

The Stuart News



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Wednesday, April 9, 2008

'DANCING WITH THE STARS'

PROM PRIMPING How to look like a million bucks, for less; plus, hair and makeup tips. TODAY, D1



ADIOS, ADAM Comedian and TV host

Adam Carolla packs up his dancing shoes. STORY, A2

NICKLAUS LAMENTS CHANGES TO AUGUSTA

The Golden Bear says he doesn't like the new, harder course, but he understands why it's needed.

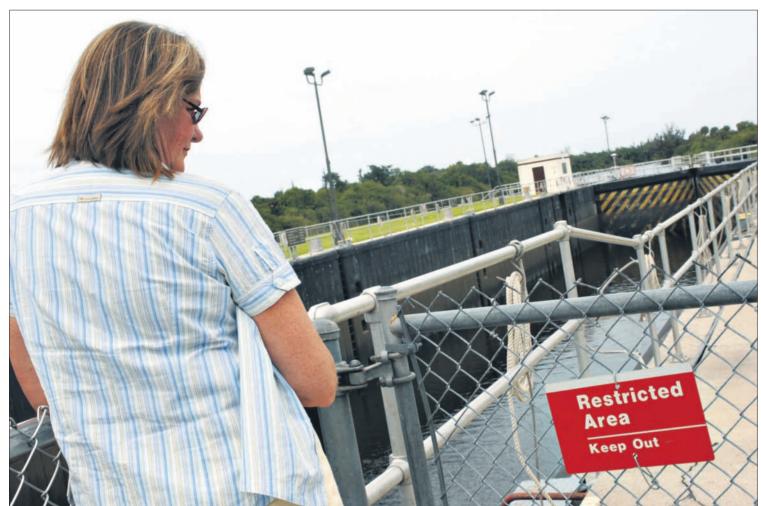
SPORTS, C1



50 cents

Saving sea cows to suspend cross-state boat traffic

St. Lucie Lock & Dam will close temporarily to install manatee protection device



"This is my first time to see a lock," said Sandy Knipe from Pennsylvania as she visited the St. Lucie Lock & Dam on Tuesday. "I was really hoping to see a boat go through." The lock will be drained and closed to boat traffic to repair manatee protection devices during the second half of summer.

BY GABRIEL MARGASAK

gabriel.margasak@scripps.com

INDIANTOWN — Federal officials plan to use a new high-tech acoustic system to protect manatees in the C-44 Canal from being crushed by the St. Lucie Lock & Dam.

What the Army Corps of Engineers heard loud and clear so far is that boaters, the marine industry and a Martin County commissioner want **WORK** the work done as fast as possible to mini-**SCHEDULE**

mize the impact to boat traffic.

The only cross-state waterway connecting the St. Lucie River to Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Okeechobee Waterway, will be completely closed during an operation that could take up to seven weeks. Corps officials said they already have moved the date back to July from June to accommodate marinas and their patrons, and asked the contractor to add more workers to speed the project.

"It still doesn't address the issues of the residents and property owners out there on the canal, and its hundreds literally. who won't be able to get out to the river or the Atlantic Ocean," said Martin County

Commissioner Michael DiTerlizzi. "So I've asked the corps to expedite the operation by working 24 hours a day.'

The commissioner believes round-the-clock work will cut

See BOAT, page A10

The St. Lucie Lock

& Dam will be

drained and com-

pletely closed to

boat traffic to re-

pair manatee pro-

Here's the tentative

Closed: beginning

Open: by Labor

Day, Sept 1.

tection devices.

schedule:



TOM BERTOLLO • Reader snapshot

Three manatees play near the St. Lucie Lock & Dam in Stuart last June. A new high-tech acoustic system to protect manatees will be installed in the lock.

Army Corps of Engineers officials said they already have moved the date back to July from June to accommodate marinas and their patrons, and asked the contractor to add more workers to speed the project.

