



COMMUNITYNEWS



ON STAGE
Original Supreme Mary Wilson
to perform "Up Close." Page 11

WELLINGTON • BOYNTON BEACH • LAKE WORTH • LANTANA • OCEAN RIDGE

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NUTS AND BOLTS: Instructor Richard Brochu, 42, of Lake Worth, shows students how to make a fishing rod during Poinciana Elementary School's "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program, part of the Youth Violence Prevention Project. FPG file photos/Marta Mikulan Martin

Hooked on FISHING not on DRUGS

Boynton Beach program teaches kids at Poinciana Elementary a safe hobby.

BY MIKE ROTHMAN
FORUM PUBLISHING GROUP

BOYNTON BEACH • Abby Eccles, 11, said her parents, Ralph and Sherine, have no desire to fish and probably never will. But they're happy their daughter is learning about the sport, instead of getting into trouble.

Abby, a fifth-grader at Poinciana Elementary School, goes to "Hooked on Fishing — Not on Drugs," an after-school program that runs from 2:30 to 4 p.m. every other Monday.

The program started with the school year in August and runs through the end of May.

About 20 children from Poinciana are enrolled in the program, which is designed to keep children focused on a safe hobby, instead of roaming the streets, said instructor Richard Brochu, 42.

The program includes 20 hours of class work and 20 hours of fishing trips.

■ FISHING CONTINUES ON 19



CAREFUL WORK: Donnie Metcalf, 12, of Boynton Beach, carefully applies paint to a fishing rod at Poinciana Elementary.

New rules may steer growth

Western communities could be given more input

BY ANDY REID
STAFF WRITER

A new plan for western development could give Wellington and Royal Palm Beach greater say in shaping the neighborhoods and shopping centers that grow up around them.

Palm Beach County proposes creating a new "overlay" for western communities, which would define how many homes could be built on agricultural land in Loxahatchee.

Traffic concerns, strain on schools and parks, and saving space for new businesses and the jobs they would bring are among the issues addressed in the new guidelines.

The overlay goes before the Palm Beach County Commission on April 28, after community meetings, input from local governments and a review by county advisory boards. If approved, it would undergo a review by the state Department of Community Affairs and come back to the commission for a final vote in August.

The plan could allow as many as 8,300 more homes beyond what building limits permit.

"The pieces are coming together," Palm Beach County Planner Maria Bello said. "We have to start somewhere."

The overlay would be a follow-up to the failed "sector plan" — development guidelines a decade in the making that county commissioners abandoned last year, after opposition from developers, residents and state regulators.

■ GROWTH CONTINUES ON 2

Health-care program aids the uninsured

BY PATTY PENZA
STAFF WRITER

When Meryl Goodgold moved to Florida four years ago, she didn't expect to be out of work for long. But her elderly parents needed full-time care.

Goodgold, living off her savings, found it difficult to afford health insurance. She turned to Project Access, a Palm Beach County Medical Society program that connects patients to free care.

Now, in partnership with MDVIP, the medical society is offering a pilot group of patients access to concierge care. Goodgold is part of the initial group of 25, which organizers eventually plan to grow to several hundred.

"I like that it's all about preventive health care," said Goodgold, 48, who worked as an accountant in New York before her move to west of Boca Raton.

MDVIP, of Boca Raton, is a national network of physicians who pare their practices to about 600 patients to

■ UNINSURED CONTINUES ON 2

TO GET HELP

To find out about joining MDVIP through Project Access, call the Palm Beach County Medical Society at 561-433-3940.

SPORTS



Photo/Gary Curreri

Boca Raton's Gina Locigno, shown with coach Scott Higgins, was among hundreds of youths who recently competed at the American Twisters Invitational. **Page 24**

St. Joseph's will open new preschool

BY CLAUDINE MCCARTHY
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

St. Joseph's Episcopal School in Boynton Beach will open a facility in Delray Beach to house an early childhood program for children ages 1 to 3.

The program, scheduled to open for the 2008-09 school year, will provide parents with flexible child care in a Christian setting, said Kay Johnson, head of the school.

"Part of this program is designed for readiness for school, offering Montessori instruction, as well as traditional cognitive-based activities," Johnson said of the program, tentatively named St. Joseph's Episcopal Early Childhood Academy.

Tuition ranges from \$4,880 for two-and-a-half days a week, to \$7,200 for five half-days a week and \$11,000 for a year of full school days, plus application/enrollment fees of \$300 a student. Hourly tuition options range from

\$13 to \$20. The academy offers payment plans and discounts for full prepayments and siblings.

St. Joseph's has 240 students in preschool through eighth grade at its existing 15-acre campus at 3300 B. Seacrest Blvd. It will house the academy in the former Oak School, less than a mile south of St. Joseph's, at 2515 N. Swinton Ave.

Gulf Stream resident Tracey DeFrances' two daughters attend the preschool in Boynton Beach.

"Parents are thrilled to have the ability to send younger siblings to the same school. It's like one-stop shopping," she said.

She had difficulty finding a suitable early learning program when her children were younger.

"I wanted a part-time program where my girls could become more independent. Surprisingly, my choices were incredibly limited. They were either too far away or too expensive," she said.

Boynton Beach resident Kathryn Cleveland, a kindergarten teacher at St. Joseph's, said: "This also allows current and prospective families the option to keep their children at one school from a very young age."

The academy will teach pre-reading, pre-math, music, oral Spanish, art, physical education and Bible stories, Johnson said. It will offer "a lot of physical activity, with an extensive outside play area planned for each age group," she said.

The academy also will offer speech and occupational therapy, with a room set aside for Mommy and Me programs.

The academy's regular hours will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday, with extra care available from 7 to 8 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. at an additional cost of \$4,725 for both for the year.

■ PRESCHOOL CONTINUES ON 2

THE COST

\$4,880

Cost of tuition at St. Joseph's Episcopal early childhood program for two-and-a-half days a week

\$7,200

Five half days a week

\$11,000

A year of full school days

\$13-\$20

Hourly tuition options