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THE SHINY SHEET®



THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 16-18, 2009

16 Pages 50 cents

Suit alleges daily sexual abuse



Epstein
To be released from jail Wednesday.

Lawsuit says 15-year-old girl was enticed to quit job and was sexually exploited by billionaire Epstein and friends for four years.

By **MICHELE DARGAN**
Daily News Staff Writer

New allegations have emerged in a federal lawsuit filed against convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, accusing him of — among other things — asking his 15-year-old victim

to quit her job at The Mar-a-Lago Club to become what amounted to his sex slave.

The lawsuit alleges that the girl, then working as a changing room assistant for \$9 an hour at the club, was recruited there by Epstein's then-companion Ghislaine Maxwell in 1998. Maxwell told the girl, and her father who was an employee at the club, that she could learn massage therapy and earn a "great deal of money," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit alleges that the victim was not only required to satisfy Epstein's "every sexual whim," but that she also was exploited by Epstein's adult male peers. They included

royalty, politicians, academicians, businessmen and others in various locations around the world, the suit says.

The lawsuit was filed by Miami attorney Robert Josefsberg on behalf of Jane Doe No. 102. Josefsberg previously filed a case on behalf of another minor girl, Jane Doe No. 101.

The lawsuit, like the dozen more other lawsuits against the billionaire money manager, says his modus operandi in the initial visit was the same: the minor girl was taken to Epstein's mansion on El Brillo Way and led

Other victim seeks to unseal document from sex offender case, Page A5

Please see LAWSUIT, Page A5

Lesters buy into Olympia art fair

Founding owners of Art Palm Beach say pact will offer 'global platform' for ventures.

By **JAN SJOSTROM**
Daily News Arts Editor

David and Lee Ann Lester have added the Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair to their art-fair portfolio.
The Bonita Springs-



DEP veto of Reach 8 permit was expected

Town had sought to withdraw beach-fill application months ago after judge ruled against it.

By **WILLIAM KELLY**
Daily News Staff Writer

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has denied the town an environmental permit required for a beach fill project along Reach 8.

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 20, 2009

16 Pages \$1.50

Town bristles at call for coral protection zone

Designation could thwart beach nourishment projects.

By **WILLIAM KELLY**
Daily News Staff Writer

An environmental group has asked the federal government to extend a coral protection zone along the town's shoreline.

The town opposes the extension, which would complicate future efforts to nourish its eroded beaches.

In November, the National Marine Fisheries Service designated as critical habitat for elkhorn and staghorn coral a swath of ocean floor from the Florida Keys to Boynton Beach Inlet.

The two reef-building species have suffered drastic declines in the last 25 years, and have been shielded since 2006 by the federal Endan-

gered Species Act.

But Palm Beach County Reef Rescue says it has discovered staghorn coral north of the Boynton Inlet, and that the protection zone should be extended 15 miles north to the Palm Beach Inlet.

The fisheries service is reviewing the group's petition and will announce its intention on Jan. 6, said

*Please see CORAL,
Page A8*



Connie Gasque, a Palm Beach resident and a volunteer diver for Palm Beach County Reef Rescue, looks at staghorn coral offshore from the Bath & Tennis Club in December 2008.

Photo by Michael Patrick O'Neill

PIG on the MOVE?



Left: Piggie Pie Freckles has been deemed a code violation and must leave Palm Beach by Monday.

Below: The pig lives in a Brazilian Avenue apartment with Kimberly Kelley and Witty Witty the Kitty.



Attorney for Epstein victims:

'I have never seen a stranger case'

Unsealed plea deal shows Palm Beach sex offender could have faced a life sentence if charged by federal government.

By **MICHELE DARGAN**
Daily News Staff Writer

Sex offender Jeffrey Epstein could have been charged with multiple counts of five federal offenses involving sex acts with minors and faced a life sentence, but, instead, the government agreed not to prosecute him or his procurers if he spent 18 months in





Days of whites and roses

Wines lend notes to seasonal dishes. **A10.**

THE INSIDER

Madoff spurs prison bill

New York weighs charging rich inmates. **A12.**

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No monitoring device for Epstein



Epstein
Served less than 13 months.

'Difficult part in his life is ending,' says attorney for sex offender released from jail. Victims say sentence too short.

