



SPORTS

• LOCAL • STATE • NATIONAL

Saturday, July 20, 2019

SECTION B

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday

Sertoma Junior Golf Tour at Placid Lakes Country Club, 8 a.m.

Friday

Sebring in Dixie Softball Angels Traditional World Series in Alexandria, La, TBD

Saturday, July 27

Dr. Tom McDonald Caladium 5K Race in Lake Placid, 7 a.m.
Sebring in Dixie Softball Angels Traditional World Series in Alexandria, La, TBD

Avon Park in Machine Pitch World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Sunday, July 28

Sebring in Dixie Softball Angels Traditional World Series in Alexandria, La, TBD

Avon Park in Machine Pitch World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Monday, July 29

Sebring in Dixie Softball Angels Traditional World Series in Alexandria, La, TBD

Avon Park in Machine Pitch World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Thursday, Aug. 1

Sertoma Junior Golf Tour at Highlands Ridge South, 8 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 2

Lake Placid in Dixie Softball X-Play World Series in Texas, TBD

Saturday, Aug. 3

Heartland Golf Open qualifier at Sebring Golf Club, 8 a.m.
Lake Placid in Dixie Softball Ponytails X-Play World Series in Texas, TBD

Sebring vs Arkansas in Dixie Youth AAA World Series in Ruston La., 3:30 p.m.

CALENDAR | 2B

Sonic baseball benefit is today



FILE PHOTO

Sebring's Jett DeWitt bats during the Dixie Youth AAA State Tournament. There will be a Sonic fundraiser at the Heacock Insurance building today.

Fundraiser for AAA team heading to World Series

Highlands News-Sun Sports Staff

The Sonic baseball benefit is today for the Sebring AAA team that won the state championship and is going to the AAA World Series in Ruston, La. The event is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Heacock Insurance Building in Sebring. Hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries and tater tots will be available. Please come out and support the team as it raises funds for the trip.

Weekly youth tennis camps

SEBRING — The Highlands County Tennis Association is holding weekly camp sessions. The camps are for ages 6 to 18 at the Thakkar Tennis Center at the Country Club of Sebring. First-time players are welcome.

The week-long camps run through Aug. 2. The cost is \$100 per week and includes snacks and drinks. The camps will be held Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. under the guidance of USPTA Tennis Pro Horace Watkis. For more information please contact Watkis at horacewatkis@hotmail.com or 863-414-2164 or 863-386-4282.

Swim lessons

Swim lessons are held at Sebring High School in the morning and evening

BRIEFS | 2B

Johnson seeks win at Lime Rock Park

JDC-Miller Motorsports looks to repeat past success

Special to Highlands News-Sun

Returning to Lime Rock Park this weekend, Michael Johnson is hoping to recreate some magic in the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge.

A paraplegic since age 12 following a motorcycle incident, Johnson scored a memorable first victory in the Pilot Challenge TCR class in last year's race at Lime Rock.

This year, Johnson has experienced a tale of two seasons with his co-driver and coach Stephen Simpson and the rest of the JDC-Miller Motorsports team. While 2018 brought six podium finishes in eight races for the No. 54 Audi RS3 LMS, the team was finally able to break through two weeks ago for its first top-five finish of 2019 at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

Midway through the 10-race schedule, the only other highlight for Johnson so far this year was earning the Motul Pole Award to start the season at Daytona.

"I got the pole at Daytona and it was starting to go well there, but it didn't work out," said Johnson.



IMSA PHOTO

Returning to Lime Rock Park this weekend, Michael Johnson is hoping to recreate some magic in the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge.

"Sebring, Watkins Glen, all these, it's just been bad luck. We've had a lot of issues that we didn't have last year. Hopefully we can rally, get some momentum, get a good result and just keep that going for the rest of the year and work for next year."

The memory of the 2018 victory — which made national headlines and doubled as Johnson's first professional sports car victory — lives on and serves as proof of the team's capabilities. In fact, a win

was seemingly destined to come for the team after it scored finishes of fourth, third and second place successively in the three races leading up to the 2018 Lime Rock triumph.

