



TAYLOR JONES / THE PALM BEACH POST

Jennifer San Filippo of suburban Delray Beach pets her 80-pound potbellied pig, Yoda, in their living room Thursday. San Filippo got Yoda at a flea market when the animal was only a few days old and considerably lighter.

the dais in front of her when the board discussed the regulations in April. "I don't know that they are really much different than big pigs, except that they don't bark," Vana said. "I am really hopeful that we will get some sort of relief for the people that love pigs."

A number of local governments across the state allow pigs as pets, including Jupiter, Ft. St. Lucie and Port St. Lucie. But other communities have edged away from similar restrictions.

Martin County commissioners in 2006 agreed to allow a resident to keep two pigs as pets but turned down a proposal that would have permitted the animals in residential neighborhoods. Some Martin

'I am really hopeful that we will get some sort of relief for the people that love pigs.'

Shelley Vana
Palm Beach County commissioner

county officials said they were concerned that pigs would be kept as pets in densely populated urban neighborhoods or in condos.

Under Palm Beach County's proposal, homeowners associations and condo communities would still be allowed to regu-

late the animals, similar to restrictions commonly placed on large dogs or other pets, Vana said. "What I was suggesting would not have any issue that way," Vana said. "That doesn't go away."

Meanwhile, federal rules allow pigs to be kept in homes regardless of local regulations, as long as they are designated as service or therapy animals, county officials said.

Palm Beach County commissioners in 1998 agreed to allow a suburban West Palm Beach resident to keep his two pigs, despite neighbors' complaints about the smell. At the time, the commission ruled that no new pigs would be allowed to live in suburban homes.

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FIRE RESCUE SAFETY FOR THE DEAF PALM BEACH POST 08/20/2012 Fire-safety alerts tested on the deaf

By Lona O'Connor
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

On one recent night, June McMahon fell asleep festooned with electrodes stuck to her head. Whenever she fell into deepest sleep, a technician awoke her with one of several devices.

"It was a very nice room, a very nice bed, but all through the night I didn't sleep very well," McMahon said.

The sleep study, or more accurately the awake study, was to test which device works best at alerting profoundly deaf people, who cannot hear conventional smoke alarms.

The sleep study is part of a research grant, the only one

Sleep study continued on 4B



GARY CORONADO / THE PALM BEACH POST
One local deaf couple was given an alarm that flashes 'FIRE' and activates an intermittent bed shaker that is placed under the mattress.

phy spar over number of debates



George Bennett
Politics

ign has been replete with negative attacks, but you have to offer specific ideas or so-

To the Point program and at an Oct. 5 St. Lucie County League of Women Voters forum.

Murphy's letter was similar in tone to West's.

"You have spent far too much of your term in Congress distracting from the real issues, using hyperbole and partisan attacks, and not nearly enough time offering solutions to the critical issues facing the people you were elected to represent. Nevertheless, the voters

debates requested by West are excessive - more meetings than President Obama and Mitt Romney will have this fall, Johnson noted.

And Johnson said he doesn't want a formal debate format with designated rebuttal time because West "will use that for more of his outrageous remarks and quips. We're not interested in having that kind of Sean Hannity talking points that he does. That's what happens with

Beach County voters stayed home for Tuesday's primaries. Republican turnout was 19.2 percent, Democratic turnout was 18.5 percent and only 5.9 percent of independent and minor-party voters cast ballots despite several nonpartisan races that were up for grabs.

Among voters who do turn out, it's not unusual for some of them to skip a race or two on the ballot if they aren't familiar with candidates or don't have

Wder scares at PBLA

when a bag opened
l powder spilled out.
ound the same time, the
m Beach County Sher-
s Office received a tis-
: box with powder in-
e that was found on a
ne shortly after land-

powders were a harmless
form of calcium. Officials
were not sure where the
planes originated.

The powder scares came
an hour after fire rescue
trucks rushed to the air-
port after a plane report-
ed engine problems. The
plane landed safely.

hazmat officials roped
parts of the baggage
im but determined both

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rematory, West Palm
ch. Mass Wednesday.
Herstein, Esther, of
nton Beach, died Fri-
. Gutterman Warhe-
memorial Chapel, Boca
on.
Nicholson, James, 50,
West Palm Beach, died
e 4. All County Funeral
ne & Crematory, Lake
rth.
Acciardi, Eliz Anto-
87, of Lake Worth, died
lay. All County Funeral
ne & Crematory, Lake
rth.
Smith, Elizabeth Con-
s, 91, of West Palm
ch, died Wednesday.

Palms West Funeral Home
and Crematory, Royal
Palm Beach.

Stern, Eugene, 84, of
Boynton Beach, died Sun-
day. Beth Israel Memorial
Chapel, Boynton Beach.

Tokos, Jim, 65, of West
Palm Beach, died Thurs-
day. All County Funeral
Home & Crematory, Lake
Worth.

