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THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

St. Petersburg

Monday, August 16, 1993

NEIL COTE

Testing your knowledge of shipwrecks

ST. PETERSBURG — You've seen the oil slick, flaming barge and phosphate freighter on TV. You've read about the disaster in the newspapers. You've talked about it at work.

Perhaps you've even ventured to Fort DeSoto to see it for yourself. But how well do you really know the details of last week's shipping accident? Pretty well, you might say.

We'll see about that. This pop quiz is for you.

1) The name of the freighter that collided with the two barges was: a) Bahia 27, b) Balsam Fir, c) Alto Sax, d) Mala Shaka, e) S.S. Minnow.

2) Piloting that freighter was: a) Bud Abbott, b) Roger Rabbit, c) Tommy Baggett, d) Bruce Bahbit, e) Jonas Grumby.

3) Prior to Tuesday, that pilot had been accused of: a) piloting while drunk, b) crashing into a cruise ship, c) grounding a barge, d) illegal gambling, e) all of the above and more.

4) Which of the following holds true for harbor pilots: a) they make \$148,244 a year, b) they practically police themselves, c) complaints against them rarely result in discipline, d) attempts to regulate them have failed, e) all of the above and more.

5) After the accident, which occurred first: a) the flaming barge, which extinguished, b) the spill was contained, c) the first lawsuit was filed, d) turtle hatchlings were evacuated, e) the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Convention & Visitors Bureau was trying to assure the world that the oil wouldn't foul beaches.

6) But, according to Tampa Bay environmental experts, the best place for the oil to wash up is: a) the beaches, b) mangrove areas, c) Egmont Key, d) Fort DeSoto, e) Coquina Christi.

7) Gov. Lawton Chiles was brought in from the state capitol because: a) he wanted to fly around in a helicopter and look concerned, b) he has special expertise in dealing with oil spills, c) it was the politically appropriate thing to do, d) he thought he could raise morale, e) a, c and d.

8) How many gallons of water does it take to clean one oil spill: a) 5 gallons, b) 200 gallons, c) 8,000 barrels, d) 180,000 barrels, e) 200,000 gallons.

9) In addition to getting scrubbed down, the birds were fore-fed which concoction: a) Emulsified Norwegian Cod Liver Oil, b) Yohimbe Bark Extract, c) odor-free Kwal concentrated garlic tablets, d) Pepto Bismol, e) butter-whipped Sunbeam bread.

10) After the 1980 ship-Sunshine Skyway accident, a then-state representative proposed which of the following: a) all ships entering the bay must be fitted with rubber bumpers, b) all ships must have brakes enabling them to stop on a dime, c) all ships must have air bags in the pilot room, d) all ships must have steel-belted tires with 50,000-mile warranties, e) all of the above.

11) The name of the tugboat that pushed the diesel-fuel barge was: a) Freddy Krueger, b) Fred Flintstone, c) Fred Astaire, d) Capt. Fred Bouchard, e) Freddie Prince.

12) The name of the other tug was: a) Sea Horse, b) Seaharrier, c) Seamstress, d) Sea Gull, e) Sea Cow.

Answers

1) A, but you would have thought it was made of Bahia wood.

2) C, but in case you're wondering, "E" was a TV character known better as "the Skipper."

3) E, only with an exclamation mark. Those pilot's licenses, you've really got to try to get them revoked.

4) You got it: another E.

5) C, but E wasn't far behind. And, come to think about it, neither was the governor flying down from Tallahassee.

6) E. If it were possible, which it isn't. Therefore the choice has to be A. Oil on beaches is easier to clean, even if tourism promoters don't like it there.

7) Another E, but if the guy really wanted to do something meaningful, he should have been scrubbing down pelicans and cormorants.

8) B, and afterwards the water must be treated in hazardous waste.

9) D, and if you know why I listed the other items, you obviously read Friday's column in health food. Glad someone did. (And, for what it matters, while volunteers were faithfully scrubbing down oily birds, some non-oily birds were feasting on around 100 turtle hatchlings that couldn't crawl over a boom at Egmont Key.)

10) A, and it wouldn't have worked any better than Answers B-E.

11) D, and we don't know who Fred Bouchard is either.

12) B, and after the way the tug got wedged to the flaming barge, it can now be called anything but "sea worthy."



Clearing it up
A worker with National Response Corp. uses a large vacuum hose Sunday to suck up oil that washed up in John's Pass from the collision between a freighter and two barges Tuesday just west of the Sunshine Skyway. The recovery work shown is on the Treasure Island side of John's Pass. Stories, Nation/World and Florida/Metro

Indians say burial ground endangered

By TRACIE REDDICK
Tribune Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Bayfront Medical Center's construction of a new medical center has raised the ire of American Indian groups who contend the hospital expansion is desecrating ancient burial grounds.

"Our aim is to urge preservation, not destruction," said David Goyette, a member of the Florida Indian Alliance. "We're not sure what's in the site, but we believe the hospital is destroying whatever is buried there."

The city allocated \$5,000 in the land sale deal with Bayfront as a contingency for environmental protection. Bayfront spokeswoman Janet Talifer said the hospital is aware that an Indian village once thrived near the construction site on Seventh Street South.

