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Friday, September 17, 2010 - Vol. XVIII, Issue 36

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LBTS officials push for zero increase in tax rate, find a little extra for charity

By Judy Vik

PELICAN WRITER

LBTS - The majority of property owners in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea will see a tax decrease if town commissioners approve its tax rate of 4.0900 mils to fund its \$15,756,155 budget.

Commissioner Birute Ann Clottey dissented.

Clottey expressed concerns about residents who will see tax increases and said she doesn't want to see taxes increase. She asked how many residents will see an increase in property

See **LBTS TAX RATE** on page 8



At Parkway United Methodist Church in Pompano Beach, feeding the hungry has become a reality by planting gardens and sharing the harvest. See story on page on page 18.

Taxes up in Wilton Manors to cover shortfall

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Wilton Manors - City commissioners say any more cuts in the budget will mean cuts to basic services.

So, facing an \$846,000 budget shortfall, they unanimously voted Monday to raise the operating millage rate to 6.0855, an increase of 0.2855 mills from the current 5.8000 rate.

That, combined with the debt service millage rates, 0.2654 for the 1999 parks bond and 0.4974 for the 2008 city hall bond, brings the entire proposed millage to 6.8483. A final public

See **WILTON MANORS TAX** on page 16

Town wants competitive bids for garbage service

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Hillsboro Beach - Despite a contract that contains a spiff for the summer months and "impeccable service," commissioners have voted to get bids for garbage service. The current three-year contract with Waste Management is coming to an end and the company which has serviced the town for years is willing to do the work for the same \$277,000 it cost in 2009-10.

There is also the chance the contract will be lowered by \$75,000 when an incinerator bond sunsets, Commissioner Rhea Weiss said.

But her fellow commissioners were unhappy with Weiss for not moving forward to advertise for garbage collection bids as they had voted at their last meeting.

See **HILLSBORO BRIEFS** on page 24

Pelican staff welcomes Zion Lutheran senior as intern

By Jasmine Labrousse

PELICAN INTERN

I am excited to write as the newest intern at *The Pelican*.

So a little bit about me. I was born in New York, but I don't think moving to Florida at age three classifies me as an authentic New Yorker. I definitely am a Floridian; 65 degrees is below freezing.

My parents agree. Coming from El Salvador and Haiti, they weren't too fond of the cold either. So my parents, my older brother and I moved to the Sunshine State in 1997.

I'm a senior at Zion Lutheran Christian School. I love Florida. I'm president of my class. I am a die-hard fan of movies and photography.

Much to my dismay, the demands of my senior year have recently

decided to throw my social life and hobbies down the drain. Yes you heard right, my friends; senior year is taking up every minute of every day. You're probably wondering "What could possibly take up that much time?"

Three words. Scholastic Aptitude Test, or the infamous SAT.

My newest mantra, "It's all worth it" keeps me going. My dream college is NYU to major in journalism. Watch this newspaper for updates on the Zion Lions.



LABROUSSE

Code enforcement may change in Pompano

By Marise Estime

PELICAN WRITER

Pompano Beach - Code enforcement in Pompano Beach is very likely going to leave the auspices of the Broward Sheriff's Office, or BSO, and wind up with a private vendor.

After reviewing responses from three companies, commissioners rated Calvin, Giordano & Associates, or CGA, as the top ranked contender for the job.

BSO did not respond to the bids. Some commissioners took the non-response as a message that BSO didn't want the job.

Commissioner Barry Dockswell

See **CODE ENFORCEMENT** on page 9

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Hillsboro Beach commissioners pledge wage freezes, more cuts to new budget

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Hillsboro Beach —In a marathon-like session Monday evening which had been preceded by a meeting with the police union in the morning and a regular commission meeting in the afternoon, commissioners examined almost every line item in the proposed 2010-11, \$6 million budget.

At the end of the five-hour budget meeting, almost \$300,000 had been cut from operating and water funds giving the residents a sight break in the proposed millage rate.

But the big break is yet to come. The commission voted 3 to 2 to freeze em-

ployee wages and benefits for the new fiscal year, a savings yet to be calculated by Finance Director Elizabeth Black. Said Lee Bennett, the commissioner in charge of finance, “My goal would be a zero increase in ad valorem taxes. The biggest obstacle is the \$100,000 hike in the fire contract.”

Deerfield Beach provides fire/rescue service to Hillsboro Beach and is raising the fire fee for residential units by \$36. For Hillsboro Beach, the increase is nearly \$100,000 of the \$800,000 contract. Another new expense is \$100,000 budgeted for trucks and patrol cars.

Freezing salaries is not about “penalizing,” Bennett

said pointing out that no city is giving employee’s raises for next year. Hillsboro Beach employees also get fully-funded pension and health insurance benefits for themselves and their families. “I’d like to see us slowly withdraw our payment for the families,” Bennett said. Pointing to sick leave benefits he added, “It’s a bonus for showing up. It’s acceptable to be off five percent of the time.”

Commissioner Celinda Sawtelle, who voted with Bennett and Commissioner Rhea Weiss to freeze wages said, “Because we don’t have the money to hire a city manager, we have people in positions of lesser responsibility. What is not assumed by staff falls to the commissioners. I have an unbelievable work load as a commissioner. To give the same person more money for doing the same job is irresponsible when we have citizens who are going bankrupt.”

“The employees may be unhappy with me, but I will fight against raises. Two years ago I fought for them. Each year brings its own situation. I still think cuts can be made, but I won’t do it if we have to sacrifice our reserve funds.”

The commission meets again Sept. 24, 5 p.m. to work with new numbers and possibly set a lower millage rate.

Originally set at 3.800 mills, the rate after Monday’s cuts is 3.490 mills per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Homeowners who paid \$666 in municipal taxes this year for a home appraised at \$275,000 will pay \$785 in the next fiscal year which begins October 1. Owners of a home valued at \$1 million will pay \$893 more for town services for a total of \$3,705.

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Deerfield Beach reduces fire fees, opts for "green" pier and begins tree count at park

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN WRITER

Deerfield Beach - City commissioners voted Monday to take \$474,000 from the undesignated fund balance rather than hike the fire/rescue fee another \$8 per residential unit.

Their action brings the fee back to the administration's initial proposal that it be raised from \$99, where it has stood for four years, to \$135.

