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BEWARE NEW REAL ESTATE SALES TAX

Under the new health care bill - did you know that all real estate transactions will be subject to a 3.8% Sales Tax?
The bulk of these new taxes don't kick in until 2013 (presumably after Obama's re-election). You can thank Nancy, Harry and Barack and your local Democrat Congressman for this one.
If you sell your \$400,000 home, there will be a \$15,200 tax.
This bill is designed to screw the retiring generation who often downsize their homes. Is this Hope & Change great or what?
Does this stuff makes your November and 2012 votes more important?
Oh, you weren't aware this was in the Obamacare bill?
Guess what, you aren't alone.
There are more than a few members of Congress that aren't aware of it either (result of clandestine midnight voting for huge bills they've never read).
AND, there are a few other surprises lurking. Watch this space!

TO SUBSCRIBE: Broward County residents - \$13.78 per year including tax. Outside Broward County - \$52.50 per year including tax. Call 954-532-2000 M-F 9-5.
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NEWS

Dania jewelry store owner tased during robbery

Deputies from the Broward Sheriff's Office are investigating a jewelry store robbery in Dania Beach where the suspects used a taser on the owner.

The robbery was reported just after noon at the store at 27 North Federal Highway.

According to BSO Spokesperson Dani Moschella, two men walked into the jewelry store, used a taser on the owner and took his gun and jewelry from the store. The owner suffered minor injuries.

Coyote Ugly: Parkland warns after attack

The city of Parkland has issued a coyote warning after reports of sightings and a possible attack on sheep at a family farm.

"There have been a number of sightings of a Florida coyote (not believed to be a cougar) within the City of Parkland," a Wednesday posting on the city's website reads.

"The City is recommending that you take steps when you encounter a coyote or take actions on or around your property to discourage a coyote from coming to your property."

The warnings comes just days after the owners of a farm in Pinetree Estates found two of their sheep slaughtered and eaten, nothing left but skin and bones.

"It had to be something that could get across the fence," farm owner Leo Gosser told reporters. "Something big enough to eat the sheep."

Though coyotes aren't native to Florida, they've been here for the last four decades or so.

Coyotes will eat just about anything, and they don't generally interact with humans, unless they are fed by or otherwise become comfortable around people.

Wednesday's warning from the city of Parkland urged residents to keep their pets indoors from dusk til dawn, and offered advice for an encounter with a coyote.

"You want to make sure the coyote knows they are not welcome. You can do this by making loud noises, throw rocks, or spray them with a garden hose," the posting reads.

3 Floridians accused in IL of time-share fraud

Three Florida men are facing federal charges in Illinois that accuse them of carrying out a time-share fraud that bilked more than 600 victims of \$1.3 million in 46 states and six Canadian provinces.

Federal grand jurors in East St. Louis on Wednesday indicted 42-year-old Michael Starace of Lantana, Fla., and 38-year-old Darnell Disroe and 32-year-old Michael Lentine, both of Boynton Beach, Fla.

Authorities allege that the three ran a business called Real Time-share Marketing that asked owners to pay thousands of dollars for costs associated with sales for which there were no real buyers.

BSO seeks fedora felon

A nattily-dressed man in a tan suit, dress shoes and hat walked into a Deerfield Beach bank Tuesday morning, removed a note from his laptop case and handed it to the teller.

The message on the paper indicated that he had a gun and that he was robbing the bank. But when the teller screamed, the would-be robber calmly took back his note and walked out of the bank. He left in a car that appeared to be a 4-door, maroon, late-model Buick.

A bank surveillance camera captured images of the man and his getaway car. Broward Sheriff's Office robbery detectives are hoping someone recognizes the well-dressed criminal and his stylish duds.

Anyone who knows anything about this crime or this bank robber is asked to call BSO Robbery Detective Brian Walker at (954) 321-4270, or anonymously report Broward Crime Stoppers at (954) 493-TIPS or report information online at www.browardcrimestoppers.org.

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Pompano tries again to buy new 'image': City to spend \$75,000.00 on PR for new logo

The city plans to Wilesmith Advertising & Design of West Palm Beach to figure out how to attract investors to Pompano Beach by creating a logo for the city. Their hope is that more hype about Pompano Beach will induce investors to build a hotel here.

City Hall regulars dismissed the move as corrupt nonsense at the hands of a left wing City Commission attempting to distract voters from a cascade of failures across town.

"A logo for Pompano?" said one Commission regular. "How about a dead fish or a pile of crap with flies circling around."

