

PORT ST. LUCIE Hometown News

THREE
DINNERS

Arlene Borg, the Grammy Guru, offers three simple recipes from a single beef roast
Page B4



INSIDE

Vol. 10, No. 16 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, Sept. 23, 2011



HOW WEIRD IS THAT?
SEAN MCCARTHY

Spend any time surfing the Web and you are bound to find stories that are just too bizarre to be true. Here's a sampling, edited for length. And remember, just because it's online doesn't mean it's true!

From mercurynews.com: Camera lens fell from the sky, leaving hole in roof

Police are working to track down the owner of a camera lens that apparently fell from the sky earlier, damaging a local family's home.

Debbie Payne 55, said she found the approximately 2-pound, 9-inch Canon camera lens outside of her Petaluma, Calif., home after hearing a loud crash that shook the two-story house, left a hole in her roof and sliced through two window screens.

She said the noise was loud enough to startle her next-door neighbor, who quickly spotted a piece of the camera lens next to a truck parked in his driveway.

After reviewing Payne's mailed-in police report, officers are now tracking the lens' serial number and working with the Petaluma Airport and the Federal Aviation Administration to determine whether the part may have fallen from a plane.

Payne said she didn't see any aircraft near her home at the time of the incident. FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said that while he's never heard of a camera lens falling from an aircraft, objects such as plane parts and ice chunks do sometimes fall during flights, though rarely.

From newsnet5.com: Burglar gets stuck in vent trying to break into burger joint

A Cleveland burglary suspect was caught in the act after getting stuck in a restaurant's rooftop air conditioning vent.

It happened at Burger Haven on Broadway Avenue in Cleveland. Police at the scene said Edward Lawson scaled the brand new Burger Haven restaur-

See WEIRD, A2

FOOTBALL B6

JAGUARS WIN



Port St. Lucie holds on to win County Line Bowl 34-28

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday: Scattered thunderstorms; 89; low: 73; high tide: 6:07 a.m.; low tide: 12:17 p.m.
Saturday: Scattered thunderstorms; high: 88; low: 73; high tide: 7:08 a.m.; low tide: 1:12 p.m.
Sunday: Scattered thunderstorms; high: 88; low: 72; high tide: 8:05 a.m.; low tide: 2:04 p.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

INDEX

Classified B8 Police Report A5
Crossword B7 Rants & Raves A6
Obituaries A11 Star Scopes B1
Out & About B1 Viewpoint A6

City tax rate passes first reading

By Dawn Krebs
dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — Looking at a budget decrease of more than \$80 million for the coming year, the Port St. Lucie City Council voted 3-1 on Sept. 12 to move the proposed tax increase to the second and last reading.

The current tax rate is 5.4723 percent. If passed,

the new tax rate would increase to 5.7289 percent.

The tax rate includes the Crosstown Parkway Road Project, which receives \$1.22 of the rate.

The Crosstown millage rate was based on a voter referendum that determined the city could charge such a rate as nec-

See TAX, A2

Police dispatch system upgrade saves city money

By Dawn Krebs
dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — A recent upgrade of an obsolete dispatch system by St. Lucie County will end up saving Port St. Lucie approximately \$25,000 a year.

"The computer-aided dispatch system han-

dles all incoming calls to all the agencies," said Thomas Nichols, public
See DISPATCH, A8

Fully Licensed & Insured • License #CAC1814850
Who ya gonna call?
DUCT BUSTERS
772-340-7900
Duct Cleaning/Sanitizing
Call Today!
We Can Solve It!
EXCEL
Air Conditioning & Heating Inc.
www.excelac.com
Yes, we work weekends!

Smooch of thanks

John Miller, Harbor Place general manager, gets a smooch from Gene Miret during a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Honor Flight of Southeast Florida Thursday, Sept. 15 in Port St. Lucie. The Honor Flight organization flies veterans at no cost to see their memorials in Washington, D.C. Last year more than 22,000 veterans were flown from all parts of the United States to see the memorials of the battles they fought.



Mitch Kloorfain
chief photographer

Man accused of attempted extortion

By Jay Meisel
jmeisel@hometownnewsol.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — A Florida man sounded out of breath on a telephone recording as he desperately told the caller that he didn't have the \$7,000 the man wanted from him.

It may not have been an Academy Award-winning performance, but it convinced the caller that someone had done something to him.