The shortfall in balancing the budget occurred when the commission reversed an action taken last month to remove the fee exemption for non-profit organizations that would have raised \$474,000 for the general fund. The commission was responding to a roomful of churchgoers protesting the fee which was based on building square footage.

For churches with large sanctuaries and/or school facilities, the fee amounted to thousands of dollars.

Deerfield initiated the fire fee at \$61 in 2002. The new rate is about average for surrounding cities with Coconut Creek at \$130, Pompano Beach at \$111, Margate at \$225.

LEED design for new pier will add to cost

Deerfield Beach - It will cost an additional \$72,000 to have "green" facilities at the International Fishing Pier. In response to commissioners' request for a LEED (Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design) - certified renovation, architects Garcia

Stromberg submitted a proposal this week outlining the procedures needed to get a silver LEED certification, the second highest ranking.

To achieve the silver, the \$3.5 million renovation of the pier entrance, restaurant and restroom must accumulate

See DEERFIELD BRIEFS on page 15

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Briefs

Workshop for small business owners

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz [FL] is hosting and speaking at a small business workshop aimed at highlighting new aid available to small business owners through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The workshop takes place at the Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, on Sept 25. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Wasserman Schultz is bringing in federal, state and local partners to provide marketing, management and financial guidance during a series of seminars. These partners provide assistance to small businesses through seminars or one-on-one meetings all year. Attendees can pre-register at www.wassermanschultz.house.gov/smallbizevent. Wasserman Schultz will speak at 10 a.m.

Ellyn Bogdanoff campaign event

The women of the Broward Women's Republican Club, Federated will host a reception for Rep. Ellyn Bogdanoff, candidate for the Florida Senate in Dist. 25, on Sept. 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will be held at Fifth Avenue Grill, 4650 N. Federal Hwy., Lighthouse Point. For more, visit www.browardrepublicanwomen.org.

More than a DJ, Joe Balistreri is a multi-media entertainer who creates successful events

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

Joe Balistreri is the kind of a guy who makes a connection to new people easily, and that's an attribute for an entertainer.

A talented, outgoing and super energetic man, he's earned a reputation for turning any occasion into an unforgettable success. *The Pelican* asked Balistreri why the co-owner of a well known local business like Balistreri Realtors, chooses to become an entertainer.

He grins and replies, "I've developed this side vocation because I love music and entertainment. I love parties, weddings, events of all types and I often found myself turning these occasions into something special for family and friends. I began to realize how important entertainment is to an occasion. Think about it. After cocktails and dinner, there's the whole rest of the evening. How that long chunk of time is handled makes all the difference in the world. It takes a professional to turn the rest of the evening into a night to remember."

Balistreri is now the professional who can do that. He meets with the client to discuss the party whether it's a 35 person boutique wedding or a huge public event like Halloween Night in Lighthouse Point or a Pompano Beach July Fourth with fireworks and music on the beach for thousands. "It's important to know what the client hopes to see happen, and then it's my challenge to make it happen," he explains. "My job is to read the crowd and adapt to that audience. Sometimes the guests range in age from 8 to 80. I have 40,000 songs available and



THE ENTERTAINER - Joe Balistreri turned his love of music and parties into an avocation. Since then he's become a professional who turns any event into memorable occasion. [Photo courtesy of My Favorite DJ]

can run the gamut of music choices including swing, Latin, disco, hip hop, rock and the classics old and current."

He lists his equipment available to stage an event: "I have 10 separate powered speakers with over 1,500 feet

of cable, three mixing decks, 40,000 songs, thousands of music videos, two projectors, two outdoor inflatable screens, three indoor screens, three televisions, dance party lighting,

See ENTERTAINER on page 5

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Entertainer

Continued from page 4

corded and cordless mikes, costumes and even sound equipment for bands. Assistant DJ's, emcees and singers are also available."

He continues, "It's hard work but I love it. I just did a Casino Night fund raiser for Florida State University in Palm Beach with celebrities like Burt Reynolds and Heisman Trophy quarterback, Charlie Ward. There were over 300 supporters on hand. I worked from 2 p.m. until 2 a.m. setting up and tearing down sound and lighting. I loved every minute of it. I was happy to have helped to make it a success."

After three hours sleep, he says he was up and raring to go to Florida Atlantic University's Football Fanfest on the Boca campus for the fall scrimmage.

He admits he's a high intensity person with endless energy, saying, "I've been like this forever. I remember a third grade teacher accusing me of having too much sugar for breakfast. It's how I am. I come from a party family. We are six children and Dad was one of six, so we were always having crowds at our house. We have 400 people at our company parties. I became the family's and the company's Hollywood producer."

And his fans agree.

"He's good, really good. He's got the diversity, and important equipment like

screens, lights and video," says Jody Brown. "He's a one-man show. Joe handled our wedding four years ago, and since then he's been handling all of our parties including New Year's Eve every year. My guests have a wonderful time and so do we. Many of them have hired Joe as a result. He certainly has my recommendation."

John Good agrees, saying, "I've known Joe for years, and he's having a ball as an entertainer. He's a natural and has been a wonderful help to me at the Fishing Rodeo and

the Seafood Festival where he handles all of the staging and the entire production. I was also at a class reunion which Joe turned into a huge success. He has a great way of relaxing guests and even involving them in the entertainment. It works every time. People have fun, and so does he."

For information on weddings, parties, corporate events, picnics, awards banquets, holiday parties, charity events, church fund-raisers and political rallies, call 754-235-7010.

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League of Women Voters offer clarification of upcoming proposed changes in Florida Constitution

Thanks to the work of the Florida League of Women Voters, The Pelican is publishing the "Pro's" and "Con's" of the constitutional amendments voters will approve or refuse on Nov. 2. We will publish one amendment every week.

Amendment #1 Repeal of public campaign financing requirement

Ballot Summary: Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution that requires public financing of campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Effect of Passage: Would repeal the public campaign financing requirement in the Florida Constitution, (Article VI, Section 7, Fla. Const.)

Sponsor: The Florida Legislature

Background: Sixty-four percent of Florida voters approved using public financing for campaigns in 1998, raising to constitutional status public financing of statewide campaigns. Article VI, section 7 is implemented by statute which establishes the voluntary campaign spending limits that candidates who accept public financing must adhere to.

