



## TRUMP VOWS VETO AS DEMOCRATS TRY TO BLOCK EMERGENCY ORDER

Democrats introduced a resolution Friday to block Trump's declaration, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the House would vote on the measure Tuesday. Trump quickly promised a veto if it passes.

See The News Wire

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# Man stabbed in throat, stitched up at home

## Englewood resident mum to cops on details, flown to trauma unit, no arrests

By ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH  
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — Several 911 calls helped deputies find a pair involved in a double stabbing, according to reports released Friday.

No arrests have been made as of

Friday, and no suspects were named.

On Thursday morning, the Charlotte County deputies went to the Merchant's Crossing plaza. A couple had reported a man bleeding from the neck in the parking lot. However, deputies couldn't find anyone. They reviewed footage from a camera in Publix that was aimed

at the parking lot with no success.

Around that time, another call came in from a witness across Placida Road at the Palm Plaza Winn-Dixie store. The witness said there was a man bleeding from the neck and covered with blood. Deputies learned a male and female had gone to the bathroom. The male

“made a mess,” the police report said. Employees cleaned up the restroom while others looked for the couple.

Then another caller reported seeing a man covered in blood and running behind the nearby Bealls store at

STABBED | 8

# Full house for 1st game



SUN PHOTOS BY LIZ HARDAWAY

## Rays honor veterans in first spring training game of the season

By LIZ HARDAWAY  
STAFF WRITER

PORT CHARLOTTE — Zach and Seth Mitchell lined the fence, patiently waiting as various Tampa Bay Rays players signed memorabilia.

They felt honored that the players took the time to greet their fans.

“Especially if you want to be out there someday,” said Zach Mitchell, who attends Heron Creek Middle School in North Port.

Zach wants to be a catcher when he's older, and his brother Seth, who goes to Atwater Elementary School, wants to be a pitcher.

The Mitchells weren't the only ones who celebrated at the Rays' first spring training home game of the season. This was also the Rays' military appreciation spring training game.

“My grandfather was a vet,” Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Austin Meadows said. “They protect a lot of us ... it means the

world to me.”

The Military Heritage Museum had a display at the game, inviting attendees to try on flight jackets, helmets and interact with hands-on artifacts.

“When you realize the bloodshed in order to fly the flag freely, it's a pleasure to give back,” said CJ Metcalfe, who is on the museum's Board of Directors.

The display was also promoting the museum's soon-to-be new location at 900 W. Marion Ave. in Punta Gorda, which they are moving into in April.

“Every veteran has a story,” said the museum's Executive Director Gary Butler. “Our museum is the keeper of those stories.”

Before the game started, the team had three veterans throw a pitch.

One pitcher was 92-year-old John Arens, who served in the military for 36 years, including 10 with the Navy SEALs.

The Charlotte Sports Park in Port Charlotte was packed Friday afternoon as spectators watched a spring training game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Philadelphia Phillies.

“There's a lot of American history in both baseball and the military. When you combine the two, it's special.”

— Mark Houston, Tampa Bay Rays spring training manager



World War II veteran John Arens, 92, was thanked by North Port resident Paul Leahy (right) for his service. Dr. Kathleen Roth (center) later escorted Arens to his seat to watch the ball game.

RAYS | 4

## 'Instant replay' snares Patriots owner at strip-mall massage parlor



AP PHOTO

Police in Florida have charged New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft with misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution, saying they have videotape of him paying for a sex act inside an illicit massage parlor. Jupiter police told reporters Friday, that the 77-year-old Kraft has not been arrested.

## 77-year-old billionaire faces charges of soliciting a prostitute in sex-trafficking investigation

By TERRY SPENCER and JOSHUA REPLOGE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUPITER, Fla. — New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft faces misdemeanor charges of soliciting a prostitute after he was twice videotaped in a sex act at a Florida massage parlor, police said Friday in a case that could get him in trouble with the NFL.

