

Delray may tighten water restrictions

Quality debated at street festival

By SANDRA JACOBS and MICHELLE BUETOW
Staff Writers

DELRAY BEACH — Water wars are being waged this weekend at the Delray Affair, the city street festival known for arts, crafts and chocolate-covered bananas.

This water fight does not involve water balloons and squirt guns.

To drink or not to drink city water is the question being debated. It's a war of words and swallows.

County plays host to month of festivals. 4B

City officials have set up a booth to urge people to conserve water in the wake of a city water crisis caused by chemical contamination of some city wells. At the booth, a city hydrant is hooked up to a water fountain for festivalgoers to sample the city's water.

"The intent is to urge people to conserve [city water] and to offer them a glass of water to show it is safe and pleasant to drink," City Manager Walter Barry said.

The fact that two vendors set up booths nearby to hawk drinking water filters and bottled water may have encouraged the city's public relations effort.

One salesman did not blame the current water crisis for impurities that his company claims are in the city's water. But he questioned the general quality of local water.

"The city is not equipped with the type of filtration system which can take out dissolved contaminants we find in the water here," Hugh Gayle of Rain Soft Water Services said.

But city and Health Department tests have shown that water is well within safe limits.

"If people want to spend [money] that's their option. But [city water] is purified to all reasonable standards," Barry said.



Jessica Bonilla, 7, of Delray Beach drinks from a fountain at Delray Affair.

Suspected well field polluter, state agree on initial stage of cleanup plan

By SANDRA JACOBS
Staff Writer

DELRAY BEACH — While city officials were contemplating more stringent conservation measures because of soaring water use, the company suspected of polluting a well field agreed with environmental regulators on Friday on the first stages of a long-term cleanup plan.

City Manager Walter Barry said continued high consumption may force the city to augment lawn watering rules imposed in February.

"I do not understand it," Barry said, noting that city residents used 14.4 million gallons on Thursday — considerably more than the 10 million gallons daily that would be a "comfortable level" during the water crisis.

The city is able to pump about 12.5 million gallons daily, down from more than 20 million gallons daily last fall before some wells were closed because of industrial contamination and others were limited by saltwater intrusion.

A reserve of about 6 million gallons gives the city day-to-day flexibility over short periods.

Restrictions more severe than the twice-weekly limit on lawn watering may be discussed on Monday after a closer examination of this week's water consumption, Barry said.

So far, almost 600 warnings have been issued to first-time violators of the mandatory conservation rules imposed on Feb. 25. One second-time violator has received a notice to appear in court, where he may be fined \$25.

Meanwhile, a plan to evaluate the well field contamination was agreed upon between officials from the state Department of Environmental Regulation and Aero-Dri Corp., the company suspected of causing the cancer-causing chemical tetrachloroethene to reach the city's most productive wells, near Interstate 95 and Southwest 10th Street.

Soil and water tests to determine the

quantity and location of the contamination are expected to begin in 10 days, said Carlos Garcia, a hydrogeologist for Dames and Moore, environmental consultants hired by Aero-Dri to handle any necessary cleanup.

Garcia said monitor wells from 40- to 140-feet deep will be drilled on Aero-Dri property and near contaminated city wells about 700 feet away. Those tests, which are expected to take about seven weeks, will dictate a cleanup program, Garcia said.

City Manager Barry said on Friday that "any step forward is a good step," but he is eager for removal of the chemical to begin.

Health Department officials have cautioned, however, that depending on the extent of the pollution, it could be years before all of the contamination is removed from the well field.

While waiting for the contamination assessment tests, Aero-Dri is working on an interim cleanup plan, according to the enforcement manager for the environmental regulation department, John Van Arnum, and the company's consulting engineers.

These agreements are separate from a more far-reaching "consent order," which would specify Aero-Dri's responsibility and liability for the contamination and which is being negotiated.

Although such negotiations seemed stalled, Van Arnum said he received from Aero-Dri on Friday a new proposal on what has been a controversial point in the proposed agreement: a paragraph describing the company's commitment to restoring a potable water supply.

Department Attorney Jack Chisholm has said that if a consent order cannot be negotiated, the agency might seek a court order against the company or take administrative action against it.

The proposed consent order includes a \$34,500 fine.

City officials have said they intend to re-evaluate the \$700,000 spent so far on huge temporary filters that have made some of the western wells usable again.

