

FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY™

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

INSIDE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 15-21, 2008

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. II, No. 29 • FREE

Lee County health care future plotted

Mental health, drug addiction treatment most critical need

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

A lack of mental health care, including addiction treatment, is the number one concern for Lee County medical providers, according to Lee Memorial Health System CEO Jim Nathan and The Community Health Visioning 2017 Steering Committee.



NATHAN

The group of administrators met last week and reviewed eight most important health care needs they identified last year. They reviewed progress made

toward stated goals, like the opening of an addiction triage center; and talked about challenges, such as the growing ranks of the uninsured.

The committee also discussed creating a "community scorecard" to objectively grade LMHS on its care and measure what health care needs are most pressing in future years.

Local doctors and health professionals sat on the steering committee, but there were also heads of local banks, colleges, insurance companies, developers, charitable organizations, realtors and a lawyer.

"It's truly impressive to be able to see — even with this horrendous year — what collaboration does for this community," Mr. Nathan said.

Here are the eight health care issues LMHS and Lee County leaders are focusing on in the next decade, in order of importance, and a sample of what was discussed:

Behavioral Health

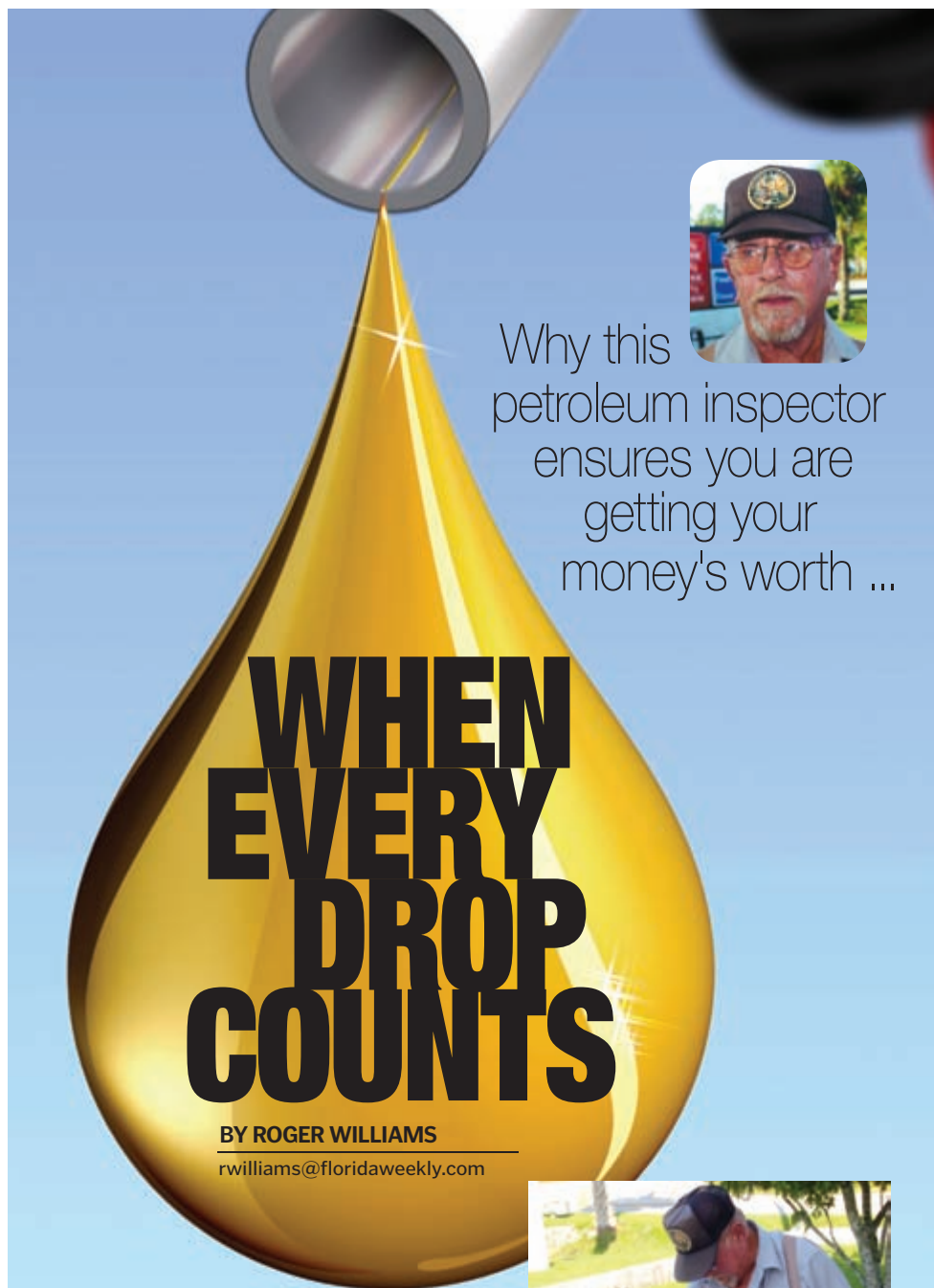
LMHS expanded mental health care and addiction services last year, but needs more doctors and long-term funding to address the county's mental health crisis. Committee members

