

PINELLAS NEWS

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Friday, February 5, 2010 | 25¢

Kenneth City man named School Crossing Guard of the Year

The Kenneth City Police Department is proud to announce that our schoolcrossing guard, Mr. John Fugate, has been named School Crossing Guard of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office (FDOT).

Mr. Fugate's assignment is the busy intersection of 54th AVE and 62nd ST N, where he safely assists children and parents across the busy streets enroute to and from Blanton Elementary School.

Mr. Fugate has been employed by the Town of Kenneth City in this position since August 2004. Upon employment, he successfully completed School Crossing Guard training offered by the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office and also receives additional yearly training to ensure a safe journey to and from school for our children.



Photo Courtesy of Kenneth City Police Department

Crossing Guard John Fugate helps school children safely cross the road.

The Kenneth City Police Department respectfully asks the media to remind their viewers and readers to please pay special attention to their driving habits when near schools both before and after school hours.

USF MENS BASKETBALL STOMPS GEORGETOWN

TAMPA- The way junior Dominique Jones and the University of South Florida men's basketball team are playing in the second half these days, no lead is safe for the opposition.

The Bulls caught fire against No. 7 Georgetown, outscoring the Hoyas by 17 in the second half as the Bulls pulled out a 72-64 win Wednesday night at the Verizon Center.

The win marked USF's fourth BIG EAST victory in a row and the second straight over a ranked team following a 70-61 win over No. 17 Pitt Sunday. USF moved to 15-7 on the year and 5-5 in the BIG EAST, while Georgetown dropped to 16-5 overall and 6-4 in conference play.

Jones added 22 points in the second half as USF shot a blistering 65.2 percent in the second stanza to erase a nine-point halftime deficit. The Bulls outscored Georgetown, 46-29, in the second stanza after being down, 35-26, at the half.

Jones finished with 29 points all together and is now averaging 29.4 points per game over his last nine contests. Jones also led the team with eight rebounds and stuffed the stat sheet with four assists and three steals.

Senior Mike Mercer was the only other player in double figures for the Bulls with 12 points and six rebounds, while senior Chris Howard handed out six assists with eight points.

USF shot 49 percent overall after hitting just 35.7 in the first half. The Hoyas, who made 48 percent of their shots overall, were 15-of-25 in the first half (60 percent), but were held to just 9-of-25 shooting (36 percent) in the second half.

Greg Monroe and Austin Freeman each posted 21 points to lead the Hoyas, while Monroe also had eight boards.

After the Bulls scored the first points of the evening on a layup by junior Jarrid Famous, the teams went back and forth early on. A putback dunk by Famous at the 13:29 mark gave USF a 10-9 lead, but an 11-2 run by Georgetown quickly swung momentum the other way.

Jones added a layup with 7:46 left on the clock to cut the Hoya lead to three at 22-19, but a 13-3 run over the next five and a half minutes gave Georgetown its largest lead of the game, 35-22, with two minutes to go in the half.

Georgetown's hot hands from the first half all of a sudden turned cold from that point forward, as USF outscored the Hoyas, 24-5, over the next 10 and a half minutes that saw the Bulls go from down 11 to up by eight.

Jones helped to spark the offensive explosion, including a fastbreak dunk off a steal to pull the Bulls to four at 41-37 with 14:20 to go.

Mercer got fouled on the way to the basket and proceeded to sink both shots from the charity stripe to tie the game up, 42-42. Jones banked in a 3-pointer at 10:36 to put USF in the lead for good at 46-44. Mercer followed that up with an alley-oop dunk from Howard to put the Bulls up by four.

Georgetown would respond by scoring the next six points of the game to get within two, 56-54. A 7-1 run by USF a short time later put USF back into that eight-point lead again, and with 1:19 left on the block, Georgetown was unable to mount a comeback, as the Bulls made six straight free throws to end the game to ice the victory.

The future of the Pier becomes clearer

BY: SARA PALMER
PINELLAS NEWS

ST.PETERSBURG- Once a beacon of the Bay, the St. Petersburg Pier has become an outdated landmark, long overdue for a face-lift. The city of St. Petersburg has been holding public meetings to determine exactly what kind of make-over would benefit the pier, and the public, the most. The Pier Task Force Committee held another meeting on Tuesday Feb. 2 to showcase refined proposals to the public on the future of the Pier.

Around 50 residents attended the 7 p.m. meeting at Enoch Davis Center at 1111 18th Ave. South, St Petersburg, FL, 33732, to hear the proposals and voice their concerns and comments. At the last Pier Task Force meeting, held earlier in January, almost 200 residents gathered at the

current pier and to have it located ¼ mile into the bay. Others wanted the Pier to be closer to downtown.

The consultants for the project showed the audience a PowerPoint presentation outlining many of the fundamental issues, goals and concerns with the project. The first key question the presentation asked of the public was, "What is the best role for the Pier?" Some suggestions include marine activities and public venues. The presentation then went on to discuss key concerns such as amount of parking, designating the Pier as a port of call and the best ways to make the redeveloped Pier walking friendly.