The caller, Michael Francis Lapp, 58, of 279 S.W. Langfield Ave., Port St. Lucie, was subsequently arrested by Port St. Lucie Police and charged with extortion, solicitation to commit robbery and solicitation to commit aggravated assault.

"It all seemed like something out of a movie," said the lead detective in the case, who asked not to be named.

Police allege Mr. Lapp, the owner of Southern Comfort Quality Pool in Port St. Lucie, hired a man, who was actually an undercover detective, to assault several victims that he contended owned him money.

The man in the telephone conversation apparently went into some type of pool-related business with Mr. Lapp and when that ended, Mr. Lapp contended the man owed him \$7,000, the lead detective said.

The plan was that the man Mr. Lapp hired would visit the victim, assault him and then call Mr. Lapp, police said.

Police visited the intended victim and had him exert himself to the point where he was out of breath before they called Mr. Lapp, said Charlie Lumpkin, supervisor of special investigations for the Port St. Lucie Police Department.

"We wanted to make it seem as real as it possible," Mr. Lumpkin said.

The lead detective in the case said Mr. Lapp previously hired another man to extort money from the victim. Instead, the man, who police had previously used as a confidential informant, approached a detective and it was arranged that the

See EXTORT, A3

Hospital unveils new cardiac cath lab

By Dawn Krebs
dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — City residents won't have to travel far to have their cardiology needs met.

St. Lucie Medical Center recently unveiled its new cardiac catheterization laboratory, which will use state-of-the-art technology to assist patients with cardiac issues.

"Everything is new now," said Louis Carnendran, medical director for the lab. He is certified in adult, nuclear and interventional cardiology, as well as cardiovascular diseases.

The equipment used to see potential blockages offers a higher resolution, and the laboratory has the ability of managing multiple procedures at once.

The staff, consisting of the medical director, two cardiovascular nurses, a cardiovascular technician and physicians, is completely trained on the equipment.

But it's not just the ability to keep patients closer to home that's appealing.

Another advantage to the new equipment is that it can be used for in-hospital needs, as well as outpatient needs.

"We have improved the stabilization and treatment of patients with this lab," Dr. Carnendran said. "We can now do balloons and stents to help open clogged arteries. The majority of the time, we can now treat them here."

In addition to the traditional procedure of installing a cardiac catheter through the femoral artery in the leg, there is now the option of having the catheter installed through the wrist.

Jason McManus, an interventional cardiologist, is specially trained in

this technique.

"A majority of catheterization patients are good candidates for this technique," he said. "This means less bleeding and swelling, and virtually no bed rest."

The new generation of equipment even features an open x-ray machine, a system that scans patients without making them feel enclosed.

"Patients arriving at St. Lucie Medical Center requiring a cardiac procedure can be assured they're in excellent hands," Dr. Carnendran said.

Program gives offenders helping hand

Provides the 'little things' for those finishing the court system

By Dawn Krebs
dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — Sometimes all it takes is a pair of shoes to turn someone's life around.

That's what Diamond Litty, 19th Judicial Circuit Court public defender,

discovered when helping people through the court system over the years.

"Sometimes, all they might need is a pair of work boots to start a job," she said. "For us, the money is no problem, but

See PROGRAM, A4

Solar loan program to search for new director

By Jay Meisel
jmeisel@hometownnewsol.com

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — At least on a temporary basis, a former county commissioner who helped conceive of a solar energy loan fund may be taking over as its director.

The board of directors for the Solar Energy Loan Fund recently authorized Chris Dzadovsky, president of the

organization, to negotiate with Doug Coward to become interim executive director.

Mr. Coward, who currently consults for the organization, would fill the position that was left vacant by the program's first executive director, Sanjiv Doreswamy.

The program provides loans to homeowners

See DIRECTOR, A4

NEW SUBWAY eat fresh. **TOWN STAR**
CORNER MIDWAY & GLADES CUTOFF

TRY OUR SPECIAL **\$4.50**
6" SUB
20 oz fountain drink (cookie or Chip) Anytime Offer Expires 09-30-11
CORNER MIDWAY & GLADES CUTOFF
FAMILY FULL DINNER PACK \$9.99
From 4 pm till closing. With coupon only Offer Expires 09-30-11
Includes 2 foot long subs from select menu, 2 fountain drinks, 2 sides
CORNER MIDWAY & GLADES CUTOFF

bp
with Invigorate
"Help your car run younger for longer"

**Save Money,
Eat OUT!**

50 % OFF
Gift Certificates

www.hometownnewsol.com

Director

From page A1

throughout St. Lucie County for solar projects or other work to increase energy efficiency.