Boy, nanny mourned by family, friends

By SALLIE JAMES and SALLY DENEEN
Staff Writers

The baby swing hung limply from the yellow-flowered tree on Friday.

Little Danny Smith Jr., who swung many times on the carved swing in front of his Boca Raton home, died on Thursday at his grandparents' oceanfront home in Deerfield Beach. The 23-month-old boy ran into the ocean, outpacing his nanny.

And he drowned.

His nanny, who dived in after him even though she did not know how to swim, died on Friday.

"Everybody loved my son. He loved the park, and he loved the water," said the boy's mother, JoAnn Smith, who also has a month-old son, Kenneth. "He had just started to swim."

"What can you say? It's my first kid, he's 2 years old and he was my buddy," the boy's father, Danny Smith, said brokenly.

Smith gave up his duties this year as varsity wrestling coach at Spanish River High School west of Boca Raton to spend more time with his family, principal Art Johnson said. Smith teaches industrial arts, with specialty in carpentry and woodcarving, at the school. He has been there five years.

He's a good teacher, very conscientious," Johnson said.

The family had put up a wooden fence around their canal-backed home in the 700 block of Northeast 33rd Street to keep the children in the yard, just as they fenced the backyard pool to keep the kids from falling in, said Hans Strobach, a neighbor.

"That's a shock," Strobach said of the deaths of Danny and his nanny, Kamilia Hassan, 46.

The boy raced to the beach outside the home of his grandparents, in the 1000 block of Hillsboro Mills.

"Apparently, he tore off to the beach, and his nanny went after him," said the boy's mother, who, police said, was on the telephone when the drownings occurred. "I

found them both floating."

The nanny could not save him.

"She was petrified of the water, but she just jumped in and tried to save him," JoAnn Smith said. "She didn't know how to swim."

Three medical students on the beach administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the victims until paramedics arrived.

Hassan was pronounced dead at 9:05 a.m. on Friday at North Broward Medical Center. The boy, who was the nephew of Hillsboro Town Commissioner Chuck Davis, was pronounced dead at 6:32 p.m. on Thursday.

Hassan had practically raised JoAnn Smith and her brother, Commissioner Davis, said Jack Davis, the toddler's great uncle.

"She loved him [Daniel] so much, she could sacrifice herself for him," Jack Davis said.

Police speculate that the two may have drowned when they slipped into a dropoff point between a sandbar and the beach.

"We feel he went out as far as the dropoff and then the maid went out there, too," Hillsboro police officer Gary Liccardi said. "She must have panicked, not knowing how to swim. Not more than 10 feet off the shoreline, it drops off about 4 feet."

All was quiet on Friday at the Smiths' home. The family had been staying with the boy's grandparents while their home is being renovated.

Neighbors contacted on Friday had not heard the news.

Services for Daniel will be at 11 a.m. today at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton. Burial will follow at Boca Raton Cemetery. Robert J. Babione Funeral Home, 1100 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, is in charge of arrangements.

Services for Hassan will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Robert J. Babione Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the Boca Raton Cemetery.

Staff Writer Lori Crouch contributed to this report.



A Boynton Beach police officer posing as a prostitute speaks to a potential customer in a police sting on Friday.

Boynton Beach police decoys hook drivers seeking prostitutes

By PHYLLIS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

BOYNTON BEACH — The clean-cut man driving a family car full of toys and a baby seat looked as though he might have pulled his car to the curb to ask for directions on Friday.

But it was sex — not directions — he wanted from the woman on the side of the road. And it got him arrested.

The woman, clad in tight jeans and a tank top, was a Boynton Beach police officer, and the man was arrested on charges of soliciting for prostitution, police said.

"All I did was ask her if she wanted a

ride," the Boynton Beach electrician said as police handcuffed him and put him in the back of a patrol car.

But according to police who listened to the conversation through a microphone under the officer's clothes, the man offered her \$20 for oral sex.

A steady stream of customers kept the two police officers who were posing as prostitutes along the 1800 block of Federal Highway busy during a reverse sting targeted at arresting men who patronize hookers.

Nine men were arrested in less than three hours. At least 15 more pulled over to talk to officers Mary Hooper and Karen

Dwyer but could not be charged because they never formally asked for sex.

Interested men pulled over on Federal Highway or drove their cars into the parking lot of a closed restaurant and made a deal with the officers. When the deal was made, the "prostitutes" signaled other officers in nearby unmarked cars to make the arrests.