Johnson hopes destiny will step in again to turn around the team's luck, hopefully sooner rather than later.

"Last year was honestly amazing with that win and all of our hard work we put together," said Johnson. "If we could just repeat that, that would be amazing."

All the hard work we've put together this year, it's been there. We just haven't been able to put the results together. If we can just finalize it and actually make it come through, it'll be like the icing on the cake for how 2019 has been.

"I think everyone has been working really hard, especially Cole (Scroggum), our engineer and Stephen Simpson and everybody. I know it's coming. Our bad luck is going to turn

IMSA | 2B

Improvise, adapt, overcome

Cross country bike trip challenging and memorable

By RUTH ANNE LAWSON
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Nearing the end of their biking journey across America, the Shelley family and Steve Murphy passed through Highlands County on Friday morning.

The Shelley's are going coast-to-coast having started their journey in California with their tires in the Pacific Ocean at Newport Beach on June 1. Their cross-country trek across America will come to an end today when they stick their tires in the Atlantic Ocean at Boynton Beach.

"I just wanted to spend time with my boys and have an adventure," said Al Shelley. "How often does a dad get to spend time with his kids? We started talking about it when they were 15 but I wanted them to learn how to drive first so they could see and understand what we were going to do on a bike. It just dawned on me one day, that if we didn't do it now they would be off to the military or college and we would never get another chance. We started putting things together and we took off. The hardest part was overcoming the



COURTESY PHOTO

The bikers pose for a photo after making a stop in Missouri on their trek across America. From left to right: Lucas Shelley, Garrett Shelley, Al Shelley and Steve Murphy.

'just do it' part. We tried to ride as much as we could to get ready. We really put the miles in. I had the boys sleep on the floor for two weeks to get them ready for camping. We knew there would be challenges like hills so we would put extra weight on our bikes and tried to prepare as much as possible. You can never really get used to sitting on a bike seat that long."

For Al Shelley, this is not his first time crossing the country on his bike. Al took the journey once before when went from Chicago to California shortly after leaving the military. Al always wanted to take the journey with his twin sons, Lucas and Garrett. He mentioned it several times as they grew up and now that they are 17 years old, have taken drivers education

and are able to understand traffic, this summer was the perfect opportunity to hit the road on their bikes. Carrying just what they could fit on their bikes the Shelley family and Murphy began their adventure and are now at the end.

"My dad has been talking about this trip since we were 8 years old," said Lucas Shelley. "I always said I would be down to go cross country on our bikes. It is a cool experience to see how people live, what other places look like and a new experience. I have gotten a lot closer to my dad, brother and Steve. My favorite experience has been seeing how other people live. You make assumptions and stereotype but I think going through the states on a bike you get a completely different view. I think Kansas had the nicest people we've ever met. They wanted to help and wanted to talk to us. The sights have been beautiful and living in the moment has been great. It



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Al Shelley leads the way Friday as his twin sons follow as they pass through Highlands County on their adventure across the country. From left to right: Al Shelley, Garrett Shelley and Lucas Shelley.

BIKE | 2B

BIKE

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has been a blast. Being with my dad, brother and Steve and bonding has been great. I think about my regular life and I get homesick sometimes but I don't want this to end. When I do get home I will have lots of memories of the road to look back on."

Each day the group covers anywhere between 30 to 110 miles depending on the terrain and their equipment, but on average they go 75 miles in a day. They stop to camp at night or find a motel along the way. Some days they just slept

on the side of the road.

"When my dad mentioned this trip I was thinking 'when the cows come home,'" joked Garrett Shelley. "I didn't think it was going to happen. At the time it seemed so far away and I didn't think we would be able to pull it off. It all came together and I was nervous. It ended up working out for us. I am not super fit or very athletic so I thought I would have a rough time but I ended up conforming with the group and my body adapted. I doubted myself but now I can say I rode thousands of miles on a bike. I've know Steve my whole life and we



RUTH ANNE LAWSON/STAFF

Steve Murphy joined the Shelley family on their trek across country. The group passed through Highlands County Friday afternoon. Their journey will come to an end today as they reach Boynton Beach.

have been able to bond during this trip. I have a great bond with my

dad and brother. There haven't been any fights and I have really gotten to know them all more than I ever thought I would. It is a special experience just for us. My favorite part is doing something that only a few people have accomplished. Everywhere we go people ask us questions. I also like seeing the progression in my body. I have seen myself slim down and get stronger. I can go on in life knowing I can do anything because I was able to do this. This will change my mindset for life. When I get home I know I will miss this and want a new adventure."