The presentation also displayed successful piers around the globe, hoping to provide a few models for the community to consider for their own pier. The Brighton Pier in the



Photo Courtesy of Robert Danielson

About 50 people attended the Pier Task Force Committee meeting to discuss more ideas about the future of the St. Petersburg Pier.

St. Petersburg Coliseum listen to six possible proposals for the future of the Pier. At this most recent meeting, the changes made to those proposals were discussed and more details explained.

"There are not really 3 final proposals," said Robert Danielson, marketing manager for St. Petersburg. "This is still very much an evolving process."

About half of the locals at the meeting spoke about their hopes and concerns. Many people wanted to ensure that

United Kingdom was built in 1899 and houses an amusement park, restaurants and bars. Another pier showcased in the presentation, The Navy Pier in Chicago, IL, built in 1916, consists of a Children's Museum, an IMAX Theatre, an amusement park and 40,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space.

The basic discussions have come down to keeping the Pier as it currently stands or keep it the same, but narrow the approach to cut down on costs.

2010 Census counts not just the population

BY: SARA PALMER
PINELLAS NEWS

The Olympics and NASA's last space shuttle mission are only a few of the noteworthy events the nation will witness in 2010.

Occurring once every ten years since 1790, the United States will once again send out questionnaires to take a proverbial head count of the country's population.

"I have no idea," said Chris Dell, 21, Sarasota resident, when asked why the census is important. "It's for keeping tabs on the population right?"

While Dell's answer is correct, the 2010 U.S. Census is not just a simple count of the population. The results from the census will determine the amount of money a community may receive from the federal government.

There is almost \$400 billion in funds waiting to be dispersed for necessities such as hospi-

tals, schools, senior centers, job training centers, emergency services and public works projects such as bridges and tunnels, according to the official U.S. Census Web site.

"I think it [the 2010 census] is very important because it allows us to get an accurate 'snap shot' of what areas need what resources and services," said Faye Moss, 31, a resident of St. Petersburg.

The cost of not being counted is higher than you think. According to a report commissioned by the U.S. Census Monitoring Board, about 3.4 million people nationwide were uncounted in the 2000 Census resulting in many states losing \$4.1 billion in federal funding.

In March 2010 the official census forms, consisting of 10 questions, will be mailed out to every residence in the United States. This survey is one of the shortest in U.S. census history, with questions such as "How many people live in your household" and listing the age and birthmate for each person in the household.

Some citizens have expressed concern about the confidentiality of the census. However, according to the official census Web site, all of the information entered in the questionnaire is protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code.

The questionnaire comes complete with a postage-paid envelope to make it more convenient for people to send their answers back. If the form is not returned, a census taker will visit the household to ask the questions in person.



Photo Courtesy of Robert Danielson

The Brighton Pier in the U.K. is one of the examples the consultants showed during their presentation at the Enoch Davis Center.

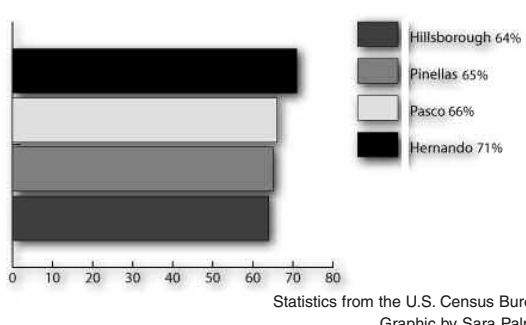
the future design will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other concerns were for the economy. Some who spoke hope to see minority or locally owned business help with the redevelopment and ensuring that the vendors currently at the pier are able to stay open during the redevelopment

Some of the public voiced strong opinions to preserve the

Tearing down the current approach, rebuilding with two bridges and then filling the middle with programming is another suggestion. Other ideas are to completely tear down the Pier and rebuild it inspired by one of the various suggested models.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the J.W. Cate Center 5801 22nd Ave. N.

Percentage of Tampa Bay residents who participated in the 2000 Census.



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THE WEEK'S WEATHER

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NEWS 2 USE

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Deadline: Friday for the following Friday

EVENTS CALENDAR

Today, Friday, February 5, 2010

Jan. 22 to Feb. 7 Anything Goes: St. Pete Little Theatre, 4025 31st St. S. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m. www.splt.org or 727-866-1973. This delightful musical is the age-old tale of "boy-meets-girl" and the complications that ensue on a trans-Atlantic voyage.

Get Downtown First Friday Music Series: On Que Players: Central Ave. btwn. 2nd and 3rd St. 5:30 p.m. www.breakfastoptimist.org or 727-393-3597. Get downtown and get down with the fun. Join us for great jazz, a lively crowd and all the fun you can handle, right in the heart of downtown.

