

Despite self-indulgent moments, Madonna concert testament to longevity, 3C

Katherine Harris campaigns locally days after surgery, 5C

## Woman plans suit to recoup fence costs

The Wellington resident aims for class action against the village.

By CATRIONA STUART  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WELLINGTON — Boisterous cheers and shouts of joy erupted from the audience when the Wellington Village Council voted to overturn the town's much-reviled fence ordinance last week.

And some may be suing.  
After spending \$1,200 to comply

with the ordinance, which would have gone into effect June 1 of next year, Colette Miller is launching her own efforts to recoup her money — and that of other residents — by working with a lawyer to file legal action against the village.

The aggravating process over the ill-fated ordinance not only wasted her money, she said, but also left her with a

headache and a fence she never wanted.

Miller isn't alone. More than 100 households in Wellington had erected chain-link fences, and many are looking for recourse. So Miller has been going door-to-door to let residents know that she and her lawyer are about to take action and they hope a court can be persuaded to give the case class-action status.

"I don't like the chain link at all. I didn't like it then, and I still don't," Miller said. "I feel like I want my money back."

At least three more public meetings are planned until a newly drafted ordinance becomes law, said Charles Lynn, the village manager. While complaints from people who have erected the fences stream in to village officials, the process will afford time where "hopefully some of these issues will be worked out," Lynn said.

The issue of uniform fencing for homes along major thoroughfares has been a contentious debate between residents and the village. It dates to

See FENCES, 11C ►

**'I don't like the chain link at all. I didn't like it then, and I still don't. I feel like I want my money back.'**

COLETTE MILLER  
Wellington resident attempting to recoup her and other residents' losses



Frank Cerabino

## Vulnerability pays — so let's act terrified

We're not acting as terrorized as we should in Florida — for our own economic good.

When the Department of Homeland Security came out with the latest results from its National Asset Database this month, Florida didn't even make the top 10 states most likely for a terrorist attack.

That might sound like good news, except that this database is how the government decides how to divvy up the terror-fighting dollars, and we got trounced by such Al-Qaeda hot spots as Indiana, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

And while it may be terrifying to live in Nebraska, I still can't imagine a plausible explanation how these impostor states get to act more terrified than Florida — where, I might add, a bunch of the 9/11 terrorists actually lived.

This happened because each state came up with its own numbers, and some states acted more terrorized than others.

For example, New York didn't even bother to list the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, Times Square or the Statue of Liberty, while Alabama singled out Old MacDonald's Petting Zoo in Woodville as a place ripe for attack.

Indiana did the best job of all, coming up with 8,591 potential targets, including a popcorn factory and a bean festival.

By contrast, Florida identified only 2,014 sites. Sure, we listed our concern over an insect zoo, but unlike some other states we didn't bother to list any of our schools.

(Although the thought there might be that the public school students here are already terrorized to the limit by the FCAT.)

The been poring over the numbers, seeing how Florida could do better in future counts:

### Count funeral homes

For some reason, mortuaries are considered vulnerable to terror threats. I don't know why, considering that most of the people there are already dead. But even so, there are 571 mortuaries already listed for protection. Certainly we can pad our numbers here.

### Have we listed all our Jiffy Lubes?

I guess it's all about controlling the oil. The database already singles out a place named 4C's Fuel and Lube for protection, and there are 127 gas stations across America on the list.

— We've got nearly that many gas stations on Military Trail.

### Make our beaches pay off

If some state gets to list "beach at end of a street" as a potential terror target, we get to use our long coastline, where we might imagine that Al-Qaeda agents would use "a street" to get to one of our beaches to harness the power of ... sea lice for evil.

### Monuments

There are 224 monuments already listed on the protected list. But not Harold, the anatomically correct gangway outside T's Lounge in suburban West Palm Beach.

Don't worry, practically anything can count. For example, the list of Washington listed 65 monuments worthy of protection, far more than the 37 listed by Washington, D.C.

### Golf courses

Twenty-five golf courses across the country are listed on the national database. And this includes some putt-putt courses. Clearly, if some states get to be paid off for their putt-putt terror concerns, we get to throw in a few dozen more of our full-length courses.

