. When they hopped on two wheels for the first time all those years ago, the challenge became who could stay upright for longer.

"Jordan stayed on the bike the longest," Cliff McCray Sr. recalled. "Once Jordan won at that, it always something else that would come up."

That has long been the nature of the relationship between Central Florida senior offensive linemen Jordan and Justin McCray. Today, they

remain just as competitive, and their similarities are just as striking.

Knights' center Joey Grant is 6-foot-2, 282-pounds. He may be the biggest separation in the lives of the McCray twins. As No. 19 UCF's starting left and right guards, the McCrays are lined up on either side of Grant. The identical twins are hard to tell apart, if not for their differing No. 63 (Jordan) and No. 64 (Justin) jerseys. Both are listed on the

UCF roster at 6-foot-3, 310-pounds. They lift almost identical amounts in the weight room and both were voted team captains. Each has started 24 consecutive games. Even their SAT scores were separated by 10 points. Both have NFL aspirations.

"They are so much the same, really, in so many ways," Cliff McCray Sr. said. "It's almost hard to pinpoint the differences."

**SIBLINGS | 4**

Florida Lottery

Table with lottery results for CASH 3, PLAY 4, FANTASY 5, MEGA MONEY, LOTTO, POWERBALL, and MEGA MILLIONS.

AWAY AT COLLEGE

Eastern Illinois thankful for local duo

By BARBARA BOXLEITNER SUN CORRESPONDENT

Dino Fanti and Robert Haynes weren't able to celebrate Thanksgiving at home in Southwest Florida. But the Eastern Illinois University football players are plenty thankful for the season they are having.

coaches poll. "It's great to have the bye week," redshirt sophomore Fanti said Tuesday after he and Haynes were named to the all-Ohio Valley Conference second team.

second in total defense among nine conference teams, allowing a conference-low nine rushing touchdowns. "Our defense really stepped up," Haynes said.

He led the team with eight tackles and added a sack in a win over Southeast Missouri State, whose spread option offense "left a lot of one-on-ones," he said.

GOLF ROUNDUP



AP PHOTO

Adam Scott of Australia loses his grip as he tees off on the second hole during the first round Thursday at the Australian Open in Sydney, Australia.

Scott has hot start with 62

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SYDNEY — Adam Scott birdied his first six holes en route to a course-record 10-under 62 at Royal Sydney on Thursday to take a three-stroke lead after the first round of the Australian Open.

Scott is attempting to join Robert Allenby as the only golfers to win all three Australian majors in the same year.

Scott broke the previous Royal Sydney mark of 65 set by five players at the 2008 Australian Open. After Scott's opening birdie run, he made par on the next eight holes before birdieing his final four.

"The longest putt I had on those opening birdies was about 5 feet," Scott said. "I hit a lot of quality shots right out of the blocks this morning."

GOLF SCOREBOARD

Australasian Tour

Table listing golf scores for the Australasian Tour, including the Australian Open and European Tour.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BASEBALL

IRONPIGS travel tryouts: For nine-under, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U teams Jan. 11-12 at 1185 O'Donnell Blvd., Port Charlotte.

Game Day Heat:

12-and-under travel team is looking for players. Practices Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 p.m. at North Charlotte Regional Park.

Port Charlotte Little League:

Signups for spring at Harold Avenue Recreational Center, 23400 Harold Ave., Port Charlotte. Dates and times: Dec. 3 6-8 p.m., Dec. 5 6-8 p.m., Dec. 7 10 a.m.-noon, Dec. 10 6-8 p.m., Dec. 12 6-8 p.m. and Dec. 14 10 a.m.-noon.

Snowbird Classic:

Seeking volunteers to help with admissions, scorekeeping, public address announcing, concessions, program selling and parking.

BOXING

Youth and adult classes: Male and female. Monday-Friday, 6-8 p.m., at 24710 Sandhill Blvd. in Deep Creek.

FOOTBALL

Buffalo Bills Backers: Meets for every Bills game at Buffalo Wings and Rings, corner of Price and Toledo Blade in North Port.

KICKBALL

CC Adult Sports: Games on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. at Englewood Sports Complex.

OFFICIATING

Charlotte County Officials Association: Seeking those interested in being an official with a focus on high school and youth baseball and softball.

PROSPORTS ACADEMY

Youth sport specific personal training and group sessions: Football, baseball and soccer, track & field, volleyball and basket.

ROWING

CHYC Dragon Boat Team: Seeks new members. Team practices year-round at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club.

Club on Lister Street in Port Charlotte. Yacht club membership not required to participate.

RUNNING

Foot Landing Running Academy: Go from walker to runner in six-week training program. \$35 fee includes coaching, registration for the Strides for Scholarships 5K and T-shirt.

SAILING

Charlotte Harbor Multihull Association: For multihull owners or those interested in them. No dues. Meets first Monday of each month 6 p.m.

Punta Gorda Sailing Club Holiday Regatta:

Dec. 7 & 8. Divisions: PHRF spinnaker, PHRF non-spinnaker, PHRF cruising, PHRF multihull.

Miss North Port Fastpitch camp:

Dec. 14 at 7508 Glenallen Blvd., North Port. Pitchers and catchers 9-11 a.m., position players and hitters 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Charlotte County Swimming: Year-round USA Swimming team provides instruction and competition ages 5 and up.

KICKBALL

Charlotte County Officials Association: Seeking those interested in being an official with a focus on high school and youth baseball and softball.

OFFICIATING

Charlotte County Officials Association: Seeking those interested in being an official with a focus on high school and youth baseball and softball.

PROSPORTS ACADEMY

Youth sport specific personal training and group sessions: Football, baseball and soccer, track & field, volleyball and basket.

ROWING

CHYC Dragon Boat Team: Seeks new members. Team practices year-round at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club.

ROTONDA QUICKSTART:

Free lessons for parents and kids (12-under), 10-11 a.m. Saturdays, Rotonda Park. Rackets and balls provided.

FRANZ ROSS PARK YMCA:

For ages 3-13. Register in person, online at CharlotteCountyYMCA.com or call 629-9622.

TENNIS

Instruction: Age 5 to adult, at Franz Ross Park YMCA. Register at CharlotteCountyYMCA.com or call 941-629-9622.

Corrections

It is the Sun's policy to correct all errors of fact. To report an error, call or email the sports department.

How to...

Submit a story idea: Email or call Mark Lawrence 941-206-1175. Must contain name, address and phone number.

Report a high school result: Call 877-818-6204 or 941-206-1126 by 10:30 p.m. the day the event is held.

Submit local golf scores: Email scores to golfscores@sun-herald.com. Scores appear in the weekly Herald sections.

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Contact us

Mark Lawrence • Sports Editor mlawrence@sun-herald.com

Mike Bambach • Deputy SE mbambach@sun-herald.com

Matt Stevens • Assistant SE mstevens@sun-herald.com

Rob Shore • Staff writer shore@sun-herald.com

Zach Miller • Staff writer zmiller@sun-herald.com

EMAIL: sports@sun-herald.com FAX: 941-629-2085

The Community Calendar appears daily as space permits. To have your activity published, fax (941-629-2085) or e-mail (sports@sun-herald.com) event details to the Sports Department at least one week in advance.







■ PREP FOOTBALL: Kenbriel Hearn

# Stroke victim scores a miracle

By **BETSY BLANEY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK, Texas — Three months after emerging from a coma, 18-year-old football star Kenbriel Hearn scored the most memorable touchdown of his life.

The Memphis High School senior suffered two strokes caused by a bleeding mass on his brain and spent three weeks on life support. When he awoke this past summer, his 5-foot-7 frame had withered from 160 pounds to 112.

He was paralyzed on his right side and unable to walk or talk. Football was the last thing on his mind.

Once regaining the ability to jog, Hearn found himself back in pads when his coach asked him to suit up for the final home game. He figured he was on the sideline for moral support, but unbeknownst to him, both coaches had arranged for a special moment to highlight his road to recovery.

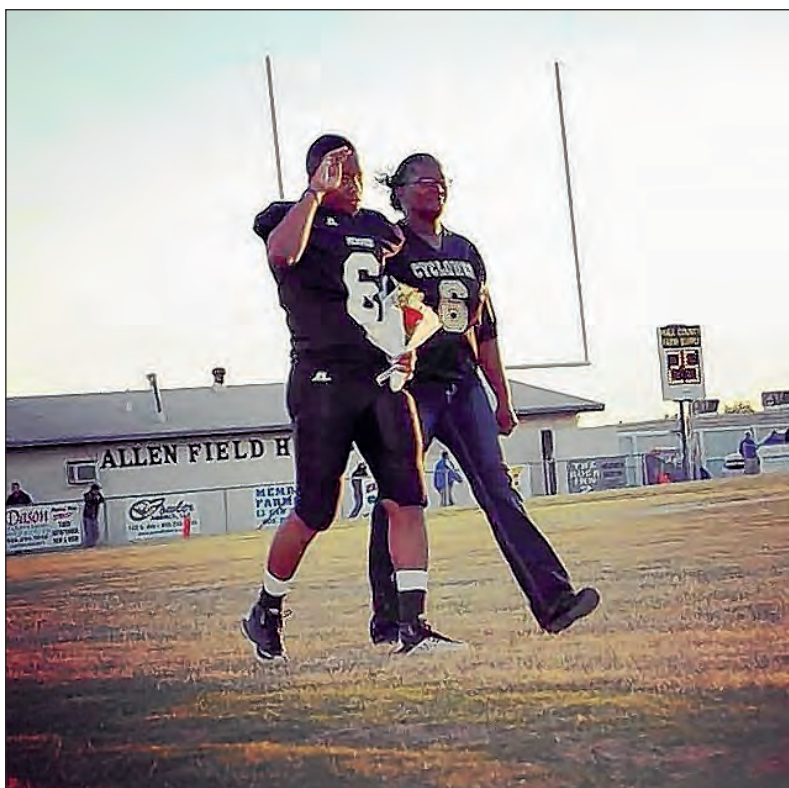
With Memphis trailing 35-0 in the final minute, Hearn was sent into the huddle and given directions to take the handoff and go.

He jogged 48 yards to the end zone, where players from both teams cheered him. He briefly knelt to pray as his mother, Tammy Henderson, looked on, tears streaming down her face.

It wasn't the first touchdown Hearn scored in his three seasons as a Memphis receiver and safety, but it was his sweetest.

"I will remember this one more because I battled through so much," said Hearn, who continues speech and physical therapy. "It was pretty great."

Cyclones coach Andy Correll hatched his plan the week before the Nov. 1 game in Memphis, about 85 miles southeast of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle. He emailed his counterpart at Stratford about his plan to let Hearn have one play. Stratford coach Eddie Metcalf went for it.



AP FILE PHOTO

**Kenbriel Hearn, left, and his mother, Tammy Henderson walk the field on Senior Night on Nov. 1 at Memphis High School in Texas. Hearn had suffered two strokes caused by a bleeding mass on his brain and spent three weeks on life support. He still suited up for the team's final home game.**

But with the Stratford Elks working on a shutout, Correll thought Metcalf might not want to spoil the accomplishment.

During a meeting at midfield, Correll suggested just allowing Hearn to pick up a first down. But Metcalf insisted he take it all the way to the end zone.

"Just let the boy go," he told Correll.

Metcalf later explained it was an "easy response," just as good as being part of three state titles.

"The shutout didn't mean anything in comparison to what that kid would do to me and to our kids," Metcalf said.

Hearn first thought his mother would be angry. "My second thought was he can't be serious," he said.

Hearn's mother had been clued

in earlier in the day that her son would get into the game. She kept mum but acknowledged it was difficult not to tell anyone.

"When he got the ball and started running tears just started streaming down my face," said Henderson, 43. "Him taking the field that last day, it was just joyful."

Correll and his players, who started each practice this fall with a prayer for Hearn, were ecstatic after Hearn's TD.