St. Pete Shuffle: St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts, 559 Lake Dr. N. St. Petersburg, FL. 7 to 11 p.m. Mirror Come out and enjoy a hip twist to an old game under the stars. Fun family activity. All equipment is provided and instruction is available. The "World's Largest Shuffleboard Club" promotes and sponsors year-round competitive and recreational outdoor shuffleboard play on 65 courts. Every Fri. www.stpeteshuffle.com or 727-822-2083.

Salsa Dancing: The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E., St. Petersburg, FL. 9 p.m. to midnight. Salsa dancing inside Captain Al's Waterfront Restaurant. Come early at 8:30 p.m. for free Salsa lessons. Have fun dancing the night away. www.stpetepier.com or 727-821-6443.

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Nature's Elements: Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. www.stpete.org/boyd or 727-893-7326. For ages 4 to 7, an adventure with Damon "Chep" Chepren. Children will learn about butterflies, plants, gopher tortoises, and many other species. Trips into the preserve will provide an exhilarating learning experience.

Face Painting by Joanne Conte: The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Face Painting can be found at The Pier every Saturday with face painter extraordinaire - Joanne Conte - on hand to create full face, hand, cheek, arm or leg images for your child or you! Every Sat. www.stpetepier.com or 727-821-6443.

Saturday Guided Hikes. Weedon Island Preserve. 1800 Weedon Dr. N.E. 9 to 11 a.m. www.pinellascounty.org/environment or call 727-453-6500. Guided hikes through coastal mangrove and upland ecosystems of the Preserve. Join us to learn about the coastal environment and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve. Be sure to bring water and a snack for this two-hour hike. A hat and closed-toe shoes are also recommended. Pre-registration required.

Kids and Kubs vs. The City Hall Stars: North Shore Ball Park, Bayshore Dr. N.E. and 8th Ave. 10 a.m. 727-893-7108. Annual baseball game with the City Council and Mayor playing the famed senior leaguers. The 80th year celebration of the Kids & Kubs baseball team. TASC0 games and activities, The Rays Street Team will be on hand cheering on the the teams during the fun-filled day.

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Music Fest on the Water. The Pier: 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 1 to 4 p.m. www.stpetepier.com or 727-821-6443. Every week The Pier hosts a new musical act for your listening pleasure waterside.

American Stage After Hours Series: THE DUMB SHOW: American Stage Theatre Company, 163 3rd St. N. 8 p.m. www.americanstage.org or 727-823-7529. Times can vary. A hilarious, irreverent take on the world, starting with a simple audience suggestion, after which Hawk and Wayne create a series of characters and scenes that showcase the best and worst of humanity, and will have you laughing and shaking your head in wonder at the same time. Performance admission is pay-what-you-can. First Sunday monthly.

Green Market and Street Fair: Grand Central District, between 2400 to 2600 blocks on Central Ave. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.grandcentraldistrict.org or 727-328-7086. Fun, music and great shopping. Enjoy a festive atmosphere and stroll through an eclectic variety of antique, retail shops and restaurants.

Monday, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Celebrity Critter of the Week: The Pier Aquarium. 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every Monday a Celebrity Critter of the Week is chosen in the aquarium. Ask for a copy of the Animal Fact Sheet at the admission desk. You can also ask for sheets on previously featured celebrities. www.pieraquarium.org or 727-895-7437.

Jan. 8 to Feb. 1 - "Through The Eyes of My City, It's James" Photography by James Whittinghill: Studio@620, 620 1st Ave. S. Days and hours vary. www.studio620.org or 727-895-6620.

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Awaken Yoga at Sunken Gardens: 1825 4th St. N. Breathe in and relax. Every Tues. and Thurs. \$8/class or \$28/monthly. www.sunkengardens.org or 727-551-3102.

Natural History Speaker Series; Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. 1101 Country Club Way S. 7:30 p.m. Fascinating presentations on the natural and cultural history of Florida. Through April. www.stpete.org/boyd or 727-893-7326.

Walk On the Wild Side: Evening Fitness Walk. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S. 6 to 7 p.m. www.stpete.org/boyd or 727-893-7326. Every Tuesdays and Thursdays. Join Holly Harriman, a Neuromuscular Massage Therapist, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. in a 45 minute walk designed for the working professional to work on the stiffness that comes from sitting or standing too long. Walk includes warm-up and cool down. \$4 each day.

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Jungle Boogie: Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, FL. 11:15 a.m. For ages 3 to 5, from crafts to walks in the Preserve, your child will learn about Florida's natural ecosystems, animals and plants. Every Wed. www.stpete.org/boyd or 727-893-7326.

Tampa Bay Senior Expo: Coliseum, 535 4th St. N. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.stpete.org/coliseum or 727-892-5202.

Guided Tram Tours. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve: 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, FL. Tues. through Sat. 1 p.m. and Sat. at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Ranger guided tram tour through Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. www.stpete.org/boyd or 727-893-7326.

