

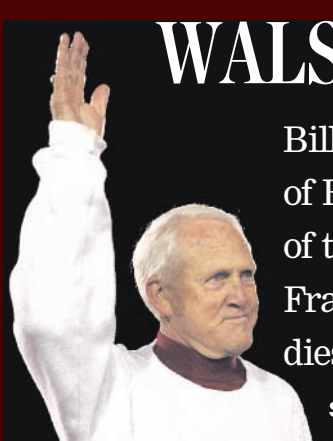
BERGMAN



Director Ingmar Bergman, one of the masters of modern cinema, dies at age 89.

TODAY, E1

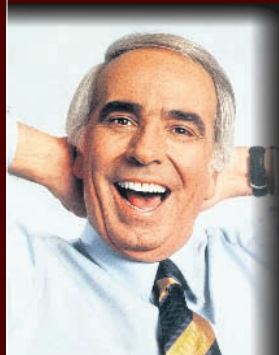
WALSH



Bill Walsh, Hall of Fame coach of the NFL San Francisco 49ers, dies at age 75.

SPORTS, C1

SNYDER



Late-night talk show host Tom Snyder dies at age 71.

TODAY, E10

MISSION TO MARS

NASA probe to explore Martian arctic.

STORY, A4



New sex offender laws to begin

Sex offender or sex predator status to be noted on driver's license; e-mail, IM names must be registered

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

If Patrick Grady Patterson had not been rearrested for smoking marijuana about a week ago, he — like convicted sexual offenders

and predators across Florida — soon would be learning about two new ways he could violate the terms of his supervision.

Florida leaders are implementing a new round of laws intended

INSIDE: The new laws, in detail. A5

to further monitor convicted sexual offenders and predators, but some experts are questioning the impact the rules will have.

The first law goes into effect Wednesday and requires sexual offenders and predators to obtain a new driver's

license or identification card with the specific Florida statute number for each offense. Another requires sexual offenders and predators to register their e-mail addresses and instant message names and update the information on a searchable Florida



See LAWS, page A5

Millions may be misusing medicine

Causes range from too-hurried doctor visits to confusing pill bottles, and it's potentially deadly

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consider it the other drug problem: Millions of people don't take their medicine correctly — or quit taking it altogether — and the consequences can be deadly.

On average, half of patients with chronic illnesses like heart disease or asthma skip doses or otherwise mess up their medication, says a report being issued later this week that calls the problem a national crisis costing billions of dollars.

The government is preparing new steps to try to persuade patients and their doctors to do better.

But with contributors that range from too-hurried doctor visits to confusing pill bottles, there's no easy solution.

See MEDICINE, page A9

A place of their own



MATTHEW RATAJCZAK • matthew.ratajczak@scripps.com

In the shadow of the Palm City Bridge, Chris Hudak, 14, right, pulls in his cast net while Faye Diaz, 14, left, Evan Harlacher, 13, Christina Jennings, 14, and Zoe Vozzella, 11, hang out and fish on the St. Lucie River on Monday afternoon. It's a popular spot for the teens during the summer.

Top Martin administrators' raises stink of hypocrisy

Everyone else, including the Sheriff's Office, is tightening their belts



GEOFF OLDFATHER
MARTIN COUNTY

I've been hearing from some people who are pretty upset. I don't blame them. When I read our page one article Sunday about the highest-paid administrators in Martin County and the city of Stuart, I was struck by the hypocrisy of it.

I don't know any other way to put it.

Before state lawmakers had their special session on property taxes, officials with municipalities and county governments across the state were saying local governments would all but collapse if we — cue the gloomy music — reduced property taxes, the major source of local govern-

ment funding.

Then came the idea of freezing salaries for a year or cutting a few management positions out of the equation.

There's more than mere symbolism to this. When the combined salaries of the top four positions in county government total more than half a million dollars, you're talking about, as my Dad would have said, "a good chunk of change."

Especially when you consider what the rank and file are earning.

When people are upset and calling me, I like to share that with someone.

So I decided to share people's

"Mr. Ballantyne could have chosen as county administrator to make that decision — no raises this year. Or he could have polled his people and asked them what they thought. He chose neither of those options."

Lee Weberman, Martin County commissioner who called for salary freeze for top administrators

sentiments with Lee Weberman, the Martin County commissioner who last month called for a

TOP MARTIN COUNTY SALARIES

County Administrator Duncan Ballantyne: \$147,000
County Attorney Stephen Fry: \$157,558
Chief Information Officer Kevin Kryzda: \$148,795
Emergency Services Director Steve Wolfberg: \$148,224
Utilities Director John Polley: \$144,235
County Engineer Don Donaldson: \$132,728

salary freeze for mid- and top-level county administrators.

A freeze County Administrator Duncan Ballantyne — with an annual salary of \$147,000 — refused to consider.

