

# Teen curfew to be aired in Deltona

By Derek Catron

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

DELTONA — There's no timetable for Deltona leaders to decide whether to recommend a curfew, but the community's Public Safety Committee has called a special meeting tonight in order to expedite the debate.

The committee will vote whether to support a proposed ordinance that would prevent children younger than 16 from being in a public place in Deltona between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. on weekends and 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. on weeknights.

Committee members voted 5-3 to support the proposal at their regular meeting Monday night but rescinded the vote after protests from three members who hadn't seen the ordinance and didn't feel prepared to vote on it.

Rather than wait a month until the next committee meeting, Chairman Flip Marraccini decided to recess Monday's meeting until tonight at 8 in the Deltona Municipal Services District Advisory Board offices at Justin Square.

The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the MSD board, which will decide at its April 4 meeting whether to pass along the recommendation to the Volusia County Council, which would have the final vote.

"There has been a lot of pressure to hurry and get this over with," Marraccini said. "There are a few of the MSD board members who are upset about what has been going on. I would like to bring this before the board and get it over with."

Some district board members have voiced disapproval of a curfew.

In addition, Maj. Leonard Davis of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said his department didn't have the staff to enforce a curfew.

Marraccini and a majority of her committee members believe a curfew could be beneficial for law enforcement.

## Thief abandons stolen car after finding passenger, 8

A car thief drove off with a Kentucky family's car early Tuesday in south Orange County, only to abandon the vehicle after finding an 8-year-old girl in the back seat.

The thief found keys in the ignition of the Helm family's tan Cadillac at a 7-Eleven gas station at Turkey Lake and Sand Lake roads, the Sheriff's Office said.

Whitney Helm of Buffalo, Ky., was left asleep in the car about 3:30 a.m. while her mother and siblings went to buy snacks and pay for gasoline.

The girl did not know the car had been stolen until she was awakened by the motion of the bouncing, speeding vehicle, a sheriff's spokesman said. Still groggy, she asked the driver why he was driving so fast.

The driver panicked when he found her in the car, Whitney told deputies. He stopped the Cadillac, got into a pickup truck driven by another person and fled.

The girl was found unhurt at a nearby Publix and Kmart shopping center on Turkey Lake Road. The car was found on Maude Smith Road, north of Wallace Road.

No arrest has been made.

## Student drops key ring, sets off chemical spray

An Orange County middle school student dropped a key ring Tuesday, which set off a chemical repellent device and caused a nosebleed for one student.

The students were on the way to Gotha Middle School about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday when the incident happened at the intersection of Lake Vilma Drive and Westpoint Boulevard in west Orange County, said Jennifer Livesay, a school-district spokeswoman.

Gotha Principal Jennifer Reeves said she is still investigating the incident. The key ring belonged to a female student, but administrators aren't sure who.

It is against district policy to bring such personal defense de-

## Around Central

### Follow-up: Cuban

**Q** Whatever came of plans by a West Palm Beach zoo to bring 30 pink flamingos from Cuba to Florida?

**A** In a word, "nada." U.S. officials killed the deal on the grounds that the swap would violate the trade embargo against Fidel Castro's island dictatorship.

No money was to change hands, said Dr. Jay Hyman, a retired veterinarian and a Dreher Park Zoo board member, who just returned from his sixth trip to Havana.

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vices to school, and the student will receive some kind of punishment, Reeves said. A student can be suspended up to 10 days for such an offense.

There were no serious injuries, and the student with the nosebleed was treated at the scene then went on to school. The principal said she will send letters to parents about the incident and ask them to check whether their child has chemical repellent.

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## Snags hold up \$500,000 for Rosewood families

Last-minute questions about property ownership are holding up \$500,000 the state plans to distribute to Rosewood family members.

The Florida Attorney General's Office had planned to distribute the money this month in connection with the 1923 Rosewood massacre. The Legislature voted last year to approve the payments.

The office said Tuesday the disbursement is being delayed by last-minute questions about family relationships and how much property residents owned in Rosewood. The questions may not be resolved for several weeks, assistant attorney general Guy Dand Robinson said.