

PINELLAS NEWS



Since 1954

www.PINELLAS-NEWS.com

Friday, December 11, 2009 | 25¢

Baker releases new wildlife to complete 20-year renovation of Lake Maggiore



photo courtesy of city of St. Petersburg

Mayor Rick Baker helps FWC repopulate Lake Maggiore with bluegill and redear sunfish.

ST. PETERSBURG - Wednesday, Mayor Rick Baker joined leaders from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission as thousands of bluegill and redear sunfish were released into St. Petersburg's largest lake. A jewel in the heart of Florida's most densely populated county, over the past few decades, the lake had been choked by a four to six foot thick blanket of nutrient-rich lake bottom sediments, exotic aquatic weed growth and a steady flow of untreated stormwater.

After a 20-year effort, St. Petersburg can now lay claim to "the best water quality success story to date in the state of Florida," said Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fishery Biologist Ray Watson. "What separates this project from many others is the multi-faceted approach St. Petersburg took to improve water quality on all fronts - dredging millions of tons of muck from the bottom of the lake, renourishing the shoreline with native Florida wetland growth, restoring natural habitats, removing exotic species, pretreating stormwater, and installing outflows."

"Today is truly another great day in St. Petersburg," said Mayor Rick Baker. "This day is about quality of life, and quality of the environment. What we have accomplished here at Lake Maggiore with the help of our partners at SWFWMD and the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board is a textbook story of accomplishing both."

Here is a chronology of the \$20 million effort to return Lake Maggiore into a healthy, viable recreational and environmental asset:

1989 - The city of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board of SWFWMD recognized the need to address the decline of the lake, and began restoration efforts at Lake with a cooperatively-funded diagen-

tic/feasibility study. The results of that study became the basis for the development of a Lake Maggiore Restoration and Management Plan implemented through an agreement between the SWFWMD and the city of St. Petersburg.

1993 - Shoreline re-vegetation.
1994 - Mechanical weed harvesting began.

1995 - Lake Outflow Control Structure Replacement (original structure built in 1941).

1997 - Alum stormwater treatment facilities completed and operational.

2003 to 2006 - Dredging, dewatering and disposal of lake bottom sediments. Dredging occurred over a 27-month period. By removing nuisance aquatic weeds, less decaying biomass adds to lake bottom sediments. The outfall control structure has enabled the lake to control upstream flooding and stabilized the freshwater/saltwater water mix. The alum pretreatment facilities provide ongoing treatment of stormwater runoff prior to entering the lake. By removing 1.4 million cubic yards of nutrient-rich lake bottom sediments, more than 65 percent of the lake bottom has been restored to its natural sandy condition, and water depths of up to 11 feet. Since the completion of the Lake Maggiore Restoration Project, water quality continues to improve. Concentrations of chlorophyll A, nitrogen and phosphorous have diminished, water clarity has increased and the salt water/freshwater mix has stabilized.

2008 - On June 12, 2008, the City of St. Petersburg was awarded a 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Florida Stormwater Association for the Lake Maggiore Restoration Project.

2009 - On Dec. 9, 2009, 100,000 bluegill and redear sunfish were released into the lake.

SUNRAIL BILL HEADED TO TALLY

Florida's proposal for a high speed train just a few signatures from Nov. ballot

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
PINELLAS NEWS

Last month Hillsborough county residents stood clear of a penny tax that would increase residents' taxes by \$144 a year. This is a tax that commissioners hoped would go straight to the transit department to help with the cost of a high speed rail in Florida.

Well, Wednesday afternoon county commissioners got what they wanted. The bill is on its way to the governor to sign. The state proposed this bill on the basis that it would improve public transportation and create hundreds of jobs during tough economic times.

However, now the real work begins. In the Tampa Bay area, that means implementing the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Regional Transportation Master Plan, which will connect our entire area - from Citrus to Sarasota.

Florida's High Speed Rail project has an abundance of potential to a city, which relies in a big way on tourism, to stay alive during this recession; however, tax payers want to know what it can do for them? While the rail will connect three major regions, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami, it will also give manufacturers a chance to move goods and services.