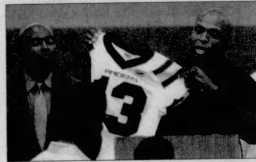
### Jails and prisons

Have we listed all our jails and prisons as potential terror sites? No, we haven't. Yes, Al-Qaeda may want to kill our criminals ... which would, er ... cripple our ... I don't know. I'll have to think of a good reason, or maybe ask the people who already have put 244 correctional facilities on the list.

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Hundreds say their goodbyes to a football player killed in a car crash.

Stanfield Watson Jr. is memorialized on T-shirts worn by the Game Room Boys, a close-knit group of friends.



Glades Central High football coach Willie Snead holds up Watson's No. 13 jersey, which will be retired.

## Friends, family lean on faith



Staff photos by ALLEN EYESTONE

Mae Delores Campbell-Harrison speaks at the funeral at Glades Central. "I'm at peace. I have the assurance my son is resting in the hands of God," she said.

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

BELLE GLADE — Stanfield Watson Jr. was so popular he held up the start of his own funeral.

Watson, 18, was killed one week ago when his sport utility vehicle veered off Southern Boulevard and crashed into a wall. Three other teenagers — like Watson, football players at Glades Central High School — were critically injured.

Watson's funeral took place in the

school gymnasium Saturday. It was supposed to begin at 11 a.m., but mourners still filed past trophy cases in the gym, forming a long and somber line. The bleachers filled, then row after row of plastic chairs on the gym floor.

By 11:30 a.m., most everybody was seated. Hundreds came to praise Watson and praise the God who they said had called him home.

Many of them bolted from their seats, bodies swaying, clapping their

hands and tapping their feet as a singer with the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church choir sang a rollicking *Jessie Will Pick You Up*. The singer's voice was so raw, so rich, so resonant, she might have made a believer out of the devil.

In the bleachers, some of the ladies wearing their finest dresses fanned themselves, while their daughters and nieces tottered in high heels.

"This is not a funeral — it's a ...

See FUNERAL, 4C ►

## VENGEFUL HOMECOMING

Forced out of Nazi Germany, a Boynton man returned as a U.S. interrogator.

By WILL VASH  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

BOYNTON BEACH — Forced to leave his homeland nearly 70 years ago, Fred Strauss didn't need a gun to exact revenge on his countrymen. He used a language.

Strauss, 99, was a member of the Ritchie Boys, the common name for a not-so-typical special intelligence unit of the U.S. Army. Made up of mostly Jewish European immigrants, the group trained to infiltrate enemy lines and interrogate prisoners — and many members brought back valuable knowledge of the enemy.

New attention is shining on these men thanks to the documentary *The Ritchie Boys* by German filmmaker Christian Bauer. The movie is making its way through Palm Beach County.

Strauss has seen a lot in his 99 years, but his body doesn't give it away. The man looks 80, acts 50 and always seems ready with a joke. He regularly plays golf, swims at the pool in his Hunters Run community and takes an aerobics class with women 20 years younger.

"People have come and gone but he's still



LMA SANGUINI/Staff Photographer

Fred Strauss, 99, coerced information from Nazi prisoners at the end of World War II. "I had no more longing to be German," he says.

there," aerobics classmate Gerry Kaminsky said. "Everybody loves him. He is an inspiration."

Now Strauss, who is not in the documentary, is sharing a story most haven't heard.

He was in Germany at the tail end of World War II as Berlin was being taken block by block by Russian troops. As part of his job, he interviewed Nazi soldiers and citizens. There would be 200 Germans a day, and Strauss had to make

See STRAUSS, 8C ►

## School for 'johns' tries to scare sex solicitors straight

By LARRY KELLER  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

On a recent Wednesday morning, Allen Salton, public health advisor for the Palm Beach County Health Department, is deciding which disturbing photos of diseased genitalia to show on the screen behind him to a rapt audience.

So many diseases, so little time. "We can do wars," he announces.

An overflow classroom at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office waits expectantly.

"Oh" somebody mutters as the next group of color pictures — these of venereal wars — goes up on the screen.

So goes the latest class offered as part of the PIPE program — Prostitution Impact Prevention Education — that some people charged with misdemeanor sex crimes have the option of attending.