Critics were quick to point out that Pompano Beach already has an international reputation as a viciously corrupt community that spent millions to destroy hotel developers Jim and Tom Stephanis because Commissioner Herb Skolnick and later Beach Commissioner Nate Braverman could not dictate their own terms to the former owners of the Yardarm Restaurant. Since then the city has been featured in books and recordings calling the community a "City of Pirates."

After local politicians spent millions of tax dollars to block the hotel project at Hillsboro Inlet the developers declared bankruptcy and the city was later able to buy the property at a foreclosure sale.

In the past several investors expressed interest in developing restaurants and hotels at the site but all quickly backed away when they researched the history of the property.

"Pompano Beach is well known from New York to Dubai as a place to avoid," said one international hotel developer who asked not to be named. "That place is poison."

Pompano politicians have repeatedly spent thousands of tax payer dollars buying "honors" like 'All American City' and 'Tree City USA' awards in a vain attempt to change the

perception internationally that the city is a foolish place to risk serious investment. Since the destruction of the Yardarm project hundreds of businesses have closed their doors to relocate in friendlier, less corrupt communities in South Florida.

Now city commissioners claim they want Pompano Beach to have a brand that will set it apart and help the city promote tourism and economic development. The commission, acting as the city's Community Re-development Agency, gave the PR firm the go-ahead last week to begin its work. A \$75,000 contract will be presented to the CRA in September.

"I don't think you're going to have an easy job here. We don't have just one thing," Commissioner Charlotte Burrie told company President Margaret Wilesmith.

Beach property owner Gerard Reitano saw a different problem: What's the point? Reitano told reporters, "I don't know what the logo's going to do and how that's going to attract

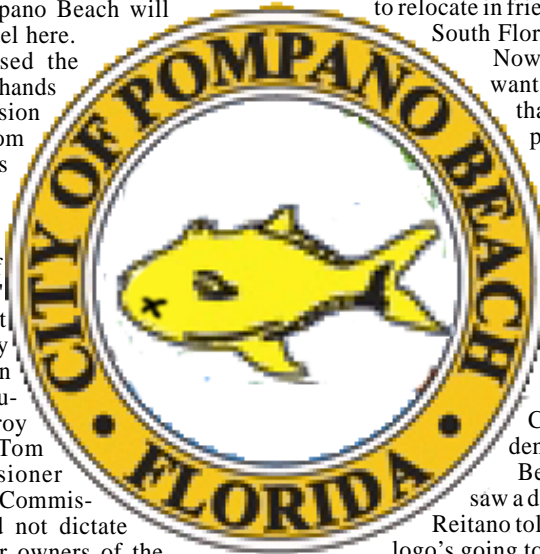
a hotel here," Reitano said. "I hope it's better than the image. We've got no image. No one wants to come here."

That's the purpose behind branding, Wilesmith said — to give the city an image and to define what it is about the city that should be promoted. She claimed that her firm 'branded' Tavares as 'America's Seaplane City'.

She did not explain how she will promote Pompano's public beach with its foul smelling sand along Briny Avenue's public beach barbecue area, the city's filthy bathrooms and sidewalks and the abandoned fishing pier that has driven most local beach goers to the public beach in Deerfield rather than risking exposure to Pompano's often sewage tainted surf.

"A brand is not a logo. A brand is your DNA," Wilesmith said. "It may be a feel. It may be an attitude. ... A logo is just your visual representation of it."

"Just another try to lure lambs to the slaughter," said another real estate developer.



Boy dies after mother gives him Lunesta

A South Florida mother arrested and charged with manslaughter in the death of her young child was in bond court Friday morning.

Raisa Bernabe is accused of giving a prescription drug to her four year old son Nicholas Odze last September.

The boy's father found him unconscious in their Coral Springs apartment.

She is now being held in the Broward County Jail on \$21,000 bond.

The Broward Medical Examiner's Office ruled that Nicholas died from an overdose of eszopiclone, a prescription sleep aid sold under the brand name Lunesta.

Toxicology tests also found the child had ingested ibuprofen and the prescription pain substances oxycodone and oxymorphone before his death, according to a medical examiner report.

According to the police report, Bernabe admitted that she gave her son a Lunesta pill the night of Sept. 9 because he had not been able to stay asleep the previous two nights.



Nicholas Odze

The boy's mother also told police that after giving her son the Lunesta pill she left the child and went into the kitchen.

