



BOBCATS TURN TO BACK-UP QB

With their starter injured, North Port turns to Skylar Razwilavich. SEE LOCAL SPORTS, PAGE 12

INSIDE TODAY
2016
FOOTBALL PREVIEW



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READER ADVOCATE

Check VIN

before buying
used vehicle

Tom Srukalewicz purchased a used 2011 Hyundai Santa Fe in November 2011 with the belief he had the remainder of the vehicle's "full factory warranty." Unfortunately,



David Murrice

while that was handwritten on his buyer's order — by his request — at a non-Hyundai dealership, Tom didn't have all of the manufacturer's warranty protection.

The Punta Gorda resident, 66, found this out the hard way, when his ABS light

Zika Hope screen project spreads awareness

By **SOMMER BROKAW**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE COUNTY — John Neely is concerned about preventing a homegrown case of Zika in Charlotte County.

Neely, a retired vector-borne disease epidemiologist with decades of experience in federal, state, local and private sector health and mosquito management organizations, gave a presentation to several Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County members,

along with his wife, Marilyn Boehm, a physician and Ph.D. in biochemistry. They spoke about

IF YOU GO

A community meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County, 1532 Forest Nelson Blvd., in Port Charlotte for those interested in helping with the Zika Hope screen ministry. UUFCC Board President Dennis Shaw said.

can potentially become local carriers of the virus.

These species are the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

Once the virus infects either mosquito's salivary glands, its sucking organ "can infect several people using them as a blood



SUN PHOTO BY SOMMER BROKAW

Dennis Shaw, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County board president and head of grounds, shows how he wipes his hands through a dill plant. He has also planted peppermint outside the UUFCC's doors to repel mosquitoes. Retired vector-borne disease epidemiologist John Neely

meal," Neely said.

After Neely's presentation, UFJFCC's Board President Dennis Shaw said he met with Neely and his wife, Boehm, the Rev. Army Kindred and Karie Romano Griffin, Intern minister. Together, they decided to take action.

Romano Griffin suggested naming the project Zika Hope, and the public education awareness campaign was born with the hope to get community members to work together to prevent the disease.

The biggest concern of Zika is pregnant women since the virus has the ability to cause birth defects such as microcephaly, in which the baby is born with a small head due to an underdeveloped brain. An affected baby could also have seizures, developmental delays, intellectual disabilities and lifelong problems that cannot be cured, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

prevent it to be proactive.

Mosquito breeding grounds could be a tire, bucket or any container collecting water that contains five or more (immature mosquitoes) larvae.

Even a bottle cap of water can produce up to 100 eggs, Neely said "the major way to be effective in stopping the virus" is motivating residents to remove mosquito breeding grounds around their homes. This is the first objective of the Zika Hope project. Items such as pet bowls, birdbaths, tarps, ported plant saucers and the swings should be checked on at least a weekly basis, drained and covered.

A second objective is to repel mosquitoes with plants such as lemongrass or cinnamon basil.

"People can run their fingers through it (the plant) and that stimulates the release of the scent to the plant and that would be on their skin," Neely said. "It doesn't mask the smell of a person, what it

ZIKA HOPE'S OBJECTIVES:

1. Eliminate standing water around homes, churches, and businesses, etc.
2. Repel mosquitoes with plants.
3. A screen ministry to keep the mosquitoes outside by installing or repairing screen doors for those who can't afford to do so themselves.
4. Use safe mosquito repellents, which according to the Florida Department of Health, may include Environmental Protection Agency-registered repellents with 10-30 percent DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus. Long sleeves and pants can also be worn to limit skin exposure.
5. Keep bromeliads from becoming mosquito breeding sites.

—Source: *Watson University's* fellowship of Charlotte County, for more information on all five objectives, visit: <http://www.zika.org>

Chikungunya... all caused by the same mosquitoes."

Neely said he has seen a reduction in mosquitoes caught in traps at UFJFCC's property due to its vigilance and a visit from mosquito control.

For more information on the Zika Hope project including all its objectives, visit: <http://www.zika.org> and click on Zika Hope, Charlotte County Mosquito Control can be reached at 941-764-4370

If someone would like a technician to come out to remove mosquito breeding grounds.

the bushes." Instead, he said the most effective means is removing

containers with water that could become breeding grounds, Charlotte County Mosquito Control Manager Scott Schemmerhorn said

he's aware of the controversy about aerial spraying for these particular types of mosquitoes and the department is using other source reduction methods such as traps, on-the-ground spraying, fogging trucks and picking up abandoned tires on the side of the road, including a big removal near the airport, along with

WHO IS AT RISK?

The CDC has recommended if a sexual partner is infected, couples consider using barrier methods or abstaining from sex for:

- At least 8 weeks after illness onset if a female partner is diagnosed with or experiences symptoms of Zika
- At least 6 months if a male partner is diagnosed with or experiences symptoms of Zika.
- The longer precautionary period recommended for men with Zika takes into consideration the fact that Zika can persist in the semen of infected men after they have recovered from illness.