A mix of driver improvement school and *Scared Straight*, the class alternates between giving pep talks and trying to shock men and a few women right down to their lusty loins. Speakers hope to talk men out of having sex

See PIPE, 9C ►

Seeing friends die spurred school's founder, 10C

# Class wipes participants' record clean

► PIPE from 1C

with prostitutes, but failing that, urge them to at least use condoms.

On this morning, more than 100 men and two women were a captive audience as they sat at long tables in adjoining classrooms at Palm Beach Sheriff's Office headquarters. A Spanish language interpreter was provided for more than two dozen of the men.

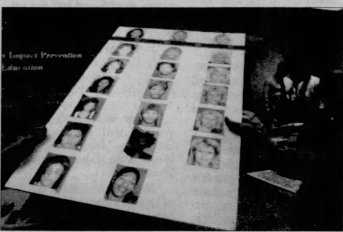
The group appeared to range in age from about 21 to 75. They were baseball caps, shorts, polo shirts. Most were arrested for soliciting sex on the street. Some looked embarrassed.

PIPE works this way: When someone is arrested for soliciting prostitution or another misdemeanor sex crime, a prosecutor decides if he is eligible for the program. He won't be if he has a prior criminal record. If he is eligible, he's shown a video explaining the program and offered a deal in which he pleads guilty to the misdemeanor charge and is sentenced to 60 days in jail. He is released on his own recognition to complete the conditions of the plea, including attending the 3½-hour class. He pays \$50 to participate, so PIPE is able to operate without public money. The classes are offered four times a year.

In addition to class, defendants must stay out of several designated areas popular with street prostitutes for the next two months, unless they can show they must travel there for legitimate reasons such as going to work. They also can commit no new crimes in that time, and they must submit to an HIV test. The result of the test is released to nobody but them.

Once they complete the program, their plea and jail sentence are vacated and they have no criminal record as a result of their arrest.

PIPE was founded in 2000 by West Palm Beach community activist Gail Levine. She said of 1,500 people who have completed the program, she knows of only six who have been arrested again on prostitution or other misdemeanor sex charges. She goes to the courthouse three days a week and keeps written records in notebooks of



West Palm Beach police evidence showing the downward spiral progression of prostitutes is shown at a PIPE class Wednesday.

who is arrested on misdemeanor sex charges.

At the most recent PIPE class, speakers tried a variety of tactics in an effort to dissuade their audience from hooking up with hookers or other anonymous sex partners again.

There was Salton, of course, with his array of horror photos and startling statistics and symptoms. There was Eric Keith, a detective in the violent crimes division of the sheriff's office. Because sex acts with street prostitutes are usually consummated in secluded places, men are especially vulnerable to being robbed or beaten by their pimps or boyfriends, he said.

"Don't be surprised if you wake up with your jaw broken, your skull smashed, and talking to a detective," Keith warned them.

Then there was Mary Foster Miller. A plain woman wearing a blue smock, hair in a ponytail, Miller looked like she could be a grocery clerk or the manager of a Goodwill store, which she is.

But until six years ago, Miller said, she was a long-time prostitute and crack cocaine addict in West Palm Beach.

"I picked up every venereal disease that can be picked up," except AIDS, she said.

"If I had to hurt you, if I had to rob you, if I had to hurt your family, I didn't care," Miller said. "I was out there for myself."

Miller said she turned her life around, even getting married in October. The audience applauded that.

If they don't care about

the welfare of the prostitutes, most men are apt to be concerned about their own well-being. So up on the screen they were shown a photo of a dead man in a stairwell, killed after visiting a prostitute.

"This is what could happen to you," said Levine, the PIPE program founder.

For good measure, that was followed by photos of a corpse on a gurney at the medical examiner's office.

Not everyone is convinced that programs such as PIPE — often called "johns schools" — are as successful as they claim.

"They don't reduce prostitution. It just goes somewhere else," said Carol Leigh, an artist and performer and spokeswoman for COYOTE — Call Off Your Tired Ethics — a San Francisco-based sex worker rights organization.