In 2005, the Florida legislature dramatically increased the spending limits by more than 300 percent, distorting the original purpose of the public financing system which was to hold down the cost of campaigns.

In 2010, those voluntary spending limits are \$24.9 million in the gubernatorial race and \$12.5 million for other cabinet races. Candidates for governor and four cabinet offices received a total of \$11 million in public funds to finance campaigns in the last statewide election in 2006. The Legislature could reduce the spending limits but have thus far refused to do so.

To qualify for public funding, gubernatorial candidates also must raise at least \$150,000 from Florida residents. Other cabinet candidates must raise \$100,000. Candidates qualify for public financing if they loan themselves no more than \$25,000 and receive no more than \$250,000 from a political party.

A Vote For Amendment #1 . . .

- would end campaign financing that requires expenditure of substantial public monies beginning in the 2014 election cycle.
- would increase the influence of special interests in elections.
- would reduce the number of candidates who can afford to run for office.
- would eliminate what some believe is one of the most significant campaign finance reforms in Florida history.
- would end limits on campaign spending that some believe infringe on the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

A Vote Against Amendment #1:

- would continue the present system of public campaign financing.
- would continue to allow substantial public monies to be used to help finance the political campaigns of candidates who qualify for public financing.

Amendment 4 could be "devastating" says reader

To the editor,

On Nov. 2, Floridians will vote on a constitutional amendment that has potentially devastating consequences for the future of our neighborhoods, towns and cities.

If passed, Amendment 4 would subject all comprehensive land use plans and amendments to a costly referendum process among local governments throughout the state.

Sound planning decisions are vital to the livelihood and success of our

See AMENDMENT 4 on page 11

Foster parents needed in Broward County

To the Editor,

In Florida each year, over 9,000 children are placed into foster care because they experience neglect or abuse in their own homes. Their families are in crisis and their parents are unable to provide for their wellbeing.

Through my work with these young people, I know how resilient they can be. Foster children have an extraordinary capacity to overcome many challenges, but only if they have the support of a caring adult in their lives. What sets foster parents apart is their amazing ability to love a foster child like one of their own, regardless of whether the child lives with them for a month or for more than a year.

Foster parents have the challenging task of providing an atmosphere that helps a child heal and prepare to go back home, if possible, or on to a new permanent home.

See FOSTER PARENTS on page 10

Good idea, and no chicken park!

There have been a number of articles in the press recently about chickens as pets.

The kids love them. They [hens only] are quiet. You have fresh eggs. The taxpayers won't have to pay for a chicken park. There have been no police reports of chickens attacking anyone, and they don't bark all night. The city allows three dogs per household and some have more. We have cats running loose killing birds, but I have never heard of a chicken killing any birds. Chickens don't carry rabies.

How about a trial period?

What's to lose except children having great pets.

Jim Barteld
Pompano Beach

The Kridlow's thank their Dockside fans

To the editor,

The Dockside Galley Grille would like to thank all our friends and patrons for their loyal support and a wonderful nine years.

Unfortunately, we regret that we no longer have a lease. Our landlord did not renew our lease. It is a very sad situation indeed.

I also thank you for the overwhelming amount of affection and support that we have seen these past few weeks as the news got out. We truly have been blessed by the people we have come to know through this restaurant. And in my heart I know we will continue to be blessed!

Keep tuned in to *The Pelican* for updates on a new location. In the mean time we will truly miss you!

The Kridlow Family

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Don't let these animals take the brunt of a bad economy, says reader



To the editor,

With the economy in turmoil, many people are losing their homes. For many of those with larger pets, such as Labrador Retrievers, even if they could afford to care for them, many have to move to smaller, rental type facilities where larger dogs are not allowed.

With many people not knowing where to take them, many have been abandoned in neighborhoods where the owner probably hopes that someone will take them in and give them a good home. These dogs usually end up being taken to the local county Animal Control. Others have been surrendered there and some have even been left inside abandoned homes where only the lucky ones have been rescued.

Labrador Retriever Rescue of Florida has been finding new homes for these wonderful dogs for the past 10 years. It is strictly a volunteer organization that survives on donations and is made up of wonderful people who

See ANIMALS on page 7

Animals

Continued from page 6

bring these dogs into their homes and give them a safe, loving environment until their "forever home" is found.

Those that work for the local county Animal Control have been wonderful about contacting us whenever they have Labs come in to their system, but we are in trouble. We no longer have enough foster homes to take in all of the Labs. That means that many of them will not make it out of the system.

I'm writing this because we need many more people willing to open their homes and foster one of these wonderful dogs.

Please go to our website, www.labradorrescue.net, to read about the many Labs that we have waiting for homes and how you can help us save so many more.

Every Lab that comes into our foster program has been evaluated and examined by veterinarians that work with us, they have been neutered/spayed, they have been checked for heartworm and intestinal parasites and they have been given all of their inoculations, including their rabies vaccination.

They have even been given a microchip so that their new owners can be located if they are ever lost.

This all happens before they enter their foster home. Our fosters only need to supply food, water, shelter and lots of love until they are adopted into their new homes.

Won't you open your home and your heart to one of these wonderful dogs? To contact us you can go to our website, www.labradorrescue.net, or call Pat at 954-647-2266.

Pat Purmort
Pompano Resident

Of Interest . . .

Extreme Pumpkin Weekend with Free Public Carving Demonstration

It won't be your regular carving contest, but these pumpkins offer some great prizes. On Oct. 8 at 4 p.m., the public, chefs and other organizations are invited to a lecture by Tom Nardone, extreme pumpkin carver, followed by a pumpkin carving contest. Prizes range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for the best pumpkins. The event takes place at the Seminole Casino, 5550 NW 40 St., Coconut Creek. Call 954-977-6700 or visit www.seminolecoconutcreekcasinoc.com

Autism walk

Florida Atlantic University's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities will hold a 5K Pumpkin Run on Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the track and field complex at FAU, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. The 5K certified course will take runners through the FAU Boca Raton campus, and begins and ends at the FAU track. The fee to participate is \$10 for anyone under 18 and FAU students. The cost is \$5 for anyone under age 14. For non-FAU students and anyone over 18 there is a \$25 pre-registration fee through Oct. 11 and the cost is \$30 after Oct. 11.

