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# Boca Raton News

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Monday, May 11, 2009

#### **DOT to help Boca pay** for SW 18th Street "enhancements'

By Dale M. King CITY EDITOR

Southwest 18th Street in Boca Raton and its environs are about to get about \$1.4 million worth of "enhancements."

What that really means, according to City Manager Leif Ahnell, are bicycle and pedestrian facilities, sidewalks and a new 16inch water main.

The City Council recently gave the approval for the mayor and city clerk to goahead to forge an agreement with the Florida Department Transportation for construction of the facilities along SW 18th Street between SW 12th Avenue and Federal Highway.

The project will cost about \$1.4 million, Ahnell said in a memo to the council. Just the water main portion has an estimated price tag of \$636,000.

FDOT will reimburse \$500,000, and the city will take its share from two funds -- \$500,000 from capital improvements and \$340,200 from the fund for work on SW 18th Street.

"Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are identified on the city's Bicycle, Pedestrian, Greenway and Trails Master Plan adopted by the city in October 1996 and are consistent with the Master Plan," Ahnel' said.

The city applied for the money through the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century, and Boca's own Municipal Services Department did the design work.

Ahnell said that by combining all three into one project "will minimize the future impacts on residents."

environmental An determination completed in preparation for this project, said Ahnell. There was no need for right-of-way acquisition associated with the project.

The proposed agreement between FDOT and the city says the work will be completed by Dec. 31, 2011. No reimbursement for work done after that date will be given.

"The conception of two people living together for twenty-five years without having a cross word suggests a lack of spirit only to be admired in sheep." -- Alan Patrick Herbert

## SIGHT SAVER

**BOCA AREA OPHTHALMOLOGIST** RESTORES DOG'S VISION

By Dale King CITY EDITOR

During his career, ophthalmologist Dr. Randy Katz has operated on thousands of people.

But it was only during the last couple of weeks that he was called upon to operate on two dogs with serious eyesight troubles.

And while he worked exten-



(Special to the News) Dr. Randy Katz

sively on both, it appears he was able to restore the vision for just one. Troy, a two-and-a-half year old shih tzu, "is doing exceptionally well," Dr. Katz told the Boca Raton News following the operation. "Everything is perfect."

First, though, he operated on the other dog, Fozzie, a bichon/ poodle whose family lives in Boca Raton. Fozzie was already blind in one eye, said Dr. Susan Carastro, a veterinarian ophthalmologist.

She said she knew that "without surgical intervention, he'd lose the sight in his one good eye because of retinal detachment."

Dr. Katz began the operation on Fozzie, but didn't complete it that day. He allowed some time for it to heal.

He returned last Wednesday night to finish the job. But by Thursday, his staff reported that Fozzie, while healthy otherwise, was still vision-impaired.

Dr. Katz, who operates Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach, has diagnosed and treated many patients suffering from macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other retinal problems over the years. He is one of the only retinal

specialists in Palm Beach County treating retinopathy of prematurity, a condition that, when left untreated, leads to irreversible blindness in children.

#### Pro Bono

What prompted Dr. Katz to operate, pro bono, on the two dogs was some prompting from Dr. Carastro - and his own desire to share his skills with a fellow ophthalmologist deals with animals.

"Dr. Carastro spoke to me and asked me to help," said Dr. Katz. He noted that she had approached him during the past few years

to share his knowledge. But the last phone call was timed perfectly. When she phoned, Dr. Katz was at his desk, and staring up at him was a photo of his own dog, Louis, a Maltese/Yorkshire terrier mix.

With that as impetus, he first came aboard to work on Fozzie, giving up a Sunday for the lengthy operation which Gwen Cohen, director of marketing for the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute, said "took much longer than anticipated, and wasn't fully completed."



(Special to the News)

Fozzie

In the end, though, it appeared a combination of cataracts and detached retina made it impossible to restore Fozzie's sight.

#### **Detached Retina**

In the meantime, Dr. Katz performed another procedure on Troy, who had what the doctor said was "a spontaneous retinal detachment springing from a genetic condition." He said blindness would have become permanent without corrective surgery.

To prepare for the operations, the doctor studied veterinary films of the procedures. He also had to make "adjustments in the size of the instruments used and the way we approach the eye."

The doctor found the experience interesting, but isn't thinking about changing careers. Dr. Katz said he's happy with his own practice, and doesn't think he'd make it through vet school. But he hopes Dr. Carasto will pick up where he left off.

## Breakwaters (finally) coming to shoreline

**News Analysis And Commentary By John Johnston** 

MANAGING EDITOR

Breakwater plans for the Town of South Palm Beach and Lantana area shorelines are moving forward with approval of a \$362,811 contract with Taylor Engineering for completion of the Army Corps of Engineers environmental impact statement.