WHAT MAKES ZIKA UNIQUE

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, and *Aedes albopictus* can transmit the Zika virus once infected. These same two mosquitoes can also transmit Dengue and Chikungunya. Zika is the only one of these viruses that can cause microcephaly, Florida Department of Health Spokeswoman Sarah Rewell said.

Scientist John Neely added that Zika has the unique ability to target the neural stem cell by use of the AxL protein (expressed at high levels in the developing brain) to get into the central nervous system.

AS OF WEDNESDAY, ZIKAS STATEWIDE COUNT:

Travel related: 53
 Non-travel related: 43
 Infectors involving pregnant women: 70

—Source: Florida Department of Health

LOCAL CASES

As of Wednesday, Zika cases in Charlotte, nearby counties and Miami-Dade counties:
 Charlotte: 1 (travel-related)
 Sarasota: 1 (travel-related)
 Lee: 8 (travel-related)

Barne syndrome, which affects the nervous system, is rare.

The only case in Charlotte County has been

the human body." He added "If you reduce the mosquito, as a wonderful side benefit, you reduce Dengue,

means to eliminate these mosquitoes since the spray droplets have to make contact with them, and they "hide under



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they are in areas close to water around the house, a more effective way is to have the homeowners dry the breeding activities. Aerial spraying larvae will certainly reduce the population, but not as much as taking the time to remove the opportunity for them to breed or to have on the ground spraying, hand-held units or fogging trucks."

The Uber analogy

"They are not strong flyers," Neely said, but "all they have to do is catch an Uber. They can 'move from town to town in the back of a pickup truck with used tires somewhere or a garbage truck... the larvae breeding in those receptacles."

Miami-Dade's Zika Ordinance

The Miami-Dade County ordinance amended the compliance times to remove mosquito breeding grounds from property for unwillful or absent property owners to within two days instead of the normal five during a declared health emergency. After two days, county staff must seek court permission to access private property. County staff has indicated that this could be attained on the same day if the court agrees with their argument.

The property owner could be fined for the cost of mosquito abatement. Schermerhorn said Charlotte County doesn't

- Mosquitoes can become infected when it bites another person already infected with Zika. The mosquito can spread the virus by biting more people.
- From a pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy or around the time of birth.
- During sex with a person who has Zika to his or her sexual partners.
- The spread of Zika through blood transfusion is also likely but not confirmed.

SYMPTOMS OF MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES:

- Dengue — high fever, and at least two of the following: severe headache, severe eye pain, joint pain, muscle and/or joint pain, nose or gum bleeding, easy bruising and low white cell count.
- Chikungunya — the most common symptoms are fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash.
- Zika — fever, rash, sore throat, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other symptoms may include muscle pain and headache.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS DOING?

Superintendent Steve Diorisio wrote in an emailed response to a request for comment from the Sun that "principals are on the alert for any standing water on their campuses and will advise maintenance." The school district is also "in constant touch with the Department of Health and in turn will provide information to school nurses. In addition, Charlotte County Mosquito Control will be paying special attention to schools, particularly during football weeks and they are spraying campuses weekly."

LOCAL BLOOD BANKS TESTING ALL DONATED BLOOD FOR ZIKA

- The Suncoast Blood Bank with donation centers in Sarasota, Venice, and Arcadia states on its website, "Although no local cases have been reported, this is a proactive measure by the blood bank to protect the community's blood supply." For more information, visit www.suncoast.org/blog/zika-update.html.
- One Blood with locations in Port Charlotte, North Port and South Venice similarly states it's "testing for Zika virus to ensure the safety of the blood supply" on its website. For more information, visit <https://www.oneblood.org/zika>.

In Miami-Dade,

He said it's important for mosquito control to be able to act fast, and "maybe if people were fined that would make a

what Miami-Dade is doing to address their Zika concerns, but Charlotte County is not pursuing that option at this point and the county commis-

Marta Valentin

Thank you ancestors, with honor and respect, these eyes see for you all manner of life you could not have imagined.

Gracias mis antepasados con honor y respeto , estos ojos ver para usted todo tipo de vida que no podría haber imaginado.

My lips move with the rhythm of your words flowing through me, my tongue caressing each morsel of wisdom I am graced to pass on.

Mis labios se mueven al ritmo de sus palabras que fluye a través de mí , mi lengua acariciando cada bocado de sabiduría estoy agraciado de transmitir.

Your DNA rides my veins and with every breath I take, your cautious steps from the past toward a fuller life become bold moves I make toward my destiny.

Su ADN monta mis venas y con cada respiración que tomo , sus pasos cautelosos desde el pasado hacia una vida más plena movimientos audaces convertido hago hacia mi destino.

Together, we wrap arms around a new generation, here to become who they were born to be, to cast their magic as we once did and bless each day for their ability to do so.

Juntos , nos envuelva los brazos alrededor de una nueva generación , para convertirse en lo que nacieron para ser , para emitir su magia como lo hicimos una vez y bendecir cada día por su capacidad para hacerlo

For you, dear ancestors, we live this day and work to preserve future.

. Para vosotros, queridos padres, que viven el día de hoy y el trabajo para preservar el futuro .