The kids run is for ages 8 and under. There is no fee to participate in the kids run. The kids area will feature a bounce house and a slide. Awards will be given to the top three male/female overall runners, top masters and the top three in five-year age groups, 10 and under, 11 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 24 to 70 plus. Food will be provided by Whole Foods Market and

See AUTISM on page 10

2010 Glam-A-Thon

In honor of friends and family who have fought breast cancer, some have lost and some have won the fight, and some are fighting on – Oakland Park Commissioner Anne Sallee has signed up for the 2010 Glam-A-Thon, a fundraiser to help fight breast cancer. To help Commissioner Sallee, visit www.glam-a-thon.com and join the members of the Fort Lauderdale Women's Club team, Club Diva 100.

We are happy to help promote charitable events for our communities. Call 954-783-8700 or visit pompanopelican.com



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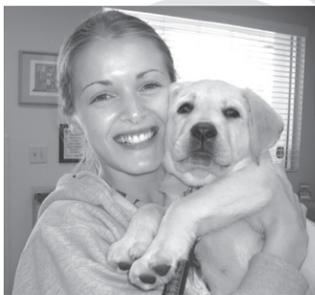
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LBTS tax rate

Continued from page 1

value and a tax increase.

Commissioners are short of their goal to lower the rate to last year's rate of 3.990, but more number crunching needs to take place for that.

"The proposed millage rate you're shooting for will result in a 9 percent decline in revenue," said Connie Hoffmann, interim town manager. Proposed tax revenues at the 3.990 rate would be \$6,736,225. At the present rate, property taxes would produce \$6,889,555.

Property taxes fund less than 50 percent of the town's budget. Other fees such as franchise and utility taxes augment those funds. Parking fees and permits produce \$720,000.

"The majority of property owners will see some kind of tax decrease but not all," said Doug Haag, acting finance/budget director. About two-thirds of property owners are non-homesteaded, and they will see some type of decrease, he said.

Homeowners who have been under the Save Our Homes program since its in-

ception in 1992 in the Florida Legislature have been under a 3 percent cap in property appraisals nearly 20 years. These homeowners are most likely to see a tax increase.

The final budget hearing is set for 6 p.m. Sept. 27. Commissioner Scot Sasser asked Hoffmann her confidence level that they could get to the 3.999 millage rate. "Why not make it that tonight?" he asked. Hoffmann responded that a number of items are still being grappled with, primarily insurance -- health insurance for employees and property and liability insur-

ance. And she wants to see what the county is doing with the sheriff's budget to see if costs will increase.

"We are relatively confident we can do that (reduce the millage), but I would hesitate to confirm that tonight," she said. About \$153,000 still needs to be cut to reach that rate.

A request from the town's chamber leaders was lowered from \$55,000 to \$35,000. They did ask for and receive an additional \$11,159 to fund advertising programs.

Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd said the chamber and the town need to go to Broward County and ask for money to keep running the center.

Commissioners approved a residential fire assessment of \$130. Commercial fees range from \$249 to \$4,985 depending on square footage.

Commissioners approved donations of \$7,387 for the Aging and Disability Resource Center; Women in Distress, \$2,000; Kids Voting Broward, \$1,404; Family Central, \$551; Boy Scouts of America, South Florida Council, \$1,100. The commission did not approve \$2,000 for the Broward Coalition for the Homeless since no one from that agency came to the meeting.

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Code enforcement

Continued from page 1

supported the ranking. "I think we need to be working with an organization and with someone who wants to do the job," said Dockswell. "As far as I can tell BSO hasn't invested in software, and they chose not to respond. I want to work with people who want to do the job."

Dockswell had some opposition from residents. "I don't think this is the time to be manipulating code enforcement. No code enforcement will run smoothly. Let's remain with BSO and tighten things up," said Pompano Beach resident George Cuolahan.

"Right now we have a contract with the sheriff and that does not include code enforcement, said Commission Charlotte Burrie. "Code enforcement is broken and needs to be fixed. Whether it goes to BSO, outsourced or go to the city -we need to fix code enforcement."

Pompano Beach pays 1.4 million dollars to BSO for code inspection. Thirteen inspectors and two administrators oversee the department.

Under the proposed agreement with CGA, the company would have 10 code enforcers and two administrators. The agreement also calls for the city to provide eight pickup trucks for CGA's use.

For 10 years, the city has outsourced code enforcement to BSO as part of its original

contract. Recently the city agreed to a four-year contract for \$38 million with BSO that does not include \$1.4 million for code enforcement. CGA's contract is \$1.2 million.

BSO Code officer Bill Santore said, "I think we need to move very carefully. I have been driving [code enforcement] for eight years. I have seen the improvement in Cresthaven held under code enforcement. To go somewhere else will cause serious difficulty."

Robert Holmes added, "What will this company provide that we don't have with code enforcement? I don't think that this is the time for

us to change code enforcement. What do we gain for outsourcing?"

According to George Keller, vice president of CGA, one advantage will be its software program that automates a citation form and prints the document on the spot. "The process works efficiently, and it allows the company to track and plan routes."

He added that code enforcement based on complaints is not as effective as CGA's "proactive basis."

City staff will proceed with contract negotiations with CGA. The contract will come back for commission approval at a later date.



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Foster parents

Continued from page 6

Foster parents are a vital resource for these children as they wait in limbo, between a painful past and an uncertain future.

The National Youth Advocate Program, or NYAP, trains, licenses and manages foster parents and homes for youth who involved in the child welfare system in Broward County. Although there are many wonderful foster parents in Broward, there is a tremendous need for more.

If you have ever thought about becoming a foster parent or would just like to talk to us to learn more about the benefits and rewards of fostering, we would love to talk to you. You have the power to do something positive that will change the life of a young person in foster care. Please visit www.nyap.org or give us a call at 877-692-7226 or locally at 954-596-5284.

William A. Gear,
NYAP Training
Coordinator,

Autism

Continued from page 7

water by Crystal Springs. The one-mile fun run around the FAU track will begin at 6:15 p.m. The run is non-competitive. Register online at www.active.com. For race information, call 561-361-1950 or email Tvladimir@aol.com. Participants may register in person October 8 to 15 at The Runner's Edge, 3195 North Federal Highway, Boca Raton. All pre-registered participants will receive a t-shirt. For more, visit www.coe.fau.edu/card.