The bill is requesting \$2.6 billion for the SunRail in Central Florida. U.S. Senator George LeMieux has good faith in the government to grant them the opportunity to pursue, what he calls, a ground breaking project that will merge Tampa and Orlando.

Congressional negotiators put the finishing touches on a transportation spending bill that sends \$40 million to Florida for SunRail, an installment that rail backers hope will add up to \$307 million federal investment once the 61-mile commuter train is finished.

On the other hand, will Florida residents see the rail as an important money-making tool when they realize how much it is going to cost them? Last week, former Hillsborough County Commissioner Brian Blair, who is now running for Florida Senate House, voted against a tax increase that would help pay for such projects.

Blair said that there was over \$1 billion set aside for just that and it has yet to be spent. As of now the

STS-130 mission a work in progress

Commander and team work on spacewalk simulation as shuttle is preped.

CAPE CANAVERAL - Commander George Zamka will lead the STS-130 mission to the International Space Station aboard space shuttle Endeavour. Terry Virts will serve as the pilot. Mission specialists are Nicholas Patrick, Robert Behnken, Stephen Robinson and Kathryn Hire. Virts will be making his first trip to space.

Endeavour will deliver a third connecting module, the Tranquility node, to the station in addition to the seven-windowed Cupola module, which will be used as a control room for robotics. The mission will feature three spacewalks.

Technicians at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida will lower space shuttle Endeavour onto its wheels, weigh it and balance it for its upcoming move into the Vehicle Assembly Building.

Yesterday, Endeavour was hooked up to the vehicle that will tow it from Orbiter Processing Facility-2 to the VAB. The move, or rollover, is scheduled to start at 7 a.m. EST on Saturday.

At NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, the six STS-130 astronauts are conducting an integrated simulation to practice techniques for the second of three scheduled spacewalks.

Shuttle Endeavour, with its payload of the Tranquility node and the seven-windowed Cupola module, is targeted to launch Feb. 4, 2010.

Bronson looks out for scamming scanners

TALLAHASSEE -- When consumers are holiday shopping this year, chances are pretty good that they will be charged the correct price. That's the conclusion of Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson following a pre-holiday scanner survey in which 54 stores in 27 Florida cities were inspected for scanner accuracy.

In all, only 32 errors were detected at the checkout lines among 2,975 items tested, for an error rate of just over 1%. Moreover, the majority of the errors were in the favor of customers.

"Our retailers do a good job keeping up with prices, including sales prices which frequently

state is trying to take just stimulus money from the government for their new high speed toy, and high-speed projects will do better in competition than other requests for money.

The Federal Railroad Association predicted that in January or February grants would be given out to the states that would benefit most from the bullet trains. Among Florida, Washington and Texas have their names in the running. Other states are conducting environmental studies before they write their proposal. Most of the states are asking for large amounts that the \$8 billion in economic stimulus won't be able to cover.

Another potential road block is where the jobs will come from. The SunRail plan calls for purchasing 61.5 miles of track from CSX. Labor unions are against the deal because they say about 100 CSX workers and eventually several more would be replaced by state-contracted employees who would likely be nonunion.

Rep. Gary Aubuchon, a Cape Coral Republican and a sponsor of the special session, wonders why with Florida's unemployment rate that somebody would want a guarantee that they would keep their job in perpetuity.

GOP U.S. Senate Candidate Marco Rubio still isn't sure about this proposal, while he feels the state is in need of the rails benefits, he believes that the proposal is being sold as a job market rather than a money maker.

Attorney General Bill McCollum said that he was pleased that Florida legislation pushed this bill, he says it is a crucial step forward.

The Center for Urban Transportation at USF was once against this project, saying that it would not work because the cities are too spread out and not as populated as other cities; however, when Charlotte, NC debuted their train in 2007 they never would have predicted that it carries the amount of passengers it does today.

While a high speed rail would take more business from busses and cars, which would emit less fossil fuel into the air, and create a better flow of tourism into otherwise overlooked areas, is the commuter population big enough to keep the trains running year round without taking more tax dollars from an already struggling economy?