SEE HEALTH, A13 ►



COURTESY PHOTO

Lee Memorial Health System's new Gulf Coast Hospital is set to open in the Spring.



Why this petroleum inspector ensures you are getting your money's worth ...

WHEN EVERY DROP COUNTS

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

How can you know what you got?

Every day in Collier and Lee counties, and across Florida, there is one business that does two things few

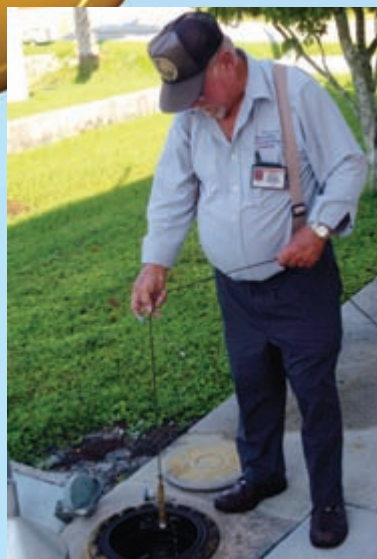
others can match in this economy: It remains robust and profitable for its practitioners, and (more to the point) it requires you to pay a hefty price while taking only on trust that you're getting what you pay for.

Envelope please. And the winning business is...GASOLINE!

Dramatics aside, how do you know that you actually get a gallon of gas when the meter reads \$3.50, or \$3.75 or whatever price you pay at the pump?

And how do you know you aren't being "gouged" by higher-than-allowable prices during an emergency, such as a hurricane?

And how do you know your debit or credit card data won't be recorded and misused when you run a card through a new credit meter?



JIM MCLAUGHLIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Ron Cass makes sure when you buy a gallon of gas you get a full gallon of gas.

You know because Ron Cass (and others like him) says so.

Cass is a petroleum inspector in the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

SEE DROP, A8 ►



Point and shoot

Miami photographer J. Tomas Lopez is at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts this week. **C1** ►



Bonita Chamber gala

And other events in Fort Myers' society. **C26, 28 & 29** ►



The show must go on

Chef James Hudson is opening J Bistro in South Fort Myers this week despite the economy. **B1** ►



Out of the kitchen...

...and on to the lanai. Southwest Florida cooks are relishing outdoor kitchens. **D1** ►

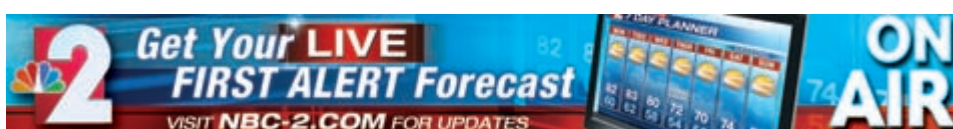
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

ROGER WILLIAMS A2
OPINION A4
15 MINUTES A6
ON THE MOVE B4

NETWORKING B10-11
ARTS C1
EVENTS C6&7
SOCIETY C25, 28 & 29

CUISINE C31
HOMESCAPES D1-12
REAL ESTATE E1-8
WEEKLY WHEELS F1-8



DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2008