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Naples Daily News

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018 ■ NAPLESNEWS.COM

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Mulch to smolder till rainy season

Lisa Conley
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A mulch fire off Immokalee Road will continue to smolder until the rainy season starts, according to the North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District.

The fire began April 15 at Environmental Turnkey Solutions on Jones Mining Road east of Bonita Springs. Fire crews have responded to the site three or four times over the past few years, officials said.

Smoke from the fire has wafted across south Lee and Collier counties in the past week, prompting complaints from residents. Some say the smoke smells like burning garbage.

"We're as frustrated as anyone that these fires continue to happen at this location," North Collier Fire Chief James Cunningham said Friday.

"It's abnormal to have this many fires in the same location in such a short period of time," Cunningham said, "and it's not consistent with best practices across the state and even across the

See **MULCH SMOKE**, Page 4A

Lee man arrested in 2015 death of East Naples woman

Patrick Riley and Alexi C. Cardona
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A Cape Coral man who made references on Facebook to "hiding the bodies" and taking a walk in the woods while "dragging a body" was arrested Thursday in connection with the 2015 disappearance and death of an East Naples woman, court documents state.



Zutten

Michael Zutten, 51, faces a second-degree murder charge on suspicion of killing his partner, Heather Lee Grimshaw, 45, according to an affidavit. He was arrested by local and U.S. Marshals

law enforcement officers on a Collier County warrant and booked at the Naples Jail Center, and his bail was set at \$250,000.

Grimshaw's remains were found in the Picayune Strand State Forest, court documents state.

See **MURDER CHARGE**, Page 4A

CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Where's Luna?



Sam Arner, left, an animal care naturalist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Nature Center programs coordinator Katie Ferron release Luna, a 2-year-old female loggerhead sea turtle, into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday near Goodland and the Ten Thousand Islands.

PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Transmitter could tell team a tale about turtles

Greg Stanley
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Just off Goodland, in the feeding grounds of the Ten Thousand Islands, Luna the loggerhead sea turtle dipped beneath the ocean surface Thursday afternoon and into the wild.

The 2-year-old turtle served as an ambassador for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for most of her life, welcoming students on field trips and other visitors to the Conservancy's discovery center. The Conservancy, which has been using loggerheads to help educate its visitors for about 20 years, releases the turtles once they are large enough to survive in the Gulf.

But little is known about what happens to them or where they go after being released. They previously had been tagged on their flippers, but only one of the Conservancy's ambassador turtles was found again, swimming in the Florida Keys 28 days after it was released.

For the first time, Conservancy researchers attached a radio transmitter to a released turtle's shell. They hope that transmitter on Luna will tell how she fares and whether she stays in the Ten Thousand Islands area or migrates to the Keys or into the open Gulf.



An 8-inch satellite tracker that was placed atop Luna's shell will enable the Conservancy, as well as the public, to track the sea turtle for perhaps about six months, until the device falls off. Disintegration of the adhesive and growth of the shell will make the device fall off.

"It's always interesting to deploy these transmitters; there are always surprises," said Jeff Schmid, an environmental research manager with the Conservancy.

"We know the Ten Thousand Islands are an im-

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Big moment for Koreans

After historic summit, it's Trump's turn to negotiate. **10A**

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Katrina Reusche, from left, and Moira Murray assist in measuring Luna's shell with Sam Arner, an animal care naturalist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Nature Center programs coordinator Katie Ferron prior to Luna's release Thursday. PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Turtle tracking

Continued from Page 1A

portant area for feeding," Schmid said. "The thought is if they're released in a foraging area, they should have what they need to live.

"That's the big question, will Luna stay or move?"

The Conservancy plans to create a page online to provide real-time updates on where Luna travels.

It's unclear how long the tracking device will work. The transmitter was attached to the back of the turtle's shell, which isn't close to done growing yet. Eventually, the shell will expand to the point that the transmitter falls off, or Luna will wedge herself into a rocky bottom and damage the radio or knock it loose, Schmid said. He said he would be happy if they get up to six months or a little more with the transmitter.

"Normally we only have a release point and end point," Schmid said. "We don't know what the turtle was doing in between and that's what we hope to learn."