Photo credit: NASA/USC

Mission Specialists Nicholas Patrick (left) and Robert Behnken participate in a training session on the middeck of the crew compartment trainer at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

INSIDE

Briefs.....3
Calendar.....2
Classifieds.....5
Crossword.....6
Legal Ads.....4
Recipe.....6

Vol. 27, No. 49 | One section, 6 pages



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink

THE WEEK'S WEATHER

From Pinellas News sources

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| | | | | | | |
| 66 61 | 74 68 | 75 67 | 76 65 | 77 64 | 72 58 | 71 58 |

Tampa Family Health Centers receives \$2.9 million through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Barack Obama and Congresswoman Kathy Castor announced Wednesday at the White House that Tampa Family Health Centers is receiving more than \$2.9 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create jobs and improve medical services for Tampa Bay area families. Tampa Family Health Centers was one of only approximately 30 health centers from across the country invited to the White House announcement. In addition, Suncoast Community Health Centers will receive a Recovery Act award of \$3.7 million.

“Our community health centers will be able to expand and hire new medical professionals and put trades and construction professionals to work while providing necessary checkups and primary care to our neighbors. The Tampa Bay area health centers won these competitive grants because they will get right to work creating and retaining important jobs. I am very pleased that President Obama included Tampa Family Health Centers at this announcement because they are on the cutting edge of innovative health care for families throughout the Tampa Bay area. They deserve to be recognized as a national leader because they are using money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act wisely to improve the health of our neighbors and create good-paying jobs at the same time.”

Tampa Family Health Centers will use the \$2.9 million to construct a new health center on N. Dale Mabry Highway, near University Community Hospital. The clinic will be approximately 18,000 square feet and will include medical, dental and pharmacy services and will offer after-hours

care. A contractor was selected this week. The project is expected to support at least 15 construction jobs and 22 medical-related jobs.

“We will hire local people for these new jobs,” Bottoms said. “Neighbors will help neighbors and ensure that they receive the health care, dental checkups and affordable pharmacy services they need.

The \$6.6 million in grants and investments in our Tampa Bay community health centers follows announcements by Congresswoman Castor earlier this year of job creation initiatives at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center in South St. Petersburg, Manatee County Rural Health Services and Tampa Family Health Centers. In March, Castor joined Charles Bottoms, president and chief executive of Tampa Family Health Centers, at a news conference to announce that Tampa Bay area community health centers were receiving millions of dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Tampa Family Health Centers is using the money to create and retain jobs and expand services to more area families.

Earlier this year, Tampa Family Health Centers received a Recovery Act award of \$605,000. The group planned to hire family practice doctors, a nurse, medical assistants and patient support personnel.

Tampa Family Health Centers also is building a \$4 million medical clinic in East Tampa, with a portion of the funding coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Tampa Family Health Centers serves 25,000 patients annually, representing about 100,000 patient visits.

One in 19 Americans relies on a community health center for care and are a

Tampa Family Health Center continued on pg 5

FLORIDA MARINE ORGANIZATIONS FORM ELITE OCEAN TEAM

ST. PETERSBURG – More than 10 elite oceanographic institutions in St. Petersburg have joined together to collaborate and enhance the visibility of one of St. Petersburg’s key industries. Wednesday, Mayor Rick Baker announced the formation of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team, www.spoceanteam.org.

The St. Petersburg Ocean Team comprises the premier consortium for marine science, oceanographic, and environmental research agencies and institutions in the Southeast and is one of the top such industry clusters in the nation. St. Petersburg Ocean Team members include: USF-St. Petersburg, USF’s College of Marine Science and its Center for Ocean Technology, USF’s Research Foundation, SRI St. Petersburg, Florida Institute of Oceanography, International Ocean Institute - USA, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Geological Survey Center for Coastal and Wetland Studies, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, The City of St. Petersburg, The Pier Aquarium, and United States Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

These team members, along with related agencies and businesses, will work together to raise awareness in the community and nationwide about the member organizations and the research that they do.

The St. Petersburg Ocean Team will also allow for team members to pool their collec-

tive staff expertise, infrastructure, and research capabilities so that member organizations can better address numerous issues facing the State of Florida and the nation including: red tides, hurricanes, climate change, and offshore oil and gas exploration.