"All our kids were giving him hugs," Correll said. "He was bawling and I was, too. He just said, 'Thank you,' and that he loved me, and of course I said the same thing back."

Just a few months earlier, Henderson faced the real prospect of losing her son. Doctors told

her the mass on her son's brain was a congenital cavernoma — a collection of small blood vessels in the central nervous system. They occur in the general population once in 1,000 people.

Hearn's cavernoma was at the base of his skull on his brain stem. Bleeding from it caused Hearn's first stroke. Three days after surgery to remove the mass, he had another stroke, affecting his breathing and swallowing. CPR brought him back to life and being on life support allowed the healing to continue.

The seriousness of a cavernoma depends on its location, said Dr. Ben Baronia, who was not involved in Hearn's treatment and is an assistant professor of surgery at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in Lubbock.

Cavernomas can be fatal, especially when they are near areas of the brain that control breathing, he said.

"I think that's a remarkable recovery," Baronia said of Hearn's jog for the arranged touchdown.

Before he graduates to pursue a career as a juvenile probation officer, Hearn aims to accomplish more in high school athletics this spring by joining the track team.

He has regained all of his weight — and more — can walk and talk again but will have to get a follow-up MRI in a few months. If all is well, doctors will use other than bone to replace the flap removed from his skull during surgery.

He'll also continue rehab to meet his goal of running on the track team in the spring. He's now able to run a lap around the track, do a few sprints and lift some weights.

Hearn said his faith helped him survive, and the lessons he learned will remain for the rest of his life.

"It showed a lot of people don't let anything stop you," Hearn said. "Just put God first. No excuses."

## PORT CHARLOTTE AT EAST LAKE

**RECORDS:** Port Charlotte 10-1, 3-0 in District 7A-11; East Lake 12-0, 5-0 in District 7A-9

**WHEN:** Today, 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Eagles Stadium, Tarpon Springs

**LAST WEEK:** Port Charlotte defeated Melbourne 35-0; East Lake defeated Tarpon Springs 45-0

**TALKING POINTS:** This is East Lake's third consecutive trip to the regional final and Port Charlotte's first. ... The Eagles run a pro-style offense, led by a wealth of skill players, including WRs Artavis Scott and George Campbell and RB Weston Fordham. ... The bruising Fordham leads the Eagles with 1,150 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns. But Scott sometimes lines up in the backfield and has 631 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns, along with his 31 catches for 504 yards and five touchdowns. Scott tortured Charlotte in the 2012 preseason, returning two punts for touchdowns. ... The Eagles have a stout offensive front, led by 6-5, 275-pound Mason Cole, who has committed to Michigan. East Lake has five players committed to Division I schools, including Scott (Clemson), Cole and Campbell (Michigan) and DB Devin Abraham (South Florida). ... Abraham highlights a tough East Lake defense that has shut out five opponents this season. Abraham has six touchdowns on defensive and special teams returns. ... Port Charlotte is led by its rushing game which has racked up 3,210 yards and 36 touchdowns this season. RB Keon Suber leads the Pirates on the season with 646 yards and five touchdowns, but Anthony Stephens paced Port Charlotte last week against Melbourne with 84 yards, including a 56-yard score. ... QB Traige McClary (1,000 passing yards, 11 TDs) has multiple targets, including Paulsin Heitter, Jacques Jean-Louis and Malik Vaccaro-Dixon. ... The Pirates' defensive front has been a strength all season with Ian Bush, Calvin Collins and Greg Patton. Six of the Pirates' front seven are seniors. ... C Jace Norus practiced this week and could be ready to go tonight after missing last week with a shoulder injury. CB Ian Bush and K Andres Hernandez also return.

— Rob Shore

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### PREP SCHEDULE

**TODAY**

**Boys basketball**  
Island Coast Turkey Shootout  
Charlotte vs. Chaminade  
Madonna, 2:30 p.m.  
North Port vs. Belen Jesuit, 4 p.m.  
Mariner vs. Jensen Beach, 5 p.m.  
Fort Myers vs. Community School, 7 p.m.  
Island Coast vs. Gulf Coast, 8:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

**Boys basketball**  
Island Coast Turkey Shootout  
Mariner vs. Community School, 1:30 p.m.  
Gulf Coast vs. North Port, 3 p.m.  
Fort Myers vs. Belen Jesuit, 4:30 p.m.  
Charlotte vs. Jensen Beach, 6 p.m.  
Island Coast vs. Chaminade  
Madonna, 7:30 p.m.

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### DEFENSE

**FROM PAGE 1**

honestly," Price said. "We can always improve."

Port Charlotte coach Jordan Ingman even found some areas to critique. After all, Melbourne opened the game with a drive that reached the Pirates' 28-yard line before stalling.

"We got out of our gap a couple times tonight," Ingman said. "We got reached on the jet (sweep) a couple times early. We knew we were going to have trouble adjusting to the speed of the game."

After those adjustments were made, Port Charlotte forced Melbourne into four three-and-outs and a turnover as the Pirates raced to a 21-0 halftime lead.

Can the Pirates adjust to East Lake's speed? Receiver Artavis Scott, headlines a talented group that includes wideout George Campbell and running back Weston Fordham, as well as dynamic safety Devin Abraham (the son of former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Donnie Abraham).

"It makes everyone instantly a better coach," East Lake coach Bob Hudson said with a laugh. "It's good between George and Tav and Devin and Weston. PC knows — they're not exactly unskilled."

Well, no. But are they good enough to put a muzzle on this potent East Lake team?

Ingman hinted that some of East Lake's strengths play into Port Charlotte's strong points, but he said the Eagles would be a tough team to prepare for.

"There's no way to prepare our kids for the speed they'll see Friday night," he said. "Their running back (Scott) is going to Clemson. We can't duplicate that in practice."

Which goes back to the earlier point that the Port Charlotte defense can get better.

"I think that Friday, you'll probably see the best our defense can play," linebacker Jake Hobbs said on Wednesday.

In other words, the Pirates will need to get better to keep playing football.

"I don't think we're going to be able to make mistakes," Hobbs said. "They can not score on us. We're going to have to shut them down."

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**2020**

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Affordable 55+ community tucked away in North Port. Pool, Activity Room, Fitness Center, Restricted Access Entries. Great Specials on 1BR & 2BR Apartments. Small Pet Friendly. Call us Today for a Tour of our Community!  
941-429-2402



**PORT CHARLOTTE** 147 Leland St SE. Prime Sailboat Water cul-de-sac Lot w/dock & lift on 130' seawall. 5 min to Charlotte Harbor & Gulf access. \$229,000 941-625-7088

**OFFICE SPACE RENTAL**  
2 locations available.  
Contact Holly Jo at:  
941-815-0414

**LOOK**

**PORT CHARLOTTE**  
3315 Harbor Blvd, off US41  
Retail or Office Space.  
Approx. 425 sqft. , All  
Tile Floor, Great Location.  
Call for More Details:  
941-206-0250

**PORT CHARLOTTE-** Prime office space, 3 units 1,000sf. ea. Brand new. Sandhill Blvd. Turnkey/Fully built out. (941)-624-5992

**WAREHOUSE & STORAGE**  
**1640**

**NORTH PORT** 800SF WH \$450/mo. 400 SF, \$220/mo 400SF Office, \$295/mo, All + Tax 941-661-6720



**EMPLOYMENT**

**CLERICAL/OFFICE**  
**2020**

**ARCADIA OFFICE ADMIN.**  
Insurance agency seeking well organized, detail minded, friendly individual to join our team. Min office exp. 2 yrs. Send resume to: newcareer@embarqmail.com

**CUSTOMER SERVICE DISPATCHER.**

Positive People Oriented Person Needed. The Applicant will have a Strong Command of Telecommunication Techniques and Must be Computer Literate. Bi-lingual in Spanish/English a Plus.  
**Apply at: Young Trucking, 12164 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda**

**EFFICIENCIES FOR RENT**  
**1350**

**HARBOUR HEIGHTS** close to river, newly renovated efficiencies w cable & internet, SunnybrookMotel 941-625-6400

**COMMERCIAL LOT**  
**1530**



**PUNTA GORDA**  
111 Rio Villa Dr.  
2400 Square Foot Store.  
Great for convenience store.  
Located on busy street.  
Contact Tim Boff  
941-815-0618

**Port Charlotte Executive Office Suites**  
Receptionist, all utilities & other support services starting at \$295/mo.  
**Omni Executive Center A Friendly Place to be!**  
4055 US41  
(Across from Bob Evans)  
Call Marj or Shirley 941-627-9755  
www.omniexec.net

**Find your Best Friend in the Classifieds!**

**2000**



**EMPLOYMENT**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE PART TIME**

THE ENGLEWOOD SUN NEWSPAPER IS SEEKING INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS AND WORK WELL IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT. APPLICANT MUST BE RELIABLE, FLEXIBLE AND HAVE A PLEASANT PERSONALITY. MUST HAVE COMPUTER EXPERIENCE, BE ABLE TO WORK IN A FAST PACED ENVIRONMENT AND MULTI-TASKING IS A PRIORITY. "WE ARE A DRUG AND NICOTINE FREE WORKPLACE." PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG/ NICOTINE TESTING REQUIRED.  
APPLY AT:  
THE ENGLEWOOD SUN  
120 W DEARBORN  
ENGLEWOOD, FL. 34223  
OR  
EMAIL RESUME TO  
MARUIZ@SUN-HERALD.COM.  
EOE NON-SMOKING OFFICE

**FINANCE & SALES SUPPORT.** F.T., weekends required. Job includes customer interaction, data entry, preparing paperwork, customer closings, warranty sales, scheduling and general support for our Sales and Finance Departments. Must be honest and a self starter. Non-Smoker, DFWP, Call Ed Davidson (941) 966-2182 or fax resume to (941) 966-7421.

**HELP WANTED**  
**Service Techs - will train**  
Basic skills required.  
**Auto mechanic, Appliance Repairs, Auto Body Repairs. Competitive wages/fringes/permanent.**  
**Drug Free Apply in person**  
**RV WORLD INC OF NOKOMIS**  
FAMILY OWNED/OPERATED FOR 36 YRS  
**2110 US 41 - NOKOMIS**  
**941-966-2182**

**ROOMS FOR RENT**  
**1360**

**MURDOCK,** 2 Cozy Furnished Rooms \$400. ea. per Month. Laundry, Kitchen Privileges. Smoking on Lanai Okay. 941-769-1576

**PORT CHARLOTTE** Private entrance & bath, furnished, util & cable incl., \$125/wk + dep, 941-889-7119/248-212-6189

**PORT CHARLOTTE,** Clean & Quiet Furn. Room Single Working Man \$140wk+Dep 941-626-2832

**PORT CHARLOTTE,** Clean, Quiet, \$125wk/\$450mo, incl Util, Furnished, References. 941-743-3070/ 941-740-2565

**VENICE** Master Bedroom & Bath, Furn. w/ House Privileges. Female 55+ \$500. Mo. + \$300. Dep. 941-412-9688

**US 41 Office Space**  
**941-815-2199**

**VENICE** Office/Warehouse Space. 2300SqFt, 2600SqFt, 4800SqFt. Call for Pricing 941-484-4316

**COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL PROP**  
**1620**



**ARCADIA** 4.4 ac By Owner! House & Shop, 800 ft. Hwy 17 Frontage, Zoned Comm. Info. 863-494-5540 or 863-244-3585

**Find the new You in the Classifieds!**

**BUSINESS RENTALS**  
**1610**

**PAULSON CENTRE EXECUTIVE OFFICE SUITES**  
Suites start at \$299/mo  
Virtuals start at \$100/mo  
Info call (941)-206-2200

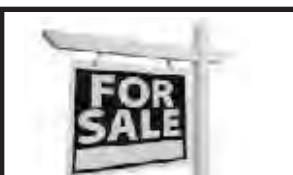
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 2005 Services
  - 2010 Professional
  - 2015 Banking
  - 2020 Clerical
  - 2025 Computer
  - 2030 Medical
  - 2035 Musical
  - 2040 Restaurant/Hotel
  - 2050 Skilled Trades
  - 2060 Management
  - 2070 Sales
  - 2090 Child/Adult Care Needed
  - 2100 General
  - 2110 Part-time/ Temp
  - 2115 Home Based
  - 2120 Business Seeking Employment

**VACATION/ SEASONAL RENTALS**  
**1390**

Englewood/Rotonda Great Selection Available West Coast Property Mgt. 941-473-0718 www.rentalsflorida.net

P.C, Furn. 2/1.5/1 w/ Lanai. Avail. Jan. 1st. 941-628-9016

**LOTS & ACREAGE**  
**1500**



**SELLING YOUR HOME, CONDO, OR LOT?**

We can help you. Advertise your home, condo, or lot with us and reach over 175,000 readers in Charlotte, Sarasota, & DeSoto Counties and online everyday.