"I anticipated this," Weberman said.

See RAISES, page A8

Can coffee and exercise ward off skin cancer?

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Can adding a cup or two of coffee to the exercise routine increase protection from skin cancer? New research indicates that just might be the case.

The combination of exercise and caffeine increased destruction of precancerous cells that had been damaged by the sun's ultraviolet-B radiation, according to a team of researchers at Rutgers University.

Americans suffer a million new cases of skin cancer every year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

In mice there is a protective effect from both caffeine and voluntary exercise, and when both

See CANCER, page A8



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INSIDE

Forecasters keeping an eye on two Atlantic storm systems. A3

LAWS

FROM PAGE A1

Department of Law Enforcement Web site.

Failure to abide by either law is a third-degree felony.

State Sen. Dave Aronberg, D-Greenacres, co-introduced the bill about online accounts but recognizes the potential challenges to enforcing such a law.

"It's catching a moving target," Aronberg said. "It's going to be difficult, but at least we have updated our tools to catch these people. Many of these people do use the same Internet addresses. They get comfortable with an e-mail address, and they use the same account, and it makes it a little harder for them to keep switching, to keep texting on the run."

Dr. Jill Levenson, a licensed clinical social worker and assistant professor of human services at Lynn University in Boca Raton, worries that imposing too many obstacles on sexual abuse criminals might actually prove counter-productive.

"Decades of criminological research have shown us that successful reintegration of criminal offenders, for instance, criminals who return to society and don't resume a life of crime, don't go on to hurt other people, it's because they have jobs, social support, stability and housing," Levenson said. "All of those things that tend to get disrupted with some of these laws are the very things that help sex offenders create productive, law-abiding lives for themselves."

As a criminal defense attorney, Mitch Tyre of Stuart sometimes represents sex offenders. But he also spent 26 years tracking them down as first a Stuart Police Officer and then a Juno Beach Police Chief. He believes proactive parents provide the most effective tool for protecting children.

"We need open dialogue with children about the dangers of sex offenders instead of just a bunch of laws that almost push someone on probation to violate so they can send them straight back to prison or jail," Tyre said. "If the intent is to put so many sanctions on people that they have to screw up eventually, why not just send them back to prison immediately?"

Patterson, a 23-year-old Stu-

art resident, was convicted of three counts of possession of child pornography and placed on house arrest and probation in February. His mother, Donna, is all for laying a heavy hand on child abusers, but she said the pressure of some provisions and the stigma of her son's sex offender status ultimately pushed him to give up and flippantly violate his prob-

bation.

"He did really good for six months, and I guess it just really got to him because he couldn't find a job," the Stuart resident said.

The law affecting driver's licenses and identification cards could make it even more difficult for people like Patterson to find work.

Law enforcement officials al-

ready have the ability to determine if someone is a sex offender or predator by scanning driver's licenses with a computer, so the new law is most likely aimed at informing the public, Levenson said.

And although the new statute numbers will appear no bigger than the font used to print "SAFE DRIVER," they could become the equivalent of

a modern-day "Scarlet Letter," or public symbol of sin.

And there's always the fear a well-intentioned law could create potentially detrimental effects, like the often-lamented sex offender residency restrictions. Such laws designate how far away a convicted sexual offender or predator must live from a place where children regularly congregate.

"The public right now has a false sense of security that these residency restrictions are helping them," said Aronberg, a strong advocate for revising residency restrictions.

"I want them to get a job, to be able to find a place to live and to lead a clean, productive life without going back to their old ways," he said. "That's the goal."

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NEW SEXUAL OFFENDER/PREDATOR LAWS

Senate Bill 988: Revision to the Jessica Lunsford Act

- Effective Wednesday, it requires sexual offenders and predators to obtain a driver's license or identification card with a state statute listed in the front right-hand corner: "943.0435, F.S." for sexual offenders and "775.21, F.S." for a sexual predator.
- It also requires sexual offenders and predators to report to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles during the month of his or her re-registration to obtain a license or identification card with the new marking.

- Effective Feb. 1, 2008, it will be a third-degree felony for failure to possess a card with the marking or for altering such a card.

Senate Bill 1004: The Cybercrimes Against Children Act of 2007

- Effective Oct. 1, it requires sexual offenders and predators to register their e-mail addresses and instant message names and update this information through a yet-unpublished Florida Department of Law Enforcement Web site.
- It authorizes FDLE to provide sexual offender and predator e-mail addresses and instant message names to a commercial social networking Web sites like MySpace for screening purposes.
- By typing in a suspect e-mail or instant message name on the FDLE Web site, concerned parties can verify if it belongs to a sex offender or predator. They will not be able to learn any specific details about the person.
- Failure to provide an e-mail address or instant message name is a third-degree felony.