

Dredging unlikely at Dunedin Pass

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CLEARWATER - The dredging of Dunedin Pass may have been killed Monday. The staff of the state Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) refused to recommend dredging the pass. A letter being drafted by the DER staff in Tallahassee on Monday told Pinellas County officials that they'll have to submit new information to support the dredging project if they want to pursue it. The staff agreed with dredging opponents that the pass is closing naturally.

Employee blamed for theft at brokerage

NEW PORT RICHEY - The owner of Argus Securities, a New Port Richey discount brokerage, said Monday that a bookkeeper with the firm stole an undisclosed amount of money and fled the area. Bert S. Beckoff, the owner, said the theft was discovered during a recent annual audit by an independent accounting firm. "Our auditors found minor discrepancies, but it's all covered by insurance and no clients' money was taken," said Beckoff in an interview in the firm's office at 7249 U.S. 19 in New Port Richey. "Very little money was taken." Beckoff said he has no idea where the woman, whom he would not name, has gone. And he would not comment on what agencies might be investigating the case.

Telephone call carries surprise price tag

When Alfred Maruggi was told by a caller that he'd won a free dinner for the price of a toll call to Tampa, he thought the deal was too good to be true. It was. The call cost \$8.95 plus long-distance charges. Maruggi is one of at least 300 people who have complained to Mur Corp. of Largo about solicitations made by Mur employees. A spokesman for General Telephone of Florida (GTE) said Mur has been told to change its message. The president of Mur Corp., Mark Fabian, said Monday that Maruggi must not have understood the caller. He said telephone solicitors for his company tell people the call will cost money. GTE requires companies using 976 numbers to inform potential customers of the charges involved.

Two arrested following violent argument

ZEPHYRHILLS - Two Zephyrhills residents were arrested Sunday after an argument that escalated into violence and ended with the man stabbed and the woman nearly strangled, sheriff's records said. William Stanley Trent, 43, of 2324-A N 16th St. was charged with simple battery and booked into the East Pasco Detention Center on \$500 bail. Fanny Mae Trent, 42, of the same address was charged with aggravated battery and was booked into the West Pasco Detention Center on \$5,000 bail. It was not clear from a deputy's report how the two are related. According to the report, Fanny Trent admitted to stabbing William Trent with a knife in his left leg, and he admitted to punching her in the face and choking her with his hands. The order of events was not clear from the report.

Candidate says he's motivated by duty

MADEIRA BEACH - Miller Newton, 49, once the guiding hand behind the Straight drug treatment program and an unsuccessful candidate for Congress, is aiming at a new public job - mayor of Madeira Beach. Mayor J. Kenneth Jacobsen called reporters Monday to announce that he won't seek re-election after eight years as mayor and four additional years as a commissioner. Instead, Jacobsen announced that Newton will run in the March 8 election. "The main reason I'm doing it is a sense of civic duty," Newton said. A native of Tampa, Newton is an ordained Methodist minister and a former associate professor of education at the University of South Florida. He was appointed by Gov. Reubin Askew as Clerk of the Circuit Court in Pasco County in 1973 but left in 1976 to run for the U.S. House. He joined the Straight program in 1980 and rose to national clinical director before he resigned in 1983.

Comment sought on widening U.S. 41

DADE CITY - The state Department of Transportation (DOT) has scheduled public sessions today and Wednesday so residents can comment on plans to widen U.S. 41 from Hillsborough to Hernando and State Road 700. DOT engineers and planners will meet with residents at 4 p.m. today in the McKethan Auditorium at the Hernando County Fairgrounds. On Wednesday, officials will hold another session at 4 p.m. in the Lutz Community Center at U.S. 41 and First Avenue NW in Lutz.

Amnesia victim is identified

TAMPA - Tampa General Hospital officials sought help Monday in identifying a man whom they said suffers from a kind of amnesia. They got plenty. Soon after the man's picture was shown on television Monday evening, he was identified by several callers as Mark Sellers, a Hillsborough County resident, a hospital spokeswoman said. Few other details about the man were being released, at the request of his family. Even after he was told his name, Sellers' memory had not returned Monday night, said hospital spokeswoman Cindy Mays.

Sellers, 25, walked into a fire station near Ybor Square on the night of Jan. 16. He had four cents, some cigarettes and no identification. He was suffering from soreness and a bump on the back of his head. Before Sellers was identified, police said he did not fit the description of any missing person and was not wanted locally for any crime.