Ask about our 90 day special.

Call one of our classified experts for all the details at 866-463-1638

Realtors Welcome!



**ARCADIA: Private Country Living:** 2.5 Acres, Includes 3/2 MH & Carport Near I-75, Walmart & Peace River Boat Ramp. \$145k Cash. 941-743-6601

**GIVE HIM A NEW LEASH ON LIFE.**

**Visit your local animal shelter today.**



**PORT CHARLOTTE/PUNTA GORDA - THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE - 3519 Drance St. (941) 625-6720**

**ENGLEWOOD - SUNCOAST HUMANE SOCIETY - 6781 San Casa Dr. (941) 474-7884**      **ENGLEWOOD - EARS ANIMAL RESCUE SOCIETY - 145 W. Dearborn St. (941) 475-0636**

**DESOTO COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER (863) 993-4855**

**CLERICAL/OFFICE 2020**

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**  
Fast Paced Community Association Environment. Must Be Multi-tasker, Attention To Detail, Computer Proficient In MS Word & Excel. Have Working Knowledge Of Powerpoint & Quickbooks. EOE/ DFW. Background & Reference Checks. Apply In Person At: 5401 Holiday Park Blvd, North Port, MF 9am-3pm or Fax Resume To: 941-423-1084

**OFFICE MANAGER, F/T**  
Excellent phone & customer service skills reqd. Must have computer exper. & good time mgmt skills. Investment brokerage industry exper. a plus! Send your resume & salary expectations to: officemanager7300@yahoo.com

**RECEPTIONIST** - Weekend-Part Time / Nokomis. Job includes greeting customers, multi-line phone system, data entry, misc duties. DFWP, Non-Smoker, Call Ed Davidson (941) 966-2182.

**SEEKING FT MED BILLER**  
w/ knowledge of icd-9/icd-10. Must be friendly, computer literate and ability to ask for money. No nights/weekends. Great job and pay. Send resume to: frontdesk4@myjfc.com

**MEDICAL 2030**

**ACTIVITIES ASSISTANTS NEEDED!**  
**25 HRS A WEEK**

**PLEASE APPLY**  
QUALITY HEALTH CARE  
6940 Outreach Way  
North Port  
(941)426-8411 or  
FAX Resume to  
941-423-1572  
**EOE DRUG FREE WORK PLACE**



**CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS**

**CARE MANAGERS FT / PT / PRN**

**TIRED OF BEING JUST A NUMBER ... AT HARBORCHASE WE CARE ABOUT OUR EMPLOYEES AS MUCH AS OUR RESIDENTS.**

**HARBORCHASE COMPETITIVE WAGES AND AN EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE SUCH AS MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION & 401K**

**PART-TIME TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE BENEFITS AT 20+ HOURS.**

**FOR CONSIDERATION PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON TO: HARBORCHASE OF VENICE**

**ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING**  
950 PINEBROOK ROAD  
VENICE, FL 34285  
(941) 484-8801 PH  
(941) 484-3450 FAX  
EOE M/F/D/V

**MEDICAL 2030**

**CNA's/HHA's WORK NOW!**  
Busy Home Care Agency has F/T and P/T Openings. EXP REQUIRED CALL NOW! 941-257-4452

**CNA/HHA's NEEDED FOR IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT!**

\*\*\* \$100.00 \*\*\*  
**SIGN ON BONUS**  
ARCADIA, PT. CHARLOTTE, PUNTA GORDA, ENGLEWOOD VENICE & SARASOTA!

**NEW OFFICE!**  
**NEW OPPORTUNITIES!**  
**NEW PAY PLANS!**  
MAJOR MEDICAL, & 401K & LIFE INSURANCE  
**CALL TODAY, WORK TOMORROW!**  
Call Mon. - Fri., 8a-4pm.  
**941-764-0880 or 941-480-0880**  
**ALL STAT HOME HEALTH**

**DeSoto Health & Rehab** has the following job opportunities available:  
•COTA, OT & PT for PT/FT/PRN  
•RN PRN/FT/PT available for all shifts  
•Dietary Manager F/T  
Fax resume to: (863)-494-9470  
For questions call: (863)-494-5766

**Find the perfect companion in the Classifieds!**

**LPN/C.N.A'S**  
Dependable and caring LPN/C.N.A's needed. Join us in providing the best quality of life for our residents. License/Certification required. Equal Opportunity Employer. Apply in person or online at www.dvcr.com.  
**Hardee Manor Healthcare Center**  
401 Orange Place  
Wauchula, FL 33873



**PREP COOK, DIETARY AIDE, SERVERS FT / PT**

**HARBORCHASE OFFERS COMPETITIVE WAGES AND AN EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE SUCH AS MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION & 401K**

**PART-TIME TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE BENEFITS AT 20+ HOURS.**

**FOR CONSIDERATION PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON TO: HARBORCHASE OF VENICE**

**ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING**  
950 PINEBROOK ROAD  
VENICE, FL 34285  
(941) 484-8801 PH  
(941) 484-3450 FAX  
EOE M/F/D/V

**MEDICAL 2030**

**JOYCE VEIN & AESTHETIC INSTITUTE IS SEEKING** to Employ a **Venous Ultrasound Technician** 2 Days Per Week During the Winter and Spring Season. Fax CV to 941-575-4191 or E-mail it to: Michelle@jvai.com

**Med Asst/CNA FT/PT, for peds off. Multitask, Ped VS, EMR & Exp nec. 625-4919**

**RN UNIT MANAGER**  
**PORT CHARLOTTE REHAB** is seeking an RN Unit Manager with experience managing a busy Rehab unit. Apply in Person to: 25352 Rampart Blvd Port Charlotte FL 33983

**RN WEEKEND SUPERVISOR 7A-7P**  
**MUST HAVE LONG TERM CARE AND SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE.**

**PLEASE APPLY**  
QUALITY HEALTH CARE  
6940 Outreach Way  
North Port  
(941)426-8411 or  
FAX Resume to  
941-423-1572  
**EOE DRUG FREE WORK PLACE**



**HORIZON HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE**  
www.HorizonTechInstitute.Com  
"ADVANCE YOUR CAREER"  
Licensed & Accredited School  
Murdock Town Center on 41  
1032 Tamiami Tr Unit 3  
YOU can become a LPN within  
11 months. Enrollment ongoing.  
**PHLEBOTOMY, EKG, CNA,**  
Classes Start Dec 2 '13  
LPN-next class starts  
Jan 20th '14

**Start Working In 2-5 wks!**  
Classes Start Each Month  
Call For Class Dates  
• Nursing Assistant (120hrs)  
• Home Health Aide (75hrs)  
• Phlebotomy Tech (165hrs)  
• EKG Tech (165hrs)  
• Patient Care Tech (600hrs)  
• Job Assist. & Pymt. Plans  
**Call Now to Register!**  
**941-889-7506**

**RESTAURANT/HOTEL 2040**



**Bartender-Poker Dealer 1+ week class - Age 18+ Day, Eve & Sat. Classes Job Assistance (941) 564-9633**

**Domino's Pizza**  
Arcadia, Punta Gorda, & Englewood. Drivers wanted!! CASH daily - wages, plus tips & mileage allowance.  
Apply at listed locations or careers.dominos.com

**WAITSTAFF & LINECOOKS EXPERIENCED!** Apply in person BEFORE 3pm at JB's Conch Cafe 3384 S McCall Road

**SKILLED TRADES 2050**

**A/C INSTALLER**  
Exp. Preferred, Great Pay w/ Benefits, 941-637-9800

**SKILLED TRADES 2050**

**DRIVER,** Must be Experienced For Seafood Company. Local Delivery **941-380-9212**

**DRIVER,** Part or Full time with class A or B w/Tanker Endorsement to drive VAC truck. Must be non smoker in good physical condition with 2 yrs of exp. Must be available for emergency calls, nights & weekends. Qualified applicants only.  
**SOS Septic Inc. 941-662-0095**  
80 Harvard St. Englewood

**EXPERIENCED TIRE TECH** with light mechanical exp. DL Required! Starting pay \$400-\$600/wk **941-639-5681**

**\$\$\$\$\$\$**

**PLUMBERS MUST HAVE a minimum of 3 years experience HELPERS** must have 1 yr. experience DFWP  
**MCDONOUGH PLUMBING**  
Apply: Mon-Fri 9-3  
4585 Tamiami Tr.  
Pt. Charlotte

**SECURITY ALARM CORP.**  
Alarm Technician wanted Experience with Fire/Security Systems is a Must. Email resume: john@securityalarmcorp.com

**SALES 2070**

**ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

**SUN NEWSPAPERS IS LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED SALES PROFESSIONALS WITH A COMMUNITY SPIRIT WHO ARE READY TO COMMIT TO A LONG-TERM CAREER WITH AN ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFUL MEDIA COMPANY.**

**DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?**  
★ AGGRESSIVE  
★ COLD CALLING PRO  
★ DEAL CLOSER  
★ STRONG WORK ETHICS  
★ MONEY MOTIVATED  
★ EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
★ PEOPLE PERSON  
★ COMPUTER LITERATE  
★ EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS  
★ MARKETING FLARE  
★ ABILITY TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY

**WE OFFER:**  
★ COMPETITIVE SALARY PLUS COMMISSIONS  
★ VACATION  
★ HEALTH INSURANCE  
★ SICK AND SHORT TERM DISABILITY  
★ 401(K)  
★ TRAINING  
★ ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & A DRUG AND NICOTINE FREE DIVERSIFIED WORKPLACE. PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG AND NICOTINE TESTING REQUIRED.**

**IF WE DESCRIBED YOU, SEND OR EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO: ENGLEWOOD SUN ATTENTION: CAROL MOORE 120 W DEARBORN ENGLEWOOD, FLORIDA 34223 FAX: 941-681-3008 EMAIL: CYMOORE@SUN-HERALD.COM**

**Employ Classified!**

**SALES 2070**

**Advertising Sales Executive**

The Charlotte Sun is looking for "Winners" to join our team of professional Advertising Sales Executives.

If you are never satisfied with average successes, are self-motivated, goal oriented, confident, enthusiastic and believe that the customer is all important, we would like to talk to you.

The successful candidates must possess good oral and written communication skills, be organized and a team player. Sales experience a plus - but we will train the right persons.

We offer:  
• Competitive salary plus commission  
• Vacation  
• Health insurance  
• Sick and short term disability  
• Training  
• Stable company that is very Community minded and involved.