By **MICHELE DARGAN**
Daily News Staff Writer

Convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, released from jail shortly after 6 a.m. Wednesday, will not be tracked by an electronic monitoring device during his one-year probation, ac-

ording to a court order.

Epstein, who served less than 13 months of his 18-month sentence at the Palm Beach County Stockade, will serve one year of probation at his El Brillo Way home. He already has registered as a sex offender.

In addition, Epstein, who has been

out of jail on work release for 16 hours a day, six days a week since October, has been going to his Palm Beach home as well as his West Palm Beach office for the past two weeks.

His attorney, Jack Goldberger, as well as Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office records confirm that Epstein has been to his home on several occasions. Goldberger said Epstein was given PBSO permission to be at home for specific time periods in order to make the transition from jail to his home.

The plea agreement stipulated that Epstein, a billionaire financier, would not be placed on electronic monitoring, Goldberger said. An earlier court order incorrectly had him listed as having to be monitored.

"A very difficult part in his life is ending, and he is looking forward to moving on," Goldberger said.

Epstein, 56, pleaded guilty to procuring a minor for prostitution and so-

Please see EPSTEIN, Page A6

Petters mansion sale may aid victims

Businessman's trial on investor and tax fraud is set for Oct. 26; home sale proceeds to be put into receivership account.

By **DAVID ROGERS**
Daily News Staff Writer



A construction crew working for the county Department of Environmental Resources constructs a temporary access road into the Intracoastal Waterway near Ibis Isle. Sand will be moved over muck to make a stable shallow area to plant red mangrove seeds and promote an environment for oysters and other sea life.

Daily News Photo
by Jeffrey Langlois



Lagoon work to aid habitat

Nearly 25 county building division workers laid off, **3B**

Two weekend events to close downtown West Palm streets, **4B**

Head of veterans charity accused of scamming donors

Some contributors say their checks were altered

By SUSAN R. MILLER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The president of a 10-year-old Boynton Beach nonprofit is under investigation here and in Massachusetts for allegedly misleading donors and misappropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars meant for veterans, court records show.

The allegations against Frank

J. Cariello, 70, and the Veterans Charitable Foundation were sparked by complaints from donors in Massachusetts who had been solicited by telemarketers working for Cariello's charity, which operates in about a dozen states. They are laid out in hundreds of pages from search warrants filed this week and last week in Palm Beach County Cir-

cuit Court.

Between October 2006 and November 2007, law enforcement officers interviewed more than two dozen people who told them they received phone calls from telemarketers claiming that the Veterans Charitable Foundation was affiliated with the Massachusetts chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

More than a dozen people told investigators that they became suspicious after sending in their checks, only to find the recipients' name had been changed. Investigators determined that Cariello altered and deposited at least 90 checks meant for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, according to records.

The group has 34 chapters across the country.

"We get two or three of these things a year, we cooperate with

the local district attorney and we will do what they need us to do to put an end to it," the Paralyzed Veterans of America's spokesman, David Uchic, said Thursday from Washington. He said he was unaware of this particular investigation.

Investigators determined that Cariello was depositing the money into checking accounts in Florida and either using it to pay

See VETERANS, 7B ▶



Cariello
Investigators say only 2 percent raised goes to cause.

ELECTION 2008



Governor on road to pitch Yes on 1

Crist says the amendment may be the last chance for meaningful tax reform, but opposition is mounting.

By DEANA POOLE and DON JORDAN
Palm Beach Post Staff Writers

Adding urgency to his property tax pitch, Gov. Charlie Crist said Thursday that Floridians "may never get another chance" to vote on property tax reform if they reject the proposed constitutional amendment.

"If we don't pass meaningful tax reform with this measure, we may never get another chance," he said Thursday in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. "Florida's families have suffered long enough."

The governor's warning came during the first day of a two-day, six-city campaign swing just days before Tuesday's primary, where 60 percent of voters must approve the four-part measure for it to pass.

Meanwhile, opposition is mounting.

Boy, 4, on life support
after Sunday's chain-
reaction crashes, **2B**

Man says he did not
touch 11-year-old
but saw who did, **3B**

RESEARCH IN FLORIDA

Scripps, FSU sign pact as brain trust expands

By KIMBERLY MILLER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The Scripps Research Institute has signed its fourth working agreement with a Florida university, outlining a formal collaboration with scientists at Florida State University.

