



ART AND FRIENDSHIP
 Newtown project among the last for longtime Booker besties. **1B**

**INSIDE
 TICKET**

GOING TO THE BEACH? Here are 50 ways to have a good time.
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**Fired
 officer
 making
 a return**

SARASOTA: Axed for violent arrest, he gets job back with arbitrator's blessing

By IAN CUMMINGS
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SARASOTA — A fired police officer will be back in uniform again because of one man who is largely unknown and unaccountable to anyone.

Officer Scott Patrick was fired in 2012 for beating a man during an arrest. Two years later, over the objections of police and city officials, he has regained his job and will return to patrolling the streets — with back pay and a raise.

The reversal of fortune was decided by a Sarasota attorney appointed as an arbitrator when Patrick challenged his firing through the union grievance process. For years, such outcomes have frustrated police chiefs, citizens and state law enforcement officials, who see this as a thwarting of efforts to hold officers accountable.

In this case, the arbitrator approved of Patrick's decision to punch a man 10 times in the face, and ordered that the department reinstate him.

Experts say Sarasota Police Chief Bernadette DiPino can't be blamed, and there is little that state officials can do about it. Union contracts and state law make it virtually impossible to appeal an arbitrator's decision, even if it means throwing out an inter-

See OFFICER on 5A

ONLINE: To watch a video of the nightclub arrest, go to heraldtribune.com and follow the link with this story.

COMMENT: Fired police officers don't always stay fired. **Lyons, 1B**

New College is at or near the top of many a higher ed 'best of' list. So why did the Sarasota institution, known for its academic rigor and spirit of experimentation, get one of the lowest scores among Florida's public universities? And what are the costs?

CAMPUS CRITIQUE

Students carve out time to study for finals earlier this month at New College's Jane Bancroft Cook Library. Only 44 percent of the school's graduates were employed full time in Florida or continuing their education a year after graduation.



STAFF PHOTO / RACHEL S. O'HARA

By ZAC ANDERSON
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New College of Florida this year ranked near the top once more on several higher education "best of" lists.

The Princeton Review rated New College the nation's second-best value among public universities. U.S. News and World Report dubbed New College the fifth-best public liberal arts college.

Such accolades are routine for Florida's liberal arts honors college, known for attracting accomplished students to an intimate setting that blends academic rigor and quirky experimentation.

That's why a new state university ranking system is so jarring for New College. The school received one of the lowest scores among Florida's public universities.

The unexpectedly poor grade presents an image problem for a generally well-regarded institution. And it comes with serious financial repercussions.

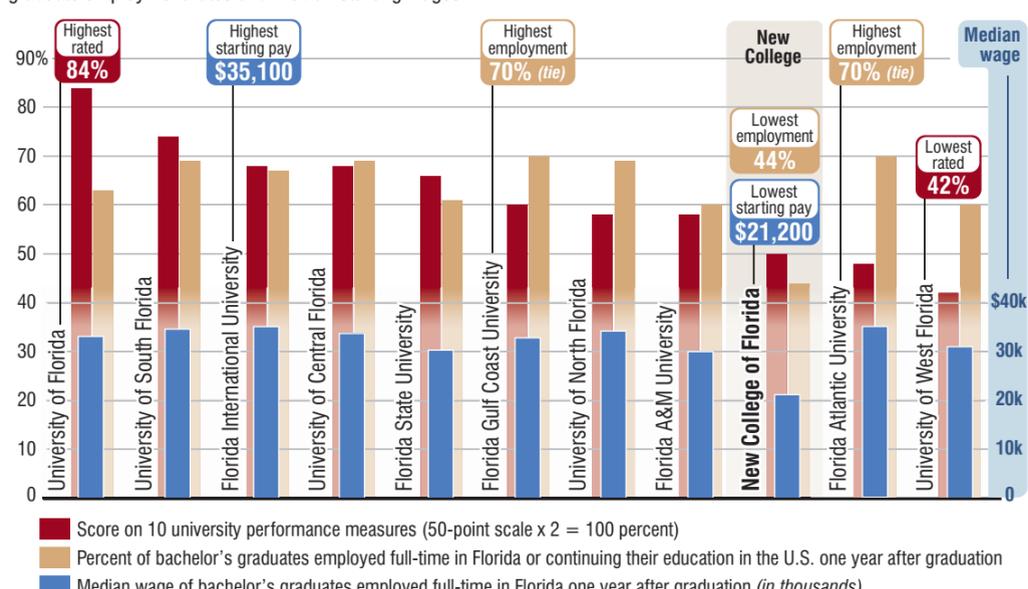
New College did not qualify for a share of the \$100 million in additional money set aside for Florida's university system this year because of its low score in the performance-funding model. And the school could lose nearly \$1.1 million from its existing budget if improvements are not made quickly.

The loss of operating revenue would be significant for a school with 793 students and 70 full-time faculty members. The rating is prompting college administrators to balance the demands of lawmakers who want to see more career-focused education against the traditions of an unconventional institution, one that does not award grades and takes serious-

See COLLEGE on 5A

How New College stacks up among state universities

New College of Florida is ranked 9th out of 11 state universities in performance ratings, and a distant last place in graduate employment rates and median starting wages.



SOURCE: Florida Board of Governors

STAFF GRAPHIC / BARRY MCCARTHY

**Suddenly, their
 26-footer felt
 kinda . . . small**

By TYLER KILLETTE
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Three Palmetto couples were enjoying a successful morning of deep-sea fishing Sunday when they got a 20,000-pound surprise.

"We could have touched it," said Beverly Higgins, talking about the whale shark the group spotted some 40 miles off Anna Maria Island. Her husband Mike's fishing boat is a 26-footer. Higgins estimated the animal was longer than that.

While others snapped stills, Tracey Gardner, who was there with her husband, John, pulled out her iPhone to capture the moment on video.

"It was beautiful, graceful, just amazing," Higgins said. They had seen two other whale sharks that day, but neither

See WHALE SHARK on 8A

ONLINE: To see a video of the shark, go to heraldtribune.com and follow the link with this story.

"Listen to yourself and in that quietude you might hear the voice of God."

— Maya Angelou's last tweet, posted May 23



**Lyrical voice
 of a torn U.S.**

Maya Angelou, 86, witnessed life in the Jim Crow South, and history's flow

By MARGALIT FOX, *The New York Times*

Maya Angelou, the memoirist and poet whose landmark book of 1969, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — which describes in lyrical, unsparring prose her childhood in the Jim Crow South — was among the first autobiographies by a 20th-century black woman to reach a wide general readership, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86.

Her death was confirmed by her longtime literary agent, Helen Brann. The cause of death was not immediately known, but Brann said Angelou had been frail for some time and had heart problems.

In a statement, President Barack Obama said, "Today, Michelle and I join millions around the

See OBITUARY on 8A

INSIDE



GLAZER TURNED BUCS INTO CHAMPIONS

Malcolm Glazer, the man who some say kept the Buccaneers from leaving Tampa Bay and turned the team from perennial losers into Super Bowl champions, died Wednesday. He was 85. **1C**

CHANGE AT NEAL HOMES

John Neal plans to switch his focus to land acquisition and development. **1D**

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