Prostitution traffic usually begins in the evening, but over the past few weeks, hookers have been working during the daylight hours, police said.

Hooper was propositioned five minutes

SEE DECOYS / 4B

INSIDE LOCAL

A judge orders nine families to vacate a West Palm Beach-area apartment complex until the landlord cleans up sewage that flooded the property. 3B

REGION

Deerfield Beach city officials give statements to the Broward State Attorney's Office as part of an investigation of possible Sunshine Law violations. 5B

Visual Arts school opening may be delayed one year

By LORI CROUCH
Staff Writer

Possible delays in the opening of Palm Beach Lakes High School by a few months could delay the start of the planned School of the Performing and Visual Arts by a year, district officials said.

The Twin Lakes High School performing arts school is scheduled to open in 1989-90, but if the Palm Beach Lakes High School students have to stay at Twin Lakes — set to close at the end of the school year — the performing arts school may not open until 1990-91, said Joseph Orr, associate superintendent of instruction.

"We may be a full half-semester behind on the magnet school, so we will be one year behind," he said. "With a six-month delay, it really pushes us into another fiscal year. It's more than just moving in remodeling — there's got to be a lot of remodeling."

Because construction is progressing more slowly than expected, the district projects that Palm Beach Lakes High School will not be able to open until November, Schools Superintendent Tom Mills said.

The contractor maintains the school will open on time in August.

"This is our estimate," Mills said. "We

feel confident based on our experience that we will not get in until November."

District officials will meet sometime this week to definitely determine what they project is the opening day for Palm Beach Lakes High.

When Twin Lakes closes, the buildings will be completely renovated to house performing arts and visual arts classes, said Bill Hukill, assistant superintendent of ground management.

He said it was unlikely that the remodeling could be done in time to open the school in 1989-90.

"We've allowed one year of construction time," Hukill said. "If it comes about to

10 months, it can be doable, but if it's four months, it's not. We'll have to look at it as the year progresses."

Mills said that because only 900 students are scheduled to attend for the first year of the performing arts school, the students may be able to attend the school while remodeling takes place.

"It's possible we could open it," he said. "We haven't given it much thought. It's possible we could work around the construction, so we may be able to work around the construction with that small a number. We'll have to see what the architect plans to do, and that will give us direction."

Teens take death-to-life exodus

By AMY DePAUL
Staff Writer

Adam Pollack, 17, is bracing himself to walk through the former concentration camps of Poland — to envision the ghosts of the slaughtered and come face to face with horror for the first time in his life.

The Cooper City High School junior and 57 other Jewish teen-agers from South Florida will begin an exodus on Sunday — the first part of a trip that will take them to Auschwitz, where 4 million people perished.

"A couple days ago I found out we will be seeing rooms filled with human hair, when they made lampshades out of human skin," Pollack said. "I know I've never dealt with

terror like that."

After a 1½ weeks in Eastern Europe, the students will leave for Israel, joining in a national birthday party to celebrate 40 years since the founding of the Jewish state.

"The tragedy of the Holocaust and the birth of Israel. From the depths of depression to the heights of exhilaration. The whole concept is going from life to death," said Gene Greenzweig, director of education at the Central Agency for Jewish Education in Miami.

Greenzweig is coordinating the U.S. effort of the March of the Living, an international gathering of 1,500 Jewish students at Auschwitz. The students will meet, tour the camp and then march 4 miles to Birkenau, another death camp. Af-

ter their visit to Israel, the students will return home on April 25.

There are 10 high school students from Palm Beach County, 32 from Dade and 16 from Broward County who will represent South Florida in the march. To be chosen as participants, the students were interviewed by their local Jewish federations and wrote essays explaining why they wanted to take the trip.

The students are active in their temple youth groups, participate in extracurricular activities in school and show leadership qualities, Greenzweig said.

For Boca Raton High School senior Michelle Claudio, the trip will help her pursue her life's calling. "I'm looking to be a rabbi," Claudio said. "Judaism is a way of life.

For Jews to be persecuted for what they believed is idiotic."

At the concentration camps, students will view rooms piled high with shoes, caps, toys and suitcases left by victims on the way to their deaths, Greenzweig said.