Justice Dept. warns tax protesters to pay what they owe

Federal officials targeting tax preparers, others who promote ways to evade taxes

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN The Associated Pres

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department targeted tax "defiers" Tuesday, warning that Americans who refuse to pay up on April 15 could wind up spending even more later in costly penalties.

Prosecutors also sought to shut down a Florida-based marketing firm that made millions of dollars off advising people how to avoid paying annual income taxes.

"With the privileges that this

country gives you, we have both obligations and responsibilities to give back," Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hochman told reporters in Washington. "Taxes are the lifeblood of the American civilized society.'

Hochman oversees the Justice Department's cadre of tax prosecutors. He described claims by some groups that income taxes are unconstitutional as "bogus."

"If you owe taxes, you must pay

them. Period," Hochman said. Since 2001, the Justice Department has shut down more than 100 tax preparers and those who promote ways to evade taxes for intentionally filing fraudulent claims and frivolous returns. Hochman did not immediately know how much these so-called tax defiers cost the government in lost revenues.

See TAX, page A10

Dunkin' Donuts frosted at area distributor over health standards

Company suing Willoughby Boulevard bakery and distribution center over alleged sanitation, safety violations

BY MEGAN V. WINSLOW megan.winslow@scripps.com

STUART — Dunkin' Donuts is suing one of its

local franchises for failing to meet company standards related to health, sanitation and safety, according to a federal lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, the South Florida Donut Distribution Center on Willoughby Boulevard — where bakery goods for area stores are baked and shipped from — violated the Massachusetts-based company's operational standards during a private food safety and sanitation inspection in March and has failed to correct the problem.

The lawsuit did not specify the type of violations, and because the inspection was conducted by a private company, the report is confidential.

Dunkin' Donuts Spokesman Andrew Mas trangelo said company officials cannot comment on pending litigation. He would not specify which South Florida Dunkin' Donuts shops receive their bakery goods from the Willoughby distribution center.

Representatives from the franchise could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

According to the lawsuit, Dunkin' Donuts hired Steritech Group, a "brand protection service," to conduct the inspections.

Steritech Group provides "food safety, quality assurance and pest prevention services," according to the company's Web site.

A Steritech employee investigating the 2550 S.E. Willoughby Blvd. shop on March 10 found "numerous standards violations relating to health, sanitation and safety which were damaging to Dunkin's reputation and goodwill," according to the lawsuit, and a list of needed corrections were provided.

But during a second inspection March 20, a

See DONUTS, page A10

Government says gas could touch \$4 a gallon this spring

BY JOHN WILEN

NEW YORK — Retail gasoline prices pulled back slightly from record levels Tuesday and gave some consumers a small break, but a new government forecast said gas could reach as high as \$4 a gallon during the summer driving Oil futures prices, meanwhile, fell as the dol-

lar stabilized, giving investors an opportunity to lock in profits from crude's recent rally. Limiting the declines were developments in Iran, which announced plans to expand its uranium enrichment program and said it has tested key equipment, a move that raised the market's concerns about political conflict that could affect the country's oil exports.

In its monthly report on petroleum supplies and demand, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration forecast that monthly average pump prices will peak near \$3.60 a gallon in June, but could rise as high as \$4 a gallon at times. That's a dime higher than the EIA's previous monthly average projection, and brings government forecasts closer to those of many analysts who expect gas prices to peak close to \$4 a gallon.

The government also predicted high prices will cut demand for gasoline at the height of the summer. Gas consumption will fall by about 0.4 percent during the peak summer months, and overall consumption of petroleum products will drop by 90,000 barrels a day this year, the EIA

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FROM PAGE A1

said. The agency previously said petroleum consumption would rise by 40,000 barrels a

High prices are already having an impact on demand, which has fallen since Janu-

On Tuesday, regular unleaded gas prices slipped slightly to a national average of \$3.331 a gallon from Monday's record of \$3.339, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices are 55 cents higher than a year ago.