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Amendment 4

Continued from page 6

local communities. They establish the long-term vision and needs of a community, which affect future land usage, public services, housing and environmental protection, among other important facets of community life.

As an advocate for smart planning and sustainable local economies throughout our state, the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Florida) is deeply concerned about the short-sighted decisions Amendment 4 would produce.

Amendment 4 would allow individual issues to trump the long-term vision of the community. It would oversimplify complex issues to fit short statements on a ballot.

It would open the door for special-interest groups to sway public opinion on the issues that affect all of us. And, it will pick the pockets of taxpayers with hundreds of costly elections at a time when we are all struggling against a snug economy. APA Florida has outlined these and other concerns at www.floridaplanning.org/hometown.

Amendment 4 is not the answer for building stronger, more sustainable communities. I urge you to join me in voting "No" on Amendment 4 on Nov. 2 – because Florida's citizens and communities deserve better.

Kim Glas-Castro, AICP,
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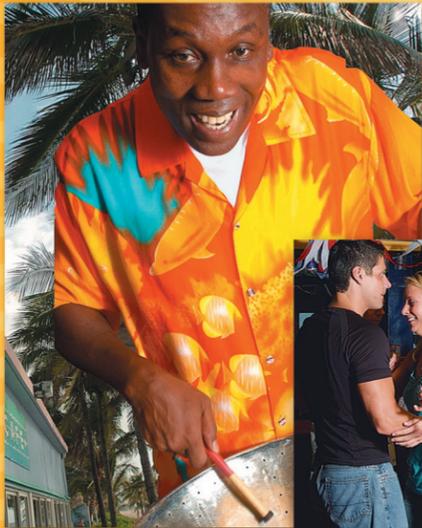
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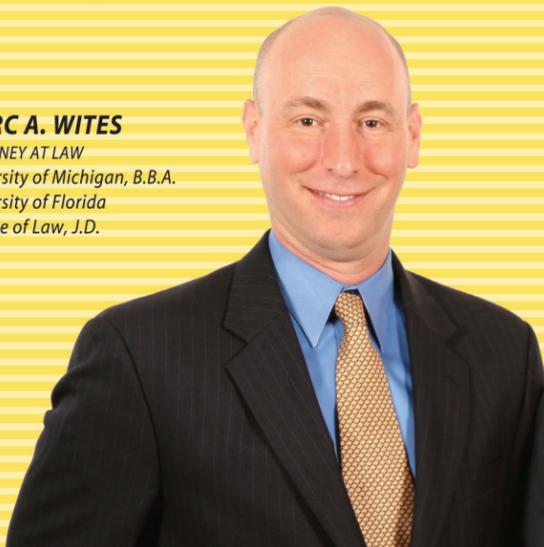
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Wilton Manors campaign events

Joe Angelo
Former commissioner Joe Angelo will be hosting a campaign kick-off event at his home, 2609 NW 6 Terrace, Wilton Manors, on Sept. 18 at 1:30 p.m. Angelo is running against incumbent Gary Resnick to be the city's next mayor.

Gary Resnick
On Oct. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m., Wilton Manors Mayor Gary Resnick will hold a campaign event at Tropics Restaurant, 2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors. Resnick will also hold an event on Oct. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Law Offices of George Castrataro, 800 NE 26 St., Wilton Manors.

Julie Carson
Former commissioner Julie Carson will hold a campaign event at the Wine Warehouse, 1301 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Oakland Park. Event date and time to be announced.

Celeste Ellich
A campaign event for Celeste Ellich will be held on Sept. 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Williamsburg Landing, 1776 NE 26 St., Wilton Manors. Parking is available across the street at the Realtor building. Ellich is running against former commissioner Julie Carson for the two-year seat.

Steve Zollo
On Sept. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. a campaign event will be held for Steve Zollo at his home, 409 NE 26 St., Wilton Manors. Excess parking is available at Wilton Manors Elementary, 2401 NE 3 Ave., and the Wilton Manors Library, 500 NE 26 St. Zollo is running for a four-year city commission seat against Commissioners Scott Newton and Ted Galatis.

Scott Newton
Commissioner Scott Newton is hosting a campaign event at Georgie's Alibi, 2266 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, on Sept. 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Ted Galatis
A campaign kick-off event for Commissioner Ted Galatis will be held at The Manor, 2345 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, on Sept. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Angelo, Zollo, Ellich
Former commissioner Joe Angelo, Steve Zollo and Celeste Ellich will speak at Crema D'Roma, 2150 Wilton Drive, in Wilton Park, on Sept. 28 from 5 to 7 p.m.

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Deerfield briefs

Continued from page 3

50 to 59 points from a list required for environmentally-friendly structures. The architects say the project can acquire 35 points for certain with another 23 points questionable. Work on the pier is scheduled to begin in November. In other action taken by the community redevelopment board Wednesday, a \$70,344 contract was awarded to Tenex Enterprises Inc. to build 22 more parking spaces in the southwest corner of the main beach parking lot.

Tivoli Preserve due a cleanup; Trees must stand up and be counted

Deerfield Beach – The city has obtained a \$50,000 state grant to remove exotics and other nuisance vegetation from the Tivoli Preserve on SW 10 Street. Landscape Architect Harold Hoyte said native slash pine will be planted to replace the exotics. The preserve is home to the gopher turtle and other native plants and wildlife and is open during daylight hours.

Hoyte is also undertaking a big project, an inventory of all the trees in the city on public property. So far he and maintenance employee Ulysses Barksdale have counted 8,000 trees growing at public facilities and in parks.

Now, they are counting the trees in the public right of way, “a big task” according to Hoyte. The tree count is being taken in order for the city to get full reimbursement from FEMA when hurricanes destroy the landscape. “It

will also help with tree maintenance schedules,” Hoyte said. The inventory has been a mission of his since he was hired here two years ago and is being paid for with Florida Division of Forestry grants.

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Wilton Manors tax

Continued from page 1

hearing on the budget is scheduled for Sept. 27.

For homeowners under Save Our Homes, or SOH, the average increase would be \$75.50. Homeowners not covered by SOH would see an overall decrease in ad valorem taxes of \$314.26.

To help balance the budget, as required by state law, commissioners cut funding for future vehicles and almost all the funding from capital expenses. "This is the new reality. This budget is as lean as it can possibly get," said City Manager Joseph Gallegos.

