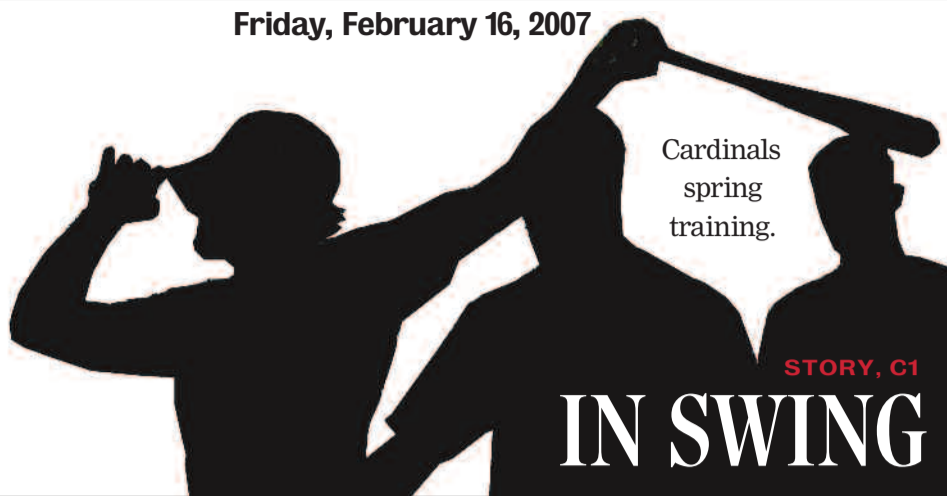




Jazz Fest: Party hearty like it's Mardi Gras E1



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'We're keeping the tradition'

Indiantown ready to welcome Guatemalan president with open arms



ALEX BOERNER • alex.boerner@scripps.com

Victor Velasquez folds Guatemala T-shirts Thursday evening in the Guatelinda Tienda Restaurante in Indiantown. The T-shirts are for children to wear Saturday when Oscar Berger, president of Guatemala, visits Indiantown while on a tour of South Florida.

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

INDIANTOWN —

Andres Cruz has been a busy man these past few days.

Since Monday, when he learned Guatemalan President Oscar Berger will be paying this small rural community a visit Saturday, Cruz has been spreading the word eagerly — and making preparations.

"We're going to show the president that we're keeping the tradition," Cruz said Thursday afternoon in his office at the Guatelinda restaurant and store on Warfield Boulevard.

Cruz said many of the 6,000 people in the Indiantown area are Guatemalan or have Guatemalan ancestry. The 2000 census reported 1,591 residents of Guatemalan descent in Martin County. However, that num-

ber has been widely questioned, and the area has grown since then.

Cruz, like many members of Indiantown's Guatemalan population, immigrated to the United States in the 1980s to escape the country's civil war. A former volunteer at the Guatemalan Consulate in Miami, he recently was invited to the country to discuss possible cultural exchange programs.

On Saturday, he hopes to facilitate conversation about improving Guatemala's education programs and establishing school scholarships. It's believed to be the first time a seated president of a foreign country has made a formal visit to Indiantown.

"We need to teach our young people over there that they need to keep studying," Cruz said.

See TRADITION, page A14

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Here is a look at Guatemalan President Oscar Berger's planned visit to Florida on Saturday:

8 to 9 a.m.: Breakfast with the official delegation at the JW Marriott Brickell hotel in Miami.

Noon to 12:30 p.m.: Meeting in Jupiter with the mayors of Lake Worth, West Palm Beach and Jupiter. A meeting with the mayor of Stuart and representatives from Indiantown was pending confirmation.

12:30 to 2 p.m.: Meeting and private lunch with the mayors and community leaders.

2 to 2:30 p.m.: Greeting of the president to the Guatemalan community at the Centro El Sol, 106 Military Trail, Jupiter. Mayor Karen Golonka gives a token of appreciation to the president.

3 to 4:30 p.m.: Meeting at the Holy Cross Catholic Church, 15297 S.W. 150th St., Indiantown with groups representing Guatemalan youths.

Florida among nation's leaders in heart disease

BY MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — West Virginia and Kentucky have the nation's highest levels of heart disease, according to a first-of-its-kind study released by U.S. health officials Thursday. Florida also ranked among the worst.

The new research is the first to look at what percentage of people in each state live with or have survived heart attacks and certain other cardiac problems.

It found states in the Southeast and

HEART TO HEART WITH THE STUDY

- Among those who didn't finish high school, 1 in 10 had some cardiac issue.
- Among college graduates, 1 in 20 did.
- Among people 65 and older, almost 1 in 5 did.
- 8 percent of men and 5 percent of women suffered from a form of the disease.

