

FLORIDA WEEKLY®

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

WEEK OF AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

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INSIDE



Listen up

Four different views from people who work with sound. **B1** ▶



SunArt Gallery event

And other society events in Charlotte County. **B13&14** ▶



Dangerous Dan

Ask any great guitar player and they know who he is. **A6** ▶



Muscle cars

Florida Weekly takes a look under the hood at Rick Treworgy's Muscle Car City. **A21** ▶

>>inside:
Ways for you to help
... and get help if you
need it.
A8

on the brink

"The need is so great ... Their primary needs aren't met."
— Jay Glynn, executive director and CEO of Charlotte Behavioral Health Care



COMMUNITY'S GROWING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS TAX CHARLOTTE RESOURCES

BY KATHY GREY
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THE AVERAGE AMERICAN CAN expect to live to the ripe age of 78. But there are individuals whose life expectancy is fully 20 years less. This population's primary affliction isn't sudden cardiac death or cancer. They're not necessarily victims of diabetes or — heaven forbid — Lou Gehrig's disease. They are people who live with mental illness. Two centers in Punta Gorda provide intensive services to people with mental illnesses. One is non-profit, the other is private. And they both confirm a sharp rise in requests for services that parallels devastations brought on by a bad economy.

Definitions and scope
Nationally, one in four Americans has at least one type of mental illness. Michael McNally, a lifelong advocate in Southwest Florida and vice president of community relations at Lee Mental Health, emphasizes the use of the term mental illnesses, because there are many, such as bipolar disorder, drug and alcohol abuse, personality disorders,

SEE PROGRAMS, **A8** ▶

Sheriff's department turns heads with programs

BY KATHY GREY
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They spend their days and nights defending us. A bump in the night? A sheriff's deputy is at the door in moments. A neighborhood feud? They come to our rescue. Child gone missing? They swarm the area with the same intensity as if their own child was lost. And if our dog bites somebody? Yikes — they'll be on the scene to serve and assist.

But the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is also actively pursuing edgy issues such

as "greening" the jail with a hydroponics program that saves taxpayer dollars and cleaning up deserted homeless villages. Top it off with this fact: Sheriff Bill Cameron is a local hero.

Read on. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has a bead on some really cool stuff.

Hyped on hydroponics

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has begun a hydroponics program, which will educate the inmate population about farming and nutrition, as it saves on some

SEE PROGRAMS, **A8** ▶



COURTESY PHOTO

Hydroponics are a new program at the Charlotte County Jail.

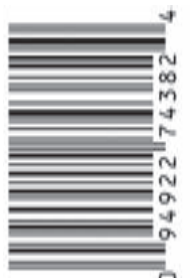
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