The Tallahassee school announced the joint cooperation agreement Monday, saying it will reduce the time and paperwork formerly used to establish partnerships between the biomedical research institute and FSU. It also makes it easier to file

patents and share revenues from discoveries those partnerships make.

"The agreement specifies how intellectual property will be handled," said W. Ross Ellington, FSU's associate vice president for research. "The ownership issues have to be

discussed upfront."

Scripps, which will be on Florida Atlantic University's Jupiter campus, previously signed working agreements with FAU, the University of Central Florida and the University of Florida.

FSU and Scripps scien-

tists were working together on at least two projects before the agreement.

The results from one joint project involving FSU's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory were published this year in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*. Researchers

in that experiment were able to better analyze how drugs bind to proteins, opening the door to improved medical treatments.

"The ultimate beneficiaries of this collaborative relationship are the patients who will benefit from the research. See SCRIPPS, 11B ▶



Emily J. Minor

Water lovers' charity strip makes splash

The idea came — gently at first and then in waves of certainty — after a day on the Sebastian River.

Why not? they mused over their polenta-tomato-eggplant dinner.

Why not?

And that's when these ladies on a yoga-kayaking getaway decided, absolutely, this was the right thing to do.

They'd take off their clothes and pose stylishly alongside their beloved water and then turn it into a 2007 calendar.

One woman for each month, just like in the movie *Calendar Girls*.

"There was a lot of giggling and laughing, but it was really quite a serious conversation," says Ronda Cox, a Vero Beach kayaking outfitter who organized the trip back in May 2005.

Yes, South Florida has its own *Calendar Girls*. There are a new mom and a grandmother from Vero Beach. The ages range from the mid-20s to late 60s, and some are more fit than others. Just like in real life.

Common concern for ecosystem



LIBBY VOLGYES/Staff Photographer

High and feeling mighty fit

Children without shots
won't be allowed in
school, officials say, **2B**

Schools' demand for
speech therapists
expected to grow, **6B**

1,700 rally at 2 sites in solidarity with Israel



Photo by SHANNON O'BRIEN

Lauren Rabbe, who is from Jerusalem and is visiting her parents, wipes tears as she listens Sunday to speakers at a rally in West Palm Beach. She is scheduled to return to Israel Tuesday.

Gatherings condemn terrorism and express grief for loss of life in Israel and Lebanon.

By NIRVI SHAH
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

From half a world away, Sharon Levin told Palm Beach County Jews Sunday about the terrifying wail of air raid sirens that has become commonplace in northern Israel.

The sirens are followed by an eerie silence, then the deafening boom of rockets, she said.

Levin joined Jews across Palm Beach County Sunday as they demonstrated their support for Israel and their loathing

for Hezbollah. In separate gatherings — one charged with condemnations of terrorists, the other with concern for Israeli residents — they rallied for a nation battling with Hezbollah to the north and Hamas to the south.

About 1,200 people gathered in suburban Boca Raton and another 500 in West Palm Beach to hear speeches, wave Israeli flags, offer donations and express their grief about the loss of life in Israel — and Lebanon.

"We gather here to send a powerful and unified message. We condemn Hezbollah's unprovoked attack on Israel. And we unconditionally support Israel in its fight against them," U.S. Rep. E. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, said at the event near Boca Raton.

Peter Eckstein, who attended the

West Palm Beach rally, said, "Whether I agree with specific policies or not has nothing to do with my support for Israel."

His wife, Carol Safran, said, "I don't think there's anyone in this audience who doesn't want peace."

The local rallies were organized not only to boost morale but also to raise money for humanitarian aid. Similar events have taken place in the past week in Washington D.C.; Detroit; St. Louis; Sacramento, Calif.; and West Hartford, Conn. On Sunday, other rallies took place in Cincinnati, Seattle and Naples.

The Boca-area gathering, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, included a parade of politicians besides Shaw: state Sen. Ron Klein, D-Boca Raton; U.S. Rep. Alcee

See RALLY, 6B ▶

Slosberg alleges ex-flack's flap on 'payroll' reflects green, as in envy

In consultant-speak, the phrase "you should have had me on the payroll" isn't about money, veteran political/PR hired gun Barry Epstein says.