RELATED: Check out a map of heart disease patterns around the U.S. **A14**

You may shoulder new water limits

Restrictions on South Florida utilities are 'going to cost' customers, some warn

BY ANDY REID
Sun-Sentinel

Water managers Thursday set new limits on how much utilities can rely on the Everglades and the Loxahatchee River basin to meet South Florida's growing needs, likely triggering higher water bills to pay for alternative supplies.

With the limits, utilities in Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Broward and other counties along the southeastern

coast will have to spend more to recycle, dig deeper wells and create other alternative water supplies. Projected costs put the price tag at \$2.63 billion.

Palm Beach County already is proposing its first water rate increase in 10 years, adding about \$6 to the average bill partly because of the expense of tapping alternative water supplies.

"It is going to cost the utility customers of South Florida," Palm Beach County Water Utilities Director Bevin Beaudet said about Thursday's decision by the South Florida Water Management District.

Environmental groups welcomed the move, saying it would protect water needed for an overdue Everglades restoration.

"This rule, in general, will make water more expensive for the average consumer."

Skip Kiebler, Pembroke Pines

"The time definitely has come for utilities to stop relying on the Everglades," said attorney Lisa Interlandi of the Everglades Law Center.

During the dry season, South Florida water suppliers use about 500 million gallons of water a day from the Everglades to maintain drinking

See WATER, page A14



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COMING TOMORROW

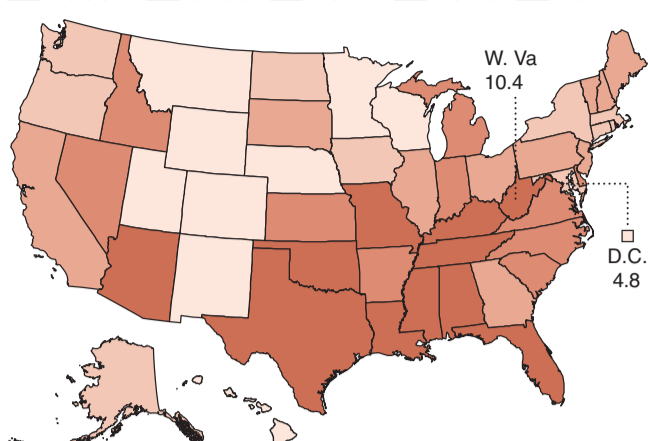
Couples are rushing to reserve wedding dates on lucky 07-07-2007.

South has highest heart disease levels

States in the Southeast and Southwest — specifically West Virginia and Kentucky — have the highest levels of heart disease in the U.S. Colorado and the District of Columbia had the lowest percentages.

Adults reporting myocardial infarction, angina, or coronary heart disease, 2005

4.8-5.3% 5.4-5.9 6.0-6.2 6.3-6.9 7.0-10.4



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HEART

FROM PAGE A1

Southwest were heart disease leaders. Meanwhile, Colorado and the District of Columbia had the lowest percentages.

The findings are not surprising. They line up well with previous, state-specific reports about heart disease death rates, obesity and other risk factors, said Wayne Rosamond, an epidemiology professor at the University of North Carolina who chairs a statistics committee for the American Heart Association.

But he called the study “very important. It confirms what we know about regional differences in the burden of disease.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the findings in the

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

CDC researchers drew their data from a 2005 telephone survey of 356,112 U.S. adults in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Participants were asked if a doctor or health-care professional had told them they had experienced a heart attack, angina, or coronary heart disease. The researchers then statistically adjusted the results to correct demographic differences in state samples to better mirror the U.S. census.

The findings: For the nation as a whole, about 4 percent had had a heart attack, angina or coronary heart disease, and 6.5 reported one of those conditions.

WATER

FROM PAGE A1

water supplies, according to the water management district.

Lowering water levels in the Everglades damages animal habitat, drying out the underlying peat and making it more susceptible to catching fire. The state and federal governments are in the midst of a multibillion-dollar effort to restore the natural flow of water through the Everglades and reverse the effects of decades of draining the land for development and agriculture.

The new rule endorsed Thursday caps the amount of water utilities can take from the Everglades and Loxahatchee, requiring them to turn to other sources to meet growing needs.

Anticipating 1.74 million new residents in Florida's lower east coast by 2025, water managers project a need for an

GROWING DEMAND

- 1.74 million new residents expected along Florida's lower east coast by 2025, a 31 percent increase
- 393 million more gallons of water per day expected to be needed by 2025 to meet increased population demands, a 27 percent increase
- \$2.63 billion, the projected costs of alternative water supplies, such as recycling water and tapping deeper underground supplies
- Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties by 2025 are each projected to need to produce more than 100 million additional gallons of water per day to meet population needs

South Florida Water Management District

additional 393 million gallons of water per day.