"This whole portion of St. Petersburg is an archaeological rich site," Talifer said. "We are sympathetic to their plight, and we will take what they have to say under consideration, but at this point no action has been made."

Darryl Barking Dog of the American Indian Movement said if the hospital refuses to cooperate, they will "escort" an archaeologist onto the construction site.

"They can't slip up from coming onto the property," said Barking Dog, noting the Indians are protected under the federal land protection act.

An Indian mound known as Shell Mound Park once stood on the hospital's ground. In 1946, the site was bulldozed.

44 The area of Bayfront Medical Center's construction is the highest and driest along Booker Creek and holds great potential for human remains. 99

— Amy Midgett
American Indian Issues and Action Committee

remains," Midgett said. "All archaeological resources will irrevocably be lost by the invasive nature of the medical compound's construction plans."

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Clearwater wants to cut police car-accident rate

By ARDON M. PALLASCH
Tribune Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Two police officers pulled up next to each other in a supermarket parking lot in March and started talking to each other through the windows of their cruisers.

They pulled up a little closer to each other, though.

When they finished talking, they drove away at the same time and dented both cruisers — causing \$200 damage to each car.

Collisions such as that are why the Clearwater Police Department's accident rate exceeds those of other Pinellas law enforcement agencies and the national average.

Clearwater police had 58 accidents last year and

drove about one million miles. The national average is 35 accidents per million miles driven. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Dunedin Police Department had rates of 16 and 20, respectively, last year.

Other accidents involving Clearwater cruisers include:

■ An officer driving through a parking lot who failed to see a pole and struck it.

■ An officer backing out of a parking space who struck another cruiser parked in the lot.

■ An officer who jumped out of his cruiser to chase a suspect. The cruiser, still in gear, ran into the back of another car.

All police departments have a procedure to de-

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Accidents on the Beat

This chart compares the 1992 accident rate of the Clearwater Police Department with the national rate and that of some local departments. The first column shows the accident rate per 1 million miles driven by a department; the second column reports the total accidents of the department; and the third the percentage of accidents judged preventable.

Department	Rate	Actual	% prevent
Clearwater	58	58	36
National	35	N/A	N/A
St. Petersburg	29	116	55
Large	23	21	43
Dunedin	20	10	less/50%
Pinellas Sheriff	16	173	42
Hillsborough Sheriff	12	256	29

Source: 1992 statistics compiled from information provided by police and sheriff's departments (fiscal year 1992 information for Clearwater), National Safety Council.



Largo High School graduate Flip Kobler acts out a scene in the play "Wild Dust," which will open Friday at the Francis Wilson Playhouse in Clearwater.

Largo grad bringin' it home

By CLARISA GERLACH
Tribune Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Flip Kobler's success story sounds like a movie script in itself.

The day after he graduated from Largo High School in 1980, he left for Hollywood to make it in the entertainment business.

Kobler, 31, landed small parts in television movies, films and theater. But because of his work as his "pat so great looks," he often played the serial killer, psych or thug. So, he began writing screenplays to make it in the entertainment business.

"Wild Dust" premiered in Los Angeles last year, receiving positive reviews. Kobler admits the play's success was unexpected. In fact, the play wasn't even written until two weeks before it opened.

Kobler and his wife, Cindy Marcus, were "It turned out I was a better writer than actor," said Kobler.

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Tourism not harmed yet by flooding in Midwest

By JIM RILEY
Tribune Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Tourism to the Midwest has taken some hits in the wake of massive flooding in states near the Mississippi River. But tourism in the Tampa Bay area hasn't been affected, at least not yet, says a researcher for the local tourism bureau.

The flood has spared the markets from which Pinellas typically draws visitors, said Walter Klagen, who does research for the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Convention & Visitors Bureau, the county's tourism promotion arm.

There could be a lagged effect, however, as lost crops and disrupted economies in the flood zone have a spillover effect in cities such as Chicago, Indianapolis and Cincinnati, which are markets from which Pinellas draws tourists.

Visitation to Pinellas was up slightly in May and June, the months for which the most recent figures are available. About 2.15 million visitors have come to the county so far this year, a 4 percent increase over the same period the previous year. Statewide, the numbers have been fairly flat compared with last year.

Pinellas drew 3.8 million visitors last year.

New member
ST. PETERSBURG — The Tourist Development Council this week nominated Paul M. Henderson to fill a vacancy on the council, which directs the county's convention bureau.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ST. PETERSBURG — Canopies Inc. is hoping to stretch out and cover the United States from a small outpost in northern St. Petersburg.

Storm shutters and carport or loading dock covers traditionally have been made of aluminum, which can be heavy and easy to dent.

But instead of aluminum, Canopies Inc. uses a glass-reinforced polyester resin material that is so lightweight it doesn't need posts to hold it up — meaning there's less chance of cars or trucks backing into the posts.

Company executive David Gill brought Canopies to the United States from Britain, where Canopies U.K. Ltd. has employed 100. The local company has only a handful of employees now but hopes to have 50 here and 50 out West within two years.

Evening the SCORE
CLEARWATER — The business advice and assistance offered by the Service Corps of Retired Executives soon could become more accessible to small businesses in northern Pinellas.

A SCORE counselor will be available at the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, 128 N. Osceola Ave., on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. For appointments, call Sandy Lovring at 461-9111.