“The agencies, institutions, and businesses of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team have long been key components of St. Petersburg’s economic vitality,” said Mayor Rick Baker. “Formalizing the connection between the team members will allow for greater opportunities to partner and collaborate while still allowing for each organization to continue their individual mission. The Ocean Team will also amplify the team members’ collective impact on the scientific community in addition to their economic impact on the city, surrounding region, and the entire state.”

Industry “clusters”, like the Ocean Team, are groups of competing, complementary, and interdependent firms and institutions that are located near one another. In the case of the Ocean Team, these agencies have found a home in St. Petersburg’s Bayboro Harbor. These cluster organizations draw productive advantages from their proximity and connections as well as the similarities between their workforce and vendor needs.

“This new collaboration is an important one for The Pier Aquarium as it formalizes the relationships we’ve established through the years with the local marine science and environmental research organizations,” said

Doctor Recommended Florida docs in favor of health reform bill

TAMPA—On Wednesday Florida’s Doctors for America members went on the record in favor of the Senate health reform bill’s Medicare provisions to preserve guaranteed benefits for Medicare patients and patients nearing the age of 65 who will soon qualify for benefits.

“As a physician I am confident that health reform will be good for seniors, especially seniors who rely on Medicare. Politicians who argue for the status quo are asking for earmarks for already profitable insurance companies and Florida’s seniors deserve better,” said Dr. Mona Mangat, a Tampa physician and Doctors for America’s Regional Director. “The improvements to Medicare in the bill will mean your tax dollars are used to help Medicare patients get the treatment they need and rely on.”

The Senate bill provides seniors with free annual wellness visits under Medicare to give seniors a chance to focus on prevention with their doctors to address health conditions and other risk factors for disease. The Senate Health Reform bill also stops the impending 21 percent cut in payments to physicians due next year and replaces the cuts with a payment increase, so doctors can continue to serve their Medicare patients.

“The health reform proposals I have seen will extend the life of Medicare so patients now nearing retirement will see the benefits they were promised all those years they paid into the Medicare trust fund,” said Dr. Sultan Rahaman, State Director of Florida’s Doctors for America. “I am pleased that health reform will also ensure my Medicare patients will not have to worry that access to their doctor will change.”

Doctors for America is a grassroots group of over 16,000 physicians with a presence in all fifty states committed to passing meaningful health reform legislation. The group works to convey the ideas and experiences of physicians in order to achieve reform that provides high quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans.

E. Howard Rutherford, President/CEO. “What makes it so exciting is the scope and breadth of the Ocean Team.”

“The St. Petersburg Ocean Team is one of the most important economic drivers in St. Petersburg,” said Economic Development Director Dave Goodwin. The St. Petersburg Ocean Team and its related cluster agencies and businesses employ over 800 people and have an annual payroll in excess of \$24 million. The continued growth of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team and its members will mean that like-minded research institutions and agencies, as well as businesses seeking to capitalize on technology transfer, will continue to locate nearby, magnifying the synergies between the organizations. “SRI St. Petersburg’s recent relocation to St. Petersburg is a perfect illustration of that,” said Goodwin, “and is typical of the type of synergy that collaborative organizations such as the Ocean Team can accomplish.”

“The University of South Florida’s College of Marine Science is proud to be a member of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team,” said Dean William Hogarth, Ph.D. “This recognition of as well as the future growth of the synergies between the various team members will mean an even greater opportunity for our students and faculty to build partnerships that will expand not only their research capabilities but also the relevance this research has to greater societal issues.”

Study finds new way to fight colon cancer with half the chemo drugs

GAINESVILLE — University of Florida researchers have found a way to use just a fraction of the normal dosage of a highly toxic, debilitating chemotherapy drug to achieve even better results against colon cancer cells.

More research is needed before the therapy can be tested in patients, but the discovery in human colon cancer cell lines and mice with established human tumors suggests that the addition of a small molecule to the cancer drug Temozolomide disrupts repair mechanisms in a type of tumor cells that is highly resistant to treatment.

