

THE SPACE COAST'S NEWSPAPER

LOCAL NEWS INSIDE

An official with the American Lung Association gives a talk warning about the dangers of increasingly polluted air.

FLORIDA TODAY

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SECTION B

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STATE NEWS INSIDE

The group Students Working Against Tobacco hopes its whistle-stop train tour will send an anti-smoking message to the entertainment industry.

FLORIDA BRIEFS

**Funnel clouds cause damage**



FUNNEL CLOUD is sighted near Summer Lane apartments in Daytona Beach on Tuesday. The funnel, which was one of two reported in the area, uprooted trees and damaged several dwellings. No one was injured.

**Organ transplant recipient, 5, dies**

MIAMI — Julianne Pruthi, the 5-year-old who received five organs in one transplant operation in March 1997, died Wednesday from lung infections and recurring pneumonia.

Her mother, Penny Huffman, was at her bedside when the child succumbed to infectious respiratory complications at 6:30 a.m. in the pediatric intensive care unit at the University of Miami-Jackson Children's Hospital, said spokeswoman Oscar Morley.

"What makes it very difficult to accept this is that the transplant was very successful," Morley said. "It was her lungs and her inability to fight off recurring pneumonia that overcame her."

Julianne had a condition known as multiple intestinal atresia, a narrowing of the intestine, which led to the malfunctioning of the other organs. Her Caldwell, Idaho, family searched for help until they found physicians in Miami willing to try a rare multi-organ transplant on the young patient.

Julianne received a new stomach, pancreas, liver, kidneys and intestines in a 13-hour operation.

**CEO indicted in boys' deaths**

TAMPA — The CEO and owner of Durex Industries Inc., where two boys died in a trash bin after inhaling chemical fumes, has been named in an indictment charging hazardous waste violations in the years following the 1992 deaths.

William Reck, 67, of Long Beach, Calif., allegedly stored hazardous waste at the former Durex plant in Tampa between August 1993 and March 1994, federal prosecutors said.

The 5-year-old boys, Scott Perle and Anthony Neil Storman, died after breathing fumes while playing in an unsealed trash bin containing solvents. The chemical was used as a cleaner.

**School official gets 33 months**

JACKSONVILLE — A former school official was given 33 months in prison after pleading guilty to charges of entering money from contractors seeking security business.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Kindt said former assistant superintendent Joe Seager, 56, resorted to the corruption to maintain a lavish lifestyle.

Seager demanded money from the alarm company after securing security contracts for them.

**15 Fantasy 5 tickets worth \$15,412 each**

Associated Press  
TALLAHASSEE — Fifteen first-prize winners of the Fantasy 5 game will collect \$15,412 each, the Florida Lottery Department said Wednesday.

Another 1,230 tickets won \$20 for correctly picking four numbers, and 25,339 tickets won \$4 for picking three.

The numbers drawn Tuesday night were 1-4-5-24.

■ Lottery results, 1b.

**Report criticizes Flagler in Seminole Woods fire**

Associated Press  
PALM COAST — Flagler County was not prepared to fight the fire that destroyed 20 homes in the Seminole Woods subdivision last month, the Florida Fire Chiefs Association said in a report.

The report, prepared under a contract from the Flagler County Commission, was critical of the county's emergency command structure, muddled communication, a poor water supply and fire equipment that was about 25 years old.

David Hainstead, a retired assistant chief with the Altamonte Springs Fire Department, wrote much of the report after interviewing officials and visiting the fire area.

"They did the best they could with their limited manpower and equipment," Hainstead said Wednesday. "The situation in Flagler was dangerous because of critical-wild interface, homes built in the middle of brushy woodlands."

The fire in Seminole Woods in early June was the first of the series of serious wildfires that eventually burned 300,000 acres and destroyed about 300 homes statewide.

In light of that, Hainstead said, the report may be a little too critical.

"We had 10,000 men and 150 aircraft and we could stop those fires," said Hainstead.

Among the report's findings were that the county couldn't track all firefighters in the battle, that the call for help from outside the county wasn't made soon enough, and residents weren't warned enough of potential dangers — and some wound up driving through flames to escape as their homes burned.

The report also said the first firefighters did not attack the spreading fire soon enough, spending the early part of the day protecting a heating camp trailer and a cabin when they should have been fighting the oncoming fire.

Palm Coast Fire Capt. George Hahn agreed with some of the report's findings.