The 77-year-old Kraft denied any wrongdoing.

He was not immediately arrested. Jupiter police said a warrant will be issued and his attorneys will be notified. They said details about the charges against the owner of the Super Bowl champion team will not be released until next week.

The charge comes amid a crackdown on sex trafficking from Palm Beach to Orlando in which police planted cameras in massage parlors.

Hundreds of arrest warrants have been issued in recent days as a result of a six-month investigation, and more are expected. Ten spas have been closed, and several people have been taken into custody on sex trafficking charges.

Jupiter police Chief Daniel Kerr said he was shocked to learn that Kraft, who is worth \$6 billion, was paying for sex inside a shopping-center massage parlor, the Orchids of Asia Day Spa. “We are as equally stunned as everyone else,” Kerr said.

Most people charged for the first time with soliciting a prostitute in Florida are allowed to enter a diversion program, said attorney David Weinstein, a former prosecutor. Kraft would probably have to perform 100 hours of community service and attend a course on the harmful effects of prostitution and sex trafficking, he said.

The NFL did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. Under league policy,

KRAFT | 8

**CORRECTION:** A story in Thursday's edition about the West Villages Invitational gave an incorrect date for the Clydesdales to perform at CoolToday Park. The Clydesdales will be at the park's March 23 open house. The Sun regrets the error.

# Western Michigan departure a hot topic

## Airport Authority looks forward to new opportunities

By LIZ HARDAWAY  
STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA — Among the disappointment and anger expressed by county officials regarding the departure of Western Michigan University, there was also a call to action.

“They have proven something,” Chairwoman Pam Seay told the

Charlotte County Airport Authority board. “There is a need for this type of training.”

“The fact that they failed to dedicate the time, effort, money to the project and decided to withdraw it before it even had a chance to grow was extremely disappointing,” Seay said. “It affects us greatly ... fuel sales of course we've lost, operations we've lost, we have some very good

people we've lost ... and an educational opportunity that has gone away from us.

“What is it that we could do to capitalize on the opportunity that was originally created and do something new and something even better,” she continued.



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CHARLIE SAYS  
See you at  
the ballpark.

# RAYS

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"You notice you're being noticed," Arens said, but he feels really appreciated being a part of the museum.

"It's an American pastime," said Mark Houston, the Spring Training manager for the Tampa Bay Rays. "There's a lot of American history in both baseball and the military. When you combine the two, it's special."

Being a veteran

himself, Houston's glad the Rays can kick the season off right. Houston served in the U.S. Army for 22 years.

Charlotte County Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, who also threw a pitch representing the commission, thought it was "so appropriate" to start the game off honoring veterans.

"We have a responsibility to young people to let them know the sacrifice these veterans made."

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SUN PHOTO BY LIZ HARDAWAY

Seth and Zach Mitchell try to grab the attention of Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Austin Meadows so he can sign their baseballs.



SUN PHOTO BY LIZ HARDAWAY

The U.S. Special Operations Command Parachute team opened the game with three paracommandos flying the American flag, the Tampa Bay Rays flag and the MIA flag.



SUN PHOTO BY LIZ HARDAWAY

Austin Meadows, outfielder for the Tampa Bay Rays, signs a baseball for one of his young fans.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Chuck Vuollo (left) and Bob Wollitz also threw ceremonial first pitches before the game.

### SPECIALS

#### Salute to Service

Military, teachers and first responders can purchase 200 level tickets on these dates for just \$10:

- Feb. 28
- March 7
- March 14
- March 22

Tickets need to be purchased online at Rays-Baseball.com/specials

#### Seniors

Fans 60 and older can purchase 200 level tickets for \$15 on these dates.

- Feb. 25
- March 6
- March 18

Tickets can be purchased online at Rays-Baseball.com/specials or at the Charlotte Sports Box Office.

### Submit a Community Calendar item

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JOEY WENDLE

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