Please send resume to:  
**Advertising Director, Leslee Peth Charlotte Sun 23170 Harborview Road Charlotte Harbor, FL 33980 Email: Lpeth@sun-herald.com**

**We are an Equal Opportunity Employer & a Drug and nicotine Free Diversified Workplace.**

**✓✓✓✓✓✓✓ IN THE CLASSIFIED YOU CAN.....**

- ✓ Find a Pet
- ✓ Find a Car
- ✓ Find a Job
- ✓ Find Garage Sales
- ✓ Find A New Employee
- ✓ Sell Your Home
- ✓ Sell Your Unwanted Merchandise
- ✓ Advertise Your Business or Service

**Classified - it's the reliable source for the right results**

**A Bargain Hunters Delight Check the Classifieds first! A Whole Marketplace of shopping is right at your fingertips!**

**SALES 2070**

**READY TO MAKE MORE MONEY?**

**SALES/NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPER**

Come work with the Sun newspapers **Telephone Sales, New Business Developer team** located in North Port Florida.

We are America's Best Community Daily newspaper, with the largest classified section in Florida. This is an outstanding opportunity to join a company where you make the difference. We are looking for a full-time person, with computer skills and with a positive, energetic, can-do approach to join our telephone sales, new business developer team. We are looking for a highly motivated individual who thrives on challenges, loves learning new skills and enjoys working in a positive team environment.

We offer:  
• Training  
• Stable company that is very Community minded and involved.  
• Opportunity to expand your business skills

Please email your resume to: **Jobs@sunletter.com**

**Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug & Nicotine Free Diversified Workplace. Pre-Employment Drug & Nicotine Testing Required.**

**SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT**

Entry Level Marketing/Entry Level Advertising  
We are America's Best Community Daily newspaper, with the largest classified section in Florida. We are located in North Port Florida.

Duties Include, but are not limited to:  
• Executing sales and marketing functions to company standards  
• Assists customers with any questions they may have in regards to our products  
• Gains knowledge on all new clients the company acquires  
• Ensure highest level of customer service resulting in increased productivity and achieving sales goals  
• Knowledge of our systems follow through of advertising copy

Growth opportunities may be available for those who qualify. This position is entry level, previous experience in sales and marketing helpful. We look for candidates with the following:

- Some college or degree preferred
- Outstanding interpersonal skills
- Student Mentality
- Leadership Experience
- Experience in retail, sales, advertising & marketing
- Ability to work in a high energy environment

Please email resume to: **Jobs@sunletter.com**  
Sun Classifieds attention: **Geri Kotz** EOE, DFWP  
Pre-employment drug & nicotine testing required.

**Great Deals in the Classifieds!**

**SALES  
2070**

**HELP WANTED:  
REAL ESTATE AGENT**  
Needed to round out team. PT/FT. Must be or Join VBR/MLS. No Franchise Fees. Hans Kirsten Realtor (941)350-0441

**LOOK  
SALES  
PROFESSIONALS**  
Needed For High Volume Car Dealership. Must be Self Motivated. Full Training Available **GUARANTEED SALARY!** 4 Locations!  
**GENE GORMAN  
PREMIER**  
1305 S. Tamiami Trail Punta Gorda, FL

**SALES**

The North Port Sun, an edition of America's Best Community Daily newspaper, is looking for a **Part Time SALES EXECUTIVE** to work with local customers creating advertising solutions to help them build their businesses. You will work within a company where you can make a difference. Must have the desire to win, be self-motivated, and believe that the customer is all important.

We offer a competitive salary plus commission and one-on-one training. We are a stable company that is very community minded and involved. If you are looking for an opportunity that will allow you to learn and grow, this is the job for you.

Please Send Resume to: northportjobs@gmail.com

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer & a Drug & Nicotine Free Diversified Workplace. Pre-Employment Drug & Nicotine Testing Required

**SENIOR ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE**

UP TO \$50,000 per year. If you have over 5 years of proven print advertising experience you may qualify as a Senior Advertising Executive for The Smart Shopper Group.

We have been publishing for over 20 years and have positions open in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties.

Send Resume to: rknight@smartshopg.com

**Turn your trash into cash! Advertise your yard sale!**

**NEED CASH? Have A Garage Sale!**

**CHILD/ADULT CARE NEEDED  
2090**

**PRESCHOOL TEACHER**  
Apply within: Our Little World 1603 Castlerock Ln, Port Charlotte

**GENERAL  
2100**

**CLEANING COMPANY WANTED** for move in / move outs lic. & insured email cleanhelp14@gmail.com

**CLERICAL/OFFICE ASST. Permanent, Part Time, Seasonal, needs to be proficient with computers and phones. Must be GREAT with the public! Please fax resume to: 941-426-9484**

**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT**  
Part time 20 hrs p/w Data Entry, correspondence & scheduling. Must be detail oriented and dependable. Strong writing and communication skills required. Email resume to tina.figliuolo@cchomelesscoalition.org No Phone Calls Please

**HOMELESS RE-HOUSING CASE WORKER**  
Part time position 20 hrs p/w working with families who are homeless to gain stable housing and economic self-sufficiency. Must be able to work independently. SEND RESUME TO john.fanning@cchomelesscoalition.org No Phone Calls Please

**RAIN SOFT & HOME DEPOT**  
Mature people oriented individuals. Must have excellent people skills & winning personality. Marketing exp A+. Retirees Welcome! Great part time job! Salary, Commissions, & more! Call Mike 941-206-3888 xt 217

**Sun Newspapers Assistant District Managers:**

The Sun is currently seeking part-time Assistant District Managers in our Circulation Department. Our Assistant District Managers work directly with an independent contractor network to manage home delivery and customer relations in Charlotte/Sarasota County.

Responsibilities include contractor recruitment and orienting, meeting established service goals, resolving service errors, managing contractor draw, and insuring customer satisfaction.

Must be able to work early morning hours, weekends and holidays in an office/warehouse environment and outdoors in various temperatures and weather conditions. Requires valid Florida driver's license and insurance. Must have reliable transportation to perform daily job responsibilities.

Opportunities available in Charlotte/Punta Gorda and North Port/Englewood. Up to 29 hours per week. Starting pay \$11/hour, phone allowance, mileage reimbursement. Drug/Nicotine Free Company, Pre-Employment Screening Required.

Apply at 23170 Harborview Road Port Charlotte, FL 33980 or email cmerritt@sun-herald.com

**GENERAL  
2100**

**GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE POSITION**  
Must pass background check & drug test. Please call 941-204-5332

**SHIFT SUPERVISOR**  
Part time Sat 8pm-8am & Sun 8pm-8am. Must have strong decision making skills and ability to fairly impose house rules with all residents. Must have clean drug & criminal background and a valid driver's license. Experience in a residential setting preferred. Please bring resume and apply in person M-F/9-5 at 1476 Kenesaw St. Port Charlotte E.O.E.

**WINDOW CLEANER**, Must be willing to climb ladders up to 24'. Must be dependable and have a car. Call 941-628-0751

**PART TIME/TEMPORARY  
2110**

**YARD WORK**, 3-6 Hours Week. Dependable. Weed, Clearing, Trim, Help Landscaping. Venice Area. References. 941-488-9617

**SEEKING EMPLOYMENT  
2120**

**HARD WORKING 18YR OLD MALE IN VENICE** SEEKS EMPLOYMENT WITH A COMPANY DOING LAWN WORK OR ANY TYPE OF WORK OUTSIDE. POSITIVE ATTITUDE, GOOD WORK ETHICS, DEPENDABLE, VERY VERY HARD WORKING. SORRY NO DRIVER LIC. PLEASE CALL 941-237-6375



**NOTICES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
3010**

**Need To Place a Classified Ad?**

**FREE MERCHANDISE ADS!!**

To place a **FREE** merchandise ad go to: **SUN-CLASSIFIEDS.COM** and place your ad. **"CLICK ON CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR AD NOW"** and follow the prompts. **FREE** ads are for merchandise **UNDER \$500**. and the ad must be placed online by you. One item per ad, the ad must be 3 lines or less, price must appear in the ad. Your ad will appear online & in print for 7 days! Some restrictions do apply. **LIMIT 5 FREE ADS PER WEEK** **\*\*Everyone Needs to Register on Our New Site\*\***



Enter your classified ad and pay with your credit card 24 hours a day, 7 days week

**CLASSIFIED WORKS!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
3010**

**\*\*\*ADOPTION:\*\*\*  
A Creative, Financially Secure Couple, LOVE, Laughter, Travel, Sports awaits baby. Expenses Paid. 1-800-552-0045 FLBar42311  
\*\*\* Lisa & Kenny \*\*\***

**HAPPY ADS  
3015**

Place your Happy Ad for only \$10.75 3 lines 1 day.

Add a photo for only \$10.00!  
Please call (866)-463-1638

Get the Word out - Advertise in the Classifieds!

**PERSONALS  
3020**

**LOOK**  
45 YEAR Old Male Looking for Female Companionship. David 941-258-4350

**PERSONALS  
3020**

**ADORABLE TASHA. Stretch & Relax Therapy 941-497-1307**

**BODY RUBS BY BRANDI SNOWBIRD SPECIALS 941-600-4317**

I HAVE forgotten the directions that you had given me Tuesday night when we were chatting in the grocery isle. Paul @ (941) 244-2898.

**RELAXATION STATION**

1225 US 41 UNIT B3. CHARLOTTE TRADE CENTER N OF 776 941-625-0141

**THANK YOU**  
St. Jude for Prayers Answered. M.A.C.

**Classified = Sales**

**WANTED TO LOCATE** the following lady, name unknown, age late 70's, husband passed away 3 weeks ago at age 92 years. She was at the Cultural Center Dance on Fri. evening, Nov. 22, 2013 with her son. Please call Bill 941-627-8653.

**CARD OF THANKS  
3040**

**ST. JUDE**, O Holy St. Jude Appostle and Martyr, Great in Virtue and Rich in Miracles, Follower in Jesus Christ Faithful Intercessor of All Who Invoke Your Special Patronage in Times of Needs. From the Depths of My Heart and Humbly Beg to You Whom God Have Given Such Great Power to Come to My Assistance. Help Me in My Present and Urgent Position. In Return, I Promise to Make Your Name Known. Say Three Our Fathers, Three Hail Marys and Glorias. Publication Must be Promised. St. Jude, Pray For Us, All Who Invoke Your Aid. Amen This Novena Must be Said 9 Consecutive Days. G. V.

**SCHOOLS & INSTRUCTION  
3060**

**LOOK**  
CNA, HHA, MED ASST, CPR. Onsite testing/finance avail 941-429-3320 IMAGINE

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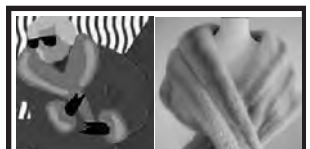
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### CLEARANCE EVENT

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<p>'11 HYUNDAI SANTA FE LIMITED \$17,431 Stk. #542H</p>	<p>'11 HONDA CR-V EX \$17,633 Stk. #42010A</p>	<p>'10 CADILLAC CTS LUX \$19,436 Stk. #5499H</p>	<p>'11 NISSAN PATHFINDER \$20,872 Stk. #4227B</p>	<p>'13 DODGE CHALLENGER \$20,637 Stk. #5476H</p>

To redeem your \$25 in Walmart Gift Cards is as follows. Bring in this ad and receive a \$5.00 Gift Card for simply coming into the dealership. Test drive any new or preowned vehicle and receive an additional \$20.00 Gift Card. Must be 18 years or older. One per person, One per household. Must present valid driver's license. No purchase necessary. While supplies last.  
12014 ACCORD SEDAN CVT LX FEATURED SPECIAL LEASE. Offer valid from 11/14/2013 through 11/2/2014. \$159 per month for 36 months. \$3995 total due at signing. Includes down payments with no security deposit. Excludes taxes, titles and dealer fees. For well qualified lessees. 2014 CR-V 5 SPEED AUTOMATIC 2WD LX FEATURED SPECIAL LEASE. Offer valid from 11/5/2013 through 11/6/2014. \$199 per month for 36 months. \$3995 total due at signing. Includes down payments with no security deposit. Excludes taxes, titles and dealer fees. For well qualified lessees. 2014 ODYSSEY 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC LX FEATURED SPECIAL LEASE. \$249 per month for 36 months. \$3995 total due at signing. Includes down payments with no security deposit. Excludes taxes, titles and dealer fees. For well qualified lessees.