Generally, the program provides low-interest loans with longer terms to pay back the money. Officials have said the goal is for the program to become self-sustaining, with money received to pay back the loans being used to provide more loans.

vide more loans.

To provide new leadership for the program, the board will hold a national search for an executive director.

Mr. Doreswamy resigned partly because of family obligations, Mr. Dzadovsky said.

Mr. Dzadovsky, who also is a St. Lucie County commissioner, predicted the program will move ahead faster in the future.

He said Mr. Doreswamy took over at a time when a lot needed to be done to put the

basics in place.

Some have criticized the program with being slow and too bureaucratic in providing loans.

But Mr. Dzadovsky said the extent to which that was a problem resulted from the newness of the program.

In the future, the program is looking to expand in a couple of ways.

One is to open it up to residents of other counties in the area and possibly further away, Mr. Dzadovsky said.

The program also is looking at creating the equivalent of a voluntary taxing district, where the yearly payback amount for loans is placed on property tax bills.

Mr. Dzadovsky said people who did not receive a loan would have no charge on their tax bill.

Currently, the program provides loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000. It is also looking at ways to enable homeowners with a larger projects to receive more money.

LEONARD S. VILAFRANCO, P.A.
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

CRIMINAL DEFENSE
DUI, MISDEMEANOR, FELONY, DRUG CHARGES, JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FAMILY LAW
DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, PATERNITY, SUPPORT, MODIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT, ADOPTION

PERSONAL INJURY
Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Accidents, Slip and Falls, Catastrophic Injuries, Wrongful Death

No Fees or Costs Unless You Recover Money.
Years of Experience Dealing with Insurance Companies.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!
Same Day, Evenings and Weekend Appointments
VISIT US AT WWW.VILAFRANCOLAW.COM

Port St. Lucie • 871-6441 • 1430 S.W. St. Lucie West Blvd., Suite 103
Stuart • 288-7338 • 900 East Ocean Blvd., Suite 130D
Vero Beach • 562-4335 • 80 Royal Palm Pointe, Suite 202

758518

Program

From page A1

it could be an overwhelming obstacle to someone else."

The problem was the court programs already in place to help people in the county couldn't be used for what seemed to be small items. But it was these small items that could mean a job opportunity, a second chance.

So, two years ago, Lifebuilders was created.

"This is completely separate from the court programs and not funded by federal, state or county funds," she said. "The idea came from the programs that have already been in place."

The other programs — circuit drug court, mental health court and the offender reentry program — help county residents while they are in the court system. These programs have proven successful, and have been recognized on the state level for their low recidivism rate.

But until two years ago, there was nothing available to help people after they left the court system.

"We realized there was a gap, and we wanted to fix it,"

she said.

Since its inception, the Lifebuilders program has helped 288 people who have been through the court process get back on track on with their lives.

The nonprofit organization, headed by Ms. Litty, has volunteers from all walks of life from all over the Treasure Coast.

The program provides guidance, counseling and motivation.

"It's to help break the cycle and show people that others truly want them to succeed," she said.

The program starts with an application the person needing help fills out. After determining that Lifebuilders can help, the recipient of the assistance is asked to "pay it forward" either through volunteering or donating to a community agency, to help others in the same situation.

"It was the piece that was missing that we felt was needed," Ms. Litty said.

Initial data shows that approximately 80 percent of the individuals who use the Lifebuilders program do not reoffend.

"We're not helping just anybody," she said. "We're helping those that desperately want to help them-

selves, and just need that little bit more."

So far, the organization has operated on donations from the community and other nonprofit organizations, with approximately 98 percent of the donated money going directly to help people.

This year will be its first fundraising effort.

A Lifebuilders golf tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Legacy Golf and Tennis Club in Port St. Lucie. The event will feature a continental breakfast, outdoor grilled barbecue lunch a free golf cart and more.

It will be preceded by a cocktail "par-tee" at the Fazio Club the evening before. At the cocktail event, there will be wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres featuring Southern Eagle's Unwined wine. There will also be live and silent auctions, and local artist Colleen Nash Becht, who created the label for the wine, will also be there.

"We've gotten so much generosity for this," Ms. Litty said. "It's a dream come true."

Registration for the Lifebuilders golf tournament is at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Sponsorships are available. The tournament is \$125 per person and includes the cocktail par-tee.

The "Golf, Giggle and Glow" cocktail "par-tee" will be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14 at the Fazio Club. The cocktail portion only is \$25 per person. Please reserve by Oct. 7.

