

STURGEON

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studies Atlantic sturgeon in Virginia’s James River. “We didn’t think they were there, frankly. Now, they’re almost every place we’re looking.”

Following the late 1800s caviar rush, America’s nine sturgeon species and sub-species were plagued by pollution, dams and over-fishing. Steep declines in many populations weren’t fully apparent until the 1990s.

“However, in the past three decades, sturgeon have been among the most studied species in North America as a result of their threatened or endangered status,” said James Crossman, president of The North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society, a conservation group.

Scientists have been finding sturgeon in places where they were thought to be long gone. And they’re seeing increased numbers of them in some rivers because of cleaner water, dam removals and fishing bans.

These discoveries provide some hope for a fish that is among the world’s most threatened.

But the U.S. sturgeon population is only a tiny fraction of what it once was — and the health of each species and regional populations vary widely.

While some white sturgeon populations on the Pacific Coast are abundant enough to support limited recreational and commercial fishing, Alabama sturgeon are so rare that none have been caught for years.

Across America, dams still keep some sturgeon populations low by blocking ancient spawning routes. And the fish face newer threats such as rising water temperatures from climate change and the sharp propellers of cargo ships.

It will take decades to measure a population’s recovery, experts say. Sturgeon sometimes live longer than humans. And they spawn infrequently, often requiring half a century to bounce back from overfishing.

Environmentalists warn that more conservation efforts are still needed.

“They’ve survived relatively unchanged for 200 million years,” said Jeff Miller, a senior conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity,

which is planning a lawsuit seeking federal safeguards for sturgeon in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds. “If they’re going to survive us, they’re going to need additional protection.”

Sturgeon swam with the dinosaurs. Bony plates line their bodies. Whisker-like barbels hang from their chins. Their toothless mouths telescope out and vacuum up anything from worms to mussels.

Their meat fed Native Americans, the starving settlers of Jamestown and the Lewis and Clark expedition. Delaware River shad fishermen would yank up their nets as thousands of sturgeons swam toward spawning grounds.

Then came caviar. The Russian delicacy of salt-cured sturgeon eggs became a fad for Europe’s new middle class — and that took a heavy toll on American sturgeon.

“People just massacred them, just like we massacred the buffalo,” said Inga Saffron, author of the 2002 history “Caviar.”

“The difference being they were catching the sturgeon as they were migrating to spawn,” she said. “Not only did they kill the fish, they killed future generations of fish.”

By 1900, American sturgeon populations were collapsing. Dams were going up. Pollution sucked oxygen from rivers.

But as decades passed, fishing bans took effect, and environmental laws became stronger.

Among the species showing improvement is Atlantic sturgeon, whose range stretches from Florida to eastern Canada.

The population around the Chesapeake Bay was feared to be extinct in the mid-1990s. Now, thousands of are believed to be there, according to Virginia Commonwealth University scientists.

Last fall, Matthew Balazik, a sturgeon research ecologist with the university and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, netted more than 200 baby Atlantic sturgeon in the James River — the first seen there in years. “This could be a kind of a comeback generation,” Balazik said.

Not every river is seeing improvement. Dewayne Fox, a fisheries professor at Delaware State University, said the Delaware River’s population remains low, possibly because of collisions with cargo vessels or dredging on spawning grounds.

CANNABIS

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cannabis industry in the city reflects Gainesville’s innovation culture.

“In a way, this represents a startup opportunity,” he said.

Gainesville has long been keen on innovation, he said, and its strong medical and health care economy are likely factors that draw cannabis companies to town as the industry figures out its footing.

“There’s a lot of ebb and flow in the industry,” he said.

Florida’s medical cannabis market was approximately \$200 million in 2018 and has

become the largest market in the nation, according to the Office of Medical Marijuana Use.

New Frontier Data expects the Florida medical cannabis market to approach \$1.6 billion by 2020.

The Florida 1st District Court of Appeal ruled Tuesday to strike down a state law that capped the number of medical cannabis operators in the state, and that firms are not required to immediately register with state health officials to do business, The News Service of Florida reported.

Columbia Care Dispensary in Gainesville will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

ROUNDUP

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Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is closed Sundays.

The Wrap Shack

A new restaurant in downtown Hawthorne is looking to expand the city’s palate to include healthier options.

The Wrap Shack, 6915 SE 221st St. in Hawthorne, opened two weeks ago, said owner Tracy Cantley.

He said the idea to open a restaurant came partly from Hawthorne residents. Cantley bought two buildings downtown and asked the community what it wanted to see in the area. A new restaurant seemed to be the top response, he said.

Cantley said fast-food restaurants and barbecue are available in the city, but he wanted to provide healthier choices for locals.

“We don’t have a lot of that in Hawthorne,” he said.

The Wrap Shack goes

beyond its name in its offerings, with an extensive menu of appetizers, salads, burgers and sandwiches, chef plates, sides, desserts and namesake wraps.

A kids menu and beer and wine also are available at the restaurant.

Customers can choose from a selection of wraps, including flour, low-carb, garlic and herb or “naked,” in which the filling is wrapped in lettuce.

Fillings include a range of vegetarian, grilled or blackened chicken and shrimp and other protein options dressed with various sauces and seasonings.

Entree prices at the Wrap Shack range from about \$6.99 to \$14.99.

The Wrap Shack is open Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from noon until 9 p.m.

Fox & Bear Creamery

As the heat of summer oppresses, a new ice cream shop is looking to cool down customers.

