

Committee to review sea wall proposal

State administrative judge Tuesday recommended dismissal of petition against Pitchford's Landing developer's sea wall

BY LILY LADEIRA
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JENSEN BEACH — Pitchford's Landing developer Bill Reily's first legal battle is almost over, and he hopes it could make pending future ones against resident activists that much easier.

A state administrative judge Tuesday recommended dismissal of a petition against a sea wall Reily proposes because it won't harm the

environment and the petitioners had no rights to Reily's private property.

The Jensen Beach petitioners — Mike Cilurso, Anthony Parkinson and Thomas Fullman — appealed a state Department of Environmental Protection permit for a sea wall that would go near Dena's Cafe along the Indian River Lagoon and said it would harm their quality of life.

The 85-foot sea wall and 395-foot retaining

wall are part of Reily's proposal for a residential community, and are scheduled for review today by the Martin County's Development Review Committee.

While Reily and the residents have until Feb. 27 to file exceptions against the judge's decision, the DEP will make a final ruling March 29 based on the judge's recommendation.

But if the DEP finds the residents have a claim, the judge recommends the DEP deny the permit without a wetland survey that would "show the upland aspects of the project will occur outside of the mangrove canopy or any other wetland areas."

"I'm going to pursue my legal fee reimbursement — it's \$250,000 worth," Reily said. "I fully expect the DEP to take the judge's recommendation ... that will help with all the future legal battles."

The residents, who are part of the nonprofit civic activist Jensen Beach Group, have also appealed a county-issued sea wall permit, but Jim Sherman, assistant county administrator, said he is postponing that hearing until after the state makes its decision.

Virginia Sherlock, the activists' attorney, said

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MEGAN WINSLOW • megan.winslow@scripps.com

Trish Duray and Stuart News columnist Geoff Oldfather look over and discuss their snack options Tuesday at the Martin County Fair. With a limited budget, Oldfather and Duray investigated how far \$50 could get them between food, rides and other goodies at the fair.

Date at the fair worth price of admission

County fairs are made for first dates. Cotton candy and hot dogs, and showing off on the mechanical bull and popping a balloon to win your new girl that big stuffed dog.

Sitting in the cool breeze at the top of the Ferris wheel seeing which one of you can spot the ocean first.

I love county fairs.

But if you're like me you try to plan ahead and most of us have a budget — even if it is a first date.

So I decided to see how much fun I could have with a lady friend on \$50 at the Martin County Fair.

"I've never been to the fair," said Trish Duray when I called and asked her to go.

This would be better than I thought.

Forget the skies that opened up on us as we stood in line at the gate or the fact that we were wading through ankle-deep water



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for a while.

We had our umbrellas, and with the midway lights beckoning and excitement in our hearts, we weren't even fazed. We had a blast.

But we had to watch our pennies.

The \$50 in my pocket was whittled down real quick when I paid the \$10 admission fee for each of us — leaving me \$30.

Luckily it was lady's night so Trish got an armband for unlimited rides.

We stopped at the first several food booths to see what kind of calories we could get

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A date at the fair on a \$50 budget

Admission (two tickets/\$10 each): \$20 (Women's night so Geoff's date had free rides)

Ferris wheel (Geoff): \$4

"Tubs O' Fun" Midway game: \$4

One beer: \$4

Two chicken sandwiches: \$12

Two ice teas: \$4

Cheese fries: \$4

Total: \$52 (\$2 over budget)

LIVESTOCK AREA SCHEDULE

Today: Beef Show, 7 p.m.

ON THE WEB: For the complete fair schedule, see TCPalm.com.

Pencil lead in chest sends teen to hospital

BY GABRIEL MARGASAK
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STUART — A 13-year-old middle school girl was taken to the hospital after a pencil was thrown at her "with such force" the lead broke off in her chest, according to a Martin County Sheriff's Office report released this week.

A 14-year-old boy was arrested and charged with aggravated battery in the 9:50 a.m. Feb. 1 incident at Stuart Middle School.

Other children in the class told a deputy the girl and another student were passing notes in class when the boy in question "intercepted" one of them.

An argument began when he wouldn't give it back.

Witnesses said the girl "kept agitating" the boy "by poking him and hitting him with a book."

The boy went to the teacher and asked for another seat, and he was able to move.

The girl threw a pencil at him but it missed. The boy threw the pencil back at the girl.

The girl went to the school office crying, "red in the face, and gasping for breath."

A school official saw about a half-inch of pencil lead lodged in her chest.

On the way to the school clinic, she "took about two steps and collapsed in my arms," the official said.

A receptionist called 911.

The child was released from the hospital the same day and returned to school, sheriff's spokeswoman Lt. Jenell Atlas said. She did not have information on whether the girl faced any disciplinary action.

The boy was taken to the Martin County Jail and then a juvenile facility in Fort Pierce.

A Martin County School District spokeswoman said she could not comment on the situation because of student confidentiality rules.

Just a place to call home — with 25 rooms

Construction under way for 11,000-square-foot guest house

BY SUZANNE WENTLEY
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HUTCHINSON ISLAND — No room for guests in a 50,000-square-foot home?

Next to the peach and cream-colored pillars, rotundas and cupolas decorating the lavish mansion under construction just south of the Martin County line, an 11,000-square-foot guest house is the latest addition to already one of the largest homes in the county.

David Souza, the general contractor with Libra Development, said along with building a guest house, there's still a lot to be done before the project is complete.

With construction under way for more than five years, Treasure Coast residents might have gotten used to seeing the scaffolding and workers leaning out windows and slowly making progress on the more than \$8 million project at 4545 S.E. Ocean Blvd., just north of the Jensen

WHO OWNS A 25-ROOM MANSION?

The concrete home — being built by Robert Eustace, the founder of software supplier Applied Systems Inc. in University Park, Ill., south of Chicago — boasts 10 bathrooms and 25 rooms. It can withstand 200 mph winds.

Beach Causeway.

Work on the custom-designed, 50,000-square-foot home — which has captured the attention of beachgoers and passersby — will continue for at least another year, Souza said.

Artists are working in the house now, adding gold leaf and murals to the ceilings and Venetian plaster to some of the walls. The marble floors are being installed and some of the cabinetry is in, he said.

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Mike Simms, with Sunshine Furniture, takes a few photographs of a mansion and guest house being built along State Road A1A north of the Jensen Beach Causeway. The project is at least a year from completion.

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