Crude oil's rise above \$100 earlier this year is the main reason gas prices have been rising. Crude futures rose to a trading record of \$111.80 last month, and have since traded in a range between about \$100 and \$110.

On Tuesday, light, sweet crude for May delivery fell 59 cents to settle at \$108.50 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but alternated between gains and losses. The dollar stabilized against the euro Tuesday, making oil less effective as a hedge against inflation. That led some investors to take profits from a rally Many analysts expect oil prices to rise higher in coming months, possibly above last month's records, as the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates later in the year.

that's added 8 percent to the price of a barrel of crude in a week. Analysts believe the dollar's long decline fed the investment surge that pushed oil above \$100 earlier this year.

However, the declines were limited by concerns about Iran's announcement that it has begun installing and testing equipment at a uranium enrichment plant. The U.N. Security Council has already passed sanctions against Iran for expanding its nuclear program, and the market is concerned that an escalation of tensions could affect oil exports from the Middle East.

"The announcement of the (equipment) there I think makes people a little bit nervous," said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research Inc. in Amherst, Mass.

Many analysts expect oil prices to rise higher in coming months, possibly above last month's records, as the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates later in the year. Lower rates tend to weaken the dollar. Minutes of the Fed's March meeting, released Tuesday afternoon, showed policymakers were far from unified in their decision to cut the key federal funds rate by threequarters of a percentage point. but are worried about the severity of the economic slow-

High oil prices have also sent diesel prices higher. Diesel's national average price rose 1.3 cents to \$4.02 a gallon on Tuesday, AAA said, within 2 cents of last month's record.

'We'll set a new record this week — probably in the \$4.05 to \$4.10 a gallon neighborhood," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J.

Diesel fuel is used to transport most of the world's food, industrial and consumer products, and is one of the reason food prices have risen so sharply this year.

Tax protesters argue the IRS has the authority neither to force employers to withhold federal income tax from their workers' paychecks nor to compel anyone to pay income taxes. They estimate tens of thousands of Ameri-

Robert Schulz, founder of We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education, says the government has for vears avoided answering questions about its specific authority to collect taxes.

"If they don't respond, then the people are free to withdraw their allegiance, their financial support, retain their money," said Schulz, of Queensbury, N.Y. "They are

anti-tax. It's not true they're not anti-tax, they're just pro-law."

quick to portray everybody as

Schulz does not pay income taxes since deciding in 2002 to eschew any jobs that would pay him. He lives on revenue from selling parts of his property — for which he pays capital gains taxes — and embarked on a hunger strike in 2001 to protest the government's enforcement of the income tax.

On Monday, the Justice Department filed injunctions in federal courts to stop Pinnacle Quest International (PQI) and its agents from selling and marketing products that help customers bilk the IRS though shady tax shelters or by filing fraudulent claims.

The injunctions, filed in Pensacola; Tacoma, Wash.; and Portland Ore.; accuse the firm of selling \$54 million worth of tax evasion materials between 2002 and 2006. Many of the products were sold at pricey resorts around the world, including during a Mediterranean Sea cruise last May that was attended by 400

One of the PQI salespeople on that trip was a former IRS revenue agent who prosecutors said made an estimated \$138,000 selling tax schemes before she was sentenced in February to four years in prison.

An e-mail message seeking comment from PQI was not immediately answered. Attempts to locate a valid telephone for its offices, based in Fort Walton Beach were unsuccessful.

"If (the government doesn't) respond, then the people are free to withdraw their allegiance, their financial support, retain their money. (The government is) quick to portray everybody as anti-tax. It's not true — they're not anti-tax, they're just pro-law."

Robert Schulz, founder of We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education

Dunkin' Donuts representative found the same violations "uncured," according to the law-Dunkin' Donuts is seeking a

court order mandating the franchise follow operational standards and wants the franchise to pay any damages caused by the violations, according to the lawsuit.