The city also denied city employees longevity pay, buyouts for vacation and sick

leave and a cost of living adjustment. Employees are also forced to take 40 hours of unpaid leave. Commissioners also gave themselves and the city manager a pay cut

"We're all on furlough, commission included," said Commissioner Ted Galatis, adding, "We've saved this city hundreds of thousands of dollars by switching to the Florida Retirement System" from the city pension system.

"We've cut capital the last three or four years. If we keep cutting capital, there won't be any tools for employees to use," said Commissioner Scott Newton. "You don't want a police car falling apart when it's coming to your house to save your life."

Mayor Gary Resnick suggested the city should look into more grant funding to help cover capital expenses.

"There are even grants for vehicles," said Resnick.

Commissioner Tom Green blamed the drop in property values [13.52 percent in Wilton Manors] for most of the city's budget woes. "There are people in Wilton Manors who pay no property taxes," said Green, referring to condo owners who aren't taxed because their property has

been devalued too much.

But Joe Montrose, the only resident who spoke at the meeting, thinks the city isn't doing everything it can.

Montrose pointed to a March 2010 study by Fishkind & Associates, an economic and financial consulting firm, that compared financial and law enforcement statistics in Broward County

municipalities to the national average.

Montrose said the city should look into getting rid of its own police department and find a cheaper alternative. According to the report, cities contracting for police services experience per capita costs that are 33 percent lower than those communities that provide their own police protection. "Why aren't we looking into that?" asked Montrose.

Gallegos said that, while maintaining its own police department is expensive, residents have expressed a desire to keep it rather than contract with an outside agency. According to the report, Wilton Manors has the second highest per capita cost vs. population in Broward County, second to Hillsboro Beach. Wilton Manors also has the lowest per capita vs. population costs for fire rescue in Broward.

Commissioners gave final unanimous approval to fire assessment fees and the Jenada Isles gated entrance improvements.

Residential fire fees were raised to \$112.34, an increase from \$100.85; Commercial was raised to \$24.59 from \$22.64; Industrial was lowered from \$1.49 to \$1.41; Institutional was increased by 90 cents to \$7.81; Government was raised from \$18.34 to \$21.10. Nursing homes saw the biggest increase, going from \$97.18 to \$128.27.

The report also found that Wilton Manors has the highest parks and recreation per capita costs vs. population. Patrick Cann, director of leisure services, which oversees the city's parks and recreation programs, says the cost of running the public works department is lumped in with leisure services.

Former commissioner Joe Angelo says the report leans toward city consolidations. "Government wasn't meant to be fast or cheap. It was designed to protect the rights of us all. That is why the passage of new laws seems to take a long time. I don't want us to "Wal-Mart" government - that means we lose economies of scale in favor of preserving our rights. However, that doesn't mean we can't operate more effectively and learn from other cities."

With Wilton Manors smaller than many other cities, Angelo says larger municipalities can spread costs around more effectively to tax payers. Economies of scale don't work as well in Wilton Manors because the tax base is smaller.

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First Brazilian Church to host event introducing residents to public services

Besides the hot dog cookout, members of the First Brazilian Church, 1103 NE 33 St., Pompano Beach, are hosting a meeting Sept. 26 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. to help residents learn more about public services.

Church members want to provide a setting for people in the community to have contact with representatives from various organizations in Broward County so that they might be aware of resources that are available to the general public like medical care, rental, transportation, utility and emergency assistance and veterans' services.

Church leaders explain that during difficult economic times, many people who have never benefited from various community services could be helped if they were aware of what is offered by community and governmental organizations. The public is welcome to attend the event. Representatives from the various services will explain what their group offers. There will be a question and answer period. Call 954-324-1451.

Free child car seat checks

A free car seat safety check is scheduled for Sept. 18 at Pompano Beach Fire-Rescue Station #24, located at 2001 NE 10 St., from 9 a.m. to noon. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children and adolescents ages 1 to 21. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue certified child passenger safety technicians will be checking children's car seats for proper installation, safety and recall status. Call 954-786-4510 to schedule an appointment.

Friends of the Poor

The Third Annual Friends of The Poor 5K Walk/Run will be held on Sept. 25 at St. Gabriel's Church, 731 N. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach. Registrations starts at 7 a.m. with the walk starting at 8 a.m. Rain date is Sept. 26. Visit www.svdppfriendsofthepoorwalk.org or call 954-943-9717.

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Parkway United Methodist parishioners grow food community, food pantries

By Marise Estime

PELICAN WRITER

Pompano Beach - Sun ripened bananas, plums, papayas, mangoes and several varieties of citrus trees are what you would find on an exotic island or a Central

Florida farm. For parishioners and local residents in the Tedder Community, growing and eating exotic fruits and vegetables have become a reality.

For the past two years, Parkway United Methodist Church, 100 NE 44 St.,

Pompano Beach, congregants and local garden enthusiasts have been harvesting produce on the church's six-acre property.

Last week, the garden was the focus of other church and non-profit group leaders who are considering the idea of

planting and harvesting food for themselves and for local soup kitchens.

The three-acre "The Fruit for the Field" community garden came about two years ago when parishioner, Wayne Boswell, says he had a divine call to help the community.

"The idea came the day after Hurricane Wilma destroyed the property, said Boswell. "The construction crew started removing the trees, and I saw that there was so much space. It was as if God asked, 'What are you going to do with it?'"

Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida partnered with Parkway United Methodist Church in hosting a two-hour garden workshop to help interested parties create a similar gardening space that will benefit their communities.

Guests included other rectors from Lake Worth and Miami, two Episcopal churches interested in following the lead of Parkway.

"It is part of our "feeding our people effort," said Bonnie Weaver, grants and resource director for Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida. "We try to partner with churches in helping to share information, ideas and best practices that will benefit the community. We also supply grant funding for small gardens and other feeding initiatives."

She added that the "Methodists are ahead of the game with community gardening."

Pastor John Walling and his parishioners believe in the old adage, "If you build it - they will come. We know that there is a community around us. It's difficult for Christians to understand the church has to step outside [its boundaries]. As result of that we've created a sister community."

Several fruit trees such as papaya, mango, lychee, tamarind, jakfruit, star fruit, Barbados cherry and white

sapote reflect the diverse cultures of the farmers. In addition, garden enthusiasts are growing vegetables that have become mainstay in some homes such as collards, green beans and red sweet potatoes.