Commissioners said South Palm Beach will reimburse \$72,562 of the cost; the county share will be funded by a combination of tourist development tax, interest, and ad valorem dollars.

The shoreline in that area has been designated by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) "as critically eroded," said commis-

sioners. Since the winter of 2003, six dune restoration projects have been done to restore beach areas there, while protecting inland facilities Commissioners said the last dune restoration was completed in January 2009 with placement of approximately 12,000 tons of sand.

#### **Breakwaters**

In April 2006, commissioners approved a feasibility study to examine the alternatives:

• No action.

- Beach nourishment. • Groins.
- Breakwaters.

That study was completed in June 2007 and it concluded that the constructing breakwaters "would be the most appropriate long-term protection response to the ongoing erosion." commissioners said.

Planned are a series of segmented nearshore breakwaters parallel to the shoreline; that project has been submitted to FDEP, resulting in the Corps conclusion that an environmental impact statement was required before actual work began – and the futility of replacing sand each year begins to diminish.

#### **Year After Year**

Futility of a different sort was what iconic rock legend Bob Dylan had in mind when he penned "Blowin' in the Wind" in 1962. He had in mind that mankind's greatest inhumanity to man is indifference.

In a more mundane context -- and until just recently -- he could just as easily have been talking about Palm Beach County government and the seeming indifference to the never changing reality that, indeed, beach sand is going to be "blowin' in the wind" and millions of dollars needed annually to replace it.

But it's not really blowing

in the wind, is it? It's actually rectly and propels storm surge and high wind that's the culprit, i.e., some \$5 million worth of sand and 80 causes greater eropercent of this year's leatherback turtle nest disappeared in the literal wake of Tropical Storm Andrea in May 2007.

Palm Beach County has replaced about 15 million cubic vards of its shoreline sand over the last decade. Governments at all levels spend about \$16 million a year to annually replace the county's shoreline. About \$1.1 million comes from property taxes, and about \$2 million from the "bed tax" on all hotel stays.

"How many times are you

going to get hit on the head with a bat to know you have a headache?" District 5 Commissioner Burt Aaronson has numerous times asked of the euphemistically labeled "beach renourishment."

#### Seawall Issues

Those who've suggested seawalls in front of various potentially affected buildings along the shore ignore that this only adds to serious erosion problems, many experts point out. A seawall diwater around itself, and actually sion on either side of it that would have occurred if the seawall wasn't there.

So, and while a condo building might be preserved by a seawall, an adjacent parking

lot or other unprotected buildings might be swept out to sea - which is what happened in Jupiter inlet, county officials said in 2006.

Breakwaters are the only



solid answer to this year-afteryear problem – in more ways than one. And it's about time the rest of South Florida's rapidly disappearing coastline is similarly protected.





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## WEEKLY REPORT CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN

This week, we marked the National Education Association's National Teacher Day. Few professionals touch as many lives as teachers do. They provide us with the knowledge and skills we need to succeed in life, and their compassion, sacrifice and dedication to their profession deserves national recognition.

That is why I was proud to introduce legislation again this year to establish an official day of recognition for our nation's teachers.

I believe it is important to recognize the hard work of all the teachers who prepare our students to build a stronger America. The education of our children is critical to the future success of our country, and despite limited compensation and increasingly high expectations, our teachers rise to the challenge each and every day.

I 'm sure that you can identify a teacher or mentor who left a significant mark on your life. I know that I would not be where I am today without the motivation and encouragement of teachers from my past who challenged me to aspire to greater things, and pursue my dreams of public service. One of the most important teachers in my life was my mom, who taught second grade in Cleveland, Ohio, and eventually taught in the special education

In Florida and nationally, teacher salary growth continues to lag behind inflation. This day of recognition is critical to bringing national attention to the pressing need to invest more in our teachers and our public schools. By providing teachers with the support, professional development and compensation they deserve, we will retain more teachers in the profession, and see significant gains in our public schools. No longer can we ask our teachers to increase their workload, and raise academic achievement without providing them with the resources they need to do

Our teachers are charged with a very difficult task, as the pressure continues to grow across the country to increase student achievement. However, they have taken on the challenge with incredible perseverance and determination, and their dedication to our students and their profession deserves thanks and recognition. I'm hopeful that with the creation of an official National Teacher Day, all Americans will take time to acknowledge the teachers in their lives.

Congressman Ron Klein represents Florida's 22nd Congressional District, which includes portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties.

#### **POLICE BLOTTER**

#### Marijuana Possession

Boca Raton police have made several arrests on charges of possession of marijuana:

April 20, a man was arrested for possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana following a traffic stop on North Military Trail. He was also charged with possession of paraphernalia (a pipe).

