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Local

CLASS TEACHES ABOUT RISKS OF PROSTITUTION

"This program may save their life, literally."

West Palm Beach police program enables first-time offenders to keep record clean and avoid conviction

Gail Levine

By Jerome Burdi
STAFF WRITER

WEST PALM BEACH » James Richards' older brother taught him the ropes: "Get in the car with the first white man that stops and ask for a lot of money," he recalled.

Richards, 26, said he's worked as a prostitute since he was 18 and pulled in \$1,000 on good weeks. It's the quick cash that's addictive, he said at the West Palm Beach Police Department, only steps from Clematis Street, where the night-life revelers helped him stock his bank.

He got caught and was given the option to keep a clean record by attending a four- to five-hour class held at the Police Department.

The class, Prostitution Impact Prevention Education, has been a successful one.

It began in 2000 and has had 3,000 "johns" and prostitutes pass through its doors. Only eight have been rearrested on prostitution charges, according to organizers. The class is given four times a year in English and Spanish. About 75 people attended earlier this month.

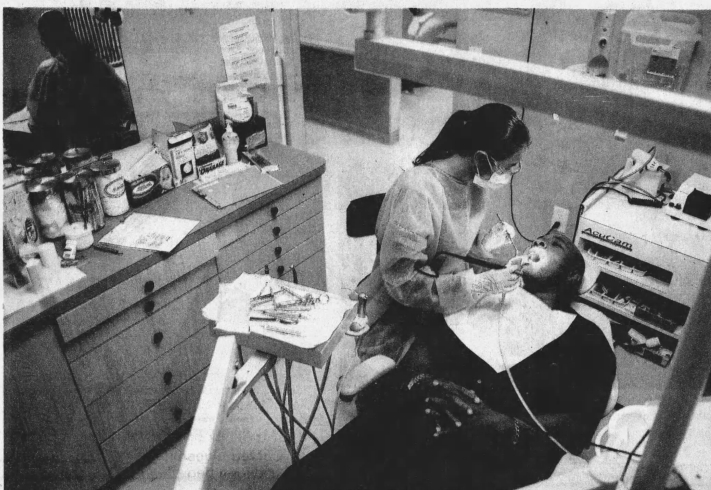
"The info and impact they get during those five hours is so overwhelming to them that they are able to realize and accept that their type of behavior could have them in harm's way," founder Gail Levine said. "This program may save their life, literally."

Speakers from law enforcement, mental and physical health experts, and at times a former prostitute lecture in the class about the dark side of hiring a lady (or gentleman) of the night, or being one.

However, Levine said, the program is more likely to work on the men who pick up prostitutes.

The horror stories abound in the class: a prostitute with AIDS who bit a man's genitalia, the robbery setups, the rapes. And for the finale, there are graphic photos of the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases.

"We tell people we see this all the time and they're not so special," West Palm Beach Police Agent Rob



Dental hygienist Adriana Flores works on Yvan Daniel, of Boynton Beach, at the Caridad Health Center west of Boynton Beach. Twelve years after moving into a 7,600-square-foot building, center operators say they are running out of space. *Carline Jean, Sun Sentinel*

LIFESAVER FOR MIGRANTS IN NEED OF ROOM TO GROW

Caridad Health Clinic

Where: The 7,600-square-foot building is at 8645 W. Boynton Beach Blvd.

Services: The clinic has become a multifaceted organization with at least six medical examination rooms and six dental rooms, X-ray facilities, an immunization room, blood-testing rooms, and a limited pharmacy. It also has a comprehensive vision program, offers mental health counseling, chronic disease management, breast cancer prevention, after-school tutoring, scholarships, food and clothing.

Source: Caridad Clinic



By C. Ron Allen
STAFF WRITER

WEST BOYNTON » The waiting room is packed with families hoping to see a doctor. Outside, at least seven others waited in cars or at a lunch bench.

This is just another day at the Caridad Health Clinic west of Boynton Beach, where the 12-year-old building is ripping at its seams.

