

NewsWorthy

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Palma Sola, according to the report.

Tanner also informed detectives he stole boat motors, tools and an air compressor during his other burglaries in Palma Sola, Cortez, Longboat Key and Holmes Beach.

Gonzalez withdraws from superintendent race

Luis Gonzalez, one of five finalists for the Manatee County school superintendent position, has withdrawn his application. Gonzalez told officials he was withdrawing for personal reasons. He is a former superintendent for Mathis County School District in Texas.

Manatee County's assistant superintendent of Business Services, **Tim McGonegal**, is one of the remaining four candidates for the superintendent position. McGonegal held a reception this week attended by local principals and district staff. The reception was held at the district's administrative building last Monday. Like the other remaining candidates, McGonegal was given a tour of several schools and district offices last week, and he interviewed yesterday with the Manatee County School Board. The decision will be announced at the latest at the board's regular meeting Monday.

Manatee commission OKs more Fort Hamer bridge talk

Manatee County commissioners agreed Tuesday to discuss a possible land swap with a local development group for property needed to construct a Fort Hamer

bridge and the Port Manatee connector road to Interstate 75.

FHB Associates, led by **Pat Neal** and **Carlos Beruff**, proposed to give the county land to build the port connector road that officials say will make Port Manatee a major economic hub. Manatee County would also give up land for the bridge to be built. In addition, FHB wants to build, own and operate the bridge, as well as collect the tolls that would pay for the bridge.

But some Manatee commissioners are hesitant to give up future revenue. Commissioner **Joe McClash** is in favor of the bridge and the connector, but he voted against further talks with FHB. McClash said the project should go to public bid. He already has been talking to another company, Global Via, which would build the bridge. The county would retain ownership and split toll revenues with Global Via.

The county's legal team agreed with McClash, wanting to put the bridge-building process out to bid, as is required of all county projects. Manatee attorneys said a land swap would be unlikely, because some of the FHB plan would require state property of which the county has no rights.

Commissioner **Amy Stein** led the support for FHB. FHB's Neal was her main contributor for reelection, but Palmetto Mayor **Larry Bustle** defeated her.

Concession named ninth best golf course in nation

Golfweek magazine has named the Concession Golf and Country Club the

ninth best residential course in the United States. The Concession is one of three **Jack Nicklaus**-designed courses in the Top 10: Castle Pines Golf Course in Colorado at No. 2 and Mayacama Golf Course in California at No. 3. Golf Digest named the Concession the 'Best New Course' in 2006. The golf club is at 7710 Lindrick Lane on the Sarasota-Manatee border.

Bradenton mom sues school

A Bradenton mother is suing the Manatee County school district for negligence, saying her daughter was not protected from sexual abuse by fellow students. The first-grade girl had reported abuse from a previous event to her teachers. The lawsuit filed on behalf of the mother states her daughter was sexually abused by three boys on four different occasions during school hours at Orange Ridge-Bullock Elementary School in Bradenton. The alleged abuse occurred in November and December of 2007, when the girl was in first-grade.

Manatee County school officials will contest the lawsuit. An investigation by the school district concluded there was no sexual abuse or any sexual activity. The mother is seeking damages up to \$100,000; and she is also seeking the costs of the counseling for her daughter.

The school board attorney cannot say whether any disciplinary action was taken against the three students mentioned in the lawsuit, as district policy restricts officials from commenting on individual students, including details of disciplinary actions.

Five inmates hospitalized

Five Manatee County Jail inmates were hospitalized Wednesday after ingesting a poisonous flower, angel's trumpet, which causes a recreational high. According to Manatee County Sheriff's deputies, the low-security inmates were clearing overgrowth in the 2700 block of Eighth Avenue in Palmetto around 2:30 p.m. when the five inmates ate the angel's trumpet. By 3 p.m., deputies noticed the inmates behavior was out of the ordinary. Ingesting the plant can cause elevated blood pressure, increased heart rate, agitation and violent behavior said authorities. In some cases, people can slip into a coma or die.

EMS was called to transport the inmates to hospitals, two were taken to Manatee Memorial Hospital and the other three were taken to Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. Their conditions varied from serious to mild. The most serious one was taken to Manatee Memorial. The incident is under investigation. No criminal charges are expected.

Last chance for Realize Bradenton survey

This is the last week for the community to add their voice to the Realize Bradenton Survey. Visit www.realizebradenton.com and click on the link in the middle of the homepage.

The Realize Bradenton Cultural Plan will help drive the vision for arts and culture in our community, support downtown redevelopment and strengthen the link between economic development and the cultural community.

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Sunday AM Worship: 10:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship: 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 PM

THE TRULY BEAUTIFUL PERSON

A grandmother and a little girl spent the day at the zoo. As the little girl was waiting in line to get her cheek painted with a tiger paw, a boy in the line cried. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!"

Embarrassed, the little girl dropped her head. Her grandmother knelt down next to her and said. "I love your freckles."

"Not me," the girl replied.

"Well, when I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," spoke the grandmother as she traced her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The girl looked up. "Really?"

"Of course," replied grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little girl peered into the old woman's smiling face. "Wrinkles," she answered softly.

E-mail questions to dbeck60@tampabay.rr.com or write to the address above.
Archived BIBLE REASONING articles can be found at www.palmettochurchofchrist.com
"Come now, and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18)

The desire to be popular with one's peers has created a society that thrives on physical beauty. To be accepted among the 'beautiful people', one must have golden brown skin, pearly white teeth, good muscle tone, 'abs' of steel, and no body fat. Oh yes, one must never age!

Jesus rebuked the religious hypocrisy of the Pharisees by saying they were like whited sepulchres, beautiful on the outside but rotten on the inside (Matthew 23:27). One may look the part of a faithful Christian but inwardly may be as ungodly as the vilest child molester. The inward person makes us either beautiful or ugly, not the outward person.

Beauty is not in the eyes of the beholder. It is in the heart of the individual. Where there is bitterness and resentment, there can never be true beauty. Where there is pettishness and selfishness, there is no beauty at all.

THE FISH ARE BITIN'!

(Come on over and bite them back!)

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