This garden, while not the "Victory Gardens" of World Wars I or II, does exemplify the economic times that have created a community of people who are chronically hungry.

"We wanted to start a garden to grow fruits and vegetables for the community, including food pantries," said Pastor Jim Walling. He added, "We support pantries that will give homeless people fresh fruit and vegetables. "In poor families, what children need the most is what parents can't afford, vegetables and fruits. If we can produce fresh vegetables and fruits and give it to people in need that is our goal."

Volunteers have been instrumental in helping the church reach its goal of community feeding.

They volunteer hours cleaning the fields and finding ways to make the community garden yield more fruits and vegetables. "We have lots of volunteers who use this as a creative outlet" and as long as it aligns with the mission of the garden, they are free to come," said Boswell. "We make sure that we have an ethical and moral way of gardening and producing produce."

To avoid waste, the church is now using some well water to irrigate the garden. In addition they are in the process of installing a 10-gallon cistern to collect rainwater - making this community garden a literal green space.

On Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon, Parkway United Methodist Church will host another open house to educate the public about community gardening.

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2pm

Easing the Pain

Sherika Newman, DO
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3pm

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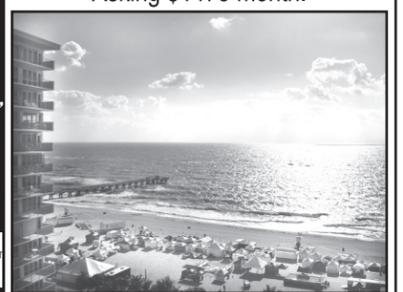
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 The American (R) 2h 0m
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 Nanny McPhee Returns (Pg) 2h 4m
 Eat Pray Love (Pg13) 2h 35m
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 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (Pg13) 2h 19m

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Weekly Fishing Report: Big swords

RJ Boyle
RJ BOYLE STUDIOS

The *Datsnasty* caught two nice swordfish again this past Sunday. The fish weighed 100 and 300 pounds. The weather was absolutely beautiful and the bite was on. The boat *Game Time* also caught two swordfish about the same size. I did not hear of much being

caught over the weekend on the reef as the water was really dirty out to around 600 feet. We are going to have rough sea conditions over the next few days which should stir things up near shore. Pilchards are thick not only in the inlets but right up onto the beach. If I was going to fish over the next few days and over the weekend I would

probably break out the snook and tarpon gear and give that a go. I spoke with Skip Dana from the drift boat *Fish City Pride* and *Helen S* on Tuesday, and he reported some mutton snappers and kingfish caught on the morning trip. He also said that he had seen some scattered dolphin on the reef.

Wahoo Seminar
 Come meet and listen to the best wahoo fishermen around on Sept. 28 at RJ Boyle Studios. We will be discussing live bait and trolling tactics off our coast as well as the Bahamas fishery. Corey Burlew from the boat *Reaper* former mate on the *Concrete Machine* will be one of the speakers in attendance. Food and drinks provided as well as byob.

The cost is \$20 per person. Space is limited so call and reserve a space now. Call RJ Boyle at 954-420-5001 at RJ Boyle Studios, 5040 N. Federal Hwy. in Lighthouse Point, with your latest fishing stories.



RJ Boyle

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NOVA Southeastern University graduate student studies food chain off South Florida waters, possible effects of oil and chemical dispersants

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Travis Moore loves to fish. And he wants to make sure the ocean can keep supporting one of his favorite past-times.

Moore, an undergraduate student from the University of Alabama, working on his masters degree in marine biology at NOVA Southeastern University, is taking a look at wahoo, mackerel, kingfish, black fin tuna, bonitas and other fish to see how they are affecting the food chain. Moore's research focuses on the waters off the Florida Keys up to Jupiter.

"Knowledge is power. The more information we have, the better chance we have of keeping sport fishing alive."

Moore says a lot of studies have been done on individual fish "but we don't really have a good picture as a whole." He added the study is among the "first of its kind." Local anglers are helping the project by donating their catches

to Moore who removes the stomach, liver and other intestines and then returns the fish. "All we need are the guts." One donation yielded a fish that had just eaten its prey which was fully intact inside the fish's stomach.

For fish that have digested their food, Moore performs a chemical and stable isotope analysis to discover fish diets. "We compare chemicals with the stomach content analysis, and we can get a pretty accurate picture of what they're eating."

A good position

Moore recently expanded his two-year study to see if and how fish are affected by oil or chemical dispersants.

Moore's research began in March, a month before the explosion of the Event Horizon oil rig and its subsequent release of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Chemicals were released soon after to try and disperse the oil.

With tissue and liver

samples from fish taken before the leak, Moore has a viable way to see whether or not any fish in the area are affected by oil or chemical dispersants. He says he'll start testing the samples he's collected soon. "We already had baseline data. I don't know of any other people who have baseline data."

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, officials say no oil or dispersants made it into the Atlantic Ocean. If there is any contamination, he'll be looking to see how it's affecting the health of the fish and if their diets are changing.

If a certain species is affected, Moore says other fish, who normally eat them, may start praying on other species that they don't normally pray on.

But regardless of how or if

the Atlantic is affected, the waters off South Florida are home to blue fin tuna, marlin, mackerels and other fish that either spawn in the Gulf of Mexico or migrate back and

See FISH STUDY page 23

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Saturday, Septmeber 18 High 5:25 AM Low 11:44 AM High 6:04 PM	Tuesday, September 21 Low 1:35 AM High 7:46 AM Low 1:54 PM High 8:04 PM	This Week's Tide Tables should not be used for navigational purposes. Boaters should confirm tables with the Coast Guard Weather Station Information taken from www.saltwatertides.com
Sunday, September 19 Low 12:11 AM High 6:18 AM Low 12:32 PM High 6:48 PM	Wednesday, September 22 Low 2:11 AM High 8:25 AM Low 2:31 PM High 8:39 PM	

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School days kick off at Pompano Beach Elementary School with lots of smiles

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Isaiah is a fourth grader at Pompano Beach Elementary School, and in his eight years, he has formulated opinions.

We were chatting in an office last week about movies.

Isaiah decided to give some advice to a fellow student.