"We are so crowded," said Carmen Nieves, the clinic director. "We are oversaturated right now. We're using hallways, we're using closets and we're using everything as offices."

Today the clinic, which serves 6,500 to 7,000 patients annually, is a stark contrast to 12 years ago when the founders built the 7,600-square-foot building and wondered if they would be able to fill it.

It didn't take long after the opening for word to spread among farm workers about the services provided at the clinic, officials said. With the demand, the center continues to add more services and has expanded in size, reach and scope.

Until a few months ago, some patients would camp

» CARIDAD PAGE 4

Afghanistan, Iraq veterans can call 211 to get assistance

Line is link to jobs, transit, financial aid, health services

By Brian Haas
STAFF WRITER

South Florida's Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans can now get special assistance through the 211 social services referral agency.

A program called BrAlive (the capital "A" and "I" referring to Afghanistan and Iraq) can help veterans and their families get financial, job and mental health help this holiday season and beyond.

Dialing 211 in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties connects callers with operators who can give referrals to social service agencies that provide assistance through the BrAlive program.

"There are a lot of things these people are coming home to: stressors, on top of a very poor economy and job market," said Patrice Schroeder, community relations specialist for 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast.

"A lot of these individuals might not feel comfortable calling a government hotline ... we're a private nonprofit, everything is confidential and we're highly trained," Schroeder said.

Schroeder said 389 Palm Beach County veterans have used the 211 service through November this year to request help, and the service expected more callers in December.

» SERVICES PAGE 4



DELRAY BEACH

FCAT tutoring offered free

The recently formed Delray Beach Public Library Teen Advisory Board will offer free FCAT tutoring for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders in January and February.

Tutoring will be provided Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Classes start Jan. 4. Space will be limited to the first 12 students who sign in per day.

Subjects will be math, science, reading and writing. For more information, contact Loanis Menendez-Cuesta at loanis.menendez@delraylibrary.org or call 561-819-6299. — C. Ron Allen

► PROSTITUTION PAGE 1

Only eight class grads have been rearrested

McGinley said. "These prostitutes don't like them, they don't think they're attractive, they're using them as a means to feed their habit."

The program is available for anyone with a previously clean criminal record who is arrested in Palm Beach County. The arrest still shows up on the record, but it can be expunged and there is no conviction. In addition to the class, people who opt to take the PIPE program have to take a sexually transmitted disease test.

Police say drugs and prostitution are the two most common complaints they hear about and are crimes that help bring down a neighborhood. They feed other crimes, police say, such as robbery and even murder.

In fact, it was the rampant prostitution along Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach in the 1990s that helped push Levine — who worked with the State Attorney's and Public Defender's offices — to develop the program.

The men in the class declined to be interviewed, but seemed to be affected by the STD photos the most. They were making sounds of disgust upon seeing the deformities and degeneration that the "social" diseases can cause in the body.

For more information on PIPE, visit wpbpolice.org/pipe.php.

Jerome Burdi can be reached at jburdi@SunSentinel.com or 561-243-6531.



Mark Randall, Sun Sentinel

Dr. Joaquin Garcia talks about sexually transmitted diseases with people attending the Prostitution Impact Prevention Education program in West Palm Beach.

Bulletin Board

COMPILED BY CHERYL AMICO

Saturday

Art festival in downtown Delray Beach. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Atlantic Avenue between Third Street and Swinton Avenue; items include folk art, pottery, handmade jewelry, handmade clothing and more. Call 954-472-3755.

Art film series. "Simon Schama's Power of Art Film Series," 2 p.m., Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Mizner Park. Free with paid admission: \$5 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for students. Call 561-992-2500.

Green markets in Boca Raton and West Palm Beach. both 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; in Boca Raton, produce, plants, prepared foods, soaps, doggie treats, specialty arts and crafts, fresh-cut flowers and more at Royal Palm Plaza at South Federal Highway and Mizner Boulevard, call 561-368-6875; and in West Palm Beach, at Narcissus Avenue and Second Street, call 561-822-1515.

