

NEWS-PRESS Southwest Florida

Reports From Staff Writers, Bureaus And Wire Services

Places sought for residents of home for elderly

By BETTY FRECK News-Press Staff Writer One person was placed with relatives and other residents are expected to be moved out today at local Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) officials scurried Thursday to find new homes for the residents of Mrs. Burnett Brown's abandoned home for the elderly.

A new home for Dunbar's elderly was kicked off Thursday with a \$200 contribution from the News-Press. Linda A. Mand... The donation is the first of \$24,000 needed to replace Mrs. Brown's dilapidated housing home, which housed 10 crippled and destitute elderly residents who said they had no place else to go.

"I also have gotten a list of people who volunteered to take these residents into their own homes," Mrs. Shoemaker said. "I gave the list to HRS so maybe we can have our own people stay here. Lee County shouldn't be so poor that it has to send its own people away."

HRS officials originally had planned to shut the Brown house Thursday and send the residents to nursing homes in the St. Petersburg area. But Dr. Joseph Lawrence, head of the Lee County Health Department, warned that moving the 10 elderly residents from their home county could be dangerous to their health.

by Fort Myers city zoning officials who were concerned about the structure being an impediment to the area. A hearing by city officials concerning the zoning problem has been scheduled for Thursday.



News-Press/Mary Gordon Dovernick

Flocking around

Jim and Peyton King of Fort Myers take time out from the day's activities in park under the massive banyan tree at the Lee County Courthouse in Fort Myers. As they sit, a flock of hungry pigeons joined the couple to beg for tidbits, a favorite pigeon pastime. And from the looks of things, they picked the right couple to beg from.

of Fort Myers city zoning officials who were concerned about the structure being an impediment to the area. A hearing by city officials concerning the zoning problem has been scheduled for Thursday.

HRS officials originally had planned to shut the Brown house Thursday and send the residents to nursing homes in the St. Petersburg area.

HRS officials then decided to try to find new housing for the residents closer to home. The agency also promised Wednesday to provide about \$200 a month to defray the cost of temporary housing in Fort Myers until Mrs. Brown can improve her house or locate another building.

Washington - The U.S. Department of Transportation has released more than \$22 million to build about six miles of interstate in Lee and Charlotte counties, with construction to start as early as March.

New population projections above previous estimates

By BETTY FRECK News-Press Environment writer New population projections for Southwest Florida presented by the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) generally show increases over estimates prepared by other agencies.

According to the Bureau of Economic Development, Charlotte County is expected to have 57,411 people by 1990; 77,811 people by 1995; and 88,589 by 2000. By the same projection, Collier County should have 18,029 people by 1990; 17,787 by 1995; and 14,800 by 2000. Lee County is expected to have 224,790 people in 1990; 301,901 by 1995; and 353,222 by 2000.

Students from Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties who failed the functional literacy test in 1977 and were retested last fall scored better than their counterparts in much of Florida. A statewide study, recently released by the commissioner of education's office in Tallahassee, shows that 36 percent of this year's seniors passed the reading and writing part of the exam, and 49 percent passed the math test.

Area seniors do well on retest Students from Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties who failed the functional literacy test in 1977 and were retested last fall scored better than their counterparts in much of Florida. A statewide study, recently released by the commissioner of education's office in Tallahassee, shows that 36 percent of this year's seniors passed the reading and writing part of the exam, and 49 percent passed the math test.

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Charge is dropped in Pikuritz case

By PETER G. JOHNSON Chariton Bureau Chief PHOENIX, Ariz. - A charge has been dropped against a Fort Charlotte man accused of giving false information to authorities investigating the murder of Linda Pikuritz.

Drake had denied hearing his 1972 white Chevrolet in anyone on the day 15-year-old Linda was abducted and murdered and on the two following days.

Drake was not a suspect in the murder investigation. Sheriff's investigators have questioned more than 70 people in the nearly three-month-old search for the killer but have yet to arrest any suspects.

Names of killed man, 2 injured released Lawyers released the names Thursday of a man who was killed and two other persons who were injured seriously in a one-truck accident Wednesday night at the Spring Creek Bridge in Bonita Springs.

Pratt said union members want to be able to submit such problems to an outside party, rather than the city manager, for a final decision.



Southwest Florida Fort Myers man's conviction reversed

JACKSONVILLE (AP) - A Fort Myers man convicted of five robbery charges was reversed of one in federal court Thursday, but it won't restore his \$100,000 in bond.

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More funds for I-75 released

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Transportation has released more than \$22 million to build about six miles of interstate in Lee and Charlotte counties, with construction to start as early as March.

The Lee County section begins just south of Corkscrew Road and the Charlotte County segment begins just north of Jones Loop Road and extends to just north of U.S. 17. That project, also three miles long, includes an intersection at U.S. 17 and Punta Gorda.

Money for the project comes from a special "sunset pool" of funds that other states had not used within two years after receiving them. Legislation passed by Congress last year allowed states to ask for money from the pool, which now totals about \$1.4 billion.

Sen. Richard Storer, D-Fla., who announced that the money was being released, granted Florida transportation officials for applying for the funds quickly. He said he expected Florida to receive as much as \$200 million from the sunset pool in 1979, which would make the state's total interstate construction funds to almost \$300 million this year, compared to about \$100 million in 1978.

When the last segment of I-75 in Southwest Florida is complete, the highway will connect Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, with Miami, Fla.

The increase in Lee will not parallel that of the rest of U.S. 41 as scheduled in effect of a total of \$63.7 million for the 26.1 miles of four-lane highway, officials have said.

The total interstate cost in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties, covering 7.8 miles, is expected to be \$181 million, officials said.

The Southwest Florida project is expected to be open in about 2 1/2 years, according to Bill Telfer, city district engineer for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Talks

Pratt said union members want to be able to submit such problems to an outside party, rather than the city manager, for a final decision.