

Trump notches another win

■ Late-night victory in Nevada marks three in a row for billionaire

By Steve Peoples and Nancy Benac
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Donald Trump notched a win in Nevada's Republican caucuses on Tuesday as Marco Rubio bid to elbow out Ted Cruz for second place in an increasingly urgent effort to slam the brakes on the Trump juggernaut.

Trump now has three straight victories — in the West, the South and

Northeast — a testament to his broad appeal among the angry voters making their voices heard in the 2016 presidential race.

Six in 10 caucus goers said they were angry with the way the government is working, and Trump got about half of those angry voters, according to preliminary results of an entrance poll.

Nevada was a critical test for Rubio and Cruz, the two senators battling

NEV. CAUCUS
For the final numbers from Tuesday's Nevada caucus, go to TCPalm.com.

to emerge as the clear alternative to the GOP front-runner. Rubio was out to prove he can build on recent momentum, while Cruz was looking for a spark to recover from a particularly rocky stretch

in his campaign.

Rubio, already campaigning in Michigan as caucus results rolled in, was projecting confidence that he can consolidate the non-Trump voters who have been splintering among an assortment of GOP hopefuls, saying, "we have incredible room to grow."

Cruz, a fiery conservative popular among



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Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump smiles as he greets voters at a caucus site Tuesday in Las Vegas.

See NEVADA, 16A



GIL SMART

COLUMNIST

Dark water gives rise to dark horses

I'm about to make a bit of a leap here. But jump along with me.



OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

I spoke to a lot of people last week whose voices didn't make it into my Sunday piece on the anger over the discharges fouling the Indian River Lagoon. I talked to Capt. Scott Fawcett, of Off the Chain sportfishing charters, who's watching his business evaporate as the "chocolate-soup mess" pours into the estuary.

"We offer stand-up paddling and kayaking, but I don't even advertise that anymore because I've been afraid to take my family" in the water, he said.

Indeed, Fawcett said he's reluctant to rinse his hands in his live bait well, and has been careful about boat speed so people don't get splashed.

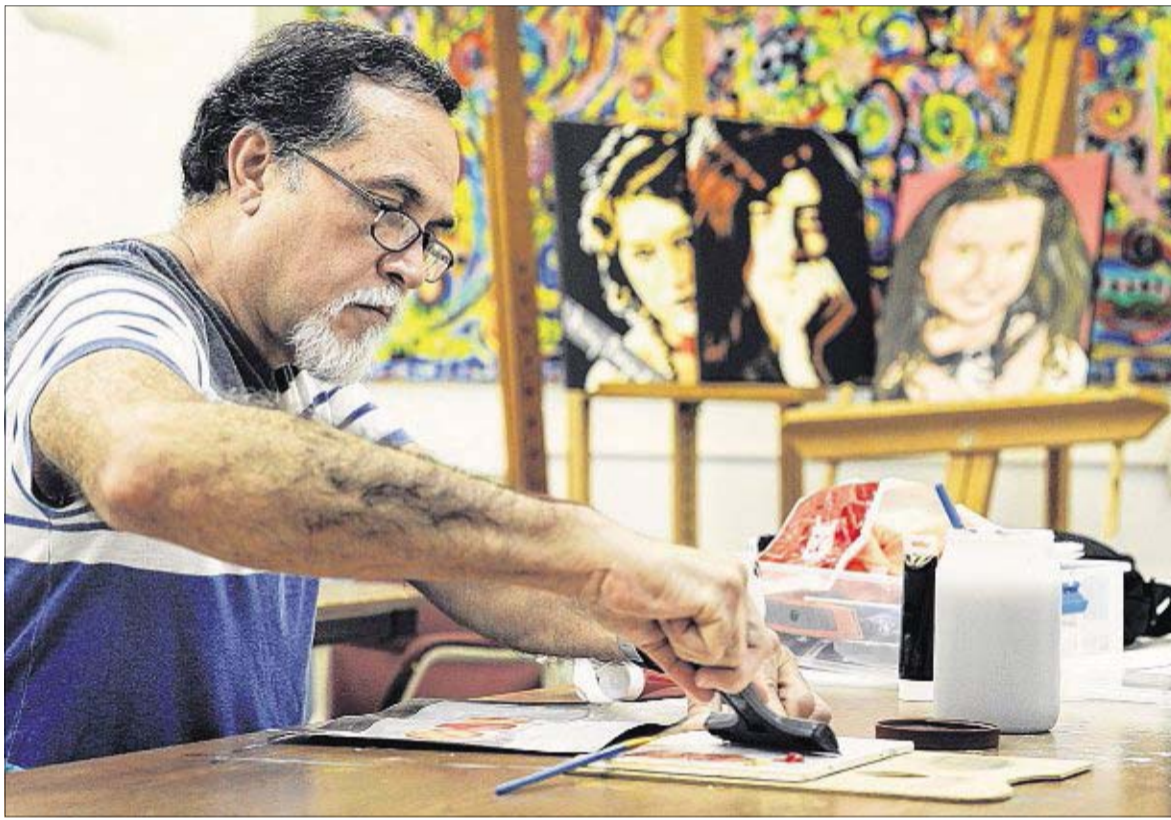
You know things are bad when a guy who makes his living off the water is worried about what might happen if he or his customers actually touch it.