Oldies But Goodies Dance: The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. Noon to 3 p.m. www.stpetepier.com or 727-821-6443. The second and fourth Wednesdays at The Pier are alive with the sounds of Big Band music! The dance floor is all yours to enjoy with your friends or that special honey! Come alone or with some friends, this is a great way to meet new people. The Downtowners play the second Wednesday of each month and the Ron Berringer Trio on the fourth Wed.

Coffee with a Curator. Museum of Fine Arts. The Dali Museum, 1000 3rd St. S. 10:15 a.m. www.thedali.org or 727-823-3767. A special monthly tour or PowerPoint talk presented by one of the Dali Museum's Curatorial/Education team held on the first Wednesday of each month. Join us for complimentary Starbucks coffee and refreshments in the museum store at 10:15 followed at 10:30 by a focused, theme-oriented gallery tour with one of the Dali Museum's curatorial staff.

Thursday, FEBRUARY 11, 2010

The Kenny Drew Jr. Trio: The Palladium at SPC, 253 5th Ave. N. 7:30 p.m. www.mypalladium.org or 727-822-3590.

Mayor's Night Out: J.W. Cate Center, 5801 22nd Ave. N. 7 p.m. www.stpete.org or 727-893-7465. A new program for St. Petersburg residents to have the opportunity to have face-to-face access with the mayor and public officials in their own neighborhoods. Mayor's Night Out will travel from council district to district, beginning on Feb. 11 in District One. Residents are invited to attend one, any or all of the sessions regardless of in which district they reside. For more information about Mayor's Night Out, contact the city at 727-893-7465.

TREASURE ISLAND MUNICIPAL MARINA JOINS FLORIDA'S CLEAN MARINAS PROGRAM

TREASURE ISLAND – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), together with the Clean Boating Partnership, today recognized the City of Treasure Island Municipal Marina as the 213th member of the Florida Clean Marina program, and the 23rd Clean Marina in Pinellas County. The program, which recognizes marinas and boatyards for their commitment to the protection of Florida's natural resources, now boasts 213 Clean Marinas, 31 Clean Boatyards and 10 Clean Marine Retailers statewide.

"Florida has more than 2,000 marinas, and facilities such as the City of Treasure Island Municipal Marina play an important role in the protection of our waterways and marine resources," said Deborah Getzoff, Director of DEP's Southwest District Office. "This marina has taken the initiative to preserve the state's natural resources and lead the boating industry by example."

The Florida Clean Marina program is a voluntary designation program with a proactive approach to environmental stewardship. To become designated as a Clean Marina, facilities must implement a set of environmental measures designed to protect Florida's waterways. These measures address critical environmental issues such as sensitive habitat, waste management, stormwater control, spill prevention and emergency preparedness.

"The City of Treasure Island is truly honored to have been awarded the Clean Marina Designation by the State of Florida," said Cathy Hayduke, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Treasure Island. "As a coastal community it is important to provide clean, safe and accessible boating fa-

ilities for our residents and guests."

The Clean Boating Partnership is a consortium of industry leaders who contribute time and input to the Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard, Clean Marine Retailer and Clean Boater programs which DEP administers to protect Florida's waterways. The partnership includes DEP, Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida Sea Grant Program, United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"The Clean Boating Partnership applauds the City of Treasure Island Municipal Ma-

guarding the state's natural resources. By providing green education and alternatives the Florida Clean Marina program helps ensure a sustainable future for the environment and a billion dollar marine industry. For more information about the Florida Clean Marina program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/clean-marina.

DEP's Office of Sustainable Initiatives is comprised of three voluntary, non-regulatory programs that assist Florida industry and citizens in protecting the environment. The Florida Clean Marina program, the Clean Vessel Act grant program and the Florida Green Lodging program offer a vari-



Photo Courtesy of Jeff Jensen

rina for its commitment to Florida's environment," said the Partnership's Chair Mark Leslie. "The dedication and hard work in becoming a Clean Marina is an accomplishment this facility can be proud of and we welcome it to our growing Clean Marina family.

With more than one million registered motorized vessels in Florida, environmental education within marine industries is the first step toward safe-

ety of services including on-site assessments, consultations, speakers and workshops, all at no cost to citizens or organizations. The goal of the Sustainable Initiatives programs is to meet the needs of the present population without compromising resources for future generations. To learn more about DEP's Sustainable Initiatives, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/green.

City of Clearwater honored by Homeland Security

CLEARWATER- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications recently released a report praising the City of Clearwater and participating agencies for successful communications during the Foster Grant Ironman World Championship 70.3 held in Clearwater on Nov. 14, 2009. The team was recognized during the Thursday, Feb. 4 Clearwater Council Meeting.

"It's quite an accomplishment, for so many agencies to

come together communicate effectively and run such a smooth operation," said Clearwater Emergency Manager, Rick Carnley. During the Ironman event, local, state and federal agencies worked together behind the scenes to ensure a smooth operation and safe event. A DHS observation team visited the City of Clearwater's Emergency Operations Center to critique the multi-agency response.

