

28 NEWS-PRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1988

Bed-tax opinions to get last hearing

Though they have just had a chance to tell Lee County commissioners whether they should increase the tourist tax to help help health property and other change a sign left to allow more advertising along Interstate 75.

Commissioners are scheduled to vote on a proposal to increase the 2-percent tourist tax to 3 percent.

The increase would help pay for the \$7.75 million purchase of health's front end and could be used for beach renourishment.

The hearing is in the meeting

Applications taken for Velasco Village

By PHIL FERNANDEZ
News-Press Staff Writer

Families interested in living in the city of Fort Myers Velasco Village housing development can begin applying today and could be residents there beginning in March.

"This afternoon is one of the most historic moments," Fort Myers Councilwoman Veronica Shoemaker said Monday at a press conference in City Hall. "This is a dream we've been looking forward to."

Velasco Village, formerly known



It is the neighborhood that the city is undertaking a mammoth 10-year, \$4 million project of turning most of the property from private owners, replacing or repairing dilapidated houses and adding them to the city.

Registering today, applications are to be available at the Dunbar City

Dealer From page 1B

Final arguments are to be made Wednesday morning and the jury should then begin its deliberations.

The testimony presented Monday focused on two men who shared a cell in the Sarasota County Jail shortly after Plauritt's alleged charged body was found in a deserted field off Toledo Road Boulevard on Oct. 12, 1978.

Vigil Shelton, who is now in a Illinois prison, testified that Brian Kane told him a Fort Charlotte man named Phillip Drake committed a murder identical to Plauritt's.

"He said Phil burnt the girl, raped her, broke her arms and stuff," Shelton said of the jailhouse conversation.

Kane testified that he doesn't even know anyone named Phillip Drake. But Shelton said, Kane described the events leading up to the murder in detail.

Shelton said that Kane told him that on the day Plauritt was murdered he and Drake had been taking PCP—a hallucinogen, also known as phencyclidine or angel dust.

"He (Kane) said he and Phil went to the store to get beer," he said. Kane said Kane didn't specify his involvement in the murder. Kane didn't say whether he saw Drake rape and burn the girl. The son of Phillip Drake, Shelton testified.

According to earlier testimony, Plauritt left her home on Albany Circle about 4 p.m. to ride her bicycle to the Little General Store on Midway Boulevard (U.S. 41).

When her charged body was discovered about 10 hours later, one of her arms was broken. Medical experts testified the break may have occurred during the fire. While there was no evidence the body had been sexually assaulted, such evidence could have been destroyed in the fire, a pathologist said.

Kane testified he remembers talking to Shelton when he was jailed for making a guilty shortly after he arrived in Southwest Florida from Wisconsin to sell PCP.

But, he said, he never met a person named Phillip Drake and doesn't

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Tree From page 1B

"The most dangerous areas will have trees," said Don Waislick, recreation and recreational director predicting what the future may hold under the proposal.

A second part of the proposal would allow developers outside the exempted areas to pay the city about \$1,100 for each tree they would have needed on their property instead of planting it.

"It appears to me the whole thing is detrimental to downtown," City Clerk Maynard Moore said of the present tree ordinance. "You're going to drive people out of downtown. No one's going to come downtown."

"I disagree with that," said Phil Warren, city building and zoning di-

about diabetes... If you or someone you know has diabetes, check out our Diabetes Information Series with monthly programs on topics you've requested. Programs will be held in the Community Healthcare Auditorium, 3935 Fowler Street, and advance registration is needed: call 939-8508.

Saturday, January 30, 1988
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
"How To Weather The Weather"

Winter is here and that means it's time to become more alert to your diabetes. Step into the new year with a healthy awareness of diabetes control. Fee: \$5.00 per person, includes buffet lunch. Blood pressure/blood glucose screenings from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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