When Epstein used those words in a recent e-mail to Democratic state Rep. Irving Slosberg, he says he wasn't complaining about missing out on consulting fees from Slosberg's lavish state Senate campaign. All he was saying, Epstein told the *Politics* column, was that Slosberg should have listened to his advice.

Relations between former allies Slosberg and Epstein frayed Thursday when Epstein organized a news conference for a businessman who accused Slosberg of exaggerating his hurricane relief role last year. Slosberg dismissed the claims.

Slosberg said Epstein was just being a sorehead because he hadn't tasted any of the more than \$650,000 Slosberg has spent on his Democratic Senate primary race against attorney Ted Deutch. An evidence



George
Bennett
Politics

1,700 rally at 2 sites in solidarity with Israel



Photo by SHANNON O'BRIEN

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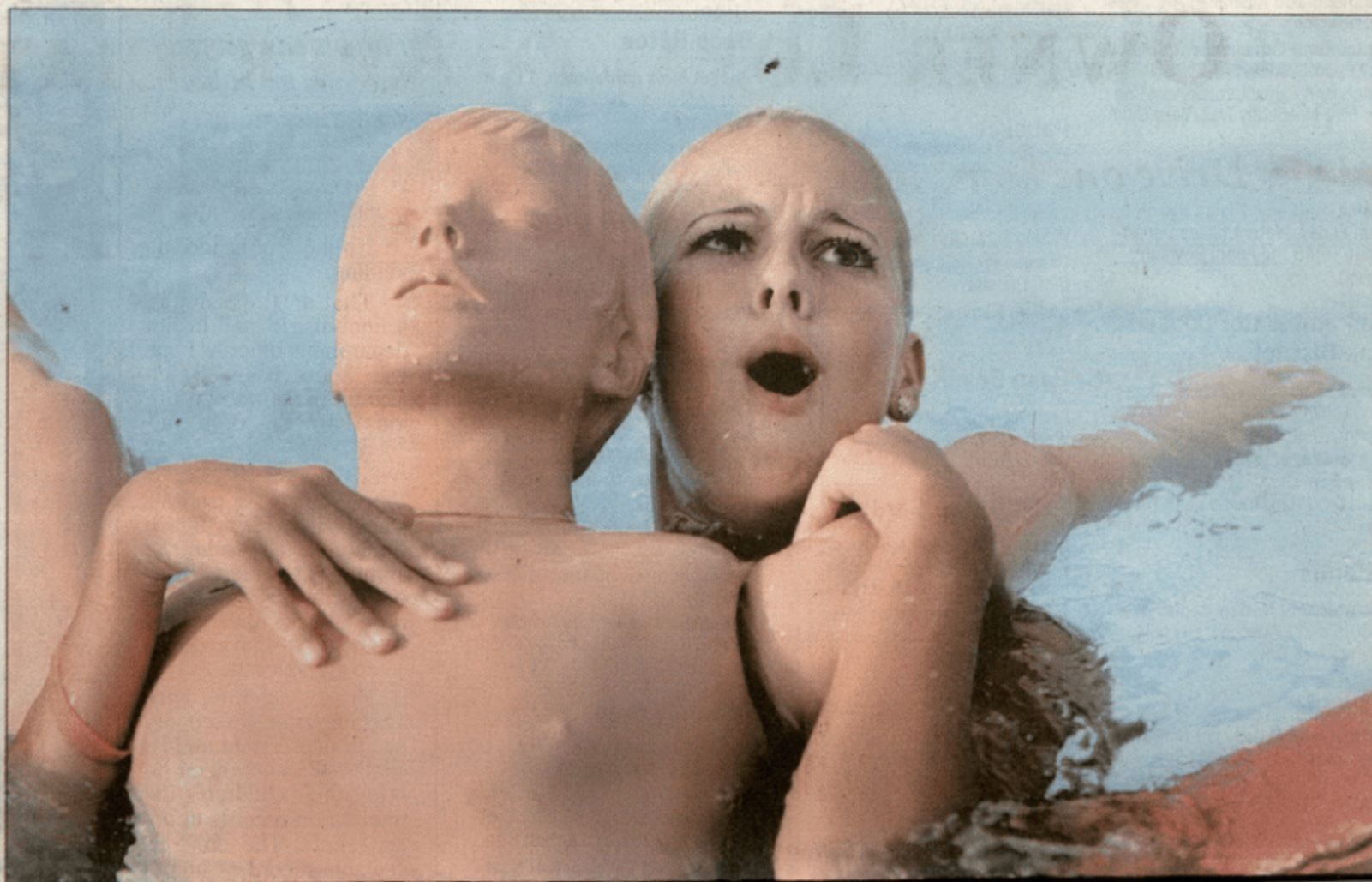
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George Bennett
Politics



