Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/216002026

Printed on May 28, 2021

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

FROM THE PAGES OF THE DAILY NEWS-PRESS

Ground was broken for Charlotte's 'one-stop' building

A "one-stop shopping" concept of county government was launched March 3 at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the $6.4 million Charlotte County Administrative Services Building in Murdock.

Commissioners and contractors poked golden shovels in the ground on which the five-story facility will stand about a year from now.

The building, which will house the commission and branch offices of all five constitutional officers, will be a centralized administration complex for "one-stop shopping," said Commission Chairman David Schmidt.

"Problems of government can be cared for without running all over town," said Schmidt, adding that perhaps the combining of government offices in one facility will help cut traffic on US 41.

County offices are now split between the present administration building in Murdock and the Charlotte County Courthouse in the county seat, Punta Gorda.

A group of primarily Punta Gorda citizens who fear the county seat will be moved to Murdock — and the courthouse vacated — have formed a "Save Our Courthouse" committee.

A petition to keep the county seat in Punta Gorda was initiated by the group. That petition, which must contain 10 percent of the county's registered voters to get the question on the November ballot, is still going strong, said group member Gussie Baker.

That action prompted county commissioners to adopt a resolution in August which allowed branchs of government offices to be located in Murdock without changing the county seat.

The group isn't against branch offices, said Baker, but rather the the complete vacating and demolition of the 70-year-old courthouse building and the relocating of the county seat.

"A resolution can be changed tomorrow," said Baker.

The petition, which is "very near" the number of signatures required for the referendum question, will be circulated again at the second annual Punta Gorda Block Party April 9, said Baker.

Yet the impending space crunch in the courthouse will mandate the construction of a new one, said Schmidt.

He did not suggest it be built in Murdock, but rather in Tropical Gulf Acres south of Punta Gorda. Schmidt also did not advocate the county seat be moved.

Growth has been a key word in the planning of the new Murdock facility.

The building has evolved from 45,000 square feet to more than 90,000 square feet during the past two years of planning, said architect Jack Worth of Architectural Resources Corp. in Fort Myers.

The area also offers more than adequate space for future parking and building, he said.

The Murdock area will be the most intense area of development in Charlotte County in the next 2½ years, said Acting County Administrator Tom Frame.

The construction of the Port Charlotte Town Center mall and the four-laning of SR 776 and the six-laning of stretches U.S. 41 will assure that, said Frame.

Schmidt agreed.

"This may not be the center of Charlotte County, but it's the center of growth in the county," said Schmidt.

Frame called the building a "positive statement of the commitment to service of Charlotte County" which will "ensure a good working environment to yield better employees and better service."

"It's a friendly building that will invite the public into it," said Worth.

The room in which the commission meetings will be held will have about 120 permanent theater seats with other areas provided for additional loose seating, said Worth.

A pre-bid conference, attended by about 40 subcontractors, was held prior to the groundbreaking ceremony. Sealed bids were received by the contractors March 2, after which they were publicly opened, read and tabulated.

"The turnout was a little better than we expected," said Fred Bossard, senior vice president of Peter Brown Construction Co.

A joint venture between Taylor Contractors of Florida, based in Punta Gorda, and Peter Brown Construction Co. in Pinellas County, is the driving force behind building the facility. The joint office is in Punta Gorda.

Charlotte Harbor Fishing Tournament is off to a reel fast start

For 5-year-old Kasey Ellison of Punta Gorda, it was every tournament angler's fantasy — breaking the record for the largest fish in its category.

Kasey hooked a record-size sunfish in the 13th Annual Charlotte Harbor Fishing Tournament that began last week. She caught a 1-pound, 4½-ounce sunfish while fishing with her dad, George Ellison, who also landed a nice size sunfish. Kasey had won a trophy and prizes last year for an 11-ounce sunfish she caught.

The tournament is sponsored by the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. It is strictly a fish-for-fun tournament for amateurs and concludes on April 9.

Each week anglers catching the two biggest fish in 15 categories will win awards. About $6,000 worth of prizes will be given away. Interested anglers can register by signing up and paying $1 at local bait shops and marinas or at chamber offices in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte.

On May 18, all 180 winners during the six-week tournament will have their names submitted for a drawing to win a 12-foot boat, trolling motor and boat trailer, altogether worth $1,500.

By noon of opening day, six fish had already been brought in to be weighed, said Carol Hommema, co-chairman of the event and co-owner of Fishin' Franks Bait and Tackle in Charlotte Harbor. "All totaled, by the end of the day we had 14 people weigh in their catch. It's been real good."

But the action near the Gulf at the west end of Charlotte County was dead.

"Not one person came by with a fish for us to weigh," said Tokie Adkins, owner of Tokie's Bait and Tackle shop on S.R. 776 in Gulf Cove. "I'm really surprised. Maybe next week it'll be better."

P.J.'s Bait and Tackle at Port Charlotte Beach also reported by mid-afternoon, that no one had come in to weigh fish for the tournament.

For Port Charlotte resident Mike Davey, the action was hot. He caught a 20-inch speckled trout in a canal off Midway Boulevard.

"I'm proud. He did a tail-whop for me before I reeled him in. I caught the trout on an old rod that my boy won't use because the reel is kinda messed up. I've been fishing that canal for a couple of weeks now," Davey said. He had come into Fishin' Franks to weigh his catch.

"That's a nice size fish," said an admiring Hommema.