Fox & Bear Creamery, formerly 8 Degrees Fahrenheit, recently reopened

under new branding and will hold special deals for customers this weekend.

The creamery, at 2905 SW 42nd St, Suite 60, will allow customers to choose how their ice cream or sorbet is made, either by cooling it to -321 degrees with liquid nitrogen or chilled and rolled on a cold surface.

Customers can also try “dragon’s breath,” which are pieces of cereal infused with liquid nitrogen, that give the appearance of blowing smoke when eaten.

Customers can try one of the 16 signature flavors, such as kulfi, which has chai ice cream with pistachios and almond flakes, or create their own concoctions from a mix of flavors, toppings and sauces.

Ice creams and sorbets are available in two sizes, the 8-ounce Fox, and the 12-ounce Bear.

Prices range from \$5.49 to \$6.99, with some additions (such as a cone) costing extra.

Beginning Friday, the creamery is hosting a grand opening special.

From 7 until 9 p.m. Friday, customers can receive a free Fox-sized ice

cream. On Saturday and Sunday, ice cream will be buy one, get one free.

Fox & Bear Creamery is open Monday-Thursday and Sundays from noon until 10:30 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from noon until 11:30 p.m.

Tijuana Flats

Another restaurant is on the move as one of west Gainesville’s shopping plazas continues expansion and renovations.

The Butler Plaza Tijuana Flats at 3412 SW Archer Road closed July 7, and will soon reopen at a new location.

The restaurant will reopen Monday, July 15, at 3205 Clark Butler Blvd.

Gainesville residents who want their Tex-Mex fix until then will be able to visit the second Gainesville location at 1720 W. University Ave.

The fast-casual restaurant will continue to offer tacos, burritos, chimichangas and more to its customers upon reopening.

A grand re-opening, featuring special events and food deals will take place later this fall.

PECK

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middle of the night to say that Max stopped breathing for a couple seconds trying to relieve himself.

“My baby pooped so hard he stopped breathing?” Peck said. “That’s my boy!”

He then dived into his life growing up as a child actor. Peck grew up raised by his mother and has never met his biological father. As a child, according to Peck, his mother was a very funny person and started in comedy at a young age.

Peck joked that part of the reason why he got into comedy was because of

his weight.

“I was chubby, and you don’t want to be the sad chubby kid,” he said. “I wanted to make fun of myself before others could make fun of me.”

Between the third and fourth seasons of “Drake & Josh,” Peck lost a significant amount of weight, at the risk of no longer being cast in roles designed to take advantage of his size. But he wanted to branch out into other roles.

“For me, it wasn’t my favorite thing, so I sort of lost weight. The chubby guy was relegated to a type, like a bully or a sidekick,” he said. “I would love some different opportunities, so that was part of it as well.”

Since “Drake & Josh”

aired its final episode in 2007, Peck has since landed roles on television shows like “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” and movies such as the 2012 remake of “Red Dawn.”

But nowadays, he’s more known for his vlogs on YouTube (where he has over 3.1 million subscribers), his presence on Vine before the service shut down and his podcast “Curious with Josh Peck,” where he has interviewed celebrities like John Stamos, Logan Paul and Casey Neistat.

Between his presence on a popular children’s show and his different social media ventures, Peck urged his audience to make content of their own.

“If there’s anyone here even toying with creating your own content, go for it,” he said. “It’s a meritocracy now, and there are no limits.”

He spoke with Ted Spiker, UF journalism department chair, for an hour before the floor was opened up for questions. Questions ranged from whether Peck’s character in “Red Dawn” was a continuation of Josh Nichols to trying to stay confident in front of influential people to his favorite episode of “Drake & Josh” to film.

His advice to UF’s students in a world of social media?

“Don’t be in a rush,” he said. “Reality is, we’re all a little miserable, and that’s the good news.”

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on July 22, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

ORDINANCE 19-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AMENDING THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT TO AMEND OBJECTIVE 1.4, AND POLICIES 1.4.A, 1.4.D, AND 1.4.F RELATED TO THE CORPORATE PARK FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

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ORDINANCE 19-31

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY’S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (“LDRS”); AMENDING SUBPART B OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA CODE OF ORDINANCES, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2.4.4(B) AND (D), RELATING TO SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMITS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2.4.7(B) AND (C) RELATING TO VARIANCE PERMITS; CREATING SECTION 2.4.10(B)(3)(i) RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICT; AMENDING SECTION 3.1.1 AND TABLE 3.1-1 RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM GROSS DENSITY WITHIN THE CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICT; AMENDING SECTION 3.5.2(F) RELATING TO THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICT; AMENDING SECTION 4.1.1 AND TABLE 4.1-1 RELATING TO PERMITTED USES IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE, CORPORATE PARK, LIGHT & WAREHOUSE INDUSTRIAL, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – COMMERCIAL, AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICTS; CREATING SECTION 4.3.4(G) (11) RELATING TO THE USE-SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR MICROBREWERIES; AMENDING SECTION 5.1.3 AND TABLE 5.1-3 RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM GROSS RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS IN THE COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE AND CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTION 5.1.3 AND TABLE 5.1-3 RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE AND CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICTS; CREATING SECTION 5.2.3(B) RELATING TO SPECIAL HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS IN THE COMMERCIAL INTENSIVE AND CORPORATE PARK ZONING DISTRICTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 10.2 RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF “DWELLING, LIVE/WORK” AND “MICROBREWERY”; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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City of ALACHUA

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