Family mourns
4-year-old boy who died
from crash injuries, **3B**

Lake Worth seeks
neighborhood center for
laborers to gather, **3B**

Biggest schools budget a mixed bag

*The class-size amendment
makes its presence felt.*

By CHRISTINA DeNARDO
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

For \$3.5 billion, you could pay the salary of every baseball player in Major League Baseball — with more than \$1 billion to spare. You could

buy Pixar, the animation studio that produced *Shrek*. You could even make an offer on the National Hockey League.

Or you could send more than 172,000 children to school in Palm Beach County.

The public gets its first glimpse of the district budget today, at a public hearing at school board headquarters. Although the \$3.5 billion budget is the biggest ever, it's

a mixed bag for teachers, students and taxpayers.

Highlights of the \$1.4 billion operating budget include:

■ **Class size:** A \$41 million increase, to \$144 million, to hire teachers to meet the state's class-size amendment.

■ **Teacher pay:** \$10 million to pay 5 percent bonuses to teachers based on student performance.

■ **Retirement:** \$17.5 million

more to the Florida Retirement System for employee benefits.

■ **Reading programs:** \$1.4 million increase, from \$5.9 million to \$7.3 million.

■ **Building costs:** A \$12.5 million increase for operating district buildings, because of skyrocketing insurance and energy costs.

■ **Reading coaches:** A decrease of \$2.3 million for reading coaches in kindergarten through second grade.

■ **Needy schools:** Scrapping \$3.5 million that was going to be spent for additional teachers in poor- and low-performing middle and high schools. And 54 teachers will be moved from under-performing schools to other schools, to reduce class sizes.

■ **Teacher raises:** A 4 percent across-the-board raise for teachers.

See SCHOOLS, 6B ►



Frank Cerabino

Boca makes cut but can't beat 'down to earth'

Every year *Money* magazine picks the best places to live in America, and I was prematurely chuffed over my podunk.

Yes, that's right. Boca Raton came in at No. 30 on *Money's* Top 100 list.

Boo-yah! The soy milk lattes are on me!

But then I kept reading, which turned out to be a mistake.

Boca wasn't the most desirable Florida city on the list. That honor went to . . . Coral Springs.