The DHS Office of Emergency Communications determined Tampa Bay Area agen-

cies successfully demonstrated response-level emergency communications according to the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP). The purpose of the plan is to improve interoperable emergency communications during daily operations, as well as responses to natural or man-made disasters. The plan establishes a base for response-level communications for emergency response agencies across the nation.

New \$8,000 homebuyer tax credit

Are you in a catch-22? Ready to buy right now, but need the \$8,000 tax credit to meet your cash requirement? Can't get the \$8,000 until after you buy? There must be a way out of this, right? There is! Pinellas County can help first-time homebuyers take advantage of the \$8,000 First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit. You might be able to get your cash now and repay it when you get your refund. Call now, to find if you qualify.

If you are a veteran or have not owned a home in the past three years, Pinellas County may be able to help. You can have a maximum household income of \$75,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for joint filers. Loans carry 0% interest and repayment is due 10 days after you receive your refund. In some cases, repayment may be extended for up



Photo Courtesy of Stock Exchange

to 18 months. According to Anthony M. Jones, Director, Pinellas County Community Development, "This program will be a great help to homebuyers who want to take advantage of the \$8,000 tax credit and need assistance in advance."

Properties located inside the city limits of Clearwater, Largo, St. Petersburg and

Belleair Shore are not eligible for these programs. Interested homebuyers in those communities should contact those cities directly for information programs they offer.

For additional information, contact Pinellas County Community Development at 727-464-8210.

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ROBERT M. POTTER
PUBLISHER

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“SAFEGUARD OUR SENIORS” LEGISLATION PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY

TALLAHASSEE –Florida CFO Alex Sink commended the Florida Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance for unanimously passing Safeguard our Seniors legislation (SB 844) sponsored by Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Maria Lorts Sachs. The legislation will hold those who prey on Florida’s seniors accountable by increasing the penalty for unscrupulous agents to a third degree felony and establishing better disclosures and protections upfront for seniors who invest in annuity products.

CFO Sink is continuing her fight to protect Florida’s seniors, after these proposals were blocked during the 2009 session by special interests who did not want to hold these deceptive insurance agents accountable. Last year, the

Safeguard our Seniors bill passed the Florida Senate unanimously, but failed to be heard in the Florida House. CFO Sink expressed hope that the Florida House would make protecting seniors a priority this year.

“Today’s vote is a significant first step toward offering Florida’s seniors the protection they deserve and holding those who try to prey on our seniors accountable, and I thank Senator Bennett for his continued work to address this issue,” said CFO Sink. “Unfortunately, we have had even more seniors come forward with complaints about annuities scams, with our department investigating 277 annuity cases in 2009 alone. It is my hope that this session Florida’s lawmakers will put the interests of Florida’s seniors above the special interests, and pass this important bill.”

Two years ago, CFO Sink created a Safeguard our Seniors Task Force to examine and recommend solutions to better protect Florida seniors from being robbed of their life savings after being lured into purchasing unsuitable financial products. The Safeguard Our Seniors Task Force includes representatives from AARP Florida, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the Insurance Consumer Advocate, the Offices of Insurance Regulation and Financial Regulation, NAACP, the Florida Bar, the American Council of Life Insurers, insurance agents and securities broker-dealers. The Safeguard our Seniors legislation was developed from recommendations by the task force.

To learn more about the Safeguard Our Seniors Task Force or what to consider when purchasing annuities, visit www.flseniors.net/. Senior Floridians who believe they may have been the victim of annuity fraud should call 1-877-My-FL-CFO or log on to www.MyFloridaCFO.com to file a complaint.

Dog of the Week Mackenzie



Photo courtesy of SPCA

Mackenzie “Kenzie” came from a puppy mill type environment, where she was completely unsocialized and ridden with parasites. She has been treated for heartworms, intestinal parasites, and has been in a foster home to learn to trust people again. She has come a long way, but will still need time and patience. She loves long walks, is house trained, and has a gentle soul. Come see her and she’ll steal your heart at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave N in Largo, or call 727-586-3591.

Cat of the Week King Triton



Photo courtesy of SPCA

King Triton is regal and independent. He got his name because he only has three legs. This gentleman is very curious and he will come over to meet you. I hope you like kitty rubs because that what he does...he loves to get close. This handsome cat also loves to sit on a porch surveying the rest of the animal kingdom. If you have room in your castle for this special guy, he would like to make your acquaintance. The King has lived with dogs and he is de-clawed. Visit King Triton today at SPCA Tampa Bay, 9099 130th Ave N in Largo, or call 727-586-3591.

If passed, “Safeguard our Seniors” promises to

Limit the surrender charge period for an annuity sold to a senior consumer to ten years and the surrender charge to 10 percent.