April 20, following a traffic stop on West Palmetto Park Road, a suspect was charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. He was taken to the booking area and later released with a notice to appear in court.

April 21, a man was arrested for possession of 29.8 grams of marijuana following a traffic stop on West Palmetto Park Road, police said. He was turned over to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

#### **Vandalism Reports**

A woman told Boca Raton police April 20 that someone punched her mailbox, damaging it to the point that it will no longer close, police said. The pole also became loose in the ground.

In other reports of vandal-

April 20, a Deerfield Beach man told police someone damaged his car, causing dents all over the vehicle. Most of the damage was confined to the right rear panel and the hood, and the gasoline tank cap was torn off.

April 20, a man told Boca Raton police someone scratched the two rear rims of his sister's SUV, which was parked on NE Mizner Boule-

April 20, a man told Boca Raton police that some men who apparently wanted to pick a fight with him damaged his car. The victim chose not to prosecute, said police.

#### **Home Burglarized**

A Boca Raton man told police someone entered his garage April 20 and stole seven assorted fishing rods and reels worth a total of \$5,200, police said. Officers found pry marks on a side door.

## Sunset Ridge Park to be improved

By John Johnston MANAGING EDITOR

Sunset Ridge Park in Lake Worth will receive improvements using \$170,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, said Palm Beach County Commissioners.

Commissioners said the work at 1415 North "D" Street will include demolition of the existing restrooms and construction of new restrooms and a pavilion -- both of which will then meet ADA standards.

The work will also include sidewalks/walkways, security lighting, parking lot improvements -- including additional handicapped spaces -- park/ playground equipment, and landscaping, commissioners

#### Reimbursement

Separately in Lake Worth, commissioners have approved a \$11,405 reimbursement to the Housing Partnership, Inc (HP) for expenses already incurred in connection with improvements at Celtic Apartments on Davis Road. The work included construction of a new gravity sewer line and abandoning an existing septic tank and drain field.

The project was funded by the county, but some of the work required a contractor to comply with Federal Davis-Bacon requirements  something that could not be accomplished before the funding agreement with the county had expired. Because the work would have been covered by the funding agreement, commissioners agreed to the reimbursement.

Commissioners also approved a separate \$5,376 reimbursement to HP for expenses already incurred in connection with holding, maintaining, and conveying approximately 7.29 acres of land located on Davis Road just south of Melaleuca Lane.

#### Other Business In other recent business

commissioners:

 Approved a resolution authorizing the county administrator to execute standard services contractor agreements for entertainment sound and light production at county facilities. Commissioners said this was need because of the frequency that the county hosts special events in which sound and light production services are needed.

• Approved \$530 in travel expenses for Marcia Hope Goodwin, Director of City of Orlando's Neighborhood and Community Affairs, in connection with her presentation of the keynote speech for the Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) graduation ceremony May 9.

#### supermarket parking lot FROM STAFF REPORTS was just standing in the lot

Woman robbed in

Boca Raton police are investigating a robbery in a supermarket parking lot.

Public Information Officer Sandra Boonenberg said officers responded to a report of an armed robbery about 10 p.m. May 4

in the parking lot of Publix on North Federal Highway.

The victim told them she had just finished grocery shopping and had stopped at the outside ATM to withdraw some cash, Boonenberg said. As she walked to her car, she noticed a male standing in the parking lot north of the

The woman said the man appeared suspicious since he

and there were no vehicles nearby.

As the woman neared her car, the male ran up to her and said, "Give it to me," said Boonenberg. The suspect repeated the phrase several times and when the woman screamed for help, the suspect grabbed her backpack and pulled it over her head. The force caused her to fall to the ground, said police.

The suspect ran east through the parking lot and then south out of sight.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call Detective Scott Hanley at (561) 338-1344 or Crime Stoppers at (800) 458-8477.

## BY MARGI HELSCHEIN

## Facing Faceboo

What am I doing right

Yesterday, I woke up, ready to start the day. I had a lot to do, but before I left the house, I first checked my e-mails. I had 68 emails to go through and answered each one.

I then checked my instant messages and I checked my voice mails on my cell phone. I answered two voicemails, and left two messages returning the caller's original messages.

One quick check at my

face book page and I added two friend requests. Then, I checked my twitter messages and sent a tweet out. I glanced through my text messages, reading each one. I better update my blog, and 20 minutes later I had finished blogging. My light on my answering machine was flashing and I realized I had four messages.

I listened to them and called back three callers and left a message on one answering machine. Once I

finished I quickly synced my newly-bought itunes movie to my ipod. Now, I am ready to go, but one more peek at my e-mails. Ohhhh, seven more e-mails. I answer them and decide to just look quickly at my face book page.