1252 Tamiami Trail • (941) 743-8883

US 41, Just North of Town Center • Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Sales Mon-Sat 8:30am to 8:00 pm • Sales open every Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

SERVICE: Mon thru Fri 7:00 am to 6:00 pm • Sat 7:00 am to 4:30 pm • Service Closed on Sundays

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**MEDICAL**  
**6095**

**WHEELCHAIR** INVACARE, WITH FOOTRESTS, GO \$70 941-268-5227

**HEALTH / BEAUTY**  
**6100**

**2 MASTECTOMY** Prostheses 36B 2/85;ea. \$50 941-488-8691

**2 MASTECTOMY** Prostheses 36B 2/85;ea. \$50 941-488-8691

**DISPOSABLE BED** pads have 625 pads \$150 941-244-2456

**UNDERWEAR WOMENS** large disposable each \$3 941-244-2456

**TREES & PLANTS**  
**6110**

**LOOK**  
VIBURNUM GREAT FOR PRIVACY HEDGE 3-15 GAL, BARREL, SYLVESTER PALMS PIGMY PALMS & MORE Su's NUSURY 941-488-7291

**BABY ITEMS**  
**6120**

**CHILD DBL** bed rail fully assembled used once \$24 941-255-0372

*Cash in with Class!*

**GOLF ACCESSORIES**  
**6125**

**2000 EZ GO GOLF CART** "Green" Brand New Batteries (K3). New rear folding seat, new lights. Excellent condition! \$2550 941-716-6792



**2002 Club Car DS** 4 Passenger New Batteries (11/2013) New "Blue" Paint Hi Speed Motor Recent Annual Service Garage Kept Fantastic Condition \$3350 OBO 941-830-5312

**GOLF ACCESSORIES**  
**6125**



**FACTORY RECONDITIONED 2010 CLUB CAR PRECEDENT** 4 Passenger Golf Carts Folding Rear Seat New TROJAN Batteries New Colored body, Lights & Interior Lifted with custom wheels or stock height **1/2 the price of new From \$4275 941-716-6793**  
**Classified = Sales**

**GOLF ACCESSORIES**  
**6125**

**CLUB CAR DS GOLF CART** 4 Passenger, Brand new batteries (11/2013), new tires, rear seat & lights. With charger. \$2495 941-716-6793

**DRIVER HOGAN, CS3, RH, R Flex, 9.5", Draw Bias, exc cond. \$55 715-617-2529**



**GOLF CART EZ Go, with lift kit, custom wheels, lights and HS clip \$2,795 941-473-2175**

**CLASSIFIED ADS SELL**

**GOLF ACCESSORIES**  
**6125**

**GOLF BALLS** good used 80 doz \$3.50/doz 941-235-2613

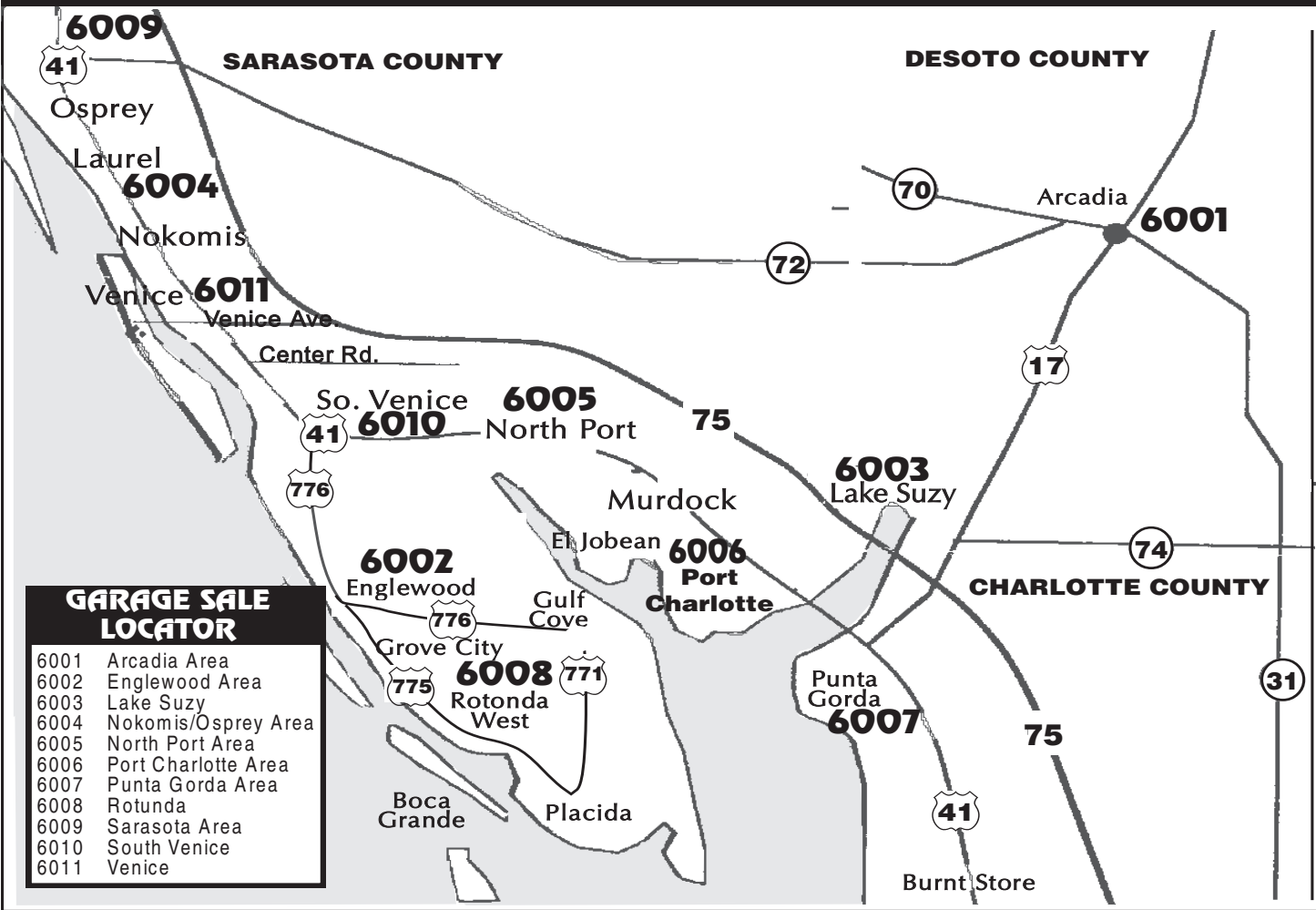
**GOLF BALLS**, Like new, mixed brands, no logos, \$6 per dozen 715-617-2529

**EXERCISE/ FITNESS**  
**6128**

**BARBELL BENCH** & 100 lb weight set or trade for stationary bike \$50 941-828-1311

**HORIZON EX76 ELLIPTICAL** Machine, paid \$750 3 months ago exc. condition, **REDUCED TO \$350 obo.** 941-916-1067 or 941-625-7754.

# GARAGE & YARD SALES



**RATES**

- 1 day - \$12.30
- 4 lines - (\$5.40 ea. add'l line)
- 2 days - \$18.80
- 4 lines - (\$5.40 ea. add'l line)
- 3 days - \$24.10
- 4 lines - (\$5.40 ea. add'l line)
- 7 days - \$30.55
- 4 lines - (\$5.40 ea. add'l line)

**To place your ad call:**

- Arcadia 494-2434
- Charlotte 206-1200
- Englewood 475-2200
- Venice/North Port 207-1200

**FREE GARAGE SALE SIGN WITH ANY AD**

**6000**

**MERCHANDISE**

**ARCADIA AREA GARAGE SALES**  
**6001**

**12TH Annual 3 DAY CHRISTMAS AUCTION** 6695 Ne Cubitis Ave. Arcadia Nov 29 @ 6pm, Nov 30 @ 2pm, Dec 1 @ 2pm Details: Auctionzip.com #5728 Glen Whaley Auctioneer AU2502 AB1852 13% BP 863-207-5287

**ENGLEWOOD GARAGE SALES**  
**6002**

**SAT. 8-3 & SUN. 8-2** 2700 Tanager Ln (Holiday Estates III) Household, Christmas, men's clothes & shoes, knick knacks. Too much to list!

**SAT.-SUN. 8AM-2PM** 7085 Peacock Ln. Antiques, Collectibles, Plants, & Misc items.

**PT. CHARLOTTE/DEEP CREEK GARAGE SALES**  
**6006**

**FRI.-SAT.** 1149 Waterside St. Yard Sale. Furniture, kid's clothes, appliances.

**FRI.-SAT. 8-1** 108 Dowling Ave. Garage sale. Low prices.

**FRI.-SAT. 8-2:30** 175 Harrisburg St. Great items for Xmas, Furniture, Toys, collectibles, Antiques, Rugs, Clothing +.

**FRI.-SAT. 8-LATE** 382 Wyler St. Lots of items incl 2 cars. Everything must go!

**CLASSIFIED ADS SELL**

**FRI.-SAT. 9-1** 1325 Fargo St. Boating equip., tools, generator, vacuums, paintings, cookware & more!

**PT. CHARLOTTE/DEEP CREEK GARAGE SALES**  
**6006**

**SAT-SUN 9-3.** 3154 Lockwood St., off Beacon & LaGuardia. Handmade jewelry, kids, adults, much more!

**SAT. 8-12** 3737 El Jobean Road Encore Harbor Lakes. **PARK WIDE YARD SALES!**

**SAT. 8-3 26457** Asuncion Drive. Huge yard sale! In Deep Creek. Christmas items, twin cherry bunk bed, boys youth clothes, toys, kid's books, female clothes, 40 gallon aquarium, large dog crate, several VCR tapes, and plants in vases.

**SAT. 9-2 22445** Glass Lane. Port Charlotte Yacht Club COMMUNITY SALE!!! Located behind Walgreens

**SUN. DEC. 1ST 10-4.** 3139 Iverson St. Household, furniture and craft items.

**PUNTA GORDA GARAGE SALES**  
**6007**

**FRI.-SAT. 9-1** 931 Messina Dr. Household items, clothing, refrigerator, range, furniture & much more!

**CLASSIFIED WORKS!**

**FRI.-SAT. 9-?** 2401 Chapman Blvd. HUGE! Furniture, household items, sport furniture equip, toys & NEW stuff!

**FRI.-SUN. 8-3 5257** Black Jack Circle. Home Goods, Furniture, Billiard Table, Outdoor Furniture, Kid's Ride on Toys & MUCH MORE!!!

**ROTONDA AREA GARAGE SALES**  
**6008**

**SAT. 9-2** 97 Sportsman Rd. Furniture, Chest Freezer, CDs, Sapphire ST1 Speakers, Baby Furniture, Clothes & Toys & MUCH MORE!!

**A Bargain Hunters Delight Check the Classifieds First! A Whole Marketplace of Shopping is right at your Fingertips!**

**ENGLEWOOD GARAGE SALES**  
**6002**

**FRI.-SAT. 8-4** 161 Millport St. Nw. Tools, household, collectibles, clothing

**Classified = Sales**

**FRI-SAT 9-5. 27185** San Marino Dr Hbr Hgts CHRISTMAS SALE BIG SALE EVERYTHING MUST GO!

**FRI-SAT-SUN 8-4.** 4420 Gardner Dr. Furniture, clothes, Christmas, boating misc. tools, hand & power.

**NOKOMIS/OSPREY GARAGE SALES**  
**6004**

**FRI.-SAT. 8-12** 812 Sorrento Place. 2 Family, Xmas Decorations, Trees, 2 TV's Some Furn., Costume Jewelry, & Various Household.

