



PROM PRIMING

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'DANCING WITH THE STARS'

ADIOS, ADAM

Comedian and TV host Adam Carolla packs up his dancing shoes.

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NICKLAUS LAMENTS CHANGES TO AUGUSTA

The Golden Bear says he doesn't like the new, harder course, but he understands why it's needed.

SPORTS, C1



Saving sea cows to suspend cross-state boat traffic

St. Lucie Lock & Dam will close temporarily to install manatee protection device



DEBORAH SILVER • deborah.silver@scripps.com

"This is my first time to see a lock," said Sandy Kripe from Pennsylvania as she visited the St. Lucie Lock & Dam on Tuesday. "I was really hoping to see a boat go through." The lock will be drained and closed to boat traffic to repair manatee protection devices during the second half of summer.

BY GABRIEL MARGASAK
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INDIANTOWN — Federal officials plan to use a new high-tech acoustic system to protect manatees in the C-44 Canal from being crushed by the St. Lucie Lock & Dam.



TOM BERTOLLO • Reader snapshot

Three manatees play near the St. Lucie Lock & Dam in Stuart last June. A new high-tech acoustic system to protect manatees will be installed in the lock.

Army Corps of Engineers officials said they already have moved the date back to July from June to accommodate marinas and their patrons, and asked the contractor to add more workers to speed the project.

WORK SCHEDULE

- The St. Lucie Lock & Dam will be drained and completely closed to boat traffic to repair manatee protection devices. Here's the tentative schedule:
Closed: beginning July 14.
Open: by Labor Day, Sept 1.

What the Army Corps of Engineers heard loud and clear so far is that boaters, the marine industry and a Martin County commissioner want the work done as fast as possible to minimize the impact to boat traffic.

The only cross-state waterway connecting the St. Lucie River to Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Okeechobee Waterway, will be completely closed during an operation that could take up to seven weeks. Corps officials said they already have moved the date back to July from June to accommodate marinas and their patrons, and asked the contractor to add more workers to speed the project.

"It still doesn't address the issues of the residents and property owners out there on the canal, and its hundreds literally, who won't be able to get out to the river or the Atlantic Ocean," said Martin County Commissioner Michael DiTerlizzi. "So I've asked the corps to expedite the operation by working 24 hours a day."

The commissioner believes round-the-clock work will cut

See **BOAT**, page A10

Justice Dept. warns tax protesters to pay what they owe

Federal officials targeting tax preparers, others who promote ways to evade taxes

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department targeted tax "defiers" Tuesday, warning that Americans who refuse to pay up on April 15 could wind up spending even

more later in costly penalties.

Prosecutors also sought to shut down a Florida-based marketing firm that made millions of dollars off advising people how to avoid paying annual income taxes.

"With the privileges that this

country gives you, we have both obligations and responsibilities to give back," Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hochman told reporters in Washington. "Taxes are the lifeblood of the American civilized society."

Hochman oversees the Justice Department's cadre of tax prosecutors. He described claims by some groups that income taxes are unconstitutional as "bogus."

"If you owe taxes, you must pay

them. Period," Hochman said.

Since 2001, the Justice Department has shut down more than 100 tax preparers and those who promote ways to evade taxes for intentionally filing fraudulent claims and frivolous returns. Hochman did not immediately know how much these so-called tax defiers cost the government in lost revenues.

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Government says gas could touch \$4 a gallon this spring

BY JOHN WILEN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Retail gasoline prices pulled back slightly from record levels Tuesday and gave some consumers a small break, but a new government forecast said gas could reach as high as \$4 a gallon during the summer driving season.

Oil futures prices, meanwhile, fell as the dollar stabilized, giving investors an opportunity to lock in profits from crude's recent rally. Limiting the declines were developments in Iran, which announced plans to expand its uranium enrichment program and said it has tested key equipment, a move that raised the market's concerns about political conflict that could affect the country's oil exports.

In its monthly report on petroleum supplies and demand, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration forecast that monthly average pump prices will peak near \$3.60 a gallon in June, but could rise as high as \$4 a gallon at times. That's a dime higher than the EIA's previous monthly average projection, and brings government forecasts closer to those of many analysts who expect gas prices to peak close to \$4 a gallon.

The government also predicted high prices will cut demand for gasoline at the height of the summer. Gas consumption will fall by about 0.4 percent during the peak summer months, and overall consumption of petroleum products will drop by 90,000 barrels a day this year, the EIA

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