

FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY™

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

WEEK OF MAY 21-27, 2008

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. II, No. 8 • FREE

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETS FORCE CHANGING USES FOR REGION'S FARMLAND



ROGER WILLIAMS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

>>Inside:
Why farmers are
a dying breed in
Lee County
A8



growing toward the future

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

As thick and familiar as a country parish of graying old friends, and standing shoulder to shoulder, the tall trees appeared resplendent in spring green across the dry cow pasture, part of the last 40 acres where James Daniels carries on the life he was born with 79 years ago.

Daniels, who has known that hammock of oaks, cypress and cabbage palms personally since he was a boy, is a farmer — a real one, not



merely a corporate owner of farmland. That means he works hard most of the time, including on a Saturday morning.

Flanking the open grass, where his cows were visible a couple hundred yards away on the edge of the tree line, are 15 acres of robust citrus trees, a late Valencia species he harvested only about 10 days ago. His son, Earl Daniels, prepared a fertilizer spreader nearby.

"Looky there," Daniels exclaimed — his blue eyes remain as sharp and clear as a boy's — "look at 'em come!" Out of the tree hammock, flying straight at the old farmer and then banking past him toward the sizeable pond across the road, floated two great cranes.

They were headed for water that

Above. Earl Daniels helps his father on the family farm by preparing a load of fertilizer for the citrus grove.

SEE GROWING, A8 ►

City to consider the sun as an energy source

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Fort Myers' city leaders are contemplating making solar power a public utility. But before your blood starts to boil with thoughts that government might be taxing the air we breathe next, this idea may have some benefits to consumers.

The proposal City Council is listening to would let a California-based renewable energy company install solar water heat-

ing systems, at no cost to homeowners in the city, and charge a monthly fee for the energy used to heat the water. Company officials said the fees would roughly be equal to the electricity needed to heat the water. It wouldn't save consumers money,

SEE SOLAR, A11 ►

Right, solar water-heating panels could become a common sight in Fort Myers if city officials adopt a plan to make them affordable.



INSIDE



Remembering a master

Robert Rauschenberg changed the way we look at art. The Captiva icon died last week at the age of 82. **C1** ►



Vincent's fashion event

And other events in Fort Myers' society. **C23-25** ►



Wild water sports

From sky high to the back bays, Holiday Water Sports offers something for all. **B1** ►



For nature lovers

Shadow Wood Preserve features an Arthur Hills-designed golf course. **D1** ►

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

ROGER WILLIAMS A2
OPINION A4
15 MINUTES A6
HEALTHY LIVING A18

BUSINESS B1
NETWORKING B10&11
ARTS C1
EVENTS C6&7

SOCIETY C23-25
CUISINE C27
REAL ESTATE D1
CLASSIFIEDS D14-15

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: MAY 21, 2008