Police: Man stabs ex-wife, drinks cleaner

TAMPA - A man stabbed his ex-wife with a six-inch butcher knife and later swallowed a caustic drain cleaner early Sunday morning, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Carlos C. Angulo, 49, who arrived last week on a visit from Toa Alta Heights, Puerto Rico, got angry with his ex-wife, Zaida L. Oliveras, 37, after learning that she had been dating other men, said Lt. James Kelley. The couple has been divorced for about four months. Both Angulo and Oliveras, wounded several times in the back and abdomen, are listed in serious condition at University Community Hospital.

Jury denies money for injured officer

CLEARWATER - A former police officer who was injured by blank wadding fired from a shotgun during a training exercise in 1980 left a Pinellas County courtroom empty-handed Monday. A jury deliberated four hours before announcing that no one should have to pay for the incident. Joseph J. Ahearn, who in 1980 was a 57-year-old sergeant for the Belleair Bluffs Police Department, did not deliberately expose himself to danger during the training exercise at Belleair's City Hall, the jury found, nor was Largo or Belleair negligent. Ahearn's attorney, A. Dallas Albritton, said he asked jurors to award \$500,000 to Ahearn and his wife, Julia, who live in Largo. Attorneys for the cities of Belleair and Largo said Ahearn was to blame because he rushed toward Robert Hastings, then a Largo police officer, and pointed a .38-caliber pistol at Hastings' face. Hastings instinctively fired the shotgun in defense, they argued. Albritton said Ahearn will appeal.

Pier marketplace deal is sealed

ST. PETERSBURG - After months of negotiations, Tampa businessman Phil Alessi, a construction contractor and the city have agreed that a festival marketplace will be built at The Pier for \$485,000. The deadline for agreeing on the budget for Alessi's Festival Marketplace was 5 p.m. Monday. At the deadline, Deputy City Manager Rick Mussett said all parties were in agreement, and a letter of confirmation was on its way to City Hall. Alessi said he expects to open in late April or May.

Mullet catch nets grand theft charge

TAMPA - Hillsborough prosecutors charged two St. Petersburg men with grand theft Monday for gill-netting in a breeding ground in upper Tampa Bay. Florida Marine Patrol officers caught the two men, Paul Carter and Emmra Fleming, with 1,357 pounds of mullet on Dec. 3. Carter, a licensed commercial fisherman, originally was charged with gill-netting in an area that is closed to commercial fishing. Fleming, who is not licensed, was charged with fishing without a commercial license. Both charges are misdemeanors. State officials later sold the confiscated fish for \$742. After finding out how valuable the catch was, Hillsborough prosecutors decided to charge the men with grand theft for taking the fish illegally from public waters. Grand theft is theft of something worth more than \$300.

- Compiled from staff reports by LINDA HARPER

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OUR NEIGHBORS

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Digging up mammoth bones in South Dakota's Black Hills while a foundation fellowship paid her expenses was an inspiring experience for New York grade school teacher Lucy Malka of Fair Lawn.

She'd like other teachers to get acquainted with the fellowships offered by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, which underwrites Earthwatch expeditions.

Among the projects for teachers this year are "Life in the Forest Canopy," studying the number and diversity of insects in Peru's Tambopata Nature Reserve; "The Greening of a Volcano," surveying past and current development of the highly active Costa Rican Arenal Volcano and the regeneration of the surrounding tropical rain forest; and "Birds of Panama," a chance to study bird diversity in the Parque Nacional Soberania. Each of 15 Dodge fellows will be awarded full costs and a travel stipend of up to \$500.

Deadline for applying is March 31. Write Earthwatch Educational Grants, Box 403T, 319 Arlington St., Watertown, Mass. 02172, or call Maura Twitchell, 1-(617) 926-8200 for application procedures.

Fort Lee Artists Guild will have Mai Hoffer as guest demonstrator at its meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of the intermediate school on Stillwell Avenue in town.

The New York City artist, a native of Basil, Switzerland, will show portrait painting techniques.

All art enthusiasts are welcome. Anyone interested in guild membership may call 943-5280. The group's series of demonstrations by professional artists will continue on the first Tuesday of April, May, June, October, and November.

The Crispus Attucks Scholarship Foundation has progressed from college scholarships for minority students to funding for their postgraduate work.

Dudley M. Saunders, president, said the Ridgewood-based foundation provides graduate funding for Bergen and Passaic County minority students. It will open the 1988 fund drive with its sixth annual scholarship dinner March 18 at the Sheraton Heights Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights. The goal is \$25,000.

Ellarae Saunders, founder of the organization, which branched out from another Ridgewood/Glen Rock group, The Order of the Lamp, said the order saw a need for encouraging graduate degrees so minorities could be more competitive in the job market, but members felt raising scholarship money for minority undergraduates from Ridgewood, Glen Rock, and the immediate vicinity was all they could handle.

Foundation members will send donation appeal letters to residents of the two counties and to businesspeople.