A cracked rim along the way brought their journey to a halt in Kansas but with a little help from

locals they were back on their way in no time.

"Going out with these guys has been a blessing," Steve Murphy said. "I was hoping I could make it because I am older than the kids and not as athletic as Al but I am like a dog with a bone, I'm going to do the best I can. The first 14 days were really hard but then you get acclimated and things seem to smooth out and get easier. A friend told me 'the definition of adventure is having a destination without knowing the results'. Every day was like that. We had obstacles along the way but we teamed up and overcame them all. My favorite part is being out riding bikes in the United States. Meeting people, the scenery and the changing of the weather. Every place has its challenges. When I think about going home and seeing my wife, kids and grandkids, I do miss them but being out on a bike feels so simplistic. I don't want this to end or to go home but I do. I miss my family."

When deciding their path across America it lined up perfectly for the Shelley's to come through their old stomping grounds here in Sebring. Al's mom lived in Sebring for 20 years on Lake Sebring, where he visited often. Unfortunately Al's

mother passed away a couple months ago, just before their trek began. Passing through Sebring has brought back a lot of memories for Al.

"This experience has been the best," said Al Shelley. "I love spending time with my boys and Steve Murphy is a good friend who came with us. Every day feels like a week or a month. You're outside all the time, meeting new people and always moving. There have been so many experiences and memories. My favorite part has been the laughter and meeting people. I love being out in America and there is always something new every day. Nothing is ever the same, it is always different every day. I don't want it to end. It is hard knowing that it is coming to an end. I think mentally I am shutting down knowing that this time next week I will be back at work. All good things come to an end and I am trying not to think about the next adventure but trying to live in the moment. I want to enjoy this until the end."

The entire trek has taken them 50 days to complete and they have covered more than 3,000 miles and met countless people along the way. It has been a journey with a lifetime full of memories.

IMSA

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around at some point, but we'll just have to wait for that day."

Coming off their best finish of the season and heading to what has become one of the team's favorite tracks, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. If anything, Johnson, Simpson and the JDC-Miller Motorsports crew are ready for a battle at the "Bullring."

"It's a small track and there's a ton of (Grand Sport) cars, so it's going to be a battle out there," said Johnson. "There's going to be contact, there's going to be a lot of action that goes on, so hopefully I can qualify well. That's really how you're going to win the race is to have a good car and qualify really well. It's one of my favorite tracks. Of course, we won there last year, but I've also done Skip Barber there in the past. It's a track that I'm used to and a track I can hopefully get more wins at."

The two-hour Lime Rock Park 120 is scheduled for today at 11:10 a.m. and can be streamed live on IMSA.tv with IMSA Radio commentary. The NBCSN broadcast will air on Friday, July 26 at 6 p.m.

Magnus Racing With Saturday marking the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, Magnus Racing will pay tribute to the historic event with a one-time, specialized livery and car number during the upcoming IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship's Northeast Grand Prix, taking place on the same day.

With drivers John Potter and Andy Lally taking to the wheel of their usual Lamborghini Huracán GT3 EVO, this weekend's event will see the team



IMSA PHOTO

The GT Le Mans and GT Daytona classes race today in the Northeast Grand Prix at Lime Rock Park.

shed their usual colors and No. 44 for a livery adapted to mimic the Saturn V rocket, as well as carrying car No. 11 with a black panel to commemorate the mission.

"We wanted to do something special to mark the occasion, and we felt this was the best way we could honor the event," stated Magnus Racing team owner and co-driver John Potter. "Space exploration and the historical significance behind it has always been something I've held a long admiration for, so this is a very personal project to me. Obviously the Apollo 11 mission is an amazing tribute to human ingenuity and creativity, and that's something that translates extremely well to our sport. I'm glad we could pay tribute, and of course I appreciate everyone on the team, as well as IMSA for some of the accommodations they've made to change our number and color panel, for making this a reality. Hopefully we can pay the ultimate honor by bringing home a win."