Instant messages keep popping up, all telling me I need to answer them. I answer them. Remembering, I have not looked at my space account for awhile and go rapidly through my account. I send another tweet out that

I am now leaving for the

Facebook wants to know "What am I doing right now?" What am I doing I think, well..., I am doing my virtual life because all of this technology, which is supposed to have improved the quality of my life, has now left me with no life. What am I doing right now? What I am doing is that I am trying to figure out what I am

When is this thing going to boot up?

## County gets homeless aid

#### **By John Johnston** MANAGING EDITOR

Palm Beach County will receive \$2.9 million in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program funding under the federal stimulus plan. Allocated will be approximately \$1.9 million for housing relocation and stabilization, \$750,000 for homeless prevention services, \$56,000 for data collection and evaluation, and \$141,000 for administrative

costs, commissioners said Earlier this year, the county received notice of receipt of \$438,254 in supportive housing program funds (SHP) from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Since 1996, the Division of Human Services has received a SHP grant from HUD. Commissioners said the grant supports three separate housing programs:

- Transitional housing
- Supportive services.
- Two homeless outreach

Commissioners in turn

See **HOMELESS** continued on page 3

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## West Boca Medical opens four-story neonatal unit

By Dale King CITY EDITOR

To mark the completion of its 3,200 square-foot expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, West Boca Medical Center will host a ribbon cutting event with the facility's former patients May 14 at 4 p.m.

During this event, former NICU patients and families will be invited to join WBMC doctors and staff for a fun-filled afternoon meant to celebrate health and life.

"We're very proud to provide our newborn patients and their families with a healing environment that is both techno-

logically advanced and staffed with highly trained and compassionate healthcare professionals," said Mitch Feldman, WBMC's CEO. "I'm looking forward to seeing these 'alumni' celebrate together with the staff and physicians who once helped care for them."

"This reunion helps us recognize how greatly our efforts impact the families who need our support," he added.

Immediately after the ribbon cutting, former NICU patients and families will be treated to refreshments, children's activities and plenty of time to visit with the hospital's staff and physicians.

"Having the opportunity to see our NICU 'grads' and their families at this reunion really makes me realize how important our work is," said Dr. Jorge Perez, medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. "We're impacting these patient's lives forever."

The NICU addition further expands WBMC's capacity to provide services to premature and at-risk infants. WBMC's NICU holds the only Level III designation in North Broward County and Boca Raton, the highest-level rating offered by

Housed on the first floor, the centerpiece of the new fourstory NICU structure features 10 state-of-the-art NICU beds - increasing the facility's capacity from 24 to 34 beds. The three additional floors, totaling to 8,600 square feet, house the hospital's pharmacy, sleep lab and physical therapy centers.

West Boca Medical Center, part of Tenet South Florida, is a 185-bed acute care hospital located at 21644 State Road 7 in Boca Raton, Florida. It has been serving the community for more than 20 years.

West Boca Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including general medical and surgical care, cardiac and surgical intensive care, outpatient



surgery services, 24-hour emergency services for adults and children, diabetes education, a cystic fibrosis program for adults and children, outpatient rehabilitation services and a

sleep diagnostic center.

The hospital also offers several specialties, including the Level III neonatal intensive care unit.

## **Expanding OSS Historic District** draws fire; final hearing is May 19

A 1965 HOUSE IS NOT HISTORIC, RESI-**DENTS SAY** 

By Dale King CITY EDITOR

A proposal to expand the Old School Square Historic District by adding 23 properties in Delray Beach to the list of "con-

tributing" homes in that area has irked some residents. They showed up to speak against the ordinance at its first reading before the Delray Beach City Commission last week. City leaders voted 3-2, to move the matter ahead to a second and final public hearing May 19. Voting against it were Commissioners Adam

Another ordinance that proposes to add seven properties to the West Settlers Historic District was approved unani-

Frankel and Mack Bernard.

hearing will be held on that matter May 19.

Last year, the city hired an architectural firm to conduct a survey of four historic districts in the community to see if all the properties were still considered historic, or if any should be removed or added.

That company, R.J. Heisenbottle Architects Inc., recommended that 23 properties be added to the Old School Square Historic District, and that the period when homes are considered "contributing" to the historic nature of the area be extended from 1943 to 1965.

Mark McDonnell, acting director of planning and zoning, said that homeowners who did not want houses considered historic can opt out.

The proposal would be carried out by adding two blocks between SW 2nd Street and SW 4th Street to the district. Amy

mously, and a second public Alvarez, historic preservation planner, said in a memo that the idea of listing the properties on the National Register of Historic Places is also being considered

> Still, the time factor seemed to be the crux of the residents' concerns.