“Stay away from Friday the Thirteenth,” he says to Brian. “Wait until you’re 18.”

Brian, a first grader at Pompano Beach Elementary School looks up at Isaiah with wide eyes and shakes his head up and down in assent.

The students are pretty bright. All this writer had to do was ask them.

“Yeah,” said Marquez, a fourth grader and the oldest in the group. “I know how to spell almost every word. I would win first place in a spelling bee.”

He’s only been a fourth-grader for less than one week. He said he would love to be in a spelling bee, but his school doesn’t have one.

He’s got a surprise in store. Principal Michelle Garcia got a chuckle out of Marquez’s remark. “He probably doesn’t

No Wrong Answers

- is a new series in *The Pelican* for all of us to see what the kids are thinking these days about themselves, their friends and us. We do not use last names in these articles.

anne siren

know yet that we have spelling bees for the fourth and fifth grades.

So, in an effort to figure out exactly how smart these students were, we asked a few questions about geography.

All of them knew the cities they lived in; the state and the country. They also knew the first and last name of the president.

But the humdinger came with the continent. They looked at one another wondering if we had just made up a word to trick them.

Marquez jumped to the rescue.

“You don’t have to know that until you are in the fifth grade,” he explained.

We stood corrected.

Then we had a chat with Cace, 6; Gwendolyn, 9 and nine-year old twins, Jacoby

See *SCHOOLS* on page 24



[Top] Shanelle Foster at work with her 5th grade science students [Center] Marquez, Brian and Isaiah [Below] Vanessa, Cace, Gwendolyn, Jacoby and Jakari. [Staff photos]



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Tag em' and bag em' - Travis Moore [Left], Kerri Bolow and Sohail Khamesi remove the liver, stomach and other internal organs. [Staff Photo]

Fish study

Continued from page 21

forth between the two areas.

Healthy fish, healthy economy

The marine service industry,

restaurants, charter fishing boats, bait and tackle shops depend on fish and marine populations. "Seafood and the ocean are very instrumental to the livelihood of Pompano Beach and Broward County. It's a major issue in South

Florida," said Ric Green, president and CEO of the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce. "Pompano has a great avenue of access to the ocean that has been an asset to the community for many

years." But for many anglers, recreation isn't the only reason to keep fish stocks healthy. Jamie Bunn, director of the Saltwater Circuit, a series of fishing tournaments in Pompano Beach, estimates anglers went home with between \$400,000 and

\$500,000 dollars in total prize money during his tournaments alone. "There's some good money to be won in these tournaments," said Bunn. "Based on caliber of fish that we've seen coming to the scale, I think the fish stocks are in very good shape."

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Hillsboro briefs

Continued from page 1

"I am disappointed we don't have them in time for the budget," Commissioner Celinda Sawtelle said. "I am disappointed you made a decision independently."

Weiss said Waste Management's "outstanding offer" influenced her decision to delay the RFP. "It could have been inappropriate on my part," she said.

PEM owner won't negotiate contract but devices must go

Hillsboro Beach -The town wants to negotiate its exit from its contract with EcoShore International, the company that installed erosion control devices on the beach, but can't get owner Dr. Ken Christensen to the table.

Since December, the town has been trying to end its relationship with EcoShore and have the Pressure Equalizing Modules (PEMS) removed so that a beach nourishment project can proceed.

City Attorney DJ Doody said he has selected a mediator and calls Dr. Christensen "almost daily" trying to schedule a session. Doody said Christensen is apparently out of the country.

The PEMS cannot be removed until after Nov. 1 when sea turtle nesting season is over. The beach nourishment is scheduled for sometime between Nov. 15 and March 1 but is dependent on the PEMS being removed.

Dr. Christensen has refused an offer which would have paid him through December of 2009 plus \$10,000 for PEM removal. He has countered with a claim of \$225,000 which would pay for the lease of the equipment and sand monitoring through June. Beyond that, he would like an endorsement of his product. "We are very far apart," Doody said.

"I don't think he'll be satisfied until we say it worked," Commissioner Sawtelle said.

Town officials don't believe the units have reduced the amount of sand loss in the area where they located. A study by UF expert Dr. Robert Dean says the PEMS seem to have no influence either good or bad on the sand system, but Dr. Christensen produces studies that show sand accretion in the area.

"It will be the battle of the experts," Doody predicted.

Schools

Continued from page 22

and Jakari.

Jacoby went right to the intelligence factor and explained that kids are much smarter today than they were in past generations.

"Way smarter," he added.

So we asked for their reading lists. Cace said her favorite books are read to her by her grandmother who "helps her with the new words."

Jacoby recalled the plot of

a boy who swam out too far and had to be rescued by a lifeguard.

Jacari's favorite is *The Mystery of the Missing Cat*.

Vannessa chose *Because of Winn Dixie*.

And they recommended movies ranging from *Despicable Me* to *Avatar*.

Both student groups made it clear they loved school and their teachers. They agreed that they are not afraid to learn new things.

When we asked Marquez, who has plans to be on a SWAT team, if that were a bit scary, he reassured us that he was not.

"They train you," he said.

The Pelican thanks

Principal Garcia who allowed us to launch our idea of having conversations with students at Pompano Beach Elementary.

Pompano Beach Elementary School is an "A" rated school with accelerated and

gifted classes. In addition to academic classes, students have physical education, art and music instruction.

The school also offers classes for students with special needs.

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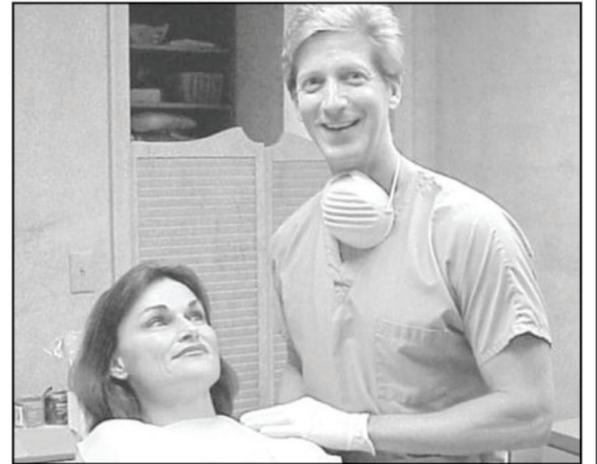
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