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ON AGING

BARBARA L. COMPTON

Before getting more insurance, read fine print

It is possible to combine Medicare and supplemental insurance to provide complete coverage in the case of a serious illness, but it won't come cheap, as an insurance risk manager told an estimated 150 people at a Lee Memorial Hospital seminar this week.

Supplemental insurance policies are available that will cover 150 percent of the Medicare-approved charge for an illness or disability, said Dan Gower, a risk manager for Atkinson, Gower Risk Management Services.

"But you have to have a policy written to do that," Gower said, and those policies can cost nearly as much as the charges they are set up to cover.

"You've got to use some management" in making the decision to buy such a policy, he said.

The Tuesday seminar, co-sponsored by Lee Memorial Hospital's Older Adult Services unit and the Voluntary Persons Service, was held to inform the area's older residents of ways they can best combine their Medicare and supplemental insurance policies.

Gower stressed shopping around for supplemental insurance policies that will provide enough coverage, but not too much.

"You want to insure what you don't have but you don't want duplication of coverage," Gower said.

He also warned against buying supplemental insurance through the mail, with the exception of American Association of Retired Persons policies.

"Buy from someone who has telephone number that someone answers," he said.

And he offered some age-old advice for anyone thinking of signing any type of insurance policy: Read the fine print.

Case mediators sought

Wanted: Level-headed retirees with good common sense.

The Charlotte County Council on Aging is looking for a few good retirees to assist the Charlotte County Bar Association in its new mediation program.

Volunteer mediators would hear both sides of pending civil cases as an effort to resolve the cases out of court.

"Retired persons are excellent candidates because they have the time to do it," said Judi Johnson, director of the Charlotte County Council on Aging.

No legal experience is necessary to volunteer and training will be provided. For more information call the Council on Aging at 623-3177.

Lessons of later life

A Russell Hale, a professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., and a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, will give the keynote address at a Lee Memorial Hospital seminar on later life Friday.

"Later Life — From Vitality to Dependency — the Transition Years" will focus on means of spiritual and psychological support for patients who are becoming more dependent.

Workshops will be held throughout the day, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Lee Memorial Hospital auditorium.

Cost is \$15 and pre-registration is required. To register, call the hospital at 334-5489.

Crime prevention tips

Older persons in Charlotte County who are interested in learning what they can do to prevent crime are reminded of the Charlotte County Council on Aging workshop Wednesday on Crime and the Elderly.

Cpl. Chris DeForge of the Punta Gorda Police Department will speak on crime prevention. Call the Council on Aging 627-2177. In reserve a spot at the free workshop. It will be from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Cooper Street Recreation Center at Cooper and Mary streets in Punta Gorda.

Barbara L. Compton is a News-Press staff writer who covers aging issues.

Local/State

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HRS closes Cape day care center; owner says it's safe

By BARBARA L. COMPTON
News-Press Staff Writer

A Cape Coral day care center was closed Friday by state health officials who claimed it was unsanitary and unsafe for the 17 children who lived there.

The Child World Learning Center, 2314 Del Prado Blvd., was closed about 3:15 p.m. just after state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services officials received a court order prohibiting further operation of the center.

to close the center because of the owner's refusal of routine prior notifications of health and safety code violations.

"What was up was there was no action taken after any inspection," said George Hochstetler, HRS district program manager.

Conditions were not corrected, and more than \$5,000 from the center was seized.

Inspection teams from the HRS licensing division, environmental unit and public health unit all found violations during the past four months, Hochstetler said.

All three inspections uncovered repeated major deficiencies, he said.

Among them: not enough staff; failure to meet standards for cleanliness; and unsafe physical conditions.

"The carpet was not clean, the walls were not clean and there are suspected electrical outlets," Hochstetler said.

But one of the major problems is a fence around the back yard play area that does not conform with the code of the center, Hochstetler said.

"Del Prado is quite busy," he said. "With that problem (with the fence) and with the other being understood, there is an ever-present possibility of children being injured."

Joseph Scallie, who owns the center, said he had difficulty meeting the inspectors' requests because each one who came out would have a different complaint.

And although HRS officials say they sent

Scallie certified letters — some of which were returned — Scallie said he never received notification of any fines.

"I personally did not receive anything connected with any fines," he said. "There is nothing, unfortunately, and nothing that could cause illness at the center."

Scallie said none of his clients has filed complaints about the center. And he rebutted problems cited by the HRS.

The gap in the fence was present when the center opened in August 1985, and nothing was said about it at that time by inspectors, Scallie said.

The dirty walls are caused largely by hand prints, and the commercial-grade carpet is old.

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Thank guitarist, it's Friday



Local guitarist Bob Ikenbrandt entertains lunch hour downtowners and passers-by Friday off First Street in Fort Myers. Local guitarist Bob Ikenbrandt entertains lunch hour downtowners and passers-by Friday off First Street in Fort Myers. The downtown attraction series sponsored by the Fort Myers Downtown Redevelopment Agency. Every Friday the agency sponsors events to promote the downtown area.