Since October 2006, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Food Safety has conducted four inspections of the South Florida Donut Distribution Center and rated its standards "fair," according to state records.

several weeks off the time-

About 10,000 vessels go

through the lock each year,

with about 26,000 tons of goods

The acoustic system, de-

signed by Harbor Branch

Oceanographic Institute,

works sort of like the

light-beam system that keeps

garage doors from closing on

people. If a manatee breaks at

least two sound beams, the

lock doors automatically stop

and open to prevent the ani-

mal from being crushed. There

are already several other

sea-cow protection devices in

place at the lock, such as

"It is most certainly neces-

sary," DiTerlizzi said. "But I

want them to do the job in a

manner that protects the peo-

Corps officials said they're

doing everything they can to

come up with a judicious work

schedule while adding the nec-

essary manatee protections, es-

pecially since their old acous-

tic system broke down about a

"There's actually a tremen-

dously large quantity of mana-

tees that travel through the

locks," but not a lot of deaths,

screens and gates.

ple and the business.'

shipped commercially.

FROM PAGE A1

The Division of Food Safety uses a scale of "poor," "fair" and "good" in which "fair" and "good" signify compliance

A company with a "fair" rating generally has only a few violations that must be corrected, said Bob Bickley, an environmental administrator for the Division of Food Safety.

On Jan. 31, the date of the distribution center's last inspection, there were four violations: employees eating or drinking in a work area, a dishwasher malfunction, an inaccessible hand wash station and some cheese that was kept at a temperature seven degrees above what is acceptable, according to Division of Food Safety records.

with sanitation requirements.

HO HO

DAYS

FINAL

20%-70%

DAYS

FINAL

0

50%

DAYS

in manatee protection," said Scott Watson, who owns the Indiantown Marina, west of the lock. "I'd like to see a small businessman protection system put in."

the waterway could cost him at least \$20,000 a month, not to mention all the other businesses that rely on traffic through the lock.

Watson said he appreciates cials claim.

ers' money.

alone when it comes to worrying about the impact of the clo-

An about two-year South Florida drought harangued the marine industry at large, especially around the lake and canal, where low water levels have forced some to store boats at marinas because it's too shallow at their residential

Traffic through the lock

Locks Landing on the Okeechobee Waterway west of the lock, had to put his boat in storage months ago because the water was too shallow at his community dock.

now with the lock closed.

"We won't be able to use our storage.







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Just 11/2 miles North of Eau Gallie Blvd. Sale held pursuant to the Brevard County

Going Out Of Business Sale #2008-01, granted the 29th day of February 2008



Cash, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and approved Checks accepted. are off our offering prices which may or may not have resulted in prior sales. out our additional discount. All items subject to prior sale. Quantities limited. N

said Jim Hammond, the corps chief of field operations for the South Florida Operations Office. "I think a lot of that is because of the protections we have taken. He said he has already asked

year ago.

the contractor if they could finish the work in as little as four weeks but hasn't received an answer yet. "I understand their con-

cerns," Hammond said, "but we've really tried to support their concerns and compromise. Some businesses and boat-

more safeguards in place for humans too. "I understand the corps is between a rock and a hard

place because they have to put

ers said they wish there were

Such a lengthy shut down of

And 500 boaters rely on his marina to store their vessels.

manatees and the fact the corps listened to his concerns, but he doesn't believe the animals are as endangered as offi-

"I don't think it's necessary," Watson said of the high-tech sea cow protection. "I think it's a waste of taxpay-

The marina owner was not

dropped about 66 percent between August 2007 and the end of January, according to the

John Murray, who lives in

Water levels were expected to come up just enough to take his boat back home this summer, but that won't happen

boats... other than riding up and down the Okeechobee Waterway, and there's nothing there and you can't get into the lake because it's so shallow," he said. "I'll have to continue paying \$560-a-month