County Administrator Chris Chittenden said the county has plans for additional fire equipment, including replacing at least one faulty fire engine.

**Details of some findings**

Associated Press  
Among the findings in the Florida Fire Chiefs Association report on the Seminole Woods subdivision fire that consumed 20 homes in Flagler County in early June:

- There was not an adequate command structure in place during the fire.
- Communication was poor during the firefight.
- Officials should have notified Seminole Woods residents of the potential danger while it was still contained. Some residents actually had to drive through flames to escape.
- Some equipment available to Flagler County firefighters was out of date.
- There was no helicopter available to fight the fire early on. Because a blimp was also raising in St. Johns County on June 6, a state helicopter there could not enter the area until the fire was recontained.

**Chimp's future up for grabs**



JUSTINE FISHER, 13, kisses Rocky, a 2-year-old chimpanzee. Rocky is in the middle of a custody battle in Umatilla. The breakup of partners in the Amazing Animals Training Center in Umatilla has left the chimp's ownership in doubt. Fisher is the daughter of two of the former partners.

**Ex-business partners fight for ownership of animals they trained**

Associated Press  
UMATILLA — Rocky, a chimpanzee whose life of the camera has shot him into television stardom, is the focus of a custody battle between the former business partners who trained him.

Two-year-old Rocky has appeared on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "Good Morning America," "Baywatch," "The Today Show" and others in recent months.

But the breakup of partners in the Amazing Animals Training Center in Umatilla has left the chimp's ownership in doubt.

Rocky now lives with Yvonne and Justin Fisher, who have worked with primates for 17 years and keep about 30 animals on 40 acres in Umatilla.

Another man, Sidney Yael, is suing to regain custody of Rocky, 34 other

October, forming a school to teach skills needed for exotic animal husbandry.

But soon after Rocky's star began to rise, the relationship between Yael and the Fishers soured. In his lawsuit, Yael is also seeking "Visalia," a black standard-bred horse, a Burmese python, tigers, several ferrets, cubs, wolves, lions, and hawks. The total value of the animals and property is about \$70,000, said his Ocala attorney, Bryce Ackerman.

A hearing on the ownership is scheduled for Aug. 21.

Despite Rocky's numerous television appearances, Yael told the Fishers he didn't receive any money from the show. Any profits made by animals were supposed to go back into the partnership.

Yael did most of the training of Rocky, the Fishers admit, but they say their 13-year-old daughter can control the chimp almost as well.

**Landlord charged with voyeurism**

Tenant finds camera hidden in bathroom

Associated Press  
TALLAHASSEE — A man was charged with voyeurism, a new crime in Florida as of July 1, after he was accused of secretly videotaping her getting into and out of the shower.

A student renting a room from Alan Workman and his wife filed a complaint with the Leon County Sheriff's Office after she saw a video of herself according to Deputy David Gilmore.

She found a camera hidden in a vent above the shower and confronted the couple, Gilmore said.

Workman, 28, apologized, telling her he had a problem with "this sort of thing" and that it happened only once, Gilmore said.

Workman's wife said she knew nothing about the cameras and was not charged. Workman was arrested Tuesday.

The new state law defines voyeurism as unlawfully watching, filming or taping a person without that person's knowledge or consent with a lewd or indecent intent.

"It is rather timely in light of an investigation that took place down in Franklin County," prosecutor Warren Goodwin said.

Goodwin was referring to allegations in March by female employees of the weekly Apalachicola Times newspaper that

general manager John Lee put a video camera up in a vent in the ladies bathroom and taped employees.

Assistant State Attorney Ron Perry had said there wasn't enough evidence to prosecute Lee, who has said the cameras were installed for security.

Goodwin said the new law makes sense since it has long been a crime in Florida to videotape people without their knowledge and consent.

Under the new law, the first conviction for voyeurism is a first-degree misdemeanor and carries a possible sentence of up to a year in prison and a maximum \$1,000 fine. A second conviction is considered a third-degree felony that could result in a five-year prison sentence and a \$5,000 fine.

**Making final tweaks**



TAI HOON CHOI, a doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Florida, makes adjustments to Subgator, a robotic submarine that will compete next week in a contest at the U.S. Navy's Coastal System Station in Panama City. The goal of the competition is to get the craft to pass under a series of gates in a pond without any remote-control guidance.

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