Fifteen minutes later she "found him in the master bedroom with several open prescription pill bottles." The mother told police she did not know if the child ingested any of the pills.

Deerfield building official tried to use his position to get a date

A Deerfield Beach building code official has taken official misconduct to an entirely new level.

Waguih Messiha was fired recently by the city after allegations by a female resident that he tried to use his position to get her in some compromising positions.

Nancy Loft claims Messiha said he would make her mother's code violations go away if she would go out on a date with him. In a letter to the city, Loft says Messiha had a "significant

erection" and a smirk on his face when he made the indecent proposal.

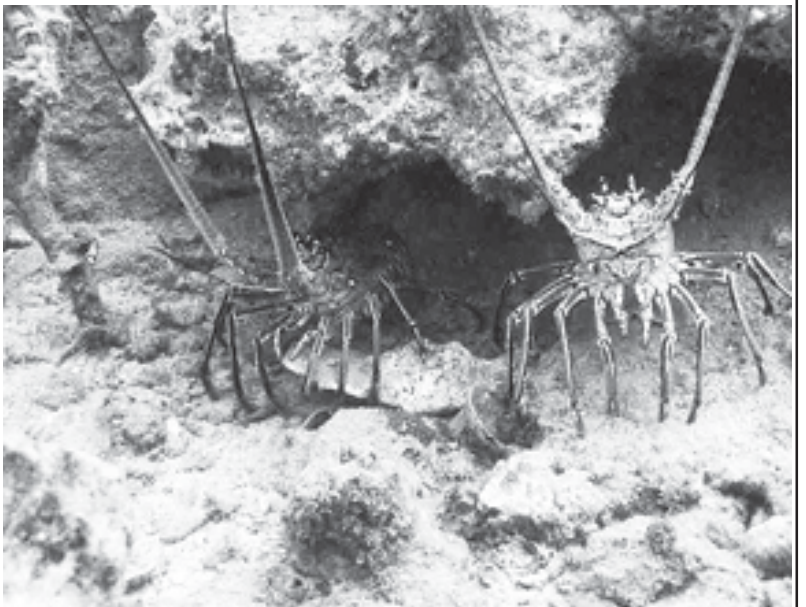
"Mr. Messiha told me in his office that if I went out with him "the problem would go away." Since it was only Mr. Messiha and myself... in his private office at the time, I felt very uncomfortable as Mr. Messiha glanced down at his significant erection and then looked up at me with a smirk and again asked if I would go out with him to make the problem go away." Loft wrote in a letter obtained by the *Broward New Times*.

"I was embarrassed and offended," Loft later wrote in the letter.

According to the *Broward New Times*, the complaint was the last straw for 62-year-old Messiha, who had a history of complaints and had been warned by supervisors to clean up his act.

Loft even went to the Broward Sheriff's Office for help after Messiha continually called her phone in search of a date. Messiha claims it was Loft who came on to him to try and get him to erase her mother's code violations.

Lobster Mini-Season underway as divers hit the reefs



Wednesday and Thursday you may have noticed your job or office is bit short on staff.

At the stroke of midnight on Wednesday thousands of divers dove in for Florida's lobster mini-season.

For some scuba divers this will be their first time back in the water since last year, or maybe even several years. In an effort to help those who needed to brush up on their skills, a refresher course called Revive Your Dive was offered Sunday at the Ft. Lauderdale Aquatic Complex.

Divers were given a brief physical to make sure they were fit to dive, their gear was checked out and then

they were able to dive for about an hour in the pool under the supervision of dive professionals who assessed their underwater skills and safety.

Last year four divers died during the mini-lobster season.

Every year the lobster mini-season brings with it a significant increase in not only divers but the number of boats along South Florida's coastal waters.

This increase in boating activity has the potential to lead to accidents if boaters forget to practice safety first.

One of the most important things boaters can do before they leave for

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Dems pushing aside Meek for billionaire

DNC member paid by Greene before endorsing him

When a Democratic National Committee member sent an e-mail asking whom he should support in the Democratic Senate primary, at least one result came quickly.

The DNC member, Jon Ausman of Tallahassee, received a check the next day from the campaign of billionaire candidate Jeff Greene, hiring Ausman for political consultation and strategy.

Six days after that, Ausman announced his endorsement in another e-mail: He was endorsing Greene.

He signed the endorsement e-mail as a DNC member but didn't mention that he was being paid by Greene.