**PILGRIM THRIFT STORE CLOSING**  
23278 HARBORVIEW ROAD, PT. CHAR.  
**ALL ITEMS 50% OFF DON'T MISS OUT ON THE DEALS!!**

**SAT 8-4** 39 Norman St. Move-in Sale, Lots of Christmas Items

**SAT ONLY 8-12 113** Orlando Blvd. Furn, toys, clothes, shoes, books & Lots of misc

**PUNTA GORDA GARAGE SALES**  
**6007**

**FRI - SAT 7-3** 402 W Grace St. Christmas items, decorations, household & lots of misc

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY 9AM-4PM** 3524 VASCO ST.

**Multi-Family Garage Sale**

**FRIDAY 11/29 & SATURDAY 11/30 10-4** 3809 Albacete Cir. Canoe, exercise equip., Elvis Christmas items & more!!!

**SAT. NOVEMBER 30 9-3** 10303 Burnt Store Road Unit 150. Eagle Point Park Many woodworking tools, household items, glass top table w/4 chairs (new condition) & many other items.

**SAT.-SUN. 9-4** 30207 Beech Rd. Roll Top Desk, Riding Lawn Mower, Xmas Decor, Welder, & Much More.

**S. VENICE AREA GARAGE SALES**  
**6010**

**FRI.-SAT. 9-3** 214 Arno Rd. Venice East. Christmas Items, Child's Pool, Household & MUCH MORE!!

**FRI.-SAT. 9-4PM** 1008 Betsy Ct. Like New Wall Unit, Dining Rm, Bdrom Set, 2 Sofas, leather recliner & misc.

**SAT. 8-1** 740 Lehigh Rd. Furniture, Clothing, Bikes & More!

**SAT. 8-2** 314 Pine Tree Road. Lots of goodies, including Xmas items.

**ENGLEWOOD GARAGE SALES**  
**6002**

**FRI.-SUN. 8-?** 7305 Skycrest St. Off Oceanspray Blvd. MOVING SALE! Everything Must GO!

**FRI.-SUN. 8-4** 280 S Oxford Dr. Xmas items, painted wooden fish, glassware, lighthouses & more!

**FRI.-SUN. 9-4** 1767 Belvidere Rd. Tools, holiday decor, collectibles, household, elect., a bit of everything!

**PT. CHARLOTTE/DEEP CREEK GARAGE SALES**  
**6006**

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**EXERCISE/  
FITNESS  
6128**

**SCHWIN AIRDYNE**, exercise bike, Good Condition \$250, OBO 941-637-6779

**TREADMILL BY** Nordictrac, excellent condition \$150 OBO 941-255-0016

**TREADMILL PRO-FORM XP** 590S \$75 941-474-0462

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6130**

**2 GUYS GUN  
SHOWS**

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Harborside Convention  
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**FREE Parking in Municipal  
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CWP Classes Avail.  
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BRAVE HAT COA** \$125 941-475-1379

**ANCHOR DANFORTH** up to 36 ft boat. \$95 941-460-9698

**ANCHOR RIVER** type 20 lbs. PVC coated, b \$30 941-460-9698

**BOAT SETS** with gimbal Have 4, 1 fighting \$50 941-421-8299

**BOSTON CELTICS** Jacket New/XL \$75 941-661-7434

**CHI BULLS** Mem. Shirts hats posters \$350 941-286-0612

**CHI CUBS** Mem. Shirts, hats, balls, etc \$350 286-0612

**COATS (2)** M&L foul weath lined new each \$20 941-830-0524

**FIREWOOD - No camping  
trip is complete without it!**  
Pine, Oak, or Citrus  
Split, Bundled, and ready for  
the firepit!  
941-468-4372

**SPORTING GOODS  
6130**

**FISHING RODS** tackle box \$15 941-204-1277

**GUN CASE** 16"x20" black plastic \$20 941-445-5619

**LANDING NETS** 2-20" \$25 941-475-3311

**OUTRIGER POLE** holders 2 stainless \$25 941-475-3311

**PADDLEBOARD LEASH /  
PADDLE** incl \$250 631-905-9973

**PENN/850SS FISHING** Reel 2 custom Maine \$160 941-681-2433

**PROP STAINLESS** merc 14x20 \$75 941-475-3311

**SHOWER CURTAIN** Pitts. Steelers NIP! \$25 941-979-6362

**SLEEPING BAG** NW territory, Blue \$15 941-475-2727

**TACKLE BOX** full of fishing gear \$30 941-416-9074

**WENCH SMALL** trailer \$15 941-475-3311

**FIREARMS  
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**A COLLECTOR** buying US GI 45's, Carbines, Garands, German Lugers, Walthers, AK47s, Swords, Daggers 941-705-5145

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Sat 12/7 9-5pm and  
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Admission \$5.00 under  
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CWP Classes \$49.95  
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Lee County Gun  
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WEAPONS CLASS**  
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1826 Tamiami Trail in PG  
**Guns★Ammo★CCW**  
Financing Available!!  
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RED DOT SITE WITH LASER,  
800 ROUNDS OF AMMO! 941-451-3726

**WINCHESTER** Model 12 20  
Gauge Pump \$450 OBO  
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ACCESSORIES  
6132**

**BARREL, BELGIUM** made 12  
ga. shotgun barrel. First \$175  
cash takes it! \*\*SOLD\*\*

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TRICYCLES  
6135**

**3 WHEELER** Beautifully  
restored 3 Wheel bike \$225  
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**ADULT/TEEN BIKES** Good  
Looking Great Riding \$45  
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**BEACH BIKE** Ladies 26" Blue  
w/ white walls \$20 941-637-8181

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**BICYCLE GIRLS** 20" Sheffield  
English 5 speed. \$40 941-697-7634

**BICYCLE MEN'S** 10 spd, 27"  
World Sport \$150 603-677-2369

**BICYCLE VINTAGE** mens  
Sheffield 3 speed. \$75 941-697-7634

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**BICYCLE WOMANS** trek like  
new \$125 941-918-1239

**LADIES SCHWINN** Sky Liner  
Hybrid Clean! \$65 941-544-0042

**LADIES TREK** Alloy Cruiser  
Bike CLEAN! \$95 941-544-0042

**MENS SCHWINN** 1980s  
WORLD TOURIST \$200 941-275-5837

**SCHWINN TANK** Bike Orig!  
CLEAN New Tires \$225 941-544-0042

**TALL MENS** 3 speed roadster  
bike Clean! \$35 941-544-0042

**PHOTOGRAPHY/  
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6140**

**CAMERA CANNON** AE1-  
35mm-extras \$125 941-698-0445

**CAMERA TRIPOD** aluminum  
total H=52" \$15 941-585-8149

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**ROLLEI 35S** Camera 35mm  
case & flash \$250 941-204-3530

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SPA \$1895. ● SWIM SPA  
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GLASS POOL 10X20 \$6700  
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adjustable \$35 941-766-0857

**LAWN & GARDEN  
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**BATTERY POWERED** Lawn  
Mower 19' WORX \$80 941-475-0063

**CHIPPER 5HP** Briggs., runs  
great. \$95 941-468-6951

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Firewood - Split, Bundled and  
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Pine, Oak, or Citrus,  
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**EDGER - Craftsman** 12 AMP  
Good condition \$25 941-697-4965

**GARAGE AND LAWN STUFF**  
CLEANING OUT \$10 941-421-8299

**LAWN MOWER** Troy Bilt Briggs  
& Stratton 21" self propelled  
w/bag-mulch-side discharge.  
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**PATIO TABLE** 42"rd w/  
4chairs + umbrella. \$225  
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**PORCH SWING** Good Cond.  
\$75 941-697-0079

**TIRES,** \$110 941-697-3979

**TROY BILT CHIPPER VAC** In  
garage \$300 941-421-8299

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BUILDINGS  
6165**

**HURRICANESHED.COM**  
FENCED YARD...  
TIGHT SPACES...NO PROBLEM!  
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LICENSE # CBC1259336

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Shopping  
Classifieds!**

**BUILDING  
SUPPLIES  
6170**

**47X42INCH MIRROR** hang-  
ers included \$20 941-429-9397

**4X8 OSB** boards 6 full 4x8  
and some pieces \$35 801-543-9363

**KHOLER KITCHEN** sink w/ht  
dbl top mount \$200 941-575-6283

**KITCHEN CABINETS**  
White laminate cabinets with  
formica countertops \$500  
941-625-6738

**TOOLS/ MACHINERY  
6190**

**BAND SAW** 9" Ryobi Floor  
stand mounted \$75 941-626-6224

**BAND SAW** Delta-model #28-  
206 \$350 941-347-7794

**CIRCULAR SAW,** Black &  
Decker 7 1/4 \$20 941-286-1394

**COMPRESSOR HOSE** 20FT  
\$20 941-639-5537

**CRAFTSMAN 16"** Scroll Saw  
Excellent cond. \$50 941-661-9864

**CRAFTSMAN ROUTER & Bit**  
set Like New \$75 863-990-6087

**CRAFTSMAN SAW & router**  
table Like new \$250 863-990-6087

**DELTA SCROLL** Saw and  
Router, both \$80 941-286-5275

**DRILL PRESS** Delta 10" Floor  
stand mounted \$75 941-626-6224

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FOR YOU!**

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BUY A HOME!  
BUY A CAR!**

**DRILL/DRIVER** 18V cordless  
3/8 NIB \$30 941-624-4089

**EMT 1/2 & 3/4** benders 50  
both \$50 941-423-9769

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MANY MODELS  
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941-966-2182**



**LUXURY MOTOR HOMES  
2014 MODELS UP TO 45'  
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**FREE ESTIMATES.**  
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CASH/CONSIGN/TRADE  
CALL: **MARK**  
**RV WORLD INC OF NOKOMIS**  
FAMILY OWNED/OPERATED FOR 36 YRS  
2110 US 41 - NOKOMIS  
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**AIRSTREAM 35' DIESEL**  
1998. Gen/Slide, Many extras.  
\$29,995.00 734-751-6743

**SATURN TOW-CARS**  
Starting at \$2,150. Blue-Ox  
Tow hitches sold & installed.  
**THE SATURN GUYS**  
**PRO-POWER AUTO SALES**  
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(941) 627-8822.

**35' '99 CLASS A V10  
HOLIDAY RAMBLER**  
(Endeavors By Monaco)  
1 Slide, 17k mi., 6 new tires,  
All New Batteries. Like New  
Condition. Asking \$28,000  
OBO 941-426-8102

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EXPOSURE!**  
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**NEED A JOB?  
CHECK THE  
CLASSIFIEDS!**

**You Save  
Big Bucks  
Shopping  
Classifieds!**

**PUT CLASSIFIEDS  
TO WORK  
FOR YOU!**

**FIND A JOB!  
BUY A HOME!  
BUY A CAR!**

**WANTED - All TT's, Motor  
Homes, 5th whls,  
Pop-Ups, Van conversion &  
passenger vans. Cash  
paid on the spot. for quick  
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**BLUE OX tow bar /brake  
10,000lb / brake buddy/  
cables / lights \$375 941-249-  
4601**

**Employ Classified!**

**R/V WASHER/DRYER.** Used  
very little. Great convenience  
for full-timers. \$100 941-625-  
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**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH **TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES**

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

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♠ 10 8 6 5  
♥ K 10 9 3  
♦ A 8  
♣ A K 5

**WEST**  
♠ K  
♥ A Q 6 2  
♦ K 9 7 4 3  
♣ 8 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ A 9 3 2  
♥ J 8 7 5  
♦ 10 6 2  
♣ 10 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 7 4  
♥ 4  
♦ Q J 5  
♣ Q J 9 3 2

The bidding:

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

Good players frequently make careful little plays "in case it matters." It usually doesn't matter and virtue must be its own reward, but sometimes...

