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NEWS LEADER

Weekend weather

Friday
Isolated Storms
90/77

Saturday
Mostly Sunny
91/77

Sunday
Mostly Sunny
91/77

Inside



The City of Homestead's Education Committee held a luncheon last week. Above from left are Ms. Alicia Corrales, Ms. Valtena G. Brown, Education Chair and Councilman Elvis R. Maldonado, Mr. Carlos Salgado, Mr. Michael Meikle, and Dr. Jim Trantham. See Story 3A

In Biz

TIB Bank announced they have re-elected four directors. They are Florida City Mayor Otis Wallace, Marvin F. Schinzer, John G. Parks, Jr., and Bradley A. Boaz. See story 8A

Inside Sports

Mike Dill previews the World Cup. See what he thinks about Team USA's chances on making it to the semifinals.

Ed McLean previews the NCAA Super Regional between Miami and UF.

Editor's Corner

The South Dade News Leader would like to congratulate all high school seniors who are graduating this week. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

If you would like to recognize someone's birthday or anniversary on the front page of the News Leader, send the person's name, occasion and occasion date to mdill@calkins-media.com.

Poll Question

Our weekly poll question is available on our Facebook page. To answer the question, become a fan of the South Dade News Leader on Facebook.

Top answers will be published in next week's issue of the South Dade News Leader.

This week's poll question: What are your thoughts on the FCAT exam in schools and the emphasis placed on it?

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City Leaders break ground at new Charter High School site

City of Homestead officials, including Mayor Steven Bateman and Homestead Council members, joined representatives from Charter Schools USA, the Homestead Charter Foundation, and students and staff from Keys Gate Charter School for the official groundbreaking of the first phase of the Keys Gate Charter High School. This initial phase will include the remodeling of an existing building that will house 600 students in grades seven through nine.

"It's a great day for the City of Homestead," said Mayor Bateman. "I campaigned for better education and within six months we are getting it done."

After more than five years of working towards a new charter school, the excitement and anticipation could be felt at the event. This new school is a welcomed addition to the community and has enjoyed significant support from parents and students. The completion of this project will be ready August 2010 for the upcoming school year.

See CITY, 3A



LAST FLIGHT - Brig. Gen. Binger's son with help from Lt. Col. Michael Lesman, gives his father a good soaking courtesy of a fire hose. General Binger completed his final flight in an F-16 on June 3. Next week General Binger will head to his new job at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to become commander of the newly formed Force Generation Center, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tim Norton)

Binger takes last flight at HARB

By Tim Norton
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 150 base personnel, family and friends came out to welcome back Brig. Gen. William "Blaze" Binger after completing his final flight in an F-16 on June 3.

As the 482nd Fighter Wing commander taxied the aircraft in one last time, emergency response vehicles from the base and 20 law enforcement officers and vehicles from Miami-Dade County greeted him with sirens, lights and showers of water.

When the plane came to a stop and the engine shut down, the smiling pilot knew what was coming next - his son Jake, ready to give his father a good soaking courtesy of a fire hose.

"After landing I sat at the end of the runway thinking how fortunate I've been to fly for so many years and now it was coming to an end," said General Binger. "As I was taking in, I was trying to keep my emotions in check; it was really something to see all the flashing lights and people waiting."

After thanking everyone individually, the commander took the traditional drink of champagne.

Ceremoniously, when a pilot completed their 100th combat mission during the Vietnam War, the ensuing final, or "fini" flight included a bottle of champagne to celebrate a safe last landing and the end of their tour of duty.

See BINGER, 3A

Four-year old drowns in bathtub

By MIKE DILL
mdill@calkins-media.com



Miami-Dade Police Detectives are investigating the drowning death of a four-year old boy in Cutler Bay.

The boy, Nicholas Funez, was found by his father floating in a bathtub on Tuesday at a house located at SW 100 Avenue and SW 186 Street.

According to police, Funez was taken to Baptist Hospital in Kendall where he was pronounced dead.

Funez was visiting with his father, Jonathan Olivo, in Cutler Bay.

According to a relative, Olivo went to her duplex next door and said his son had drowned in the bathtub.

The relative stated Funez was "blue, almost black," from the lack of oxygen when she arrived at the house.

She stated that she gave the boy CPR and he "was drowned."

Olivo's aunt, Carmen Crespo, told reporters Olivo and Funez were bathing their family dog in the bathtub and the tub was full of water.