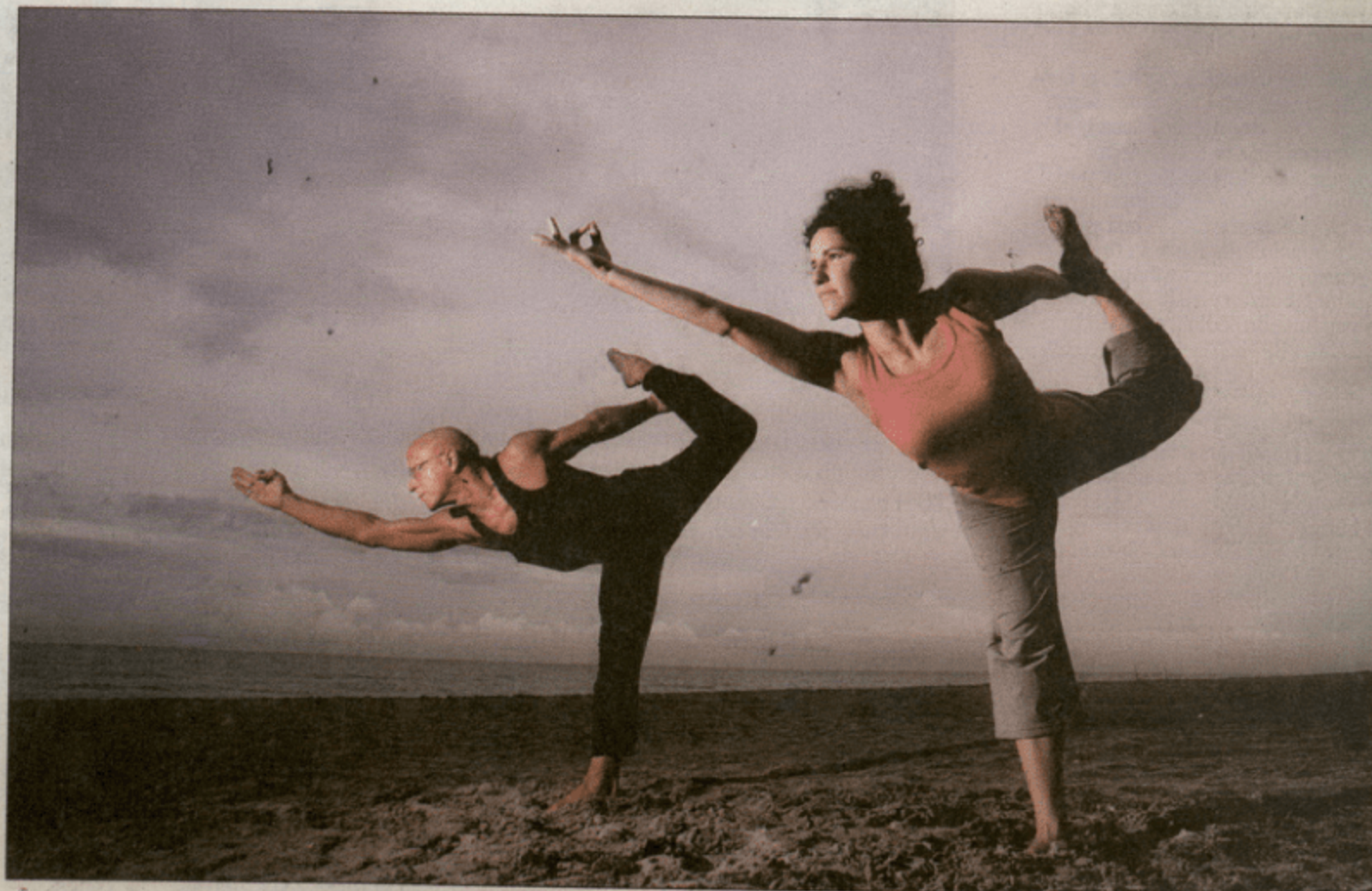
Coral Springs? That souped-up Tamarac along the edges of the Sawgrass Expressway?

Who wants to live in Coral Springs besides entomologists and people from Plantation?

But it was true. Coral Springs came in at No. 27. And to make matters worse, the other two Florida cities among the top 100 places to live in America were Pembroke Pines and Miramar. They wouldn't even make my top 100 places to live in Broward County.

'Yoga changes not only the hardware of the body, it changes the software.'

MARK ELSNER, Yoga instructor



Mark Elsner, 56, of Delray Beach and Jessica Simkin, 27, of Boynton Beach, mainstays of the local yoga community, are going to the other side of Florida.

GARY CORONADO/Staff Photographer

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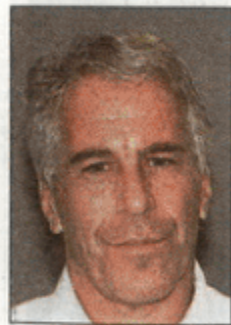
20 Pages 25 cents

Investor facing felony sex charge

Jeffrey Epstein's lawyer calls grand jury accusations false.

By **WILLIAM KELLY**
Daily News Staff Writer

A billionaire investor and part-time Palm Beach resident has been indicted on a felony charge of solicitation of prostitution after police say he had sex with underage girls whom he paid for massage sessions at his El Brillo Way home.



Epstein

Part-time Palm Beacher says he was unaware the girls were minors.