I also talked to Mark Nichols, owner of D.O.A. Fishing Lures, a Stuart-based lure manufacturer. He said the sea grass that used to start about 50 yards offshore has disappeared.

"This year we went 200 yards offshore, and there was not a blade of grass," he said.

See SMART, 19A

Find your passion



JEREMIAH WILSON/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Dennis Gonzalez, of Port St. Lucie, scrapes paint off of his palette on Tuesday during the "Lunch & Learn: Acrylics Open Studio" at Art Mundo in Fort Pierce. "I always had a desire for arts," said Gonzalez, who began painting with acrylics about five weeks ago. "This is my passion now." The open studio class is offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and costs \$30 per session. More information on this and other classes can be found at artmundo.org.

Obama: Guantanamo must be closed

■ Republicans cold on proposal

By Lolita C. Baldor and Kathleen Hennessey
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's plan to close the detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, slammed into a wall of Republican opposition on Tuesday, stopping cold Obama's hope for a bipartisan effort to "close a chapter" that began in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The long-awaited proposal, which was requested by Congress, is Obama's last attempt to make good on an unfulfilled campaign promise by persuading

Congress to change the law that prohibits moving detainees accused of violent extremist acts to U.S. soil. Fourteen years after the facility opened and seven years after Obama took office, the president argued it was "finally" time to shutter a facility that has sparked persistent legal battles, become a recruitment tool for Islamic militants and garnered strong opposition from some allies abroad.

"I don't want to pass this problem onto the next president, whoever it is," Obama said in an appearance at the White House. "If we don't do what's



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President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden (left) and Defense Secretary Ash Carter, discusses Guantánamo Bay on Tuesday at the White House.

required now, I think future generations are going to look back and ask why we failed to act when the right course, the right side

of history, and justice and our best American traditions was clear."

See GITMO, 20A

Study: Lake O harms oysters

■ Discharges devastating to St. Lucie River

By Tyler Treadaway
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Oysters in the St. Lucie River are pretty resilient. They thrive in normal rainwater runoff into the estuary and can cope with even temporary low salinity from large amounts of local runoff.



OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

One thing they can't survive: extended discharges from Lake Okeechobee. That's according to a new study by Ed Proffitt, biology professor at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute near Fort Pierce, and graduate student Elizabeth Salewski, published in the March issue of the scientific journal Estuaries and Coasts.

Healthy oysters are a sign of a healthy river. Oyster beds support more than 300 species of aquatic animals. More than that, they help make the estuary healthier by filtering impurities out of the water.

Proffitt and Salewski studied the St. Lucie from 2009 through 2011, including the spring and summer of 2010, when nearly 85 billion gallons of Lake O water was dumped into the river.

See OYSTERS, 20A

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FROM 1A



FILE PHOTO

Oysters can survive normal rainwater runoff into the estuary and can cope with even temporary low salinity from large amounts of local runoff, but they can't survive extended discharges from Lake Okeechobee, scientists say.