"The kids will be inside a gas chamber," said Nechama Lieber, who works for the Jewish Federation of South Broward. "It's going to be so real for them. It's going to mature them, make them grow up quickly," said Lieber, who is going as a chaperone.

The mood from Poland to Israel will change to exuberance and relief, Lieber said, because of the birthday celebration and because the students will have left behind — at least physically — the trauma

ISRAEL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

These local events will be taking place on April 16 and 17 in honor of Israel's 40th anniversary:

- "Art Israel: The 1980s," a touring exhibit of contemporary Israeli artists, is featured at the Hibbel Museum in Palm Beach. Admission is free. Times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- An outdoor street festival takes place at Flagler Drive and Clematis Street in West Palm Beach from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, featuring Israeli folk, music, dance, a marketplace featuring authentic Israeli arts and crafts, and children's rides.

of Poland. Lieber said there can be no real appreciation of Israel without an understanding of the Holocaust that preceded the nation's birth.

"Israel will be very uplifting, a necessary antidote to the way they'll feel after they leave Po-

land," Greenzweig said.

Students have agreed to talk to local Jewish organizations when they return from their trip. The cost of the trip is \$1,000 to \$2,000 per student, depending on scholarships provided by local Jewish organizations in all three counties.

DECOYS

FROM PAGE 1B

Decoys in Boynton hook motorists seeking prostitutes

after she hit the streets on Friday.

"It's very confusing to me why these guys are picking up girls on the street and opening themselves up to all kinds of diseases," said Sgt. David Nissensohn, who supervised the sting operation. "Most of the ones we pick up are married and have wives at home."

The men who stopped for the "prostitutes" ranged from corporate engineers to carpenters. Several truckers pulled over to make the officers an offer.

One man had a small child in his car, but he spotted patrol cars in the area and pulled away without making the women an offer.

Most of the men were offering money for sex. Some were offering for a bargain.

"I want everything!" said a Delray Beach painter, who offered Hooper \$10.

A man in a red pickup truck told Dwyer what he'd like her to do and asked her to do it for free because he was broke. "Come on, Please, I don't have any money," he said.

Prostitutes with crack cocaine addictions have cut the street price for sex in half, police said. "Some of the girls have drug addictions that are getting worse and they're letting it go [cheaper]," Nissensohn said.

The man with the car full of baby toys spotted police in the background before he offered Hooper money for oral sex.

"Psst, do you know the Boynton police are across the street?" he asked.

County gearing up for major festivals

By MICHELLE BUETOW
Staff Writer

So many festivals, so little time.

Within the next four weeks, Palm Beach County will play host to three city festivals, an auto race and a polo tournament, accompanied by enough food, music and special attractions to last an average county a year.

But festival coordinators and city officials are counting on residents to remain enthusiastic through the month-long party atmosphere. The special events are expected to garner crowds totaling close to 1 million before they end.

Ellen Duncan, publicity director

for Boca Raton's Meet Me Downtown arts and entertainment festival, said that the events complement each other, rather than compete.

"I think they all go hand-in-hand. It's almost like one long-term festival with all of South Florida," Duncan said.

The Delray Affair, the oldest of Palm Beach County's annual festivals, kicked off the season Friday and will continue through Sunday.

The Delray Affair features more than 450 exhibitors, with booths selling food, art, clothing and jewelry. In honor of the festival's anniversary, the '60s pop group, The Association, will perform tonight.

Entrance to the Delray Affair is

free, but tickets for The Association are \$5. For more information, call 278-0424.

■ Palm Beach Polo in Wellington is offering a departure from the atmosphere of a street festival with the opening rounds of its \$100,000 Cadillac World Cup, today and Sunday.

The tournament semi-finals will be on April 16, with the final at 3 p.m. on April 17. Ticket prices run from \$8 to \$55. For more information, call 793-1440.

■ On Friday, Boca Raton will pick up with its street festival where Delray leaves off. Meet Me Downtown will run three days. Admission is free.

Jazz performers Copeland Davis and Alice Day will perform on April 15 in Sanborn Square. For information, call the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce at 395-4433.

■ The 1988 Grand Prix of Palm Beach has moved its dates up to April 22-24 at the South Florida Fairgrounds.

Tickets to the event are \$20 to \$60. Children under 12 get in free. For more information, call 952-RACE.

■ SunFest, boasting the largest jazz festival in Florida and the highest attendance of local street festivals, will open April 28 and close with a performance by George Benson on May 1.

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