Epstein surrendered at the Palm Beach County Jail Sunday and was released on a \$3,000 bond. His attorney, Jack Goldberger, said Wednesday the third-degree felony indictment is based on false accusations and that Epstein wasn't aware

Please see **FELONY**, Page A11

Lake Worth

PROPERTY OWNER SEEKS REDEVELOPMENT



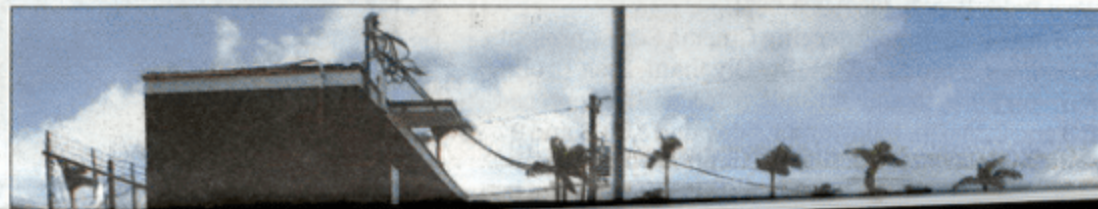
Daily News Photos by Jeffrey Langlois

The owners of the Testa property on Royal Poinciana Way have filed paperwork toward the rezoning and redevelopment of the land that contains shops, a restaurant and a gas station. Highlights of the mixed-use plan include a new, larger restaurant, townhome-style condominium units and retail space.

Testa's proposes 'village'

Application filed with the town seeks special zoning district, comprehensive plan amendment.

By **STEPHANIE MURPHY**



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from crash injuries, **3B**

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See SCHOOLS, 6B ▶



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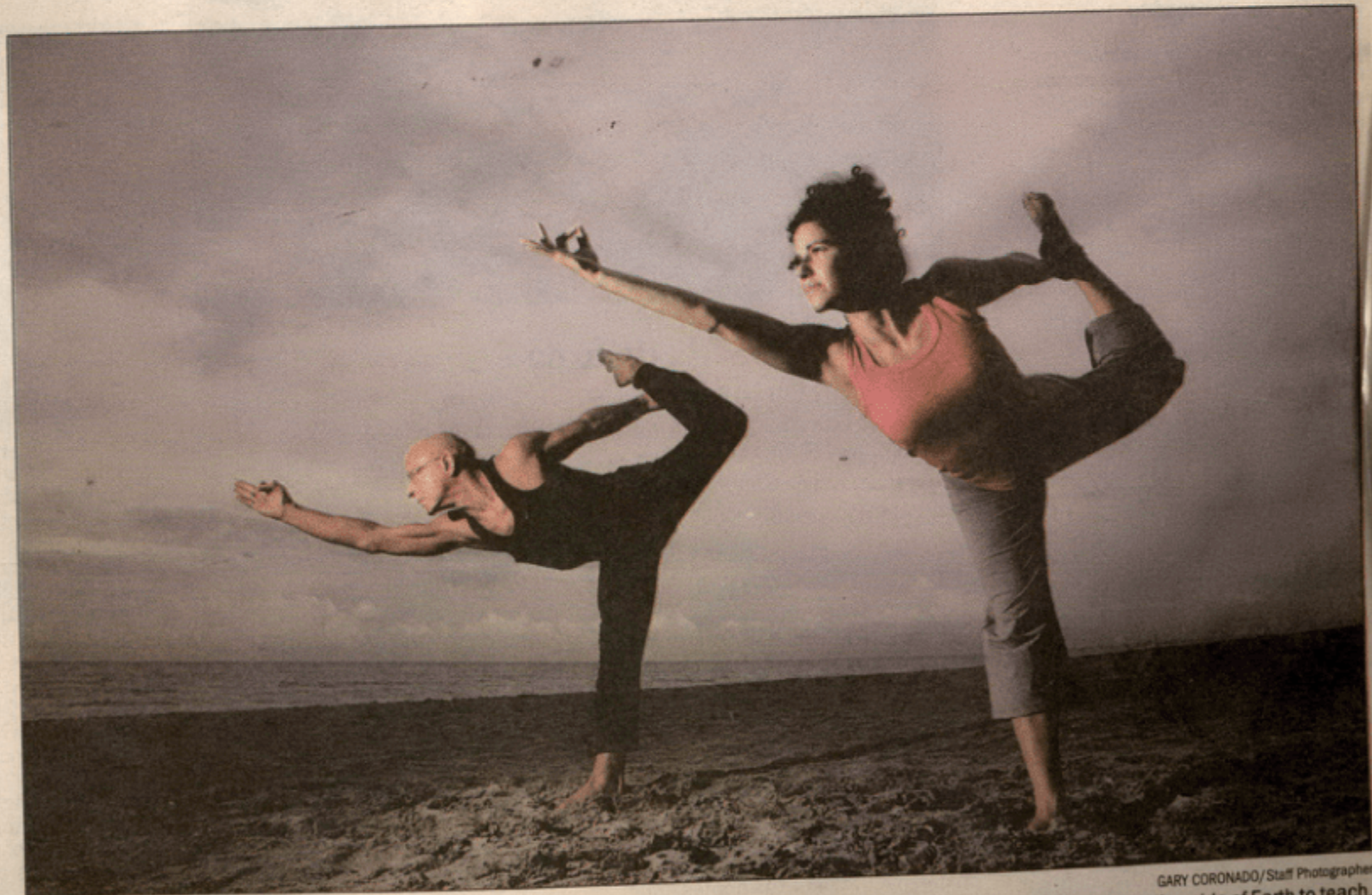
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Making the grade

