

LOCAL BRIEFS

Open house at Riviera Dunes today

PALMETTO — An open house is being held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. today at The Palms at Riviera Dunes, 501 Haben Blvd.

There are 46 condominiums available with prices starting at \$199,900 for a three-bedroom, two-bath home.

The Hardman Group, developers who recently purchased the building, have added amenities including a new pool and waterfall, outdoor cabanas, a fitness center and a putting green.

For more information, call 941-362-0632.

Grad school session set for Jan. 28 at USF

MANATEE — An information session about graduate level programming will be held at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 28.

The session, to be held at Selby Auditorium, is for students with bachelor's degrees who want to pursue master's degrees at USF in criminal justice, social work, educational leadership, reading education, business and hospitality management.

The session will include an alumni panel, breakout sessions with specialists, a financial aid workshop, campus tours, and a cookout in the courtyard.

Information: Karina Andersen at kjander2@sar.usf.edu or 941-359-4334.

AAF welcomes scholarship applications by Feb. 3

MANATEE — Applications for a \$1,000 student scholarship are being accepted through Feb. 3 by the American Advertising Federation's Sun-coast chapter.

The award is given annually to a deserving student pursuing a bachelor's or mas-

Hurricane center chief to retire June 1

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, who took over the forecasting agency during a time of turmoil and leaves it much calmer, announced Saturday he will retire effective June 1.

Read, 62, said he never intended to stay in the position he has held since 2008 for longer than five years.

"I will have been in charge

just shy of four and a half years on June 1," Read said in a letter to hurricane center staff and managers at his parent agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "I had no idea I would ever be considered for such an honor. It's been quite a ride and I'm blessed to hit the exit ramp in my career after



Read

bound vehicle rotated and struck a third vehicle which caused that vehicle to hit another, the FHP said.

Drivers of the other two cars received minor injuries.

Man steals ring instead of buying it

MANATEE — A man stole a woman's ring early Saturday morning in the parking lot of a retail shop in the 6100 block of 14th Street West, deputies said.

A woman called a man and arranged to meet him to sell him the ring, deputies said.

But when the man climbed into the rear seat of the woman's car, he grabbed the ring and pushed her away.

He fled in a waiting car, deputies said.

working with you all," Read replaced Bill Proenza, who stirred controversy by repeatedly and publicly criticizing federal officials for what he considered inadequate funding for accurate storm forecasting and failure to replace an aging weather satellite. At one point, most senior and top-line managers at the hurricane center demanded in writing that Proenza be relieved of his duties, contending he was undermining public confi-

dence in their work. Proenza left the job after only six months. He had replaced the popular Max Mayfield, who was well known around the country because of his frequent TV appearances during major storms such as hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in 2005.

Read's tenure has been far less contentious and, although dozens of tropical storms have formed in the Atlantic Ocean since his appointment, no major hurricanes

have struck the U.S. mainland since late 2005. "Bill has provided superb leadership at the National Hurricane Center as 63 tropical systems formed across the Atlantic basin, including two of the more active seasons on record," said Jack Hayes, director of the National Weather Service. "Bill's departure leaves a noticeable void to fill."

A search for Read's successor will begin immediately.

Shots fired in Bradenton; no one hurt

BRADENTON — Shots were fired Saturday night in Bradenton, but no one appeared to be injured, Bradenton police said.

At about 10 p.m., an officer heard gunshots near the 700 block of 20th Street East. No injuries were reported, police said, adding that hospitals in the area had not contacted police to report a patient with gunshot wounds.

One resident said there was new damage to his house that may have been caused by the gunshots. Residents at the scene were not cooperating, police said.

—Herald staff reports
Those with information about crimes can call
CrimeStoppers at
(866) 634-TIPS (8477).



Police Briefs

72-year-old dies in 4-car accident

BRADENTON — A 72-year-old Bradenton woman was killed when the car she was riding in was headed eastbound on 53rd Avenue West and turned in front of another car.

Airta L. Vincent was declared dead at the scene, FHP said. The driver of the car, a 77-year-old Bradenton woman, is listed in critical condition, Florida Highway Patrol said. The accident occurred at 1:36 p.m. Friday.

The car was attempting to make a left turn onto 34th Street West and hit a car headed westbound. The east-

Traffic Watch

MANATEE COUNTY

■ **State Road 64/Manatee Avenue from Ninth to 15th streets west:** Temporary nighttime lane closures 7 p.m.-6 a.m. today through Jan. 20 for final paving operations. One westbound lane will remain open.

■ **Virginia Drive between Seventh and Ninth avenues west:** The northbound lane will close Jan. 16-Feb. 25 for the Ware's Creek dredging project.

north of Manatee Avenue. Motorists southbound on Eighth Street West will not be permitted to exit onto Manatee and will have to use Fourth Avenue West.

Access from Manatee Avenue onto Eighth Street West will remain open along with business entrances and driveways on Eighth Street West.

—Herald staff reports



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