Loggerheads are federally listed as a threatened species, a step from endangered. The long-living turtles don't reach sexual maturity until they are about 35 years old. The females lay their eggs under the sand along beaches throughout southern Florida.

When the young turtles hatch, they follow the light of the stars and night sky to the water, where they spend most of their lives. As development has continued to encroach on the beaches, the young turtles often follow city lights inland, rather than the stars, and die.

Luna was plucked out of a turtle nest on Sanibel Island and was hatched at Gumbo Limbo Park in Boca Raton as part of a gender research study with Florida Atlantic University. The sex of the turtles is determined by the temperature of the sand during a key period of the incubation.



After serving two years as an educational "ambassador" at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida's Dalton Discovery Center in Naples, Luna, a female loggerhead sea turtle, was released into the Gulf of Mexico near Goodland and the Ten Thousand Islands on Thursday. Luna came from a turtle nest on Sanibel Island and was hatched at Gumbo Limbo Park in Boca Raton in 2016. She was included in a gender research project in a partnership between Gumbo Limbo Park and Florida Atlantic University.

FAU's research has shown that the sand has been warming over the past 12 years along the east coast, causing the vast majority of turtles hatched there to be female.

But research out of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Collier County, has shown that the sand in Southwest Florida has remained cooler, producing slightly more male turtles than female, Schmid said.

"That shows our beaches here in Southwest Florida are that much more important because here we're putting out males into the breeding population," he said.

Mulch smoke

Continued from Page 1A

country."

Robert LaGasse, executive director of the Mulch & Soil Council, a national non-profit trade association, agreed. The average mulch storage area might have three fires over the course of a decade, he said, and those fires typically won't exceed 100 cubic feet.

The cause of the Collier mulch fire was still under investigation Friday afternoon. The company is not permitted to bring any additional material to the site until the fire burns out.

Cunningham said the size of the mulch piles at the property have been a major contributing factor to the fire's longevity.

"The size of the fire stretches over at least 8 acres, and the piles are 20-25 feet tall, so they're going to continue to smolder, honestly, until we get regular rainfall every day," he said. "There's really not anything we can physically do."

LaGasse said limiting the size of mulch piles is the number one thing companies can do to try to prevent fires.

"The biggest thing is keeping your inventory piles less than 20 feet in height, and make sure you have adequate room in between the piles," he said.

It's also important to stir the piles when the weather gets warmer because the internal temperatures can reach up to 175 degrees, which can cause the piles to combust, LaGasse said.

North Collier Fire no longer has crews working the mulch fire but is monitoring the site to ensure the company is "in compliance," North Collier Fire spokeswoman Heather Mazurkiewicz said this week.

In the meantime, Environmental Turnkey Solutions has set up a sprinkler system to try to reduce the amount of smoke emanating from the mulch piles and prevent the fire from spreading. A representative from the company declined to comment.

According to its website, Environmental Turnkey Solutions is an organics recycling and compost technology company that creates "engineered, environmentally-friendly soil and mulch products from the compost it produces."

The Florida Department of Health in Collier issued a smoke advisory shortly after the fire began, cautioning that "smoke is a respiratory irritant that can cause scratchy throat, coughing, headaches or irritated eyes and nose."

Health officials warned that the smoke can worsen asthma and other chronic lung or heart conditions, and advised residents to avoid prolonged outdoor activities.

"This is especially important for children and persons with pre-existing medical conditions," the DOH said in its advisory.

Anyone experiencing difficulty breathing due to the smoke should contact a doctor, health officials said.

Murder charge

Continued from Page 1A

The Collier County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip Nov. 18, 2015, that Grimshaw was missing from her home in the 1400 block of Green Valley Circle, the affidavit states. When deputies arrived at the home, they talked to Zutten, who claimed to be her "boyfriend/fiancé," according to the affidavit.

He told deputies that Grimshaw had left the home Aug. 26, 2015, to go on a hiking trip on the Appalachian Trail to "clear her head," investigators said in the affidavit.

Grimshaw, Zutten told deputies, wanted to be off the grid and had left with \$1,000 in cash. Deputies noticed some of Grimshaw's personal belongings, including her purse and wallet, in the home.