John Lowman, a Canadian criminology professor who has studied prostitution extensively, has called johns school programs "a morality play," and contends there is no evidence that they are more effective at deterring johns than processing them in the usual ways through the courts.

County Court Judge Nelson Bailey concedes that it's possible some johns just get smarter, arranging future trysts with "a different class of prostitute" than those on the street. "But I think a lot of them are scared off because of the health aspect of it. I know it has a real impact."

One of those attending the PIPE class was a prostitute with a 20-year-old's body and a 50-year-old's face. Arrested for plying her trade, Annette, 41, was stoned

throughout the class, even nodding off briefly when not providing a running commentary on the course. She said she was a heroin addict, now using methadone to wean herself off the drug. Police also found a crack pipe in her car this year, records show. Annette's been turning tricks and stripping since she was 14, she said outside the class.

"I actually like being a prostitute," Annette said. "I enjoy pleasing men. No pimps. My money is mine."

While she said she enjoyed the class, Annette seems unlikely to change professions soon. She was working the street, she said, because her driver license was suspended and she couldn't make outcalls. Now her license has been reinstated "and I can be more discreet," she said.

Whether the PIPE class will change the behavior of the men who attended the latest class is less clear.

Those willing to talk on a first-name basis said the class was worthwhile. "I think it will change my outlook on things to a certain extent," said Chris, 25, who was busted for soliciting sex on the street.

Another man in his 20s said he thought the information on STDs was good. The man said he was arrested in John Prince Park, where his girlfriend was giving him oral sex on his birthday.

Another class participant, Chuck, 45, was nabbed after soliciting sex from an undercover police officer in a public restroom.

"Wrong place, wrong time," he said. "I think it was a great program. It's definitely necessary."

But will it change his behavior? "I'm going to be more selective in who I choose, rather than an anonymous person," Chuck said.

Nobody can say for sure, however, whether these men will stick with their newfound religion once the images of cancerous genital and eviscerated bodies begins to fade. "I would hope I wouldn't do it again," Chris said. "But I can't say I won't do it again. I don't know that."

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HORSE SHOE ACRES  
WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
PROJECT NO. WUD 05-114  
SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 42S, RANGE 43E  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY ABUTTING THE ABOVE REFERENCED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, that each parcel of land shall be subject to a special assessment for the 100% of the cost of the water main extension improvement project described above shall be paid by special assessment to the specially benefited parcels in Horse Shoe Acres.  
YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED that all parcels subject to special assessment shall be assessed by the front foot method of assessment in the amount of \$62.76 per front foot, so as to fairly allocate the cost of the project, and that if said assessment is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, it will be placed on all parcels subject to special assessment pending satisfaction of the individual front footage assessment balance. The total assessment for the 16.483.05 linear feet of front footage (483 properties) is \$1,044,831.82. The special assessment will be collected by the Tax Collector of Palm Beach County through the Uniform Assessment Collection Act for property tax and shall be collected in twenty equal annual installments of principal plus 6 1/2% interest or may be paid in full without interest within thirty (30) days of notification of final completion of the special assessment project by the clerk of the Circuit Court. Failure to pay the special assessment will cause a lien to be placed against the property, which may result in additional fees and loss of title.  
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are advised that the description of each parcel to be specially assessed and the amount to be assessed in each parcel may be ascertained at the Administration Office of the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department located at 8100 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33413; or by contacting the Assessment Coordinator, David A. Mughal, telephone 561-492-6120. The amount of said special assessment and the conditions of the assessment may be ascertained by contacting the Assessment Coordinator, David A. Mughal, telephone 561-492-6120. The special assessment shall be subject to final approval by the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing to be held beginning at 9:00 A.M. on **Monday, August 15, 2006**, in the Committee Room of the Board of County Commissioners, 6th Floor of Government Office Center, 301 North Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida, at which time and place any necessary adjustment or equalization of road special assessments will be made in accordance with the law. Property owners have a right to appear and file written comments with the Board of County Commissioners prior to or during the public hearing.  
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS may wish to attend said Public Hearing. If any person desires to appear or to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter connected with the Public Hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for each purpose, they may need to assure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony of evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
Palm Beach County, Florida  
Board of County Commissioners  
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