That means 18 years from now Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties will each need to produce more than 100 million gallons of water per day in addition to what they current supply.

The alternatives include recycling treated wastewater to be used for irrigation and to recharge drinking water supplies. Utilities can also tap into the Floridan aquifer, a deeper

underground source that produces water that requires costlier treatment to get it to drinking standards. Most water now comes from the shallower Biscayne aquifer. Before the vote Thursday, Fort Lauderdale wrote a letter to the district urging it to conduct more analysis before “establishing a multibillion-dollar burden on public water utilities.”

How much the cost goes up for South Florida utilities and

their customers depends on changes in technology in the next few years, said Skip Keibler, assistant city manager of Pembroke Pines.

“This rule, in general, will make water more expensive for the average consumer,” Keibler said. “Their goal is admirable. ... Their goal is water conservation. But it's a double-edged sword.”

The new guidelines do allow a grace period for utilities, letting them temporarily increase their reliance on Everglades' water while building the new facilities needed to generate new water supplies. Once that alternative water supply becomes available, utilities would have to go back to previous levels.

“The demand is there,” said Irela Bagué, who serves on the governing board of the water management district. “Alternative water supply is the way to go.”

Sun-Sentinel writer David Flesher contributed to this report.

THE OSCAR BERGER FILE

Born: Aug. 11, 1946
Title: President of Guatemala
Political party: Grand National Alliance
Elected: Jan. 2004
Degree: He graduated in law from the private, Jesuit Rafael Landívar University.
Previous jobs: From 1991-99 he was mayor of the country's capitol, Guatemala City.

ALSO ACCOMPANYING BERGER

These officials will be coming to Indiantown in addition to Guatemalan President Oscar Berger:

- Guatemalan Ambassador Guillermo Castillo
- Max Santa Cruz, the former consul general, now secretary to the vice president of Guatemala
- Beatriz Illescas, the Guatemalan consul general based in Miami, and all her officers from the Miami consulate

GUATEMALA

Population: 12.3 million
Climate: tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands
Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs
Languages: Spanish 60 percent, Amerindian languages 40 percent
Government: Constitutional democratic republic
Military Branches: Army, Navy (includes marines), Air Force
Natural resources: Petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower
Nation size comparison: Slightly smaller than Tennessee

<http://www.cia.gov>

TRADITION

FROM PAGE A1

Berger's trip to Indiantown is part of a larger tour of Florida. He is expected to breakfast in Miami on Saturday morning and then travel to Jupiter before stopping by Indiantown's Holy Cross Church at about 3 p.m.

The Guatelinda seems to be Cruz's command center for the Martin County leg of the trip. Near the store cash register is a stack of red fliers advertising a program of talks between Berger and a suspected crowd of about 500 people.

As part of the schedule, a group of children will showcase traditional Guatemalan dances. A band known as Marimba Orquesta Maya Quetzal is to perform.

Benjamin Gaspar, 20, is among the 11-person band. The Indiantown native plays the marimba, a cousin of the xylophone.

Although Gaspar was born and raised in Martin County, he enthusiastically embraces the Guatemalan heritage of

his parents and plans to question Berger about the Central American country's economics, politics and social structure.

“I'm actually excited to have this opportunity to ask questions that really need answers — not just for me but for the Guatemalan community and Indiantown,” said Gaspar, who attends Barry University in Miami Shores.

Sebastian Velasquez, who left Guatemala for the United States about 18 years ago, said he would like to hear Berger speak about improving immigration relations between the two countries.

“Maybe between him and the U.S., we can do something better, something good,” said Velasquez, 40.

His brother, Victor, said Indiantown as a whole is eagerly awaiting Berger's visit.

“It's a big, historic thing that he's coming to visit a small town nobody's heard of,” said Victor Velasquez, 42.

Staff writer Sheryl Estrada contributed to this report.

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12pm

1317 SW Abingdon Ave - Port St. Lucie, FL
Directions: I-95, GO EAST ON GATLIN, LEFT ON SAVONA, LEFT ON ABINGDON

2pm

6331 NW Ale - Port St. Lucie, FL
Directions: AIROSO TO ST. JAMES, L PEACHTREE TO SELVITZ (S), NEWARK (E), ALE

4pm

5975 57th St - Vero Beach, FL 32967
Directions: I-95 Exit Route 60 (Vero) Go East to Kings Highway. Go North on Kings Highway to First (unmarked) Street Past 53rd. Turn East on Unnamed and follow it to 57th. Turn West on 57th and lot 6 at the end.

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