With the Saturn V rocket acting as the propulsion mechanism to send astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins towards their lunar destination, Magnus Racing will adapt the same color patterns and markings to their GTD category machine. With much of

the world paying similar tributes in different ways, Magnus Racing wanted to continue the legacy to the world of sportscar racing. In addition to the car livery, IMSA has granted a special one-time permission to change to car No. 11 as well as use a black number panel to match the markings of the rocket.

Known as one of the more fan-engaged teams, the livery and car number will highlight a series of initiatives by the team throughout the weekend, including free astronaut food for children in attendance, specialty autograph cards, tribute costumes and beyond.

For Andy Lally, a similar enthusiasm is shared.

"We're excited to pay tribute in our own way," stated Lally. "The camaraderie and team mentality required through the entirety of the Gemini and Apollo programs was unlike any in history, and that's an ethos that any successful race team has to embrace. The heroism from the astronauts themselves is incredible, but at the same time the effort and attitude from everyone on the project deserves incredible praise. We hope to represent well at Lime Rock."

CALENDAR

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Sebring vs Tennessee in Dixie Youth Ozone World Series in Ruston, La., 3:30 p.m.

■ Sunday, Aug. 4

Sebring in Dixie Youth AAA World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Sebring in Dixie Youth Ozone World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Lake Placid in Dixie Softball Ponytails X-Play World Series in Texas, TBD

■ Monday, Aug. 5

Lake Placid in Dixie Softball Ponytails X-Play World Series in Texas, TBD

Sebring in Dixie Youth AAA World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Sebring in Dixie Youth Ozone World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

■ Tuesday, Aug. 6

Lake Placid in Dixie Softball Ponytails X-Play World Series in Texas, TBD

Sebring in Dixie Youth AAA World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

Sebring in Dixie Youth Ozone World Series in Ruston, La., TBD

■ Saturday, Aug. 10

Sebring Firemen Golf Classic at Sun 'n Lake, 8:30 a.m.

■ Saturday, Aug. 17

Sertoma Junior Golf Tour Championship at Sun 'n Lake Golf Club, 8 a.m.

■ Sunday, Aug. 18

Sertoma Junior Golf Tour Championship at Sun 'n Lake Golf Club, 8 a.m.

BRIEFS

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with times of 9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Session 4 will be July 15 thru July 26. The cost is \$58 per person per session.

The Sebring High School pool is open daily from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and open Monday thru Friday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 per person. Anyone who goes through the game MUST pay. Summer Passes are available for \$60 for the first member and \$30 for each additional (immediate family) member.

Tennis lessons for youngsters

Less Work, More Play Tennis is a program designed to help kids of all ages learn the sport of tennis in a fun environment. It introduces families to the United States Tennis Association, where they learn how kids can compete all over the state of Florida and the United States.

Certified Coach Tosin, ranked second in the state in doubles and in the Top 50 in men's singles, will provide all the tools and fundamentals so that each child can use the application of L.A.W. (Learn, Apply, Win!).

Classes are held at Golf Hammock weekly Summer Camp. All ages are welcome Contact coach T @ (863)510-7315. Rackets will be provided.

Sertoma Junior Golf Tour

The Sertoma Junior Golf Tour is for youngsters ages 6-18 who have some skill in golf. The weekly tournaments run through August. There is a \$30 registration fee for the summer. Tournament fees are Juniors playing 6 holes- \$12. Juniors playing 9 holes- \$15. Juniors playing 18 holes- \$20. Lunch is included in these fees. Two-day events are double the cost. Email Tour Director Andy Kesling at sertomajrtour@gmail.com.

Highlands Hurricanes swim practice

SEBRING — The Highlands Hurricanes Swim Team's summer swim practice sessions are at the Highlands County Family YMCA pool. Practices are Monday through Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Anyone looking to train and refine their swimming technique is welcome. All returning Hurricane swim team members must pre-register before beginning practice. For more information, call Marvin Wolfe at 863-382-9272 or email hhst@juno.com.