Olivo said he "left the room and when he returned, Funez was floating in the water."

Police are unsure of how long Olivo was away from the bathroom.

According to police, the death is unclassified and still being investigated.

BE SAFE

Funez's cousin, Jane Gutierrez, used the unfortunate incident to remind parents to keep their children safe, especially during the summer when kids are out of school.

"If you have a child, don't leave them unattended," Gutierrez said. "Especially in a bathtub, or anywhere that could cause danger for them because they really do not know and can't defend themselves from danger."

Experts say anytime a child is in or near water, safety should be the overriding goal. Whether it is at the beach, pool or bathtub, there should always be a responsible adult keeping a watchful eye on kids in or near water.

Florida ranks highest when it comes to drowning deaths of children between the ages of 0 and four-years old.

See BOY, 3A

Local doctor allows Doris to walk in her own shoes



Walk in my Shoes
with Doris Meneses

uled surgery, I told them I think I broke my toe on the same foot so I had to go in and we decided to go through with the surgery as I'd be limping anyway!

I arrived at Dr. Sandler's office at 7:30 a.m. I can honestly say that the only part that was painful were the injections to numb my foot.

He did forewarn me that he would use an instrument that sounded like a dentists drill and that described it perfectly. I finished reading a book as Dr. Sandler performed the surgery.

I did suggest he put a flat screen TV on the ceiling with headphones for his surgical patients. Hey, I'm worth it! I'll eventually have to do the other foot!

Surgery went well and after a weekend of sitting with my foot propped up, I was back to work

with my "special shoe" on my foot. In the waiting room on my visits, I noticed that I was in style as there were many special shoes on feet as well as the special boots. I hope Doc Sandler gets a discount on buying in bulk! I felt like Herman Munster or Frankenstein with the huge shoe!

Over my several visits, I have noticed a few things. First of all, and most important, is that Dr. Sandler is well liked and respected as his waiting room is always packed with people. Most know to bring a book or an iPod because he is busy and at times, he gets backed up.

During my early morning surgery, I explained that it was a shame that his waiting room was not packed with people because of it was, I told him I would moan, groan and yell loudly so as to help him have an easier work load that day because I bet I could clear a few people out of there! I don't know if he has quite figured out my weird sense of humor yet.

In addition, Dr. Sandler's staff is very friendly. I remember the first time his receptionist, Doris, called me. She was saying on the phone, "this is Doris" and I was saying, "Yes, this is Doris."

It took a few minutes going back and forth to realize we had the same name. Melissa in his office always had a "git her done" attitude and is always nice. I felt very comfortable with all the girls and after a few weeks of putting up with me, I think they were just beginning to understand my weird sense of humor!

I did ask the girls if I could tap

dance after this surgery and they told me I could. I couldn't believe it because I have never taken a tap dance lesson in my life! I also asked the young lady who was doing my x-rays if I should smile.

I will say that she did make me laugh hysterically, when she handed me the lead apron just in case this 55 year old woman was pregnant! I'd need a psychiatrist and not a podiatrist if I was!

Last Friday I was discharged from Dr. Sandler's care. I think I might even miss going there to see everyone. After I left the office I just could not believe what I had done. I actually forgot to perform my tap dance for his staff! I think I'll have to go back for my final performance!

Thanks Doc Sandler and all your staff!

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Miami-Dade Public Libraries and Dolphins team up for summer

The Miami-Dade Public Library System and the Miami Dolphins Foundation have teamed up to offer another summer of fun and exploration at the library. The Summer Reading Program begins Saturday, June 12, and will offer more than 1,500 literacy-enhancing activities - from storytelling, to magic shows, to environmental awareness workshops - and the opportunity for participants to win one of 30 grand prizes.

The six-week program is offered

in three categories with the themes Make A Splash, Read @Your Miami-Dade Public Library, for children 0-12; Making Waves @ Your Miami-Dade Public Library, for teens 13-18; and the "Summer Reading Challenge" for adults over 18. Registration begins Saturday, June 12, and all children and teens will receive a special gift just for signing up.