Historical Delray Beach bus tour. narrated, 10:45 a.m. for 11 a.m. departure from Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave.; 10 historic sites, \$15 for adults, free for children younger than 18. Call 561-243-2662.

Stamp club and postcard show. Cresthaven club, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 2485 Metro Centre Blvd., West Palm Beach. Free. Call 561-969-3432.

Sunday

Brunch Club. noon, at various restaurants in Palm Beach and Broward counties; all ages welcome; call 561-361-9091 to register.

Men's Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m., Temple Beth Kodesh, 501 NE 25th Ave., Boynton Beach; featuring entertainment by Sheila Shteynberg; \$7; call 561-588-9428.

Yoga with live music. see www.yogafox.com; 9:30 to 11 a.m., Colony Hotel and Cabana Club, 525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. \$20 or class card, or membership. Call 561-703-1236.

Monday

Duplicate bridge. ACBL, 12:30 p.m., Temple Shaarei Shalom, 9285 Hegen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach; \$7, includes lunch. Call 561-385-8666.

Mah Jong. every Monday for intermediate and advanced players, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Mae Vollen Senior Center, 1515 W. Palmtoe Park Road, Boca Raton. Free. Call 561-395-9920.

"Meet the Author: Anthony Plantier." 4 p.m., Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd., Plantier, a member of Fordham Prep's English and religion departments, will discuss his book "PONTIAX: Summer Sojourn in the Rome of the Popes." Free. Call 561-278-5455.

Sophisticated Discussions: A Singles Group. 7 to 8:30 p.m., Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Free. Call 561-393-7807.

Mail items to Bulletin Board, c/o Cheryl Amico, Sun Sentinel, 333 SW 12th Ave., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442, or camico@SunSentinel.com

Recycle your Christmas tree

Delray Beach is sponsoring the "Recycle Christmas Tree Program."

Until Jan. 11, residents that do not have curbside vegetation pickup, can drop off used Christmas trees free of ornaments, tinsel and lights to Knowles Park, 1001 S. Federal Hwy.; Barwick Park, 735 Barwick Road; Miller Field, 1905 SW Fourth Ave.; and Orchard View Park, 4060 Old Germantown Road. Call 561-243-7138. — Cheryl Amico

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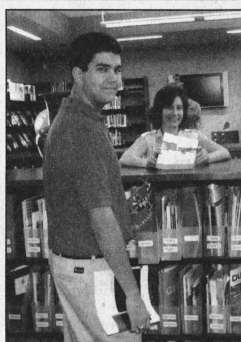
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Boca/Delray American Heritage School SCHOLARSHIP EXAM



Four-year full or partial academic scholarships will be awarded to students entering ninth grade.

Saturday
February 20, 2010
8:30 a.m.

College Preparatory School
for bright average to gifted students in PK3 - Grade 12

American Heritage School will award full or partial academic scholarships to high-achieving eighth graders entering ninth grade for the 2010-11 school year. To register and obtain details call 561-495-7272 Ext. 215. Students must be registered to take the exam. Do NOT use the application posted on our website. For more information about American Heritage School, visit www.ahschool.com.

- College Counseling from Middle School Through High School
- Low Student/Teacher Ratios • College Prep, Honors & AP Courses
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New additions to our 40-acre campus include a 10,000-sq. foot Media Center, a \$7 million Fine Arts Center, a state-of-the-art Science Building, and dozens of new classrooms, including a mock courtroom for our Pre-law Program.

6200 Linton Boulevard • Delray Beach, FL 33484
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a Holiday Lights Spectacular '09
at Roger Dean Stadium - Jupiter, FL

Now thru Dec. 27
3 Nightly Shows
6:30, 7:30 & 8:30

FOR TICKETS CALL TICKETMASTER 1-800-745-3000
In person at Roger Dean Stadium Box Office in Jupiter or online at BrightNightsPB.com

FOR EVENT INFO CALL 561-837-0061

Admission Price:
\$8 per adult (13+)
\$4 per child (ages 2 and under free)

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