Ridgewood superintendent of schools Dr. Frederick Stokley will be keynote speaker at the scholarship dinner.

Foundation funds are given as grants graduate students who get them are not asked to repay the money. They are asked to become mentors to younger students, encouraging them to go on to graduate school after college.

The organization serves its communities by bringing in educational programs, such as Dr. John Henrik Clark's recent four-session course on African and African-American history for teachers, and his community lecture.

For information, tickets, or to make a donation, write to the foundation at P.O. Box 155, Ridgewood, N.J. 07451.

Grand Union Company, Wayne, gave \$5,000 to KIDS of Hackensack after management personnel learned about the treatment program's success with the son of a Grand Union executive.

"Dr. Miller Newton and the KIDS program has restored our family to warm, loving health," the parent said. "I am delighted that this gift will help other families to survive the horrors of their adolescents drug and alcohol problems. "

Newton remarked that such corporate generosity is a big boost toward KIDS goals never to say no to a kid in trouble and to help adolescent and family find their way back to serenity. The entire family is involved in the KIDS treatment program. The staff includes professionals as well as peer counselors who have been helped by the program.

The New Jersey Nets will be hosts to winning participants in the eighth Nets-Easter Seal Basketball Shoot-Out at the March 16 game. The competition will continue statewide until that date.

Any student 18 or younger is eligible to enter. Participants shoot baskets for three-minute periods during regular classes or after hours in their school gymnasiums. Their scores are verified and recorded on sponsor sheets, and sponsors pledge definite sums for each basket scored. All the money will go to the Easter Seal Society to help disabled children and adults in the state.

Shooters who raise the most money will be the Nets guests. They also will receive autographed basketballs and trophies. The top-scoring boy and girl in the state will earn full scholarships to the Pocono Invitational Basketball Camp.

A new Nets Shoot-Out chairman will be appointed as host to the winners for the evening. Former chairman Mike Gminsky has been traded to Philadelphia.

For information, call 247-8353, or write to the New Jersey Easter Seal Society, 32 Ford Ave., P.O. Box 155, Milltown, N.J. 08850.

- Caption: Photo - Mai Hoffer Photo - Saunders
- Memo: Organizations and individuals are invited to submit items for the Around Town and Our Neighbors columns by sending material at least two weeks in advance of publication to Lorraine Matys, Suburban Editor, The Record, 150 River St., Hackensack, N.J. 07601.

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ORGANIZATIONS

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EDGEWATER

Mayor Bryan Christiansen, Acting Fire Chief Bill Ring, and Councilman John Oates were on hand to inspect the borough's new ambulance, the second new ambulance put into service in town within the last year.

The Volunteer Fire Department took first prize in the heavy duty rescue truck classification at the New York and New Jersey Firemen's Parade.

FORT LEE

Ida Peltz, East Bergen Chapter president, will be in Chicago July 31 to Aug. 5 along with chapter members Florence Barry and Sylvia Kosson to represent the unit at Hadassah's 74th national convention.

HACKENSACK

From April to June, 810 people received care for life-threatening emergencies from Hackensack Medical Center paramedics who respond to calls for help with the Mobile Intensive Care Unit.

The Order of the Golden Chain, a fraternal organization dedicated to helping children, has donated \$6,000 to Hackensack Medical Center's Institute for Child Development.

Dr. Miller Newton, founder and clinical director of KIDS, a Hackensack-based treatment center for adolescents with drug problems, and his wife, RuthAnn, assistant clinical director of the center, are back from Greece, where Dr. Miller was invited to conduct a workshop on drug abuse among young people for the Aegean chapter of the world-wide Young Presidents Organization.

LEONIA

Mary Ann DeSimone has been appointed consulting arborist for the Shade Tree Commission.

NORTH BERGEN

Frank Violante has been installed as president of the Lions Club, succeeding Robert Peirano.

RIDGEFIELD PARK

Veterans of all foreign wars are invited to meetings at 8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at VFW Post 227, Bergen Turnpike.

TEANECK

The 75 members of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps recently honored for distinguished service by the Teaneck City Club, a community-service organization of men and women who live or work in town.

Iota Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority honored its 1988 scholarship recipients Shirnette M. Brooks and Ena A. Marsan of Englewood's Dwight Morrow High School, Michelle Hammond and Angela Meyers of Hackensack Hackensack High School, Douglas Glanville and Kerry Robertson of Teaneck High School, Darien Allen of Passaic High School, and Sonja Edwards and Sharon Lammie of Westwood Regional High School at an awards tea in the Teaneck home of Theodora Lacey.

Holy Name Hospital has donated two dialysis machines, in good working order but considered outdated by American medical standards, to the Dominican Republic's Padre Bellini Hospital, which desperately needed them.

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