They questioned why the historic period was being extended to 1965, a date one speaker called "arbitrary."

A woman who spoke said that under the new proposal, a 600 square foot accessory building on her property would be listed as "historic."

"I want [the proposal] annulled," she said.

Based on the acrimonious response, Commissioner Gary Eliopoulos suggested that "the consultant be here for the second reading, and tell us how he came to these conclusions. We need more information."

Even other city boards are

split on the addition of the other property. The Pineapple Grove Main Street Committee and Historic Preservation Board voted in favor of the change. The Planning & Zoning Board and Community Redevelopment Agency turned thumbs down.

In the other matter, no one spoke against adding seven properties to the West Settlers Historic District. McDonnell said this was based on the same survey done by R.J. Heisenbottle.

Coincidentally, the document recommends extending the period of "contribution" from 1947 to 1970.

It also says that individual properties such as the La France Hotel and the S.D. Spady House may be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both the CRA and Planning & Zoning Board approved it.

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com

## Roof replacement contract signed

By John Johnston

MANAGING EDITOR

Palm Beach County Commissioners have approved a \$336,732 contract with The Roof Authority, Inc for roof replacement at the Water Utilities Central Regional Operations Center (CROC) Administration Building in West Palm Beach.

Commissioners said the existing roof system is 5 years old "and has been an on-going expensive maintenance problem since the warranty expired."

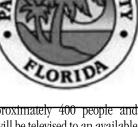
The work consists of the removal of the existing tile roof system and replacement with a new standing seam metal roof system; in the meantime, the county said it would, notwithstanding an expired warranty, pursue legal remedies against the initial roof provider.

Funding will come from utility department customer fees, commissioners said.

#### Other Business

In other recent business commissioners:

- Received and filed an extension request from Wellington Community High School for completion of an equipment and uniforms for soccer, swim, and baseball teams program agreement.
- Approved a \$7,500 agreement with Palm Beach County Film and Television Institute, Inc., to help offset costs for an event to be held by the Palm Beach County Film and Television Institute at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. The event is anticipated to be attended by ap-



will be televised to an available audience of over 600,000, said commissioners.

- Received and filed the following independent contractor agreements: Bernard Crawford, wheelchair rugby official, Therapeutic Recreation Complex; Rupert Smith, wheelchair rugby official, Therapeutic Recreation Complex; John Bishop, wheelchair rugby official, Therapeutic Recreation Complex; Marianne Duda, wheelchair rugby official, Therapeutic Recreation Complex; David Wright, USA competitive head swim coach, Aqua Crest Pool; Aaron Banfield, wheelchair rugby official, Therapeutic Recreation Complex; Karen Lindquist, outdoor skills series, Daggerwing Nature Center.
- Approved termination of an agreement with AccesSportAmerica, Inc. for an outrigger canoeing and adaptive windsurfing program for people with disabilities. Commissioners said that AccesSportAerica wants to cancel the agreement because its funding source for equipment and teachers has itself been terminated.

#### **HOMELESS** continued from page 2

identified the service providers Beaches provide supportive ser-

- Gulfstream Goodwill case managers. Industries, Inc. provides supservices.
- Comprehensive Alcohol Rehabilitation program, and Oakwood Center of the Palm

vices in the form of specialized

 The homeless outreach portive housing and supportive teams are administered by the sioners said cash matches are county human services divi-

> The SHP grant will continue funding 30 transitional hous

es, including specialized case management for the homeless outreach teams. Commisrequired – 20 percent for supportive services and \$46,940 for operating, for a total match of \$91,240.

ing beds and supportive servic-

## **FAU Healthcare Outreach marks** first year with public showcase

By Dale M. King

CITY EDITOR

Florida Atlantic University's College of Biomedical Sciences Healthcare Outreach Program held in conjunction with Lake Worth High School -has completed its first year of Florida's first pilot program designed to prepare students from underserved communities for careers in medicine.

A celebration to mark this occasion recently took place at FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science and offered students an opportunity to showcase learned skills to parents, FAU faculty and Palm Beach County education administrators through a presentation titled, "The Anatomy of Learning."

"It was extremely rewarding to watch this program take off as it did," said Mark Goldstein, director of FAU's College of Biomedical Sciences Healthcare Outreach Program. "There was a lot of behind the scenes work that went into making the concept for this program come to fruition and creating the program's curriculum. But in the end, I think it was well worth it." "These stu-

made remarkable progress the expansion of their skills, and they ex-

panded their horizons through participation in our yearlong program," he noted. "It was rewarding for us as we watched their enthusiasm for science and healthcare thrive through their projects and work."

