

Charlotte

Gymnastics programs have area youngsters beaming/1D

Windy; highs in the 80s; lows in the 60s/16A

NEWS-PRESS

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Suspect 'known' in 1978 Pikuritz slaying

CHUCK TOBIN AND BETH FRANCIS News-Press Staff writers

Lawmen said Tuesday they know who killed young Linda Pikuritz of Fort Charlotte in the 1978 slaying murder. Charlotte County Sheriff John McDougall at a press conference in Fort Myers delivered to prosecutors a 2,000-page investigative report on the seven-year-old murder case.

enough information has been gathered for a grand jury to consider a murder indictment. "It is this stage it's hard to say what will happen," D'Amico said. "We have always been concerned about this case. As we go through all this in detail we'll be able to see where to from here."

Pikuritz' murder, considered by many one of the most grisly in Southwest Florida history, has confounded lawmen since it occurred. The 15-year-old Pikuritz left her parents' Fort Charlotte home in the early evening of Oct. 11, 1978. She returned to ride her bicycle to a convenience store two miles away. That was the last time she was seen alive.

Investigators had closed the case after interviewing dozens of witnesses and following hundreds of leads, officials said. The work halted to turn up a suspect. McDougall in June 1985 assigned detective Ken Barton to the Pikuritz case full time. The Charlotte County Commission in October granted the sheriff's department \$12,000 for the investigation.



Linda Pikuritz, slain at 12.

Graham says Captiva's sandbags all washed up

By ROSLYN AVERILL News-Press Environmental Writer

Gov. Bob Graham and the Florida Cabinet pulled the plug Tuesday on a beach building project on Captiva Island in western Lee County.

The governor and six Cabinet members voted unanimously to order the removal of concrete-filled bags recently placed perpendicular to Captiva's shoreline because the bags were filled with more concrete than allowed under its permits, according to Graham's aide Jerry Moore.

Moore said the project's designer and contractor, Dick Holmberg of Michigan, and his engineer, Arthur Laurent of Venice, also will be fined \$5,000 for not stopping the project in February when a permit violation was cited by the state Department of Natural Resources.

Holmberg said Tuesday that he will appeal the order to remove the project because the catch bags have grabbed tons of sand and he never intended to violate state permits by using beach rock concrete.

"We're seeing the worst part of government by this decision," Holmberg said. "They (state officials) are not protecting the people or the natural resources. Sand and shells are being trapped by the bags along a 600-foot stretch of heavily eroded shoreline on the Gulf of Mexico, creating a beach where before there was no beach."

Peg Hefschelder, governing board chairwoman of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District, said the \$750,000 project is a good use and about 40 letters of support from island residents were sent to the governor and Cabinet.

"In trying, I supported the project for years," Hefschelder said Tuesday. "I'm disappointed, when the state board member O'Neill Schaffner asked the governor to allow the erosion district tax-expected project to remain in place."

Cost of removal and how much of the project has to be torn up hasn't been determined, she said, but Holmberg and Laurent will be expected to pay for it. She said Holmberg has been paid only about \$37,000 for the \$750,000 project, and the remaining payment is being withheld because he violated the permits.

Hefschelder said the permits show that Holmberg used too much concrete in the bags, but Holmberg can never specify how much concrete he would use. Officials at the state Department of Natural Resources have said the project should be removed because they fear the concrete-filled bags could change the wave pattern and sand dunes from beach to further north, although that hasn't happened yet.

Moore said Tuesday, "The reason for not permitting the concrete bags in the first place is that it could be detrimental down-drift. It's important for people to understand that when the state gives them a permit, they understand the consequences. It's important for people to understand that when the state gives them a permit, they understand the consequences. It's important for people to understand that when the state gives them a permit, they understand the consequences."



Strummin' on the old banjo. "Banjo Al" is his nickname, and playing banjo at the Lehigh Acres Spring Festival is his game. Al Pilgrage of Cleveland, Ohio, leaves the wintry clime each year to come south and share his talents with those attending the festival. He was one of the main attractions Tuesday at the 12:30 p.m. entertainment show.

FPL told to share windfall

By SUSAN TRAYLOR

TALLAHASSEE — The 2.6 million customers of Florida Power & Light Co. will get an average \$6.00 credit on their electric bills next month under an order issued Tuesday by the state Public Service Commission.