OYSTERS
from 1A

By comparison, 136.1 billion gallons of Lake O water was discharged into the river in the summer and fall of 2013, killing practically all the oysters in the estuary.

Since Jan. 30, more than 50 billion gallons of lake water has been released, and the Army Corps of Engineers has said the discharges are expected at least two more months.

BIGGEST THREAT

Proffitt said tiny particles of sediment pose the biggest threat to oysters.

During the first 20 days of the current discharges, for example, more than 800,000 pounds of sediment have turned the estuary chocolate brown; and a plume of brown water extends out the St. Lucie Inlet into the Atlantic Ocean.

"The sediment that's suspended in the discharged water rains down on top of the oysters, clogging the filters they use to feed," Proffitt said.

The oysters close up to keep the sediment out, but that means they can't eat. "The adults can last a little

while," Proffitt said, "but the young ones can't."

Vincent Encomio, an oyster expert at the Florida Oceanographic Society in Stuart, called sediment "the gift you don't want that keeps on giving."

Even after the sediment forms muck on the bottom of the estuary, "it keeps getting re-suspended in the water by boat propellers and strong winds. Then it falls back down on oysters and kills them."

NO SALT

The discharges of freshwater from the lake drop or completely wipe out salinity levels in the estuary, which naturally is a mixture of saltwater and freshwater.

Proffitt said low salinity alone can kill small oysters but has no effect on larger ones. But if Lake O discharges occur in the summer, when oysters are already stressed due to warm water, low salinity is more likely to kill all oysters.

For that reason, Proffitt and Salewski recommend discharges be limited to the winter. And Proffitt suggested discharges be "pulsed": on for a couple of months, then off long

enough for salinity to recover.

The ultimate goal, Proffitt and Salewski said, should be "to eliminate or severely curtail the frequency of multi-month high freshwater discharge events."

BOOM-BUST

In the meantime, Proffitt said, even though oysters die during long discharges every few years, money spent on building oyster beds in the St. Lucie isn't wasted.

Martin County has built more than 25 acres of oyster beds throughout the estuary with a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009. Florida Oceanographic and about 500 volunteers have built more than 30 smaller oyster-shell beds along the Riverwalk in downtown Stuart.

"Even when there are boom and bust cycles in the oyster population," he said, "that's better for the estuary's ecosystem, for the oysters and the numerous other species the oyster beds support, than just having a bunch of muck at the bottom of the St. Lucie."

GITMO
from 1A

Despite the big ambitions, Obama's proposed path remained unclear. The plan leaves unanswered the politically thorny question of where in the U.S. a new facility would be located. It offered broad cost estimates. The White House described it as more of a conversation starter than a definitive outline.

Republican leaders in Congress showed no interest in having that conversation.

"We will review President Obama's plan but since it includes bringing dangerous terrorists to facilities in U.S. communities, he knows that the bipartisan will of Congress has already been expressed against that proposal," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Obama had yet to convince Americans that moving detainees to U.S. soil is "smart or safe."

"It is against the law — and it will stay against the law," Ryan said.

Even Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former prisoner of war and an advocate of closing the prison, called Obama's report a "vague menu of options," which does not include a policy for dealing with future detainees.

Under the plan, roughly 35 of the 91 current detainees will be transferred to other countries in the coming months, leaving up to 60 detainees who are either facing trial by military commission or have been determined to be too dangerous to release but are not facing charges.

Those detainees would be relocated to a U.S. facility that could cost up to \$475 million to build, but would ultimately be offset



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

President Barack Obama's plan considers, but does not name, 13 different locations in the U.S. — including seven existing prison facilities in Colorado, South Carolina and Kansas, as well as six other locations at current correctional facilities on state, federal or military sites in several states — to replace Guantanamo Bay.

by as much as \$180 million per year in operating cost savings.

The annual operating cost for Guantanamo is \$445 million. The U.S. facilities would cost between \$265 million and \$305 million to operate each year, according to the proposal.

The plan considers, but does not name, 13 different locations in the U.S.,

including seven existing prison facilities in Colorado, South Carolina and Kansas, as well as six other locations at current correctional facilities on state, federal or military sites in several states.

It also notes that there could be all new construction on existing military bases. The plan doesn't recommend a preferred site.

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