Sophomore students who have completed the first year of the initiative will remain in the program throughout the junior year.

Goldstein said the Outreach Program has gained significant interest from parents, schools and students who have expressed a desire to join in the program.

Through collaboration between the FAU Upward Bound program, the Broward County School District and the FAU Healthcare Outreach Program, the program will be introduced in the fall 2009 semester at Boyd Anderson, Dillard, Coconut Creek and Blanche Ely



high schools.

The students' education will continue with the "Fun with Forensics" summer program from June 14-20. The program will touch on a variety of fields in healthcare and science and give students the chance to be the lead forensic investigators in a mock crime scene created by Palm Beach County sheriff officers.

Students also will take part in research projects, field trips and multicultural activities.

Participants will reside oncampus with chaperones and visit the library, laboratories and FAU Student Union to help acquaint them with college.

"The goal of the summer component of the program," Goldstein said, "is to give students an actual taste of college life by providing them with a balance of education, social and cultural experiences."

BY ROSE PADRICK

If there's anything I hate worse than buying a new bathing suit I'm sure Castor Oil is somehow involved.

In magazine articles on how to have a "painless" bathing suit shopping experience, we ladies are divided into body shapes. Pear shapes; smaller on top larger on bottom, apple shapes; round all over, etc.

Of course all the contributors to the article are the same shape... Barbie

They say one bathing suit design will disguise an "overly prominent" derrière; another will draw the eye away from "upper imperfections", and so on.

The authors agree a friend or family member should accompany us, to be honest with us about which design works best for us, if the color is right for us and

to have lunch with us after. I think these people should change their medications.

In the real world we need categories for lumpy, fluffy, overstuffed, southbound, and severely dimpled.

Only one design change I can think of might have any chance of disguising my derriere and as far as I know none of the Fifth Avenue clothing designers have debuted suits sporting rivets.

As for bringing a friend or family member, I have great friends, they would tell me I look like Marilyn Monroe if I wore a suit made by Omar the Tent Maker, but I can't see myself parading in front of them with various areas of my anatomy seeing daylight for the first time in many moons.

Family members are a whole different breed, especially the hundred pound one who thinks honesty is a virtue and says things like, "No, I don't think the blue flowers make your butt look big, your butt looks big because you are not the spring chicken you once were, and because YOU chose to have Mediterranean ancestry, your children all have beautiful hair and skin but every thing that goes into OUR mouths immediately migrates south, thank you very much! Can we go home now; it's almost time for my midmorning lettuce leaf."

What good is a kid that can't lie to her own mother once in a while? I have half a mind to tell her she's adopted and really screw up her weight-to-derriere ratio.

Rose writes from the heart of a wife, mother, grandmother, author, columnist and full time working-woman, and welcomes reader opinions. rpadrick@cfl.rr.com

## NCCI parents teach children in the workplace

More than 100 children ages 8 to 12 joined parents at NCCI Holdings, Inc. in Boca Raton for the annual national program, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

The children were given interview questions to complete with their parents, along with exercises such as an at-work word unscramble and composing a letter to tell parents what inspired them in the office. Children were off school for the day, but they still had to take a quiz at the end of their day at NCCI—on what they learned about parents' who work there.

The local program was designed to give the children a firsthand look at how parents spend workdays at NCCI. Parents described jobs to children and explained how duties fit in at the company. The kids then shadowed parents at meetings and worked beside them during the day.

Children is in advantation a hoffst bundle of the company has a second a resolution and a second as a local parents at the company. The local program was designed to give the children and explained how duties fit in at the company. The kids then shadowed parents at meetings and worked beside them during the day.

Children is involved to the children and explained how duties fit in at the company. The local program was designed to give the children and explained how duties fit in at the company. The kids then shadowed parents at meetings and worked beside them during the day.

Children joined parents for a buffet lunch at the company before attending special presentations by three NCCI employees. Wayne Lehmann from Information Technology, Lou Brown from Actuarial, and Ilene Lustigman from the Customer Operations Division told the children about using technology, math, and customer service in the workplace.

"The experience provided an opportunity for kids to see how math and computers translate into the real world experience," said Lou Brown, manager and associate actuary at NCCI. Headquartered in Boca Raton, NCCI provides information and analytical services to key audiences throughout the country.



Rhonda Mensah with son Alex, 8, of Boynton Beach.



At left is Audrey, 8, daughter of Frederique Roggero (in the window) and on the right is Jadyn, 8, daughter of Lori Robinson who is not pictured. Audrey is from Boca and Jadyn is from Delray Beach).



Rick Haight's daughter Caroline, 8, of Parkland in white dress and Timothy Smith's daughter Courtney, 10, in print outfit.