This is terrible for Boca. It's like finding out you've made some best-dressed

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MARK ELSNER, Yoga instructor



GARY CORONADO/Staff Photographer

Mark Elsner, 56, of Delray Beach and Jessica Simkin, 27, of Boynton Beach, mainstays of the local yoga community, are going to the other side of Earth to teach.

A FEAR STRETCH

LOCAL

BUSINESS

FPL Group's profits rise 17 percent, despite utility's storm losses. **Inside this section, 8B**



Emily J. Minor

American dream comes with rude awakening

In September of 2003, as the summer heat was beginning to send out subtle hints of fall, Anika Holness collected her life savings.

The 30-year-old single mother was finally going to buy a house.

"My mom helped because my credit was shaky," said Holness, who said she also dipped into her 401(k) retirement savings. "It was all the money we had."

All told, it was \$14,990 — a 10 percent down payment on a two-story townhouse in a development in Palm Springs called Estancia Palm Springs.

Finally, she and her 8-year-old daughter, Ashlee, would have their own rooms. And a patio with a yard!

Occasionally, the Jamaican-born Holness would drive by the construction site and imagine what she calls their "American dream."

"I envisioned, finally, a home for my daughter," she said Friday.

That was almost three years ago.

Short closing a surprise

Tuesday evening, rather out of the blue, her mother got an overnight packet.

They had to close by Aug. 1, this Tuesday, or lose all the down payment money.

"I can't get a loan by Tuesday," Holness said. "I've had numerous loans through the years that I've had to let expire. It just seems immoral."

Yes, Anika Holness, a young, ambitious, college grad — but naive about real estate back then — had signed a contract with a seven-

1515 Tower sale falls through

The buyer can't raise the \$56 million to buy all 119 units in the storm-damaged condo.

By JANE MUSGRAVE
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH— A deal that would have let owners of the 1515 Tower sell their hurricane-ravaged condominiums and move on with their lives collapsed Friday, leaving

battle-weary residents angry at the would-be buyer and scared about their financial futures.

"There's a lot of extremely distressed people," said Hani Riad, president of the board of the waterfront high-rise on South Flagler

Drive. "I've had people call me and say their parents are nearly suicidal. People put a lot of hope into this offer being a saving event. It's hurt them financially, emotionally and physically."

It is the third time in a month that Palm Beach businessman Thanos Papalexis failed to make good on his promise to come up with \$56 million to buy all 119 units of the building

that has been vacant since it was pounded by hurricanes two years ago.

While some residents speculated he is trying to drive the 30-story condo into foreclosure so he could pick it up cheaply, he insisted that isn't the case. In an e-mail to unit owners, he said his hoped-for bank loan didn't come through and he couldn't put together

See TOWER, 6B ▶

1515's pinch

- A \$1.9 million payment is due Monday
- Another \$4.7 million must be paid at the end of September.
- An attorney says he hopes to secure an \$8 million loan to avoid \$60,000 assessments to each condo owner.

Bye-bye preschool



Police say lawyer tried to discredit teenage girls

By LARRY KELLER
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Famed Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz met with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office and provided damaging information about teenage girls who say they gave his client, Palm Beach billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, sexually charged massages, according to police reports.

The reports also state that another Epstein attorney agreed to a plea bargain that would have allowed Epstein to have no criminal record. His current attorney denies this happened.

And the documents also reveal that the father of at least one girl complained that private investigators aggressively followed his car, photographed his home and chased off visitors.

Police also talked to somebody who said she was offered money if she refused to cooperate with the Palm Beach Police Department probe of Ep-