Extend the “free look” period for the purchase of an annuity by a senior consumer from 14 to 30 days.

Authorize the Department to require an agent to make monetary restitution to a senior consumer they’ve harmed.

Prohibit the Department from issuing another license to a former licensee who has had his or her license revoked resulting from the solicitation or sale of an insurance product to a senior consumer.

Require an insurer to provide a cover sheet attached to the policy when an annuity is issued informing the purchaser about the free look period and about how to contact the insurer and the department if they have questions about the annuity

UF research finds that ‘killer’ bees haven’t stung U.S. honey production

BY: STU HUTSON
UF/IFAS

GAINESVILLE— In just a few years after Africanized honey bees were introduced to Brazil in 1956, the aggressive bees had dominated and ruined domestic hives throughout South and Central America. According to University of Florida research, however, the same story isn’t playing out in North America.

According to an economic analysis from UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, since their arrival in the U.S. in October 1990, Africanized honey bees (often called killer bees) haven’t had a substantial economic impact on the honey production of domestic hives—even after spreading throughout 10 states.

The analysis, published online by the journal of Ecological Economics, seems to indicate virtually no hive loss to the bees — any economic loss was likely due to the cost of preventive measures

taken by hive keepers to keep the Africanized bees away, said Charles Moss, one of the analysts behind the report and a professor in UF’s department of food and resource economics.

“This helps to show that the primary concerns with Africanized honey bees are liability and safety, which are everyone’s concern and aren’t strictly attached to beekeepers,” Moss said. “Beekeepers already have a much more pressing economic concern from Colony Collapse Disorder.”

CCD is a mysterious phenomenon which has reduced the population of honeybees in the U.S. by about a third every year since 2006.

Moss said that the analysis indicates that beekeepers have been taking the optimal actions to reduce the effects of Africanized bees — actions such as those widely promoted by state agencies.

“I am not surprised about the lack of effect of Africanized bees on honey production,” said Jamie Ellis of UF’s Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory, who helps inform Florida’s beekeepers on how to deal with Africanized bees.

Ellis, who did not participate in the economic analysis, says beekeepers usually change their management styles when Africanized bees are in the area. These steps can reliably keep Africanized bees from overtaking domestic hives.

...some beekeepers may lose money if they choose to leave lucrative bee-removal businesses due to worries about Africanized bee encounters...

However, certain factors, such as the need to replace queen bees more often, may drive costs up. And some beekeepers may lose money if they choose to leave lucrative bee-removal businesses due to worries about Africanized bee encounters.

Jerry Hayes, head of apiary inspection at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, worries that a more severe economic impact on beekeepers may come from overzealous zoning of domestic beekeepers due to misguided worries that having domestic bees may attract the Africanized bees.

“Honey is a byproduct of pollination, which is the most important aspect of managed honey bees, he said. “If beekeepers are zoned, ordained and restricted out of areas because of fear — then it is people putting the strain on the keepers and their ability to produce, not the Africanized bees.”



Photo Courtesy of USF

Cell phone exposure may protect against Alzheimer’s disease

TAMPA— The millions of people who spend hours every day on a cell phone, may have a new excuse for yakking. A surprising new study in mice provides the first evidence that long-term exposure to electromagnetic waves associated with cell phone use may actually protect against, and even reverse, Alzheimer’s disease. The study, led by University of South Florida researchers at the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC), was published today in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

“It surprised us to find that cell phone exposure, begun in early adulthood, protects the memory of mice otherwise destined to develop Alzheimer’s symptoms,” said lead author Gary Arendash, PhD, Research Professor at the Florida ADRC. “It was even more astonishing that the electromagnetic waves generated by cell phones actually reversed memory impairment in old Alzheimer’s mice.”

The researchers showed that exposing old Alzheimer’s mice to electromagnetic waves generated by cell phones erased brain deposits of the harmful protein beta-amyloid, in addition to preventing the protein’s build-up in younger Alzheimer’s mice. The sticky brain plaques formed by the abnormal accumulation of beta amyloid are a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease. Most treatments against Alzheimer’s try to target beta-amyloid.

The highly-controlled study allowed researchers to isolate the effects of cell phone exposure on memory from other lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise. It involved 96 mice, most of which were genetically altered to develop

beta-amyloid plaques and memory problems mimicking Alzheimer’s disease as they aged. Some mice were non-demented, without any genetic predisposition for Alzheimer’s, so researchers could test the effects of electromagnetic waves on normal memory as well.

Both the Alzheimer’s and normal mice were exposed to the electromagnetic field generated by standard cell phone use for two 1-hour periods each day for seven to nine months. The mice didn’t wear tiny headsets or have scientists holding cell phones up to their ears; instead, their cages were arranged around a centrally-located antenna generating the cell phone signal. Each animal was housed the same distance from the antenna and exposed to electromagnetic waves typically emitted by a cell phone pressed up against a human head.

