

LOCAL BRIEFS

Volunteer drivers needed

MANATEE — Meals on Wheels PLUS is in desperate need of volunteers to deliver hot, nutritious meals to home-bound seniors.

At this time, northern volunteers are returning home, leaving many delivery routes vacant until they come back in the fall.

The time requirement for delivering meals is approximately 60 to 90 minutes, one day a week.

Meals are prepared at the Meals on Wheels PLUS kitchen and delivered by volunteers between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily.

Manatee Audubon celebrating Earth Day

MANATEE — Manatee County Audubon will be celebrating Earth Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 17 at Felts Audubon Preserve. The preserve is at 4600 24th Ave. E., Palmetto, and admission is free.

Environmentally friendly vendors and exhibitors will be on hand to educate and demonstrate ways to help protect land, water, air and all critters that depend on them to survive.

Face painting and birdhouse building is also on the agenda. Mote Marine will be on site with its mobile marine display and touch tank.

For more information call (941) 747-4655.

Humane Society offers discounted spay/neuter

MANATEE — The Humane Society of Manatee County Spay/Neuter Clinic is offering special

discounts on cat spaying and neutering this month.

Pay regular price for the first cat's surgery and the second cat will be spayed/neutered for free.

The price for a cat spay is \$50; a cat neuter is \$35.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (941) 747-8808, ext. 302, or e-mail info@humanesocietymanatee.org.

The Humane Society of Manatee County's clinic is at 2515 14th St. W. in Bradenton.

Manatee law firm receives Knight FOI Fund grant

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The National Freedom of Information Coalition provided a Knight FOI Fund grant to a Manatee County law firm representing two sisters in a public records and open meeting case.

Lewis, Longman & Walker received \$15,000

to help pay a portion of the legal fees Mary Lou Smith and Sharon Denson have incurred in their case against several past and present Trailer Estates Park and Recreational District board members.

Smith and Denson claim they were denied access to documents concerning how rates are set for the marina and parking spaces. There also is a claim that meetings were held without proper public notice.

The National Freedom of Information Coalition is a national network of state freedom of information advocates, such as the Florida First Amendment Foundation in Tallahassee.

The coalition, along with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, created the Knight FOI Fund in January to support freedom of information litigation.

— *Herald staff reports*