

# The Stuart News

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TCPalm.com

Saturday, June 25, 2016

\$1.00

## Coming Sunday



**\$162**  
IN COUPONS  
AND SAVINGS



## IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS

Treasure Coast Newspapers columnist Rich Campbell says the Treasure Coast's legal bout with All Aboard Florida is entering its final rounds next week.



## THE RACE IS ON

Republican Marco Rubio jumped into the U.S. Senate race Wednesday with a presumptive lead over U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, as a poll released the same day showed Rubio would beat the Treasure Coast Democrat. But Democrats look at Rubio's 7-point lead over Murphy with optimism, saying he should be polling above 50 percent. Could Murphy beat Rubio in the Senate race?



## RED, WHITE AND BLUE

There's still plenty of time to buy patriotic shirts and get ready for the long holiday weekend as the nation celebrates Independence Day. Treasure Coast Newspapers Bargainista Kelly Tyko tells you about the best deals of the week to help you save on your family's Fourth of July festivities.

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# Area judges want G4S out

## Orlando shooter patrolled courthouse as guard

By George Andreassi  
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FORT PIERCE — Treasure Coast judges fear for their safety in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting rampage by G4S security guard Omar Mateen, who did stunts guarding the county courthouses in St. Lucie and Indian River, St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara said Friday.

The judges want Sheriff's deputies to handle all security at the St. Lucie courthouses, as they do in Martin County, Mascara said after meeting with Chief Judge Elizabeth Metzger on Monday. Deputies currently are stationed in St. Lucie and Indian River courtrooms, while G4S security guards are stationed at the metal detectors at the entrances to the court buildings.

Mascara and Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar said they are satisfied with G4S's service and employees but will consider replacing the private security guards with deputies. There are eight or nine G4S guards in the Fort Pierce and St. Lucie West courthouses, and two in Vero Beach, both of whom have worked there for a decade each. Loar said Metzger hasn't

## MORE INSIDE

Islamic Center of Fort Pierce hires private security. **13A**

raised any issues with the G4S security guards at the Indian River County Courthouse, and it was unclear how she feels about security there.

Replacing G4S with deputies would cost St. Lucie \$200,000 more and Indian River \$60,000 more than the respective

\$377,000 and \$86,000 the sheriffs are paying G4S this year.

Loar said his staff had considered replacing G4S with deputies three months before Mateen's shooting spree — but didn't specify why — and are more likely to do so now.

St. Lucie's contract originated in the mid-1990s when Bobby Knowles was sheriff, Mascara said. Indian River's contract

See **G4S, 14A**

# River algae toxic



A blanket of algae covers a canal in the North River Shores neighborhood between Northwest River Trail and Northwest San Souci Street along the St. Lucie River on Friday. To see more photos, go to [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

PHOTOS BY ERIC HASERT/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

## Blue-green algae can cause nausea, vomiting and rash

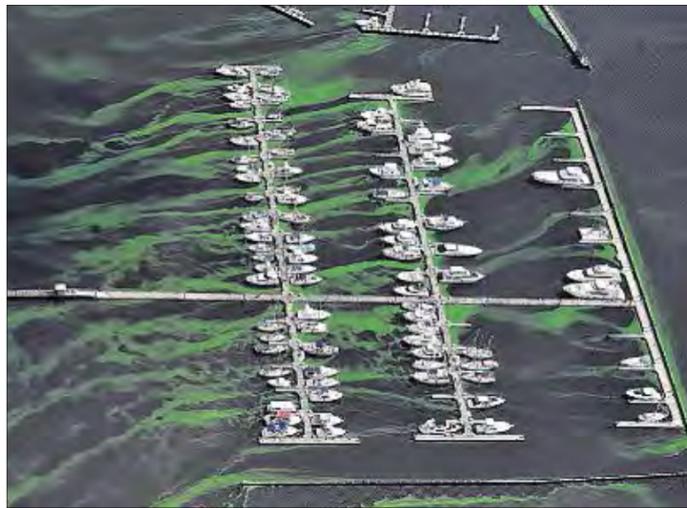
By Tyler Treadaway  
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Algae in the St. Lucie River has hit the trifecta: It's expanding, it's turning blue and — worst of all — it's officially toxic.

Algae with toxins well above the level considered hazardous was found Wednesday at Dyer Point in Palm City and off Southeast Harbor Point Drive in Stuart.

Algae at the St. Lucie Lock and Dam, the point where Lake Okeechobee water is discharged into the river, had toxins at slightly below the hazardous level.

Several types of algae with "specks of microcystis" were found at all three sites, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which conducted the tests. Microcystis is a type of blue-green algae that often contains toxins.



Algae surrounds boats docked at the Loggerhead Marina on Friday at the northeast corner of the Roosevelt Bridge in the St. Lucie River in Stuart.



Those toxins in blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, can cause nausea and vomiting if ingested, and rash or hay fever symptoms if touched

or inhaled. Drinking water with the toxins can cause long-term liver disease.

Some research indicates a link between long-term inhalation of microcystin fumes and neurological ailments such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's diseases.

Algae off Harbor Point Drive,

See **ALGAE, 13A**

# Summer arrives with full force

## Heat index tops 100 across Treasure Coast

By Nicole Wiesenthal  
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With high temperatures and greater humidity making it seem even hotter, emergency workers are warning people to stay hydrated, remain in the shade and wear a lot of sunscreen.

Several times this week, the heat index surpassed 100 degrees throughout the Treasure Coast.

Thermometers hitting 88 degrees in Vero Beach about noon Friday felt like 102 degrees; in Stuart on Wednesday, the upper 80s felt like 107 degrees.

Local fire rescue workers and lifeguards have had several heat-related emergency calls and are encouraging people to be careful when out in the sun.

"The word's getting out there," said Nathan Rick, Vero Beach's lifeguard captain. "People are talking about the weather; we're putting messages on boards. Maybe everybody is heeding the warning and being careful."

Yes, it's the first full week of summer in Florida. Until now, it hadn't felt like the oppressive heat typical of this time of year.

We haven't broken any temperature records, said John Pendergrast, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

"But at this time of year, the humidity makes it feel hotter; and there's more direct sun, which leads to an increased risk of heat exposure," he said.

See **SUMMER, 16A**

# King challenges Gaylord for superintendent seat

## He seeks to improve curriculum, test scores

By Andrew Atterbury  
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MARTIN COUNTY — With a second candidate sneaking in just before deadline, the race for Martin County superintendent of schools is officially on.

On Thursday — one day

before deadline — Stuart attorney Scott King filed for his candidacy. He is the lone challenger to first-term incumbent Laurie Gaylord.

King said concerns over a drop in Martin County School District's state exam scores — particularly among elementary students — led in part to

his decision to run.

"I believe we've got a crisis going on in the elementary schools that has to be urgently addressed," King said Friday.

King, 50, moved to Martin County in 1999 after an investment-banking stint in Australia. He studied engineering and later earned his



## ASK THE CANDIDATES

master's degree in business from the University of Michigan before pursuing law at the University of Florida.

He has practiced estate law in Stuart since 2011.

King said he was

"involved with a few county commission races" but never has run for office.

He has three children in public elementary school and chose to live in Palm City for the quality of education there.

Downward-trending exam scores illustrate a daunting pattern arising in Martin County, King said.

See **SCHOOLS, 16A**

89°/74°  
Rain: 30%  
Page 6C

ADVICE CLASSIFIED 5B  
COMICS 10B  
MONEY 1D  
MOVIES 5B  
OBITUARIES 12A  
OPINION 8A  
PUZZLES 8B  
SPORTS 1C  
TELEVISION 9B  
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