Joe Muia, and his wife Tonya, are avid anglers. Muia won $1,000 last year in the Charlotte Builders and Contractors Association Tournament for the largest sail catfish.

He had brought in several sheepshead to Hommema's shop for weighing.

"I try to go out fishing at least twice a week. I plan to be in this tournament all six weeks. It was too windy out there to catch cobia, which is what we wanted to go for. I'd like to win the johnboat grand prize," he said.

Kim Fontaine of Fort Myers wasn't too excited about going fishing, but he decided to give it a try anyway.

He was rewarded for his effort with a 1-pound, 3-ounce, speckled trout and his attitude did a complete turnabout.

"I've already got shrimp and my pole out. We're die-hard fishermen now," Fontaine said.

Murderer filed appeal notice for high court

Convicted murderer Bradley Philip Scott filed notice March 4 that he would appeal his conviction and death sentence to the Florida Supreme Court.

An appeal to the supreme court is automatic when a judge hands down the death penalty.

Circuit Judge William C. McIver sentenced Scott to the electric chair Feb. 8 after a Charlotte County jury found Scott guilty of burning 12-year-old Linda Pikuritz to death in 1978.

The jury recommended the death penalty.

Scott's attorney, Leonard Johnson of Punta Gorda, filed the notice of appeal. However, Johnson will not represent Scott in the appeal. That task falls to public defenders, court records show.

Along with the notice of appeal, Johnson filed a list of 36 judicial actions for the supreme court to review. The list includes McIver's dismissal of several motions before and during the trial and some of the judge's decisions about what evidence to admit.

Also on the list for review are McIver's overruling of motions by Johnson, and the judge's refusal to allow testimony that the defense claims would have implicated another man in the murder and cleared Scott.

In another motion filed March 4, an attorney is asking Circuit Judge Elmer O. Friday to dismiss charges against a Davey man accused of buying 710 pounds of marijuana from deputies in a "reverse sting."

Daniel McGlynn, 35, was one of five men arrested Sept. 8 in Charlotte County after they allegedly bought marijuana from Charlotte County Sheriff's deputies, who posed as drug sellers. He was later charged with trafficking in marijuana and conspiracy to traffic in marijuana.

All five men are awaiting trial — McGlynn, Richard B. Jenkins, John P. McGlynn, Joseph E. Reilly and Thomas Lospullato.

In the motion to dismiss, Daniel McGlynn's attorney, Donald L. Ferguson of Coconut Grove, said an alleged agreement by the sheriff's department to pay an informant violated his client's right to due process.

Ferguson's motion cited as evidence a statement he said Sheriff Glen E. Sapp made in a deposition — that the informant's pay was contingent on the informant helping the sheriff's department to the conclusion of the case.

PRICE BREAK!
Sell those items you no longer need and make fast cash with the News-Press Budget Saver Rate:
3 lines 5 days $5
Items priced $500 or less — Great for selling all kinds of personal merchandise. Extra lines only $1.50. Your ad will run 5 days in the News-Press and also in our weekly TMC Shopper serving Bonita Springs, Charlotte County and Cape Coral/North Ft. Myers.
NEWS-PRESS CLASSIFIEDS
335-0399
22E

ERMA BOMBECK
For Erma Bombeck's down home wisdom...
Read the daily
NEWS-PRESS

AMERICAN DENTAL CENTER
PT. CHARLOTTE WINTER SPECIAL
Cleaning 1110, Exam 0110 and X-Rays 0272
For $25.00 With This Ad
4007 B. Tamiami Trail
627-9900 Next To Smitty's 627-9900

30% OFF "SILK TREES" 30% OFF
ST. PATRICKS DAY SALE
30% OFF
ALL SILK GREENERY
CASH, CHECK ONLY PLEASE
BUY YOUR FLOWERS & CONTAINER FROM US AND WE WILL ARRANGE IT FREE FOR YOU. COME IN EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION.
CAPE CORAL 772-4808 | OPEN 7 DAYS Mon. thru Sat. 10 A.M.-6 P.M. Sunday 12-4 P.M. | PORT CHARLOTTE 624-3877

THE FREEDOM MACHINE
We Service All Makes and Models of 3-Wheel Scooters
FREE 30 Day Trial No Obligation!
Come in & visit our store or call.
FREE Home Demonstration — Absolutely No Obligation.
Medicare Direct Billing
1-800-722-2828
ORTHO-KINETICS, INC.
936-7070 • Sales • Service • Rentals
DME SHOPPE — FT. MYERS, INC., 3604 EVANS AVE., FT. MYERS, FL

1 Announcements
LOST AND FOUND 003
— NOTICE —
100 Employment & Education
SPECIAL NOTICES 007
MEETING PEOPLE 004
CHILD & ADULT CARE 120
DELIVERY DRIVERS 123
DOMESTIC 125
HEALTH CARE 135

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Deadlines: Line advertising: 4:30 p.m. day prior to publication, 11:30 a.m. Saturday for Sunday and Monday.
Rates:
Merchandise $500 or less — Minimum 3 lines 5 days $5.00
Merchandise $2500 or less — Minimum 3 lines 7 days $9.99
Merchandise $2501 or more — Minimum 3 lines 7 days $20.91
*Prices include News-Press classified, and our three Thursday weekly newspapers covering an additional 95,000 homes in the Bonita, Estero, Charlotte County, Cape Coral/North Ft. Myers areas.
629-7600

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com