Children and teens who read, or who are read to, for two or more hours each week, will qualify for a

chance to win one of the grand prizes, which include a VIP visit to Miami Dolphins training camp, official Miami Dolphins memorabilia, a Miami Seaquarium Dolphin encounter, iPods, Netbook computers, Nintendo DS with games, an acoustic guitar, a Laser Quest birthday party for 10, Baby Einstein playsets, Moon Sand early literacy kits, Kodak playstore cameras, watercolor painting easel sets, youth skimboard/snorkel sets, youth board

game collection, a Barnes & Noble gift certificate, and a Toys "R" Us gift certificate. Children also have the chance every week to win passes to Miami Metrozoo- while supplies last.

Adults, over 18, are challenged to read a book or complete an activity, such as using an online catalog or participating in a library program, for a chance to win a \$100 Publix gift certificate.

Final dates to submit entry for children/teen grand prize drawing

is Saturday, July 24, and Saturday, July 31, for adults. Winners will be notified in late August.

The Summer Reading Program is designed to offer quality learning activities for all ages. Studies show that reading during the summer help children retain their reading levels from the prior school year. Adults who read serve as role models for children.

For complete details, log on to

www.mdpls.org or visit the nearest branch.

The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Miami Dolphins Foundation and the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library, and supported by Miami Metrozoo, Univision 23 and CBS4.



SNAP SHOT - Sharon Haxton gets a few tips from Robert Chaplin about taking photos in the Everglades. Haxton won an auction item at the Rotary Auction for a photography workshop and two-night stay at the Redland Hotel.

Local photography workshop a success

The weekend photography workshop purchased at the Rotary Club of Homestead's Charitable Foundation, 2010 auction was a success.

Owners of the Redland Hotel, Rex and Katy Oleson, and Robert Chaplin of R. L. Chaplin Photography, Inc. teamed up to donate an "Everglades Experience" weekend photography workshop to the Rotary Club of Homestead's Charitable Foundation annual auction.

South Dade residents Sharon and Laird Haxton were the successful bidders for the weekend workshop which included 3 days

and 2 nights at the Historic Redland Hotel and a 3 day workshop which included early morning and early evening field trips.

The workshop started with a classroom session to discuss camera settings and image composition. Then 2 days are spent in the field photographing all the Everglades have to offer including a sunrise and sunset.

Watch for a return of this exciting workshop at the Rotary Club of Homestead's 2011 auction. Funds from this event are used for scholarships to local high school students to help with college expenses.

Local resident honored by Molina Healthcare of Florida

Molina Healthcare of Florida recognized six unsung heroes at its first annual Community Champions Awards dinner, which was held at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. One of the winners was Kim King Torres from Florida City, who won the Faith-Based Organization Award.

Kim Torres has dedicated her life to serving at-risk children and families in South Florida through the founding and leading of the Branches ministry. For more than 15 years, the Branches Model programs have been offering holistic, multigenerational after-school tutoring and mentoring as well as college preparation and literacy programs to the community. More than 250 students are served each year through the four sites in Miami-Dade and Broward.

"Kim goes above and beyond the call of duty to help children in need," said David Pollack, presi-

dent of Molina Healthcare of Florida. "She personally invests in the lives of these kids and does everything she can to see them through. Kim helped one of her students since she was a child in 6th grade until she recently graduated from college on a full scholarship. Kim demonstrates true commitment."

Established to honor the memory of Dr. Molina, our Community Champions program spotlights the good deeds of everyday heroes in their communities. The 2010 winners were recognized in several categories: education, faith-based organization, support group/service club, healthcare professional and volunteer. Each winner also received a \$1000 grant to give to a deserving nonprofit organization as part of his/her award. Torres has designated Branches Ministry to receive the grant.

Fee-Free P.L.A.Y.

The Deering Estate at Cutler will host Fee-Free "P.L.A.Y." Days on Saturday, July 17th and Saturday, August 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends and enjoy complimentary admission as well as hands on eco-art activities, science discovery programs, and historic house tours - all for free! Guests can stroll through the Artist Village where the Deering Estate's Artists-in-Residence create and display works of art in their studios. The GroveHouse Artist Exhibit will also be on display in the Richmond Cottage. Spend the entire day and have a picnic on the main lawn facing Biscayne Bay. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cookies and soft drinks will be available for an additional fee. Food provided by The Mango Cafe at Fruit and Spice Park.

The Fee-Free "P.L.A.Y." Days were created to honor the Deering Estate's partner organizations and the community. On Saturday, July

17th we will honor The Village of Palmetto Bay & its residents.

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STUDENT EXHIBITION "Down by the Sea"

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