Lake Placid doubles tennis

Inviting men and women to play tennis for fun on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Play as your schedule permits. Call Ralph Musall 863.699-0380 or text 863.633-9450 for more information. We are a group who play tennis on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We are short players and want to generate interest and additional players.

South Florida volleyball camp

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Panthers are offering an indoor volleyball camp. The camp is for boys and girls from ages 6 to 16.

The camp is offering a session from July 29 to Aug. 1 and will include the Panthers volleyball team.

The volleyball camp will cost \$90 per week or \$20 per daily session. This cost includes a shirt. The application is available at southflorida.edu.

For more information or to sign up, email Coach Kim Crawford at kim.crawford@southflorida.edu, or call 863-784-7037 or 863-835-2377.

Firemen, Inc Memorial Golf Classic

The 20th Annual Sebring Firemen, Inc Memorial Golf Classic is presented by AXA Advisors and Home Depot. The Classic will be

held Saturday, August 10 at Sun 'n Lake Golf Club. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and a cannon start at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds to benefit student athletics.

The Memorial Classic is a four-person scramble format that is flighted by handicap. The event will cost \$85 per player. The entry fee includes a golf cart, two mulligans, range balls and prizes. Food and beverages will be provided on the course.

There will be a pre-tournament mixer at the Sun 'n Lake Restaurant on Friday, Aug. 9 starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be early registration and heavy hor d' oeuvres.

Please make checks payable to Sebring Firemen, Inc. P.O. Box 1981 Sebring, FL 33871. Entries may be faxed to Sebring Firemen, Inc at 863-385-7773. For more information please call 863-382-2255. Deadline for entry is August 7th.

Truth Athletics basketball camp

The last Truth Athletics Basketball camp of the summer will be held July 22 through July 26 at the R.O.C. First Baptist Church of Sebring.

Session Times: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Grades: 2nd-10th. Cost:\$120. You can pick up registration forms at the following locations: Sweet Frogs. Hibbett Sports (Lakeshore Mall). Gamestop (Lakeshore Mall). Sonny's Sebring. Havana Days Bakery (Sebring). Prestige Barbershop.

XCEL volleyball camps

AVON PARK — XCEL has several volleyball opportunities for boys and girls. The indoor volleyball camp is \$90 per week or \$20 per daily session. The camp runs this week for ages 6-16.

Sand volleyball camps are \$50 per week or \$20 per daily session. If there is bad weather, the camp will continue inside the Panther gym. The camp runs July 29 to Aug. 1 for ages 12 to 18. Be sure to bring indoor gear. For more information, call Kim Crawford at 863-825-2377 or email crawford@xcelvolleyball.net.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

PICK 2	JACKPOT TRIPLE PLAY
JULY 19 (D) : 8-1	JULY 16 : 7-18-26-29-32-41
JULY 18 (N) : 2-7	NEXT JACKPOT : \$900,000
(D)-DAY, (N)-NIGHT	JULY 19
PICK 3	FANTASY 5
JULY 19 (D) : 5-7-0	JULY 18 : 8-16-23-25-29
JULY 18 (N) : 7-4-2	LOTTO
(D)-DAY, (N)-NIGHT	JULY 17 : 1-13-19-24-39-44 x2
PICK 4	NEXT JACKPOT : \$2.5 MILLION
JULY 19 (D) : 9-8-8-7	JULY 20
JULY 18 (N) : 4-8-2-0	POWERBALL
(D)-DAY, (N)-NIGHT	JULY 17 : 19-43-47-60-68 10 x 2
PICK 5	NEXT JACKPOT : \$53 MILLION
JULY 19 (D) : 0-9-7-6-1	JULY 20
JULY 18 (N) : 0-1-5-9-1	MEGA MILLIONS
(D)-DAY, (N)-NIGHT	JULY 16 : 8-16-31-48-52 23 x 3
CASH FOR LIFE	NEXT JACKPOT - \$154 MILLION
JULY 18 : 23-25-27-31-40	JULY 20