Hikers had found remains at Pica-yune Strand State Forest on Aug. 29, 2015. About four months later, investigators used a fingerprint match to identify the remains as Grimshaw's.

The Collier County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the manner of death a homicide. A cause of death was undetermined, according to the Sheriff's Office.

During their investigation, detectives found Zutten had made comments on his public Facebook page referring to murder and the disposal of a body.

According to the affidavit, Zutten posted Aug. 28, 2015: "When someone is murdered, the police investigate the

spouse first. And that tells you everything you need to know about marriage."

A month later, investigators said, Zutten posted: "A walk in the woods helps me relax and release tension. The fact that I am dragging a body should be entirely irrelevant."

According to the affidavit, Zutten admitted posting, "you're walking through the woods having a peaceful day dragging a body" on his Facebook.

Zutten told investigators he and Grimshaw had been to the area where her remains were found, the affidavit states. He could not remember whether they were driving her car or his, but he said they exited the car to look at a beehive.

Zutten drew a picture of the beehive, and investigators found a similar-looking one "in close proximity" to where Grimshaw's body was found, the affidavit states.

The couple had a history of domestic violence, according to investigators. Grimshaw was arrested in October 2014 on suspicion of battery against Zutten after he locked her out of her home, according to court records. The case was not prosecuted. In March 2015, Zutten broke a window with a hammer after Grimshaw locked him out, investigators wrote in the affidavit.

Two of the last calls Grimshaw made were to a Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Unit deputy and to the Shelter for Abused Women & Children, according to the affidavit.

The shelter could not disclose any information about contact with Grimshaw.

Linda Oberhaus, the shelter's CEO, read the affidavit and said one in three female homicide victims are killed by intimate partners. She said if women are afraid of their partners, they can seek an injunction for protection, and the partner can be removed from the home. The shelter has an attorney who focuses on securing injunctions for protection for those who need it at no cost.

"It appears that Heather did not realize the grave danger that she was in until it was too late," Oberhaus said.

"Oftentimes, a victim of domestic violence is at highest risk when they attempt to leave their abuser," she said.

According to the affidavit, Grimshaw told people in her life about her tumultuous relationship with Zutten.

"There were many opportunities for the public to intervene," Oberhaus said. "It is up to all of us to be vigilant and contact authorities to have their suspicions investigated. If you see something, say something."

Neighbors told investigators in late 2015 they had heard loud arguments coming from inside Grimshaw's home in the past, but they hadn't seen the woman in months. In emails to her attorney, Grimshaw "expressed that she was scared" of Zutten and asked for help, investigators wrote.

According to the Sheriff's Office, detectives tied Zutten to the crime partly because of statements he made that were inconsistent with evidence investigators collected.

The affidavit states Zutten was "adamant" that Grimshaw "unexpectedly" left their home Aug. 26, 2015, to go hiking on the Appalachian Trail.

He told investigators Grimshaw received a phone call or text message from a friend named Ashley that day, kissed him goodbye and left in the friend's car.

Cellphone records show Grimshaw talked to no one named Ashley, the affidavit states.

Zutten told investigators he and Grimshaw had been to several bars the day before she left and their joint credit card would prove that, the affidavit states. Financial records showed the credit card was not a joint account. Detectives wrote in the affidavit Zutten was added as a cardholder Aug. 27, 2015.

"According to the medical and scientific findings, Heather Grimshaw was not alive on August 27, 2015," the affidavit states.

Blood was found in the trunk of Grimshaw's car, of which Zutten had "control and custody," according to investigators. The blood was not Zutten's, the affidavit states.

Blood also was found on a mattress in Grimshaw's home, the affidavit states. Grimshaw and Zutten were both "contributors" to the DNA found on the bloodied section of the mattress, according to the affidavit.

Grimshaw was hired as a code enforcement investigator in July 2004 and worked for the county for almost a decade. She later was promoted to be citizen liaison in the county's communication and customer relations office in 2006 and held that job until she left in May 2013, a county spokeswoman told the Daily News in 2015.

Before her disappearance, Grimshaw had been delivering flowers for The Flower Spot.