Ausman said that he had already planned to support Greene before being paid by him and that he plans to make it clear in the future that he is a paid consultant.

"Frankly I liked Greene from the word get go," said Ausman, who received national attention in 2008 for challenging the DNC's decision to strip Florida of its delegates as punishment

for holding an early presidential primary.

Asked why he asked people to take the survey if he already supported Greene, Ausman said it was because he wanted to make sure there wasn't an "overwhelmingly negative response" to Greene's candidacy.

Ausman said he was also one of the few people who donated to the Greene campaign, writing a check below \$200, the amount at which Greene must list donors.

"God bless him," Ausman said. "His check to me was bigger than the one I sent him."

Greene has spent about \$6 million of his own money on the campaign while accepting \$3,036 in donations.

"The endorsement of Ausman was very welcome but we also wanted to tap into his experience," said Luis Vizcaino, a Greene spokesman.

Vizcaino acknowledged, however, that Ausman didn't publicly endorse the candidate until after the check was written.

Existing-home sales slow further in June

With the scheduled closing deadline for the home buyer tax credits, existing-home sales slowed in June according to the National Association of Realtors®.

Existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, fell 5.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.37 million units in June from 5.66 million in May, but are 9.8 percent higher than the 4.89 million-unit pace in June 2009.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said the market shows uncharacteristic yet understandable swings as buyers responded to the tax credits. "June home sales still reflect a tax credit impact with some sales not closed due to delays, which will show up in the next two months," he said.

"Broadly speaking, sales closed after the home buyer tax credit will be significantly lower compared to the credit-induced spring surge. Only when jobs are created at a sufficient pace will home sales return to sustainable healthy levels."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage fell to a record low

4.74 percent in June from 4.89 percent in May; the rate was 5.42 percent in June 2009.

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$183,700 in June, which is 1.0 percent higher than a year ago. Distressed homes were at 32 percent of sales last month, compared with 31 percent in May; it was also 31 percent in June 2009.

NAR President Vicki Cox Golder, owner of Vicki L. Cox & Associates in Tucson, Ariz., said softer home sales expected this summer don't tell the whole story. "Despite these market swings, total annual home sales are rising above 2009 and we're looking for overall gains again this year as well as in 2011," she said. "Conditions have become more balanced in much of the country, which is good for both buyers and sellers. However, consumers find it even more challenging to navigate the transaction process, especially for distressed properties, which only underscores the value Realtors® bring to buyers and sellers in this market."

A parallel NAR practitioner survey shows first-time buyers purchased 43 percent of homes in June, down from 46 percent in May. Investors accounted for 13 percent of sales in June, little changed from 14 percent in May; the remaining

purchases were by repeat buyers. All-cash sales were at 24 percent in June compared with 25 percent in May.

Total housing inventory at the end of June rose 2.5 percent to 3.99 million existing homes available for sale, which represents an 8.9-month supply at the current sales pace, up from an 8.3-month supply in May.

"The supply of homes on the market is higher than we'd like to see. But home prices are still holding their ground because prices had already overcorrected in many local markets," Yun said. Raw unsold inventory remains 12.7 percent below the record of 4.58 million in July 2008.

Single-family home sales fell 5.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.70 million in June from a level of 4.98 million in May, but are 8.5 percent above the 4.33 million pace in June 2009. The median existing single-family home price was \$184,200 in June, up 1.3 percent from a year ago.

Single-family median existing-home prices were higher in 10 out of 19 metropolitan statistical areas reported in June in comparison with June 2009. In addition, existing single-family home sales rose in 12 of the 19 areas from a year ago while two were unchanged.

Existing condominium and co-op sales slipped 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 670,000 in June from 680,000 in May, but are 20.5 percent higher than the 556,000-unit pace in June 2009. The median existing condo price was \$180,100 in June, which is 1.4 percent below a year ago.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast rose 7.9 percent to an annual level of 960,000 in June and are 17.1 percent above June 2009. The median price in the Northeast was \$244,300, down 1.2 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest dropped 7.5 percent in June to a pace of 1.23 million but are 11.8 percent higher than a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$155,900, down 0.1 percent from June 2009.

In the South, existing-home sales fell 6.5 percent to an annual level of 2.01 million in June but are 11.0 percent above June 2009. The median price in the South was \$163,600, unchanged from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the West dropped 9.3 percent to an annual pace of 1.17 million in June but are 0.9 percent higher than a year ago. The median price in the West was \$221,800, up 1.5 percent from June 2009.