The commission directed the state's largest utility to refund roughly \$250 million, a windfall it earned last year as a result of unusually hot weather that caused higher than expected electric bills.

Under commission rules, the refund will be handled as a one-time-only credit applied to the April bills of anyone being served by FPL on March 27, 1986, said PSC spokesman Bill Gibson.

Florida Power & Light supplies power to residents in 28 counties, including Brevard and Indian River counties on the Space Coast and Charlotte, Lee, Glades, Hendry and Collier counties in southwest Florida.

The refund is required under the law if a rate increase that FPL received in 1984. At that time, the utility's profit from basic electrical sales was limited to 16.6 percent in 1985. The utility estimated it would need \$223,116,000 in revenue to make its profit. The PSC agreed and set that amount as the utility's maximum earnings for the year. And the utility agreed to refund to its customers any earnings above that amount.

According to its 1985 report, the utility earned \$28.8 million above the cap. The latest earned roughly \$1 million, she said to be refunded.

The commission (PSC) directed the state's largest utility to refund roughly \$250 million, a windfall it earned last year as a result of unusually hot weather that caused higher than expected electric bills.

Utility spokeswoman Beverly Shad said FPL set a new record for electrical sales for the month of April last year. At the same time, record high temperatures for the month were being set in some parts of the state. Shad said last June was another big month for the utility. Overall, she said monthly revenue for the year compared to run slightly above normal through November.

"We just had some unusually hot weather that was not anticipated, which the projections were made," Shad said.

She said the \$1 to \$9 average refers to residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month. The average residential bill, again based on 1,000 kw, runs about \$81 per month, Shad said.

Commercial users, whose electric bills usually are higher, will receive larger credits, but Shad said FPL can't estimate an average for them because of the complexity of the commercial rate structure.

People Express submits bare-bones plan for PBA

By PATI DAVID News-Press Business Editor

In a surprise move, People Express Airlines on Tuesday submitted to the Transportation Department its own bankruptcy reorganization plan for People Express Bankruptcy Administration (PEBA).

The People Express plan calls for a compromise to PEBA's shareholders and only \$200,000 to be paid the smaller carrier's unsecured creditors.

"PEBA is not a party to" the People Express plan, said FPA president Peter Van Andeler in a statement. People Express on Jan. 21 agreed to sell out cash-strapped PBA with a \$200,000 loan and to buy the smaller airline if it was able to emerge from bankruptcy reorganization.

PBA filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy law 4 years ago.

day that the regional carrier had until the end of March to submit a reorganization plan or give up its exclusivity, meaning People Express creditors or other "interested parties" could file a plan for the airline.

He said PBA was unable to come up with a reorganization plan and agreed to court several weeks ago to terminate the exclusivity period. "We have not filed a plan at this time, and at this point we don't have one to file," Barber said.

"At this point we don't feel we have an alternative better than the People Express plan."

Van Andeler's statement said PBA "currently seeking alternatives... including acquisition or investment by third parties or entities other than People Express."

Barber said the provision of the People Express plan is to buy PBA, back page this section

Rush is on to help the gifted students

Last in a series By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL Associated Press Writer

DURHAM, N.C. — Eryl Marthen knew he was in the right place when he walked through the doorway of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and heard the strains of "the same kind of obscure music I love."

"There were not that many people at my old school I had much in common with," said Marthen, 15, from Ashburn, N.C. "Everything was pretty much boring and unchallenging."

Marthen and nine classmates are finding plenty of challenges in the nation's first public boarding school for teenagers gifted in science and math. Almost half the faculty have

INSIDE TODAY

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U.S. weaves real look into bills

WASHINGTON — The greenback is staying green, but in the first major currency change in more than 20 years, the Treasury Department announced Tuesday it is issuing a new plastic thread and microprinting in U.S. money as an effort to curb counterfeiters.

Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III said the changes were being made to protect American money from a wave of theft from a new generation of sophisticated counterfeiters.

CURRENCY CHANGES

Polyester thread with micro printing on \$5, \$10, \$50 etc. denominations. Polyester thread with micro printing\* on \$1 denominations. Micro-printing along scrollwork of all denominations repeating "United States of America"