Driver-license petition seeks extra cash to help cut crowds

By AD HUDLER
News-Press Staff Writer

Southwest Florida's barred and burned driver-license examiners want to take their complaints of being overworked to the big guy in Tallahassee.

after stating the petition in the Cape Coral office. "Maybe they can hire me as an examiner looking for a job," he said.

Examiners are ecstatic over the public response.

"We've had people say, 'Can I sign it twice?'" said Cape Coral examiner Sharon Yoder.

The petition says in part: "We the citizens of Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry counties are tired of waiting in line for hours to get our driver licenses. Legislators don't feel that it is too important that we stand around for three or more hours every four to six years."

It asks: "As for the legislators, well it IS an election year."

Man charged with altering lottery tickets

By DENES HUSTY
News-Press Staff Writer

An East Naples man was being held Friday night in the Collier County Jail on charges of cashing two altered lottery tickets.

Bed-tax hike opponents use power of pen

By ROBIN POLLACK
News-Press Staff Writer

Hundreds of letters were delivered to Lee County officials Friday bearing a menacing message: Don't increase the tourist tax.

Ronald Dale Walker, 23, of 3418 Guilford Road, East Naples, is accused of cashing an altered \$50 ticket at the Mambi station at Naples. Taxes Center on Jan. 13, and using the money to buy 29 more tickets. Walker allegedly then returned to the store a half hour later and cashed a bogus \$20 ticket.

Walker used a razor to cut away one number and placed another number in its place to make each ticket appear to be a winner, investigators said.

Deputies arrested Walker Thursday afternoon after they went to his home and found small pieces of cut lottery tickets on the table, according to reports. Officers said they had received a tip that Walker was the man who had cashed the fraudulent tickets.

Each of the five county commissioners received about 100 letters — many from workers at South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island — opposing the plan to increase the bed tax from 2 to 3 percent.

"A no vote would be cast by you to keep our visitors coming back," wrote South Seas Plantation employee Nick Carter. "I was on those people and I hear their talk (about the proposed tax). They don't like it. Thanks for the vote so I can keep working."

The area's examining offices have been in the news recently because of Snyder's request for volunteers two weeks ago. She has repeatedly asked politicians for more examiners to meet the area's growth, but she's been turned down because of a lack of cash.

"Everybody's forgotten about Southwest Florida. And hey, guys, we're booming down here really quickly."

Walker was charged with two counts of altering a lottery ticket. Altering a lottery ticket is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine upon conviction, sheriff's officials said.

Commissioners will vote on the proposed tax increase after Tuesday's 3 p.m. public hearing in the meeting room at the Lee County Office Building. A four-fifths vote is needed to surmount the tax increase, which would take effect March 1.

Last week, a News-Press story quoted state legislators as saying that driver license offices aren't a priority. That's why voters started asking license applicants if they wanted to sign the petition.

In order for the petition to carry any weight, Snyder said they'll have to get thousands of signatures. And if and when they do, they'll need copies of them in the state legislative delegation as well as in Tallahassee.

The tourist tax, charged to seasonal renters at hotels, motels, rooming houses and condominiums, raised \$2.6 million during the county's last fiscal year. The proposed tax increase would generate an additional \$1.9 million a year, county officials say.

Defense to start its case next week in Scott trial

By JANE MUSGRAVE
News-Press Staff Writer

White state prosecutors rested their case Friday afternoon, they still had more to say, then they went to testify.

However, prosecutors had to rest their case after McIver again denied their request to present evidence that claims "widespread" jurors that Pizarri was just the first in what could have been a string of victims.

roughly two months after Pizarri's alleged, charged body was discovered in a field off Toledo Bluff Boulevard.

Agnes McIver said she'd like to let the jurors hear testimony about the alleged rape because of the similarities between it and the Oct. 12, 1978, burning death of 13-year-old Pizarri.

without appellate review."

Although Scott was charged with sexual battery in connection with the alleged rape, he was convicted of a misdemeanor charge of battery.

Prosecutors asked McIver to reconsider his two-day-old decision not to allow the woman to testify after an FBI analyst testified that a hair, found in the back of a car Scott drove, was "consistent with having originated from Linda Pizarri."

Just as he did Wednesday, McIver refused to allow prosecutors to present testimony from a woman who claims Scott told her, "I'm going to have to kill you, too."

It is testimony that was presented Wednesday when the jury was not present, the now-24-year-old Tampa resident said Scott made that statement when he attempted to rape and kill her when she was 15 years old.

But, he said, he is bound by the rules of evidence. There's nothing about the two crimes that was sufficiently unique to meet the requirements that dictate when a defendant's criminal history can be admitted in evidence, he said.

"I've explored it and thought about it, and I guess conviction is just can't allow it to be presented to the jury," he said. "I would not

It appeared the hair had been fibrocyte removed from Pizarri's scalp.

The Tampa woman, who claimed Scott attempted to rape her, testified Scott grabbed her hair when he looked her out of his car after she refused to have sex with him.

Paul Alessandro, assistant state attorney, argued that the FBI agent's testimony

CONNIE MACK EXPECTS NO COMPETITION IN SENATE PRIMARY/6B