For more information, call (772) 882-1935, or go online to www.LifeBuilderstc.com.

DAN'S FAN CITY

LARGEST SELECTION OF OUTDOOR FANS ANYWHERE

DESIGN YOUR OWN FAN ASK HOW!

10762 S. US Hwy 1
Port St. Lucie
772 335-8625

Mon-Sat 9a-6p, Open Sun - 11a-4p
PART & SERVICE AVAILABLE
FAN EXPERTS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

FREE BASIC INSTALLATION ON FANS PRICED \$239.99 & UP
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED. NOT COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PRESENT THIS COUPON AT PURCHASE. EXPIRES 10/02/11

\$25 BASIC INSTALLATION ON FANS PRICED \$99.99 to \$239.99
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED. NOT COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PRESENT THIS COUPON AT PURCHASE. EXPIRES 10/02/11

www.DansFanCity.com

758600

Red Stag SANCTUARY
THE ULTIMATE COUNTRY LIFESTYLE

10550 NE 224th Street (Orange Ave) OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FL 34972

40-ACRE HOMESITES IN THE HEART OF FLORIDA
Acreage Also Available

The Ultimate Country Lifestyle

Leave behind the complicated and enjoy a wildlife sanctuary lifestyle. Build your dream home in the ultimate setting surrounded by Florida Deer, Bald Eagles, Wild Turkeys and exotics free to roam.

Envision being surrounded by towering oak hammocks while watching a grand red stag nibbling on the tender grasses below...

If you lived at Red Stag Sanctuary you wouldn't be dreaming... it would be real! You'll be able to sit on your porch while enjoying the incredible views of whitetail red stag, axis and sika that you won't find anywhere else in Florida!

This is an extremely limited opportunity to own your own piece of paradise located in Okeechobee County. Only 21 idyllic 40-acre home sites have been designed so as to make each as unobtrusive to the environment as possible.

Experience it to believe it!

- 40-Acre lots (with AG zoning)
- Easy build home sites
- Nature trails
- Common area with lake and other amenities
- 9,000 square foot pavilion for lease with fully electronic conference room for 120 people with full kitchen & outdoor seating
- Upgraded and maintained shell rock roads
- Native and exotic birds and animals free to roam property
- Natural wetlands, pine, oak, palm and cypress hammocks grace the property

Please contact
Bryce A Babcock, MRA Realty, Inc.
Cell: 772-971-9816
mrarealty71@bellsouth.net

The Outdoor

Entertainment

The Clubhouse

758576

INCENSE • CANDLES • CRYSTALS • OILS • CD'S • BOOKS

DREAMCATCHER

Your Local
Holistic Center
Since 2000

Mon - Sat - 10am - 6 pm 772-692-6957
Sunday noon to 5pm
1306 NW Fed Hwy - Stuart - Emerald Plaza

CD'S • INCENSE • CANDLES • CRYSTALS • OILS • CARDS

WINDCHIMES • READINGS

JEWELRY • CANDLES • CD'S

675680

Hair Trends

Love, Love, Love Your New Look!

Love Your Hair!

Smoothing Conditioning Treatment & Style.....\$35.00
Color & Cut (First time Client)\$60.00

Love Your Skin!

Skin Smoothing Peel\$25.00
Basic Facial\$30.00

Love Your Nails!

Mani & Pedi\$30.00
Full Set\$25.00

Facial Waxing
Bikini & Body Waxing
Eyelash Extensions

Put Your Salon Needs In Our Experienced Hands!
Call 772-398-8300 for your appointment
1006 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd. (Bridge Plaza)

675652

If You Love Music, This Is Your Chance to Learn to Play.
It's as Simple as Black & White!

CALL TO REGISTER
SEPT. 22ND
THRU
OCT. 1ST

GROUP ADULT KEYBOARD LESSONS
BEGINNER CLASSES:
KEYBOARD • PIANO • ORGAN

4 weeks \$20
You Will Be Playing in 4 Weeks GUARANTEED!

PRIVATE LESSONS AVAILABLE FOR PIANO, ORGAN & GUITAR

Yamaha • Hardman • Fender • Seagull • Samick • Kohler • Paul Reed Smith

Schumacher Music

772-286-7474

www.schumachermusic.com
888 South Federal Hwy. (Publix Center), Stuart
Mon-Sat 10-6 / Thurs til 8 / Closed Sunday

675680