If cell phone exposure was started when the genetically-programmed mice were young

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adults -- before signs of memory impairment were apparent -- their cognitive ability was protected. In fact, the Alzheimer’s mice performed as well on tests measuring memory and thinking skills as aged mice without dementia. If older Alzheimer’s mice already exhibiting memory problems were exposed to the electromagnetic waves, their memory

See Phone PG 5



Photo Courtesy of Stock Exchange

USF Places 13 Bulls on the BIG EAST All-Academic Football Team

TAMPA - The University of South Florida was well represented on the BIG EAST All-Academic Football Team as 13 Bulls were selected for the honor, the league announced Tuesday.

USF's 13 honorees are the fifth-most in the league, trailing UConn (16), Rutgers (15), Louisville (14) and Syracuse (14). USF also made the biggest improvement in players on the list, up from last season's eight.

Senior punter Delbert Alvarado and junior offensive lineman Jacob Sims made their third appearance on the team while senior safety Nate Allen and sophomore wide receiver Patrick Richardson are both two-time honorees. Alvarado

and Allen are majoring in communications, Sims is pursuing his degree in business administration and Richardson is studying criminology.

Senior wide receiver Colby Erskin (criminology) and junior kicker Eric Schwartz (secondary education) are upperclassmen making their first appearance on the all-academic team.

Sophomores listed include kicker Maikon Bonani (physical education), offensive lineman Chaz Hine (business administration) and running back Joel Miller (communications).

Four freshmen were selected to the squad, including



Freshman quarterback/wide receiver Evan Landi on the All-Star Academic Team.

linebackers Michael Lanaris (business administration) and Armando Sanchez (communications), wide receiver Tyler Stowell (secondary education) and quarterback/wide receiver Evan Landi (communications).

To be nominated for the 106-member All-Academic Football Team, a student-athlete must maintain a 3.0 grade point average after at least two semesters of college.

USF Womens Basketball Stampede over Villanova 61-51

TAMPA - If there was ever any proof to the fact that you had better come to play every night when your team plays in one of the best women's basketball conferences in America, then tonight supported that theory.

The University of South Florida women's basketball team used a 26-8 run during the last 12:50 of tonight's game to erase a 12-point second half deficit en route to a hard fought 61-51 win over Villanova tonight at the Sun Dome.

The Bulls started off the game hot offensively going 4-9 (44.4 percent) from the field in the first 4:05 while the Wildcats were just shooting at a 25.0 percent (1-4) clip during the same stretch.

The Bulls, however, would go cold as Villanova used a 19-5 run to extend its lead to what would be, at that point, a game-high nine points, 22-13, on a lay-up by Laura Sweeney with

4:22 left in the half.

The Wildcats (11-10, 0-8 BIG EAST) would eventually take a 30-21 lead into the locker room at the intermission. The Bulls would come out in the second half on a 9-2 run to cut into the Villanova lead on a jumper by Janae Stokes to bring USF to within three, 32-29, with 16:50 left in the game.

The Bulls would then go on its run chipping away at the Villanova lead, before "Doomes Day" occurred for the Wildcats.

After Stokes cut the Villanova lead to one-point, 51-50 with 4:06 remaining, Leondra Doomes-Stephens would give USF its first lead, 52-51, since the 15:25 mark of the first half when it held a slight 8-6 advantage.

That would be the first of three consecutive field goals for Doomes-Stephens who would break the game open hitting a jumper with 1:38 left

in the game, to give the Bulls a 56-51 lead. They would never look back going 5-5 from the free throw line in the final 58 second of the game.

KaNeisha Saunders led the way for USF with 15 points and a game-high nine rebounds in 40 minutes of action. She would also add three assists and blocked shot in the win.

USF would finish the game hitting 39.6 percent (21-53) of its shots from the field.

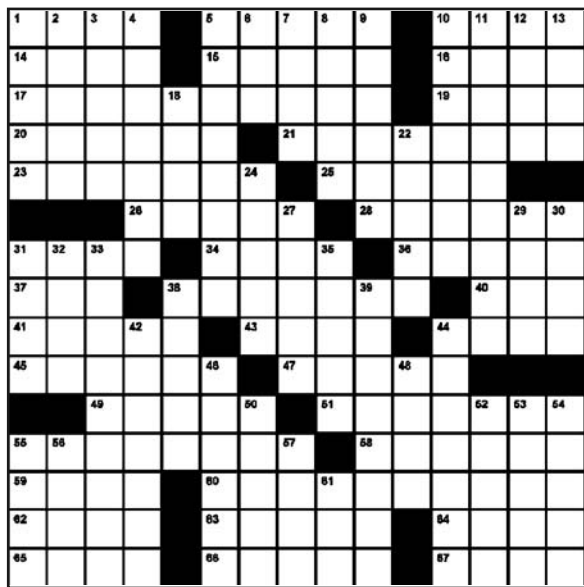
In addition, the Bulls would commit a season low nine turnovers in the win, and, outrebounded the Wildcats 43-26 - including a 15-5 margin on the offensive glass in the win. It would mark the fifth straight game that USF had outrebounded its opponent.

