



## It's almost time for our annual pizza bracket tournament

NEAPOLITAN, 1D



# Naples Daily News

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## TJ Maxx, Ulta Beauty stores slated for Bonita

### Retailers will be part of mixed-use development

Laura Layden

Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Bonita Springs residents looking for a little more "me time" or sparkle will soon find it closer to home.

Instead of driving to North Naples or Estero, city residents will be able to shop at TJ Maxx and Ulta Beauty stores within city limits.

The developers of Midtown at Bonita have signed leases with both of the popular, well-known retailers, bringing retail leasing near the 100,000-square-foot mark at the new walkable and bike-able mixed-use community.

The 68-acre development at the

northwest corner of Bonita Beach Road and Bonita Grande Drive, east of Interstate 75, has been described as a "new cousin to Mercato" in North Naples. It will include hundreds of apartments,

See STORES, Page 7A



A partial lunar eclipse can be seen over Fort Myers Beach on March 3. A cloud bank covered the moon about 18-20 minutes before totality. ANDREW WEST/FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS & NAPLES DAILY NEWS, USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

## Blood moon makes a brief appearance

Andrew West

Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Southwest Floridians who were up early and looked may have seen the full moon slide completely into Earth's shadow, creating a total lunar eclipse.

Because it's also March's full moon — known as the Worm Moon — it was a two-for-one treat for skywatchers.

Naples Daily News and Fort Myers News-Press visual journalist Andrew West captured the partial lunar eclipse before a cloud bank obscured his lens.

USA Today Network contributed to this report.

## Iran war sends oil prices soaring

Clayton Park

USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Gas prices in Florida held steady Monday morning, but could climb above \$3 a gallon in the coming days as the U.S./Israeli attacks on Iran continue, industry experts warn.

For now, the average price of regular gasoline in Florida remains \$3.88 per gallon, unchanged from Sunday, March 1, according to AAA-The Auto Club Group.

"Florida gas prices face new uncertainty this week as crude oil markets surged when trading opening Sunday night," wrote Mark Jenkins, a Tampa-based spokesman for AAA in his weekly Florida gas price update Monday.

### Why Florida gas prices held steady over the weekend

The statewide average price on Monday morning was actually down a penny from Saturday, the day the U.S. and Israeli military attacks on Iran began.

The attacks, which killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other of the country's top officials, immediately sparked international news reports predicting soaring fuel prices because of disruptions to global oil supplies.

The gas price increases, for both Florida as well as the rest of the nation, are likely still coming, even though they were not yet evident Monday morning, according to Patrick DeHaan, the Chicago-based senior petroleum analyst with GasBuddy.com.

"From the beginning, I've said retail (gas) prices would likely begin rising Monday once wholesale costs moved," he wrote in an update report sent out

See OIL, Page 15A

## Union members speak out against bill

Stephany Matat

USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

More than 100 teachers, electricians, sanitation workers, police officers and bus drivers appeared before a Florida Senate panel March 2 in bipartisan opposition to legislation they say will gut their collective bargaining rights and First Amendment right to free speech.

The measure (SB 1296), which would fully reshape union certification elections, has been portrayed as a certain

death blow to Sunshine State unions if it becomes law. The big concern: Its different standards for certification elections for public safety employees, such as police, firefighters and corrections officers.

The bill would make union certification elections tougher to achieve and narrow paid union leave rules for public workers who aren't traditional first responders. Public safety employees would be exempt from the paid union leave rules.

When the bill sponsor was asked about the difference between a cop getting paid leave for union activities versus a teacher, Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, responded, "Some put on bulletproof vests when they go to work. Some don't."

For two hours, public employees who fall outside public safety definitions — doctors, nurses, sanitation workers and utility workers — said they may not

See UNION, Page 12A

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