The discovery will be featured on the cover of December’s Molecular Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

“This is very important because aside from aggressive surgery with possibly chemotherapy, there are no specific treatments for colon cancer,” said Satya Narayan, a professor of anatomy

and cell biology at the College of Medicine and a member of the UF Shands Cancer Center. “The recurrence rate for this type of cancer after surgery is very high, about 30 to 50 percent, and there is an urgent need to develop new approaches to manage this deadly disease.”

The National Cancer Institute estimates there will be about 106,000 new cases of colon cancer in the United States in 2009. It is the second most common cause of cancer-related death in both men and women in the Western hemisphere. The disease forms in the large intestine and survival rates vary according to how soon the cancer is diagnosed and the treatment is started.

Narayan’s research team evaluated more than 140,000 small molecules, finally arriving at a tiny molecule that precisely blocks the ability of cancer cells to recognize and repair the DNA damage inflicted by Temozolomide, or TMZ.

“Our idea was if you induce DNA damage (with TMZ), and at the same time block cell repair, you can synergize toxic effects to the cancer cells,” Narayan said. “We hope that with this combination treatment we can reduce the tumors drastically and expand the lifetime of patients much longer than is currently possible.”

TMZ is commonly used against certain types of brain cancer. It works by damaging the DNA of the cancer. However, the challenge of treating patients is that colon cancer is not a single disease but an array of disorders with distinct molecular mechanisms, with one type being quite proficient at repairing the DNA damage inflicted by the drug.

By combining TMZ with the small molecule, Narayan’s team was able to disable the colon cancer’s ability to manufacture repair enzymes.

The UF researchers effectively used an amount of TMZ that is about 10 times lower than recom-

mended in its studies of mice with human colon cancer tumors.

If only about one-tenth as much TMZ is needed to kill cancer cells, Narayan said, it will be possible to use lower doses of a drug that creates a great deal of adverse side effects, a partial listing of which includes anxiety, back pain, breast pain, constipation, cough, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, dry skin, hair loss, headache, joint pain, loss of appetite, mouth sores, muscle aches and nausea.

“By using these strategies we can predict that disruption of DNA repair by small molecules can bypass drug resistance factors and dramatically reduce side effects caused by toxic doses of TMZ,” Narayan said.

More study is needed before the combination can be tested in patients, but Narayan believes that TMZ can be combined with the small molecule in a single dose in pill or capsule form.

The research demonstrates
Cancer drug continued on pg 5

Dog of the Week Kanga



Photo courtesy of SPCA

Kanga is a very pretty Shepherd mix, with floppy ears and deep brown eyes. She came to the SPCA Tampa Bay as an injured stray and was treated by the medical department. She is all better now and ready to find a new, loving family and a home to call her own. Kanga walks well on a leash and knows how to sit. She is also learning other obedience commands with the volunteers. She is very treat-motivated and takes treats gently when offered to her. If you think you’d be right for Kanga, please come visit her at the SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave N in Largo, or call 727-586-3591.

Cat of the Week Bathsheba



Photo courtesy of SPCA

This beautiful cat has lived indoors all her life because she has been declawed on her front paws. Nobody is perfect and she will admit to not being keen on living with children, dogs or other cats (they’re just not her thing) - however she is a PURR-FECT kitty for you if you have a quiet and calm home to share. She is such a gentle, loving, trusting girl; you’ll see immediately how she will be a perfect companion. Come and see her and many, many other delightful kitties at the SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave N in Largo, or call 727-586-3591.

Military News

Navy - Fleet News

Seaman Ryan K. Lentz

Navy Seaman Recruit Ryan K. Lentz, a 2008 graduate of Lake Brantley High School, Seminole, Fla., recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Seaman Justin A. Shue

Coast Guard Seaman Justin A. Shue, son of Susan E. and stepson of William R. Denne of St. Petersburg, Fla., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J.

Shue is a 2009 graduate of Lakewood High School of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Seaman Christopher L. Licata

Navy Seaman Christopher L. Licata, son of Lourdes G. and Christopher L. Licata of Seminole, Fla., recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Licata is a 2009 graduate of Admiral Farragut High School of St. Petersburg, Fla.

**TO SUBSCRIBE
SEE SUBSCRIPTION FORM
ON PAGE 4**