The Bulls will close out the short two-game stretch on Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. when Rutgers visits the Sun Dome.

Crossword Puzzle

for Answers see Page 5

www.BestCrosswords.com

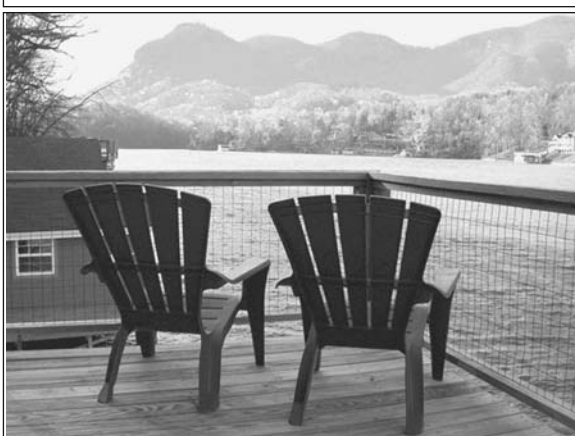


- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1- Take ___ from me; | Down |
| 5- Marner's creator | 1- Inner self (Jung) |
| 10- Franklin D.'s mother | 2- Medicine |
| 14- Brief letter, paper money | 3- Pisa place |
| 15- Compass point | 4- Footstalk |
| 16- Play thing | 5- Asked |
| 17- Lacking | 6- Bud's bud |
| 19- CPR experts | 7- Some nest eggs |
| 20- Surroundings | 8- Aquatic mammal |
| 21- Simple | 9- Short essays |
| 23- Non-repetitive | 10- Bee entrant |
| 25- Stagers | 11- Truce |
| 26- Aluminum-bronze coin of Iceland | 12- Campus mil. group |
| 28- Boil | 13- Church recess |
| 31- Knot in wool | 18- Slippery |
| 34- Nights before | 22- Golfer Calvin |
| 36- Experiment | 24- Polite |
| 37- Bass, e.g. | 27- Advert |
| 38- Building | 29- Bristles |
| 40- The Company | 30- Dash |
| 41- Below: prefix | 31- Enticement |
| 43- Letterman rival | 32- Forearm bone |
| 44- Sea swallow | 33- Speculum |
| 45- "Honor Thy Father" author | 35- Nasal cavity |
| 47- Cuban dance | 38- Art supporter |
| 49- Choose | 39- Consist of |
| 51- Trysail | 42- Trustful |
| 55- Rod-shaped | 44- Hybrid citrus fruit |
| 58- Delight | 46- Cream cake |
| 59- Hammett hound | 48- "It's ___ real" |
| 60- Self-denial | 50- Forbidden |
| 62- Boxer Spinks | 52- Artificial waterway |
| 63- Little bits | 53- 1961 Heston role |
| 64- Put down | 54- Orchestra section |
| 65- Fruit-filled pie | 55- Latvian, e.g. |
| 66- Path | 56- Between ports |
| 67- Auto pioneer; | 57- Queue after Q |
| | 61- Make lace |

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RECIPE of the Week

Caramel-Drizzled Brownie Hearts

Prep Time: 20 min
 Total Time: 2 hours 15 min
 Makes: 12 brownie hearts

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box (1 lb 6.5 oz) Betty Crocker® Original Supreme brownie mix
- Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on brownie mix box bag (14 oz) caramels, unwrapped
- 3 tablespoons whipping cream
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Line bottom and sides of 13x9-inch pan with foil. Grease bottom only of foil with shortening or cooking spray. Make brownie mix as directed on box, using pouch of chocolate syrup, water, oil and eggs. Bake as directed for 13x9-inch pan. Cool completely, about 1 hour.
2. Using foil to lift, remove brownie from pan. Remove foil. With deep 3-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut 12 brownies.
3. In medium microwavable bowl, microwave caramels and whipping cream uncovered on High 1 to 3 minutes, stirring every minute, until caramels are melted.
4. Arrange brownies on serving plate. Drizzle caramel mixture over brownies. Sprinkle with pecans loosely covered.



VARIATION

Make double-chocolate brownie hearts by drizzling with chocolate syrup instead of the caramel.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION

Calories 380 (from Fat 130)
 Fat 14g (Saturated 3 1/2g, Trans 0g)
 Cholesterol 35mg
 Sodium 220mg
 Total Carbohydrate 59g
 Dietary Fiber 1g
 Sugars 38g
 Protein 4

PERCENT DAILY VALUE

Vitamin A 0%
 Vitamin C 0%
 Calcium 6%
 Iron 0%

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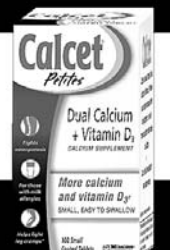
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