Eddy Germain and daughter Laurie age 9, from Coconut Creek.

## Poster winners

In celebration of April as "Water Conservation Month," and May 3-9 as "Drinking Water Week," the Boca Raton Utility Services Department held a water conservation poster contest in local schools. More than 750 entries were received. The winners, front, from left, are Oliver Rauch (K-1) from Pine Crest School, Jevin Allen (grades 4-5) and Maria Rivera (grades 2-3), both from Verde Elementary School. Each received certificates and a \$25 gift card, and all entrants were given a certificate of participate. At rear are Lisa Wilson-Davis, program policy coordinator from the city and Utility Services Director Chris Helfrich.





## DR. CRAIG BRODSKY

E-mail Dr. Brodsky at: deardoc@bellsouth.net

Dear Doctor,

A child in my daughter's class at school has developed fifth disease. He told my daughter that it is not contagious but I am fairly concerned. He has a nastylooking rash on his face. I

do not want my daughter hanging around him if she could catch it. Frankly, I am surprised that they let him back in school. Should I be concerned?

Dear Reader,

Fifth disease is a fairly common viral illness seen in children. It is characterized by

a cold, occasional fever and malaise. Some people can experience aching in the joints. Classically, the child will develop a rash on the face, arms, chest and / or abdomen. While the disease is contagious, by the time the rash appears it is no longer communicable. Therefore, I would not worry about your daughter catching

it from this child.

Craig Brodsky, MD, FACC is a board-certified cardiologist practicing in Boca Raton, FL. He received his degree in medicine from SUNY at Stony Brook and his cardiology training at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He has advanced training in echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. Dr. Brodsky is the Chief of Cardiology at Boca Raton Community Hospital. He is also the founder and first president of the South Florida Echo Society.

## NOTES FROM JEFF ATWATER

## Florida's Successful Session

We have had a very productive session. Florida's budget is complete. We have succeeded in cutting unnecessary government spendin and have promoted economic recovery and growth in Florida without placing additional burdens your family's budget.

Throughout this session, balancing the budget has been a large task to undertake. However, it has by no means been our only focus. We have passed meaningful legislation to promote job growth, ensure the healthcare of all Floridians, protect the safety of Florida's

families and make certain every child in Florida receives the quality education they deserve.

We have taken steps to remove unnecessary bureaucratic red tape in order to promote growth in our state, stimulate job creation and improve Florida's infrastructure. We have also ensured that Florida maintains its business friendly environment to both retain and attract new businesses to our state.

The passage of the Senate's healthcare plan improves Florida's KidCare program, cracks down on Medicaid fraud and ensures that we provide high quality care for our children, elderly and needy families across Florida.

Legislation has also been passed to better protect the safety of Florida's families. We have not only cracked down on criminal activity, but have also promoted both criminal prevention and rehabilitation programs. Rehabilitation programs are vital to make certain that harmful individuals are not released from our prison system into our communities, but instead, individuals equipped to be productive

members of society.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we have protected our classrooms from budget cuts and provided our higher education institutions with the tools needed to build intellectual capital and compete internationally.

I believe this legislative session has been a successful sixty days focused on the needs of Florida's families, the stabilization of our economy and a high quality of life for all Floridians.

## Scientist brings 50 million year old spider 'back to life'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A 50-million-year-old fossilized spider has been brought back to life in stunning 3D by a scientist at The University of Manchester.

In a paper published in the latest issue of the Zootaxa journal, Dr David Penney and co-authors from Ghent University in Belgium report on the use of a technique called 'Very High Resolution X-Ray Computed Tomography' (VHR-CT) to 'digitally dissect' tiny fossils and reveal the preservation of internal organs.

Dr Penney, from The School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (SEAES), specializes in studying spiders trapped and preserved in amber tens of millions of years ago.

The male spider studied in his latest paper is a new species named Cenotextricella simoni. It is around 53-million years old and was found preserved in amber in an area of France known as the Paris Basin.

This is the first time the VHR-CT technique has been used to digitally dissect a fossil in amber — and Dr Penney says it has the potential to 'revolutionize' their study.

The VHR-CT technique was

originally developed for medical diagnostic purposes.

Dr Penney said: "This technique essentially generates full 3D reconstructions of minute fossils and permits digital dissection of the specimen to reveal the preservation of internal organs.

"Up until recently the only place to do such scans was at The University of Texas, although they never achieved results like these.

"My colleagues in the department of Subatomic and Radiation Physics at Ghent University in Belgium have significantly increased the resolution of the technology, bringing some quite amazing results.

"This is definitely the way forward for the study of amber fossils.

"Amber provides a unique window into past forest ecosystems. It retains an incredible amount of information, not just about the spiders themselves, but also about the environment in which they lived."