South let the opening lead run to his jack. One hurdle cleared! He then led a diamond back to dummy's ace to lead a trump to his queen, losing to the king. The defense would have prevailed at this point had West cashed the ace of hearts and

continued hearts, but that was not obvious. Instead, he continued safely with the king of diamonds and South ruffed this carefully with dummy's eight of spades. Next came the 10 of spades. East won the ace, revealing the spade position. Not wanting to set up the king of hearts in dummy and unsure of the club distribution East returned a low trump. South inserted the seven, then drew the remaining trump and claimed his contract, conceding a heart at the end. Had declarer ruffed the third diamond with dummy's six, he would have to win this third spade in dummy with the eight, and would not be able to draw trumps and run the club suit.

South played the hand well, but did you notice that the defense missed yet a second chance for glory? When East won his ace of spades, he could have played a heart to his partner's ace and West could continue with a devastating fourth round of diamonds. Declarer would have had no answer and the contract would have been defeated. Defense is difficult!

*(Tannah Hirsch and Bob Jones welcome readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail responses may be sent to tcaeditors@tribune.com.)*

**7 Little Words®**

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 athletic outfit (9)	_____
2 "Phantom Tollbooth" hero (4)	_____
3 action film's "doubles" (8)	_____
4 Caribbean island nation (8)	_____
5 old-style phone connection (8)	_____
6 phylum division (5)	_____
7 swapped positions (10)	_____

TRA	LAN	STU	UIT	EN
LO	CLA	SED	DL	NS
INE	TRA	IN	NTM	MI
DOM	PO	CKS	SS	ICA

Thursday's Answers: 1. PUBLICLY 2. CONCERTGOER 3. FETTERED 4. COMMODORE 5. TORT 6. ENSNARED 7. SUFFICIENCY 11/29

**TODAY'S  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Honda rival
  - 7 Country addr.
  - 10 Tusked animal
  - 14 Eugene's state
  - 15 NOW cause
  - 16 Cookie
  - 27 Reveal
  - 18 Mountain pass
  - 19 Isle of exile
  - 20 Feel frustrated (3 wds.)
  - 23 Whims
  - 26 Belly dance instrument
  - 27 Tables
  - 28 Herr's abode
  - 29 Kind of tent
  - 30 LII, twice
  - 31 Luau strings
  - 32 Playground game
  - 33 Lascaux attraction (2 wds.)
  - 37 Lo- — graphics
  - 38 Mr. Vigoda
  - 39 Lyric poem
  - 40 Plunging neckline
  - 41 Besets
  - 43 Menacing sound
  - 44 Uncertainties
  - 45 Sgt.
  - 46 Compass dir.
- DOWN**
- 1 Not her
  - 2 Aleta's son
  - 3 Hebrew letter
  - 4 Some marbles
  - 5 Washes down
  - 6 "Lonely Boy" singer
  - 7 Win back
  - 8 Fern foliage
  - 9 Broad valley
  - 10 Queen's home
  - 11 Clay pots
  - 12 Sphere of influence
  - 13 Jungle warnings
  - 21 Beauty aids
  - 22 Glass splinter
  - 23 "Star Trek" lieutenant

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

H	O	L	L	Y	S	P	C	A	F	R	E	D		
A	D	I	E	U	P	O	O	L	L	I	L	Y		
S	O	N	I	C	Y	U	R	T	A	C	M	E		
P	R	E	F	A	B	R	E	H	A	S	H	E	D	
T	O	N	N	A	G	E	U	H	S					
O	C	E	A	N	I	M	A	G	E	A	H	A		
S	T	A	B	G	N	A	S	H	D	R	I	P		
S	O	L	P	U	G	E	T	J	E	E	R	S		
					W	I	N	E	M	U	L	A	T	E
					P	R	O	O	F	S	R	A	J	
C	R	O	O	N	I	N	G		N	I	M	B	L	E
R	I	D	E		G	O	A	D		T	I	L	E	S
E	M	I	R		H	O	E	R		S	L	E	E	P
E	O	N	S		T	P	A	U		U	S	U	R	Y

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- 24 Long-handled tools
- 25 Ballpark figure
- 29 Cellist — Casals
- 30 Tight-knit team
- 32 Meditative martial art (2 wds.)
- 33 Fine brandy
- 34 Town near Madrid
- 35 Equip again
- 36 Experiments
- 42 Rabbit ears
- 46 Atelier items
- 47 Tentacle, e.g.
- 48 Aquarium denizen
- 49 Roused from slumber
- 50 Non-earthling
- 51 Vestibule
- 52 Wear jauntily
- 54 Titled lady
- 55 Likelihood
- 59 China's Chou En- —
- 60 Place of refuge
- 61 Ham on —

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14						15			16					
17						18			19					
			20			21			22					
23	24	25				26			27					
28					29			30						
31				32				33			34	35	36	
37				38				39			40			
41				42				43			44			
				45				46			47			
48	49	50				51			52					
53						54			55					
56						57			58			59	60	61
62						63			64					
65						66			67					

**Want more puzzles?**  
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books  
at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)





# Challenger

**DIRECTIONS:**  
 Fill each square with a number, one through nine.  
 • Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.  
 • Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.  
 • Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

By Lewis MAHER- 11-29

		3		15
	1			8
			3	23
	1			8
20	20	12	10	14

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.  
**Today's Challenge**  
 Time **9** Minutes  
**39** Seconds  
**Your Working**  
 Time Minutes Seconds

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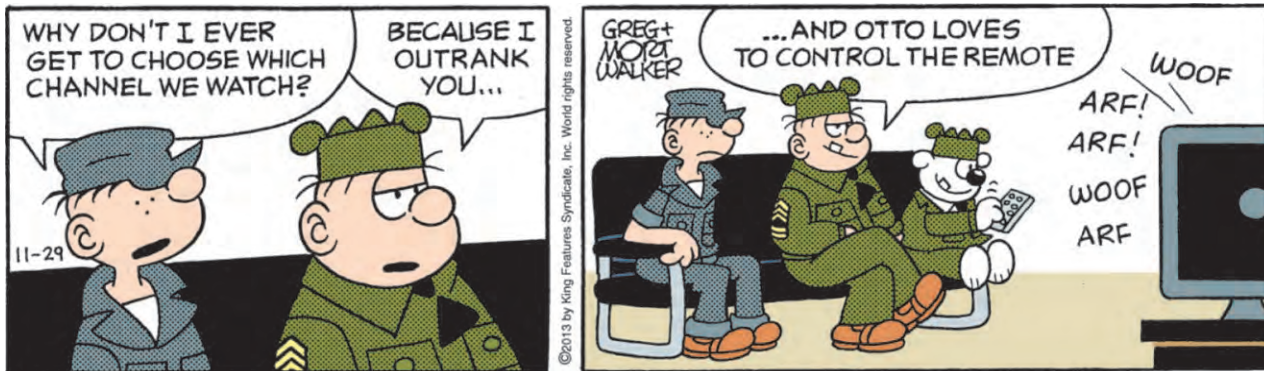
solution	11-28	7
3	2	1
2	1	2
2	2	2
2	3	1
9	8	6

Yesterday's Challenger Answers

## HI AND LOIS By Brian and Greg Walker



## BETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker



# Cryptoquip

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11-29

VWBBIVX K BHGZX IU CGIRV  
 NXHX JI DKLX KR GRJXHRKC  
 MIRUCGMJ. NIWCZ SIW VKS  
 JDKJ'V K MGLGC HIKH?  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SEASONED ENGLISH ACTOR PARTICULARLY FAMOUS FOR SCAMPING AROUND HASTILY: TIM SCURRY.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals Y

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Chris Browne



## THE WIZARD OF ID By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

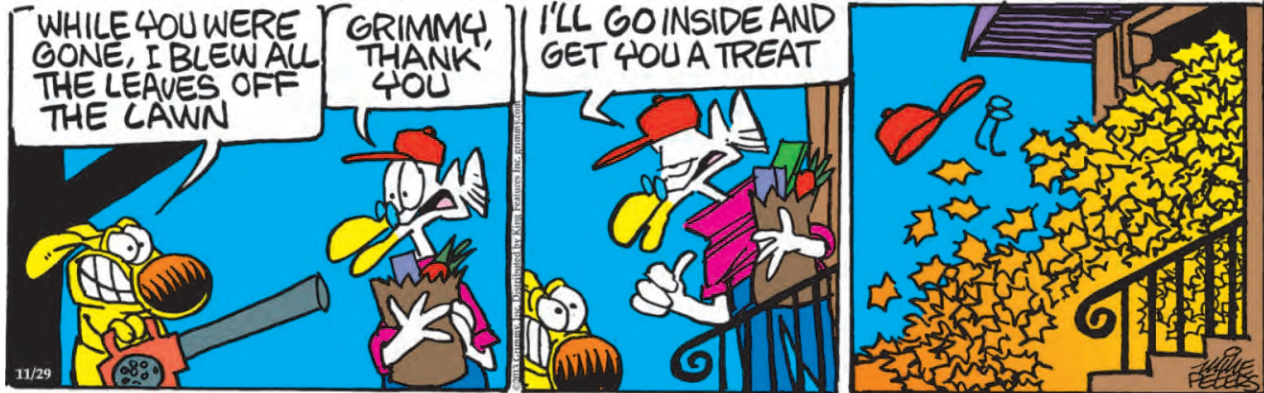


## MARMADUKE By Brad Anderson



"Marmaduke's sharing his dessert tray."

## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



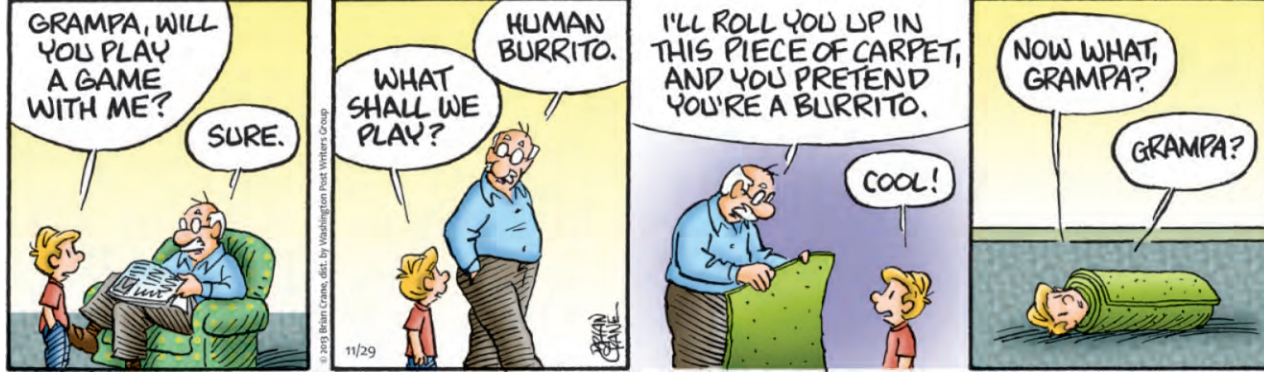
# WORD SLEUTH • ALASKAN RIVERS

MKHEBYWKTROLJGE  
 BYWUR(FORTY MILE)P  
 NKIGDYBZXVSQENO  
 MKIGUOBIRACERIC  
 AYWKUSQPNKLRPH  
 FEUFIRTHAYAOIUC  
 EKANSWETDGHKUCA  
 YUXVUSADUCQOQRP  
 NMLKJOUNHFNSE  
 CBZBNMEA E IYNXPV  
 GNIREBUTRSCIQPO

Thursday's unlisted clue: LIONS  
 Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Friday's unlisted clue hint: ANOTHER NAME FOR REINDEER

- Anchor
- Beluga
- Bering
- Blue
- Cinder
- Firth
- Fortymile
- Innok
- Koyukuk
- Muddy
- Noatak
- Porcupine
- Selawik
- Snake
- Squirrel

## PICKLES By Brian Crane



## B.C. By Mastroianni & Hart





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**Brooks purchased a 1997 Toyota Avalon**

**We are pleased to introduce one of our newest family members**

## Carpal tunnel syndrome and thyroid deficiency

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I have been diagnosed with a severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome, which developed within the past two years. I also have peripheral neuropathy not due to diabetes. I had thyroid cancer, and my thyroid was removed. I am on Synthroid.