**Okeechobee County
Lane, Jackie Mae**, of
Okeechobee, died Satur-
day. Bass Okeechobee Fu-
neral Home & Crematory,
Okeechobee. Service to-
day.



GARY CORONADO / THE PALM BEACH POST

June and Bob McMahon, both deaf, have fire detection devices in their Boynton Beach home that were installed for free by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, which got a grant to research the devices. It is donating them to deaf people who volunteer to help their research.

PALM BEACH POST, Monday Aug. 20, 2012

Deaf volunteers needed for 'livesaving' sleep study

Sleep study

continued from 1B

awarded, in which Palm
Beach County Fire Res-
cue will sleep-test about
50 people who qualify be-
cause their hearing loss is
greater than 90 decibels.
McMahon, the president
of the Florida Association
of the Deaf, was born deaf
and her hearing loss is
greater than 110 decibels.

A profoundly deaf per-
son can't hear sounds be-
low 95 decibels, which in-
cludes lawn mowers, noisy
offices, vacuum cleaners
or city traffic.

As Gerri Penney, the
community education co-
ordinator for Palm Beach
County Fire Rescue, test-
ed a smoke alarm that
combines the usual pierc-
ing shriek with a strobe
light, McMahon and her
husband, Bob, who is al-
so deaf, were unmoved by
the brain-melting level of
noise.

In their bedroom is a de-

vice that looks like an over-
sized alarm clock. When
activated, a mechanical
voice repeats, "Fire, get
up!" in English and Span-
ish and a light display
reads, "FIRE." Better still,
another device placed un-
der a pillow or mattress
shakes the bed repeatedly
until the occupants wake
up. McMahon said the bed
shaker was the device that
woke her up fastest when
she did the sleep study.

Palm Beach County fire-
rescue workers install all
of the devices for free to
volunteers for the sleep
study. Penney's results will
be compiled by Florida At-
lantic University and sent
to the National Fire Protec-
tion Association.

The U.S. Department of
Homeland Security pro-
vided the money for sleep
testing and devices donat-
ed to volunteers.

McMahon is one of 14
people who had the re-
quired level of hearing loss
and were sleep-tested with

the devices. Penney needs
at least 36 more, but find-
ing them has been slow-go-
ing, even with the help of
McMahon, who is presi-
dent of the Florida Associ-
ation of the Deaf.

"Just spending an over-
night could make the dif-
ference between life and
death for somebody," Pen-
ney said. "This is lifesaving
research."

McMahon is featured in
three short videos on fire
safety for the deaf. Using
American Sign Language,
she explains how the pro-
gram works.

The study seeks people
age 50 or older with pro-
found hearing loss. An on-
line application is avail-
able at www.pbcfr.org
or by emailing Penney at
gpenney@pbcgov.org
or calling her at (561) 616-
7033. Those who quali-
fy receive the devices in-
stalled by professionals,
and safety brochures.

loconnor@pbpost.com

AL NOTICE



ALTER F. UCCELLINI

Alter F. Uccellini, 67, entrepreneur
real estate developer, passed away
suddenly Wednesday, August 15,
in an airplane accident.

born January 9, 1945 in Mineola, NY,
is the son of the late Louis D.
Uccellini and Margaret A. Isemann
and loving husband of Kathryn
Uccellini of Loudonville and the
dear daughter of the late
Eileen Ryan Uccellini of Troy.

He was raised in Bethpage, NY, he
graduated from Bethpage High School
in 1963, and attended Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute, earning a bachelor's
degree in management in 1969 and a
master's degree in finance and computer
science in 1971. Walter founded The
Group of Companies, a real-estate
and development company,
and continued to grow the
company into a national organization with
a history of successful, award-
winning projects, both in the Capital
and across the country.

Walter was a man who was devoted to
his family, and they were a source of
joy to him. His five grandchildren,
whom he was known as "Bopa",
were his kind-hearted playmate whose
laughter brightened their lives and
wiped away their tears. He loved to playfully
tease his children, grandchildren,



Dr. PIERRE ANDRE ARMAND VIGNAU

September 8, 1924 - August 15, 2012

Dr. Pierre Vignau was born in Caen,
France and was a beloved and unique
educator. Teaching was his passion.
His patience and humor helped
thousands of students master la belle
langue, French. He also taught Spanish
as well as Latin. He believed in
full immersion in the language as the best
(and most fun) way to learn. He took
hundreds of students to French speaking
countries, with a particular affection
for Haiti.

For those privileged to have been
taught by him in his 60 plus years of
teaching, he instilled honor, kindness and
an unquenchable thirst for knowledge
in his students. He shared his massive
intellect without condescension. He
treated everyone the same, with respect.
All this was done with a twinkle in his eye
as his mischievous side was ever present.

Pierre spoke several languages and
earned a Doctorate of History from the
University of Buenos Aires. He taught
at Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton,
for most of his career. Saint Andrew's
honored his expertise by designating
him "Master Teacher" in 1998. Pierre
was the first recipient of the "Founders
Day" award, recognized as one of

A Free Living Trust and