

Search for two missing Naples boaters suspended

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The search for two boaters from Naples, who went missing along the southeastern coast of Florida, was suspended Wednesday, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

U.S. Coast Guard Watchstanders first received a notification around 4 p.m. Sunday of a potential overdue 23-foot Blue Proline vessel with three people aboard.

The vessel and people departed from Caribbean Club in Key Largo on Nov. 7, according to a news release from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Coast Guard watchstanders in Miami received a notification that one person was rescued in the water near Biscayne Bay, in Miami-Dade County, by a good Samaritan vessel at 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

The rescued person was transferred to a Miami Fire Boat and it was confirmed the man was one of three missing boaters, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Miami Fire Boat crew took him to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for further medical care.

The survivor stated he and the other two people encountered a storm, which capsized their vessel on Nov. 8.

Adnan J. Diaz, 31 of Naples, began to swim for help while the other two boaters remained with the capsized vessel with life jackets on, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The two boaters who remain missing are Luis Rivas Engrova, 38, and Ylianet Ibañez, 26, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

"The Coast Guard's search and rescue mission is one we take very personally, and making the decision to suspend is never easy," said Christopher Eddy, search and rescue mission coordinator at Coast Guard 7th District, in a press release. "Despite our best efforts we were not able to locate Ms. Ybanez and Mr. Engrova and our hearts go out to the entire family."

The Coast Guard and partner agencies searched a total of approximately 10,064 square miles, which is approximately the size of Maryland, according to its press release.

The U.S. Coast Guard's search will remain suspended pending the development of new information. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Coast Guard at 305-415-6800.

Turkeys

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To sign up for volunteering, go to St. John the Evangelist website at saint-johntheevangelist.com.

Full plate project

In Lee County, the Community Cooperative aims to collect 2,500 turkeys from donations for its "full plate project" to provide prepared meals for those who cannot cook, and to provide Thanksgiving meal kits for those with kitchens who need help with the expense of the meal.

The project was started knowing 120,000 people are at risk of being hungry every day in the county.

Individuals and businesses interested in helping can donate a Thanksgiving basket basic that feeds a family of four with a family-sized turkey and traditional side dishes.

Another option is to purchase these items so baskets can be prepared by staff or by making a \$50 donation.

Food donations can be dropped off no later than Friday, Nov. 22, at 3429 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers, or online donations can be made to communitycooperative.com. Checks can be made out to the Community Cooperative and mailed to P.O. Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL, 33902. To inquire more, email to Thanksgiving@CommunityCooperative.com.

Bountiful Blessings

The Heights Foundation is asking

the community to help with its Bountiful Blessings Thanksgiving Outreach that has been operating since 1999 to provide families in Harlem Heights with the ingredients to make a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Last year, more than 300 families were served through community support and volunteers. The greatest need is for turkey donations and ingredients for side dishes, along with monetary donations to purchase items. Donations can be made online at heightsfoundation.org/donate.

Food donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Wednesday, Nov. 20. The outreach event will be Saturday, Nov. 23. The Heights Center is located at 15570 Hagie Drive in Fort Myers.

Volunteers are needed Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and Nov. 23. Contact Melissa Barlow at 239-482-7706 or email her at melissa@heightsfoundation.org to sign up for a time slot.

Harry Chapin Food Bank

Harry Chapin Food Bank will distribute \$35,000 in \$10-gift cards to families to be used to purchase turkeys, chicken or other Thanksgiving food at grocery stores.

The food bank is accepting turkeys that will be distributed through its partner agency program, in addition to providing gift cards.

Anyone wishing to donate turkeys or chickens can drop them off at Harry Chapin Food Bank distribution centers in Fort Myers, 3760 Fowler Ave. or in Naples at 3940 Prospect Ave. For more information, call Harry Chapin at 239-334-7007.

'Florida snow'

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Pusley is native to Brazil and other parts of South America. In Florida, the annual "snowfall" appears in 26 counties, but that number could grow. The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council lists

pusley among the state's most invasive plant species.

Pusley is a hardy and stubborn plant that can survive drought and hard freezes. It's resistant to most herbicides and spreads like, well, a weed. The flowers produce seeds quickly and a small patch of "snow" can take over an entire lawn seemingly overnight. Mowing just makes it worse, as the lawnmower's

blades only serve to scatter the seeds over a larger area.

The only way to reliably get rid of pusley is to pull it by hand.

But it's not all bad. Pusley flowers provide nectar to butterflies and bees. It thrives as a ground cover where other plants can't survive.

Love it or hate it, "Florida snow" serves as our annual reminder that win-

ter's wrath is far from our shores. While our northern neighbors are shoveling real snow in their driveways, we'll be relaxing in the sun.

Do you have "snow" in your yard? Send us your photos!

Note: If you email a photo, you agree that we may use your photo on our digital, print and social media platforms across the USA TODAY Network.



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