A Mexican researcher who earned the right to name the species found it and he chose the name 'Episinus penneyi' in honor of his former colleague.

# **Boca Fire Rescue hosts EMS Challenge**

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services held the 3rd Annual EMS Challenge at Fire Rescue Headquarters, 6500 Congress Avenue. This event was co-sponsored by Boca Raton Community Hospital's "Smart Heart" Foundation.

This years EMS Challenge brought together 13 paramedic teams from Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Flager and St. Johns County.

After the final round of competition the winners were: 1st Place – Florida Medical Training Institute – Coconut Creek; 2nd Place – Delray Beach Fire Rescue; 3rd Place – Miami Dade Fire Rescue Team A and 4th Place - Tamarac Fire Rescue

(Jay Bell/Special to the News)



Bill McGrath and Kelly Byrne from FMTI Team.



Firefighter / Paramedic Logue from Miami Dade F/R Team A.



Paramedic Vanessa Vought from Palm Beach Community College Alumni Team



Paramedic Student Jonathan Santana from Palm Beach Community College Student Team

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## **SUDOKU**

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each column and each 3x3 contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday

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Boca Raton News

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crowaves, ceramic tile in

kitchens, bathrooms, and

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and living room areas. Our

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ming pool, whirlpool spa,

tennis courts, brand new

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tance to Westchester Ele-

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Cute, cozy, comfy. 310 S. Ocean. Ground floor. Unit faces parking lot (not ocean), your back yard is the Atlantic Ocean. Call 561-929-7226

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Studio apartment. Fully furnished. Full bath & kitchen Utilities included. Call 561-989-0777 or 561-271-0806

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DEERFIELD 5 min. to beach. Lovely furnished efficiency. Private home, private entrance. Non smoker. Short term May 1st thru Oct. 31st or annual. Call 954-421-8757, 954-242-

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**CAMINO** 

2 bedroom, 2 bath with pool. Charming. \$2200 mo. Available 6/1. Call Jeff Baur 561-239-4388 Mizner By The Sea

home in East Boca. Recently remodeled. Near beach, shop & FAU. Pets ok. Asking \$1295 mo. 561-702-4348 or 561-866-2846.

#### **BOCA RATON**

Pheasant Walk! 4 Bedrooms/2 Baths/ Screened Pool and deck / Fireplace Outside barcar Garage, Available by of 12 month lease. \$2,750.00 per mo. Firm. Incl pool and lawn maint. 1st/Lst/Sec + credit report and employment fee Principals Only. To make appt to see, Call CALL ROBERT HOWELL



#### Pheasant Walk!

4 Bedrooms/2 Baths/ Screened Pool and deck / Fireplace Outside barentertainment area/ 2 car Garage. Available by June 15 for a minimum 12 month lease \$2,750.00 per mo. Firm Incl pool and lawn maint 1st/Lst/Sec + credit re port and employment fee of \$50.00. No Brokers Principals Only. To make appt to see, Call Owner/Agent at 561-

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**BOCA / FAU STUDENT** seeks student m/f to share 3/2. Spring, summer or fall term. Walk/bike to campus.

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non smoker, utilities incl.

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\$600/mo. 561-988-7559 BOCA E Furnished room, includes all utilities. Female only, near FAU & Boca Hospital, \$400/month. Call

#### Rooms for Rent/Room & Board

3. List the best features of your item first.

4. Use only standard abbreviations.

Always state the sales price.

BOCA E. GREAT DEAL PRICE INCLUDES ALL Furn. room, pvt. en trance, bath & parking.

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BOCA E. **HUGE** STUDIO APT. Pvt. entrance. W/D. Walk in closet. Cable &

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Female pref. 24 hr. sec. pa

trol. \$525 mo. incl. all. Call

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recently remodeled

\$195,000. Call Tom 561

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Owner

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BOCA

3 bedroom, 2 bath, pool Jeff Baur 561-239-4388 Mizner By The Sea

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7. Including the word "Please" in your ad

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Dock your boat here! 58' dock, ocean access and no fixed bridges! This 2 story home is beautifully interior designed and offers 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and many upgrades. New roof, new gutters, new chimney. A MUST SEE! IMMACULATE! Offered at \$1,549,000. OJ Thornton 561.756.6082. Keyes Real Estate

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OWNER WILL PAY CLOSING COSTS! "THE BEST WATERFRONT VALUE UNDER A MILLION NOW \$795,000 REDUCED OVER \$155,000. TOM & PATTY SKEBA delraybocahomes.com Re/Max Services: 561-929 2912 or 561-912-3582 Virtual Tour: http:// www.circlepix.com/home2/

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