

## Mrs. Steinbrenner sues over theft of fur Series: SUNCOAST DIGEST

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### Document Text

TAMPA - Joan Z. Steinbrenner, wife of shipping magnate and baseball owner George Steinbrenner, sued a Tampa fur storage company Monday over a Russian sable fur coat that the company says was stolen. The coat was worth at least \$30,000, according to the suit. Mrs. Steinbrenner took the fur to Vanity Furriers in March 1986. In a letter last December, the company notified Mrs. Steinbrenner that the coat had been stolen, according to the suit. The suit alleges that the company failed to provide enough security and failed to detect the theft soon enough. Vanity owners could not be reached for comment. Officials offer no clues in explosion

VALRICO - The occupant of a house that was destroyed in an explosion and fire was in critical but stable condition Monday in the burn unit at Tampa General Hospital. Gregory Butler, 27, was alone, at 4034 Eastridge Drive in Bloomingdale, when the blast and fire occurred about 3 a.m. Sunday. Butler is the brother of Angela Palmer, who rents the home with her husband Joel. Neither state fire marshal nor sheriff's officials would say Monday what caused the explosion, which damaged two neighboring homes. The investigation is continuing. Angela Palmer and the Palmers' two children were visiting friends in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday night, said Bob Knott, who lives across the street. Joel Palmer had just gone to work at MacDill Air Force Base, Knott said. A base spokesman said Palmer is a technical sergeant in the Air Force. The owner of the house lives in California.

### Brooksville officer's shooting trial begins

TAMPA - Brooksville Police Officer Lionel B. Oliver testified that he acted instinctively last summer when he shot and killed Isreal Paige. The trial, which began Monday, is the result of a multimillion-dollar federal suit filed last year by Paige's mother, Pearlean Outlaw. She claims her son's civil rights were breached when Oliver shot Paige in a darkened drainage ditch in Brooksville. Oliver said that Paige appeared to be drawing a gun at the time. "After Mr. Paige had drew on me and I was unable to distinguish what was in his hand I became so afraid and so fearful that I was shot," Oliver said in Federal District Court in Tampa. Paige's friend, Darrin Mobley, testified that Paige was putting up his hands to surrender when Oliver fired. Mobley, 22, said that Paige was unarmed when Oliver shot him. Tampa teen shot in domestic dispute

TAMPA - A 17-year-old boy was shot to death early Monday after being confronted by the estranged husband of a woman with whom he was staying. Syrcumna Hamilton, of 705 E Humphrey St. in Sulphur Springs, was shot in the chest with a .25-caliber pistol about 6 a.m. Monday at an apartment in the Knollwood Manor apartment complex, police said. Hamilton died in the apartment. Tampa police arrested James Edwin Brown, 24, of 1720 W Arch St., and charged him with armed burglary and first-degree murder after he turned himself in. Brown, who was already out on bail in an aggravated battery case involving his wife, Penny Brown, 21, was being held without bail in the Hillsborough County Jail. Mrs. Brown and another 17-year-old boy, Vincent Hillmon, whose address is unknown, were also inside the apartment at 2801 Sabina Ct. during the shooting. Both escaped injury during the confrontation. **Straight not responsible for breakdown**

**ST. PETERSBURG - Straight Inc., the Pinellas-based drug rehabilitation center, was not responsible for the 1982 psychotic breakdown of a Polk County man, a circuit court jury has ruled. The verdict, which came Friday night, was the result of a 1983 lawsuit in Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Court in which Michael [redacted] and his mother, Dorothy [redacted], of Bartow alleged that physical and mental assaults by Straight counselors and clients led to [redacted] breakdown. [redacted], who was then 18, is now a patient at a state psychiatric hospital in Arcadia and is diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic, a psychiatrist testified. Straight lawyers argued during the five-day trial that [redacted] had psychiatric problems preceding his stay at Straight. Ex-official found guilty of possession**

CLEARWATER - Former Redington Shores commissioner Wilfred W. "Fred" Ballard was found guilty Monday of marijuana possession, sentenced to one year probation and fined \$150. Pinellas County Judge Walter A. Fullerton III also sentenced Ballard to 100 hours of community service, suspended a 30-day jail term and ordered him to undergo drug screenings. Though Ballard pleaded no contest, Fullerton adjudicated Ballard guilty and said he imposed the harsh sentence because public officials should be held to a high standard of conduct. Ballard, 41, was arrested in August at a town park on Sunset Boulevard. After his arrest, Ballard said he was conducting his own investigation into drug dealing among youth. Ballard denied that he used drugs and said that he obtained the marijuana as a lure to get a teen-age girl to tell him about drug dealers in the area.

Accident closes part of Race Track Road

OLDSMAR - A 28-year-old Safety Harbor man was killed Monday in a head-on collision with a tanker that tore his car into three pieces along a remote stretch of Race Track Road. More than a mile of Race Track Road was closed for five hours while the scene of the accident was cleaned up. Anthony Jacob Howell, of 112 Timber Circle in Safety Harbor, was pronounced dead at the scene. Howell, northbound, drove off the shoulder of the road shortly after 10 a.m., about a half-mile north of the intersection of Race Track and Nine Eagles roads. He turned his car back onto the road but overcorrected and turned into the path of the truck, which was southbound. The truck driver, Michael F. McIntosh, 33, of Seminole, suffered minor injuries.

Five boaters rescued at John's Pass

MADEIRA BEACH - An Indian Shores police boat on its first patrol of the summer season came to the rescue of five pleasure boaters. Dennis Salliotte, who was aboard the two-person police boat, helped the five who were dumped into the Gulf on Sunday after their rented motorboat slammed into the fender system at the John's Pass Bridge and sank. "We saw the boat slam into the bridge and one man fell over or jumped," said Salliotte. The boaters sustained minor cuts and bruises in the 5 p.m. crash. They were identified as Eric Gandee, 25, and Nora Bennett, 25, both of Clearwater, and Dale Barclift, 23, and Christina Barclift, 23, both of Tarpon Springs. Police said they did not know the identity of a fifth man who hitched a ride with the other four. The five had been out on the water for about 20 minutes when they decided to return because the waters were too rough. Man sues state over marina ownership

INVERNESS - The owner of a Crystal River marina is suing the state over 12.5 waterfront acres he bought in 1986. The state claims it owns the land despite Joe Lombardo's \$1-million purchase and a deed from a former president giving the land to private owners. If Lombardo wins, the state could be ordered to reimburse him for more than \$50,000 Lombardo says he has spent fighting the state's claim to the Twin Rivers Marina site. If he loses, he could be forced to pay the state tens of thousands of dollars in back rent and lease fees for use of the land. At issue is a state claim to all land that was under water when Florida joined the Union in 1845. Such land is viewed by the state as a navigable waterway intended for public ownership.

County loses land for public golf course

SPRING HILL - A deal that would have culminated in the donation of 145 acres of land valued at \$2.5-million to the county has fallen through. When the Hernando County Commission approved the sprawling Seven Hills subdivision last August, the deal was sweetened with the news that the project's golf course could be Hernando's first publicly owned links. But because the county couldn't find a firm to run the course in time for the scheduled May grass seeding, the developer says he'll have to rescind his offer to the county. "My agreement with the county was that if they were interested, they would have to take it over prior to that process (of planting) beginning. It appears they can't do that, due to the lack of interested parties," said Lew Friedland, president of Seven Hills Inc.

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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

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