**Dr. Roach**

My physician is recommending that I seek operation for the carpal tunnel. My shoulders, arms and hands have tingling sensation, with numbness in my fingers. I read that a cause of carpal tunnel could be related to hypothyroidism. Would a mere increase of my medication help this issue? My current thyroid stimulating hormone level is 0.12. My endocrinologist recommends keeping this number below the normal numbers (0.55-4.78).

the thyroid probably has nothing to do with the carpal tunnel syndrome.

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My wife suffers from painful osteoarthritis in her left hip, both ankles and left foot. She is not overweight, maintains a healthy diet and lifestyle, is in very good health and walks about one mile each day. She is in her 18th month of acupuncture treatments, and has tried bio-feedback. Do you have any opinion on the occasional use of Harpagophytum, commonly known as "devil's claw"?

I sincerely thank you for assuming the role of, may God bless him, Dr. Donohue. — J.M.

**ANSWER:** Devil's claw is considered by the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database as "possibly effective" and "possibly safe" in approved doses up to a year. The most common side effect is diarrhea. I think the jury is still out for both acupuncture and devil's claw. There have been some studies showing modest effectiveness, and some that have shown them to be no better than placebo. It is worth a try, but it might be helpful to keep a record of symptoms to see if it really is helping.

**READERS:** The booklet on vertigo explains this disruptive condition in detail and outlines its treatment. Readers can order a copy by writing: Dr. Roach — No. 801, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Can. with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

**ANSWER:** Carpal tunnel syndrome is caused by the compression of the median nerve as it goes through the wrist. Hypothyroidism is clearly a risk factor in developing CTS, and the mechanism is thought to be swelling of the nerve due to the low thyroid. If the CTS is being caused by the low thyroid, then treatment of the low thyroid usually improves the symptoms of CTS. However, your situation is more complex. Because of the history of thyroid cancer, your endocrinologist is quite correctly treating you with replacement thyroid but aiming on the high side. That's why you are taking a fairly large dose, and that's why your TSH is below the normal range. TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone) is made by your pituitary gland (in your brain) when your body needs to stimulate your thyroid gland (which would be in your neck, but yours was removed) to make more thyroid hormone. Because you are taking a little extra thyroid hormone in the form of Synthroid, your pituitary has sensed the high level and the TSH has come down, so that your thyroid is not stimulated to produce thyroid hormone at all. The concern is that any possible cancerous or pre-cancerous thyroid cells that may have been left after surgery could be stimulated by the TSH. You actually are slightly hyperthyroid, not hypothyroid, to reduce the likelihood of recurrent thyroid cancer. So increasing the dose of hormone wouldn't help the problem. In your case,

*Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu) or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Health newsletters may be ordered from [www.rbmamall.com](http://www.rbmamall.com).*

**REX MORGAN By Woody Wilson and Graham Nolan**



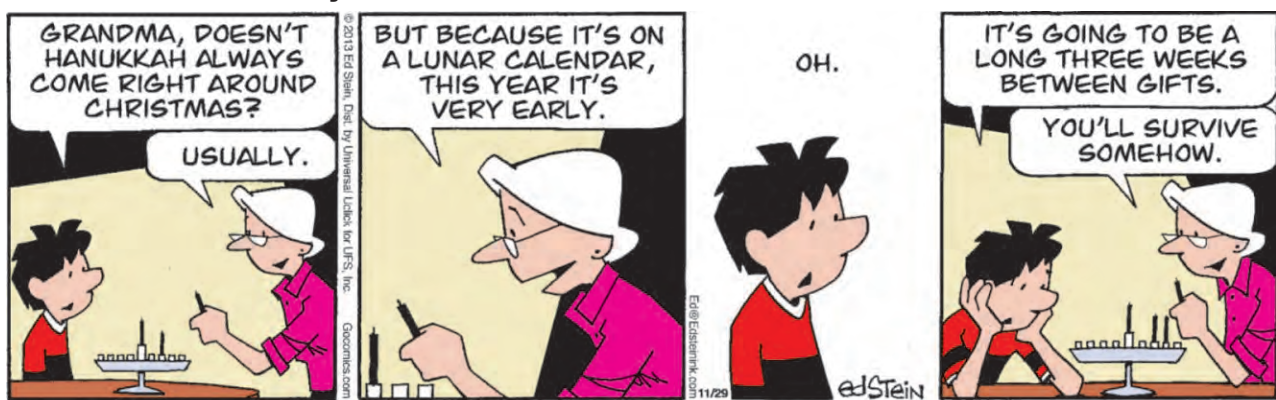
**ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman**



**GARFIELD By Jim Davis**



**FRESHLY SQUEEZED By Ed Stein**



**MARY WORTH By Karen Moy and Joe Giella**



**DILBERT By Scott Adams**





# Murder in the wedding party throws plans into question

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiancée and I are getting married next summer. Last summer, my closest friend — a woman — was murdered. Her husband was charged with the crime. Both of them were to be a part of the wedding party. The husband, “Frank,” was to be my best man.



**Dear Abby**

I’m at a loss about how to deal with this. I can’t believe that Frank is guilty, but the trial isn’t likely to be finished by the date of the wedding. However, he is likely to be out on bail.

Frank has been one of my closest friends for many years, and I don’t want to abandon him, but his presence would unnerve many of the guests who know about this. My fiancée and I are concerned that having him there would make our wedding “the one where the accused murderer showed up.”

Do I include him? Should he maintain his place as my best man? If not, how do I rescind his invitation? — **UNSURE IN CANADA**

**DEAR UNSURE:** Considering the notoriety that now surrounds Frank, he should not be your best man. His presence at the altar would distract from the bride, who is supposed to be the center of attention. This is the No. 1 no-no at weddings. However, I don’t think you should rescind your friend’s invitation to attend the wedding because he is innocent until **PROVEN** guilty.

**DEAR ABBY:** My girlfriend of six years spends weekends at my house where she has her own room with her clothing and personal things. Wanting her to be comfortable here, I have bought her some robes, PJs, slippers, etc. to use when she’s here.

One thing she never seems to have is underwear. She has even borrowed mine on occasion. So I shopped online and put a dozen pair in her dresser drawer. I know her size, style and color preference, so I thought I might be the best boyfriend ever for doing it.

Oddly enough, she made no comment. And when I asked, she said, “What kind of boyfriend does that?”

It’s SOOO weird.”

Abby, I was crushed. Did I go too far? Please tell me I’m not weird. — **DISMAYED IN DUNKIRK, N.Y.**

**DEAR DISMAYED:** You’re not weird. You are a giver, and it is a trait that should be appreciated. You did not deserve the putdown. Many women would have been touched by your thoughtfulness. I don’t know what kind of men your girlfriend has had in her life before you came along, but it seems they didn’t spoil her the way you’re trying to.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently married, and my husband and I are starting to think about when we should try to have children. I am having a hard time getting over the mindset that my parents instilled in me that pregnancy is bad — as in when you’re a teenager and your parents tell you over and over. (At least mine did.) It has made me terrified of getting pregnant.

How do I get over this mantra and move forward in my life? We want to start a family, but I always have this nagging feeling like I’m not as excited to have kids as my friends are. (We are in our early 30s.) Are these feelings normal? — **BRIDE IN PHOENIX**

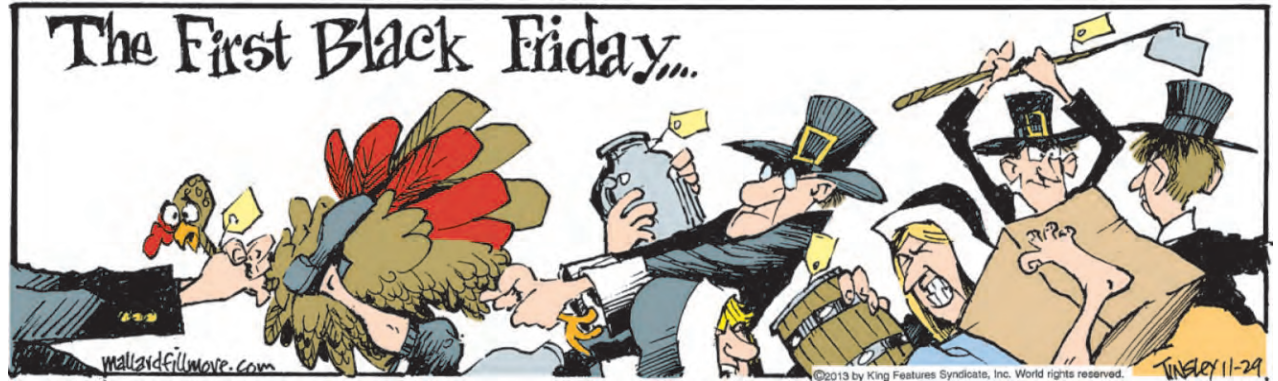
**DEAR BRIDE:** At this point, it might be helpful if you discussed this with your parents. After all, it was they who planted this seed of doubt in your head. I’m sure once they hear that what they planted has grown into a fear of having the grandchildren they would love to have, they will find the words to reassure you that a pregnancy after marriage is something to be celebrated. However, if your concerns continue after that, talk about them with your OB/GYN or a licensed counselor.

## BIBLE

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.” — **Nahum 1:7**

Don’t despair if it has been one of those days filled with trouble. The Lord is good and He is able to meet your need. Take time to tell Him all about it.

## MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



## PEANUTS By Charles Schulz



## CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



## SHOE By Gary Brookins & Susie



## JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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

Rating: **SILVER**

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

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Solution to 11/28/13

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

Venice Gondolier readers: Look for the puzzle solution in the Our Town section

## HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You can be gentle when you need to be, and you need to be now. A certain person will run unless you are unrelentingly kind and reassuring.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The way your family members act doesn’t have to be a reflection on you. Let people be the way they are, and try not to get involved unless it seems truly necessary.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The reward for taking a risk won’t be the prize at the end — that is likely to be made of plastic and will require regular dusting.

The real reward is the feeling that you’ve truly achieved something.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It’s important to react to what happens in a timely and proportionate manner. The “proportionate” part is important. You’ll get very little accomplished by overreacting.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You’ll feel like stealing away to recharge, and if you can manage it, you should. Spending time alone teaches you to be there for yourself.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It’s the same scene, but some of the people involved will remember it with

pleasure, and some will remember it with pain. With sensitivity, you can tip the balance.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Expose yourself repeatedly to the thing that makes you uncomfortable, and you’ll find that it loses power over you. You’ll become comfortable.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You’ll be drawn to situations in which you have no idea what is expected of you. Most people avoid that kind of thing, but you get a charge from the challenge of the unknown.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is vigilant of you to guess at the motives of others, but take a break

from this now, as it’s likely a waste of time. If you want to know why, just ask.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When someone makes the same mistake repeatedly, it might not be a mistake at all. It could be a personality style that you are better off to accept and expect.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whether it’s for work or fun, getting into motion is the hardest part. After that, you’re home free. The feeling that you are moving forward is motivation enough.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You have to spell things out for some people. Expecting them to know how

to act or to pick up on your social cues will set you up for disappointment. Sure, it’s more work, but it just happens that way sometimes.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY** (Nov. 29). The next four weeks are sociable, and you’ll take unique samplings of life. Your imagination is stirred in January. You’ll come up with inventive solutions for everything from relationships to transportation to daily life. You’ll win a case or contest in March. Give all you can to the one who needs it in April. Leo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 28, 31, 22 and 17.