

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

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Broward County

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SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2007

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THE HELP TEAM CONSUMER REPORT

ONLINE

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restaurantinspections**

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How safe is your restaurant?

THE NUMBERS

56

Inspectors scrutinize food establishments in South Florida. From July 2006 to January 2007, they found:

100,395

Critical violations in 11,747 restaurants, an average of 5.6 critical violations per inspection.

52,643

Non-critical violations in 10,530 restaurants, an average of 3.1 violations per inspection.

4,431

Warnings have been issued to restaurants in South Florida.

FLORIDA DEPT. OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, DIVISION OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Thousands cited in S. Florida for serious violations

BY MC NELLY TORRES
STAFF WRITER

South Floridians are dining at restaurants more than ever, with the average adult eating out three times a week, according to marketing surveys.

But do you know how your favorite restaurant rated during its last health inspection?

Every week, state food inspectors find hundreds of violations of public health, sanitation and safety regulations in South Florida restaurants. While some are minor, such as not having the proper ventilation for appliances, others are more serious and could result in conditions that can make you sick.

Between July 2006 and January 2007, state inspectors cited 2,478 South Florida restaurants for "critical" — more serious — violations after finding evidence of rodents and insects, an analysis by the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* found.

In addition, the analysis shows that state inspectors have issued at least 2,450 violations to 2,388 restaurants for failing to follow hand-washing requirements and other good hygienic practices — violations that can contribute to a food-borne illness.

And from 2003 to 2006, emergency closures were ordered for 457 South Florida restaurants, mostly for rodent and insect problems.

Health experts say the role of the food inspector has become more important than ever. Food inspectors protect the public health, experts said, but they also protect the food industry because restaurants could be held liable if consumers get sick.

In South Florida, cases of confirmed food-borne illness tied to restaurants have risen 66 percent — from 429 people in 1997 to 713 in 2005, according to

■ INSPECTION CONTINUES ON 18A

FINDING SOME BALANCE

Yoga gave Ricky Williams peace. Now he wants back in the NFL.



DOLPHIN INTO SCORPION: Ricky Williams performs the yoga pose called the scorpion on a dock at the Sivananda Ashram Yoga Farm. The former running back has applied for NFL reinstatement. Meanwhile, he's teaching yoga. *San Francisco Chronicle photo/Kurt Rogers*

BY STACY HICKLIN
STAFF WRITER

GRASS VALLEY, CALIF.

He slowly walks up the stairs to the wooden deck to take his place at the front of the class. No heads turn in his direction. His students talk quietly among themselves as they position their yoga mats.

He is their teacher, nothing more. To them, he is Rudra, the Hindu name he has been given. They do not care about his past, even though glimpses of that past are still visible.

Peeking from underneath his bright yellow shirt are tattoos that stretch across his well-formed forearms. His broad shoulders and strong frame are difficult not to notice. Underneath the yoga clothes and behind the spiritual chanting, he is still Ricky Williams — former Heisman Trophy winner and Dolphins running back.

Just not right now. Or not for another few weeks, anyway. Williams last week applied for NFL reinstatement.

But for now, he is like everyone else at the Sivananda

■ WILLIAMS CONTINUES ON 17A

ONLINE: View more photos of yoga instructor Ricky Williams at Sun-Sentinel.com/dolphins

Legislators besieged with pleas for property-tax relief

BY ANTHONY MAN
POLITICAL WRITER

TALLAHASSEE • Joe Gibbons heard it while working out one morning at the gym of his Hallandale Beach condominium. Jack Seiler caught it after Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale. And Ari Porth got it when he stepped out the door of his Coral Springs home.

Gibbons, Seiler and Porth are state representatives from different parts of Broward County. The message from their constituents: Do something about property taxes.

"Everybody's feeling it personally, and they want something to be done immediately," Porth said.

Gibbons said voters feel strongly. "They tell me don't come back till you do something on this. They don't care how long I stay up here."

The message has been similar in tone and quantity from almost every part of Broward County, 14 local senators, representatives and legislative aides said last week. They said the volume of property-tax comments has dwarfed everything else in recent weeks.

Besides the personal contact when legislators are home in Broward, or when constituents visit the Capitol as the real estate in-

■ TAXES CONTINUES ON 17A

WHAT'S NEXT

The House and Senate both could vote on tax plans as early as this week. Meanwhile, activists are organizing busloads of Floridians to travel to Tallahassee to turn up the pressure on legislators. With the legislative session not ending until May 4, a final package isn't likely to emerge quickly. After the initial House and Senate votes, each chamber will appoint members to a conference committee. Its members will hash out a compromise plan. The result would then go to Gov. Charlie Crist for his approval.

— ANTHONY MAN

DAILY DIGEST

SUN-SENTINEL WEATHER

Today, 84

Tonight, 55

Tomorrow, 74

Complete weather on back page of LOCAL

INDEX | Lottery: 2A | Nation: 3A | People: 4A | World: 21A | Obituaries: 8B | Sports: 1C | Business: 1D | Travel: 1E | Editorials: 4F | Lifestyle: 1G | Advice: 2G | Puzzles: 12G

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SUN-SENTINEL

Today in Lifestyle

Our new **Sunday Lifestyle** section combines the best of the former Health & Family and AE&TV sections, which are no longer published. You'll find familiar content, such as the Fitness Profile and Family Style, along with the Arts and Books pages and the movie times. And look for new features on fashion, shopping and food. Also inside are the advice columns, the horoscope and two full pages of puzzles and games.

The **TV listings**, formerly in AE&TV, are in a new stand-alone section called ON TV. Look for TV Writer Tom Jicha's question-and-answer column on the cover of ON TV.



NATION

Final mission

In a settlement that's been kept secret for more than 2½ years, NASA has paid \$26.6 million to the families of the seven astronauts who died on space shuttle *Columbia* in 2003. **3A**

WORLD

Marine rampage detailed

U.S. Marines fired on groups of bystanders in a rampage that left 12 civilians dead in eastern Afghanistan last month, according to a report. **21A**

OBITUARY

Singer Don Ho

The iconic Hawaiian entertainer whose signature song was *Tiny Bubbles*, died Saturday at 76. **8B**



SPORTS



Remembering No. 42

Marlins pitcher Dontrelle Willis will wear No. 42 as baseball honors the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's major league debut. **3C**

ONLINE

New Marlins blog

Mike Berardino and Juan C. Rodriguez take you inside the locker room. Sun-Sentinel.com/marlins

BUSINESS

Clinic's growth spurt

The Cleveland Clinic in Weston is adding more doctors and services now that it has cut ties with for-profit Tenet Healthcare. **1D**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Note to readers

Your Community News section may be published today in two consecutive sections instead of the usual one. We apologize for any inconvenience.

LIFESTYLE

An extension of home

Columnist Ralph De La Cruz visits South Florida ballparks and finds kids and moms and dads forging friendships and creating a community. **1G Staff photo/Mark Randall**



OUTLOOK

The truth is, names can hurt you

Columnist Sherri Winston explains why the insult by Don Imus, left, cuts so deeply. And Staff Writer Gregory Lewis urges his college-age daughter to stay strong, despite insults. **1F**

LOCAL

Luck on the line

The casino at Pompano Park Harness Track opened for business Saturday, with more than 300 people lined up waiting to test their luck on the slot machines. **2B**

