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The Stuart News



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Treasure Coast's stars, CEOs paying big taxes to live large



DEBORAH SILVER • deborah.silver@scripps.com

The home of Tiger Woods on Jupiter Island.

Greg Norman, for example, paid more than \$300,000 in residential taxes last year

BY NADIA VANDERHOOF
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Along with status and prestige, Treasure Coast celebrities and CEOs bring in beaucoup bucks to the local tax collector's offices.

Pop star Celine Dion just shelled out \$171,040 in property taxes for her 3.7-acre oceanfront Jupiter Island estate on the 200 block of South Beach Road.

Dion's estate, which is registered under her Montreal-based company Renlec Management Inc., is on the same street as Richard Fuld Jr., former chairman and chief executive officer of Lehman Brothers. He changed ownership of the \$13.3 million Jupiter Island home at 265 Beach Road exclusively to his wife's name almost two months after the company had the largest bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.

Public records show the couple plunked down \$197,194 in property taxes Nov. 11.

Professional golfer Greg Norman, who slashed the price of his famous barrier-island estate from \$65 million to \$47.5 million last year, also shares the same zip code as the Fulds and Dion. Tax records show Norman paid a whopping \$326,751 in

See TAXES, page A4

WEALTHY TAXPAYERS

Here's what some Treasure Coast celebrities and CEOs are paying in property taxes:

- Singer Celine Dion/Renlec Management Inc.: \$171,040
- Professional golfer Greg Norman: \$326,751
- Professional golfer Tiger Woods/Sand Turtle LLC: \$70,744
- Former Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld Jr. and his wife, Kathleen: \$197,194
- Actor Burt Reynolds: \$48,730
- Former NBA great Michael Jordan/Bull & Bear LLC: \$38,217

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

- Author Carl Hiaasen and his wife, Fenia: \$16,988
- Singer Gloria Estefan and husband, producer Emilio Estefan Jr.: \$15,795
- Harold Oberkotter, former chairman of the board and CEO of UPS (United Parcel Service of America Inc.): \$31,029
- Robert Asplundh, former chairman at Asplundh Tree Expert Co. and son of the late Lester Asplundh, company founder: \$36,358
- Melvin Goodes, former chairman and CEO of Warner-Lambert Co. (acquired by pharmaceutical conglomerate Pfizer Inc. in 2000): \$66,544
- John Hulseman, former vice chairman of the Solo Cup Co.: \$37,693
- Alton Cartwright, former chairman and the chief executive officer of Canadian General Electric: \$16,591
- Peter Peterson, co-founder of the New York-based Blackstone Group: \$62,817
- Gerhard Andlinger, founder of investment management firm Andlinger & Co.: \$78,677
- Warren Schwerin, former president and CEO of Related Properties Corp.: \$44,442

Schools paying many \$100K+

Superintendent Harry La Cava highest paid administrator on Treasure Coast at \$192,750

BY KELLY TYKO
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In these tight times, pay cuts and layoffs are affecting all ranks of school district employees, from office staff to administrators.

But during the 2007-08 fiscal year, more than 61 Treasure Coast school district administrators earned more than \$100,000.

Now, some of these top earners are bracing for budget cuts.

Treasure Coast school superintendents made top dollar with Indian River County Schools Superintendent Harry La Cava taking home the biggest paycheck at \$192,750.

However, for the 2009-10 fiscal year, La Cava is volunteering to take a 10 percent cut from his base salary, about \$17,500.

"If everybody is taking some kind of hit, we're right in the mix of it," La Cava said.

St. Lucie County Schools Superintendent Michael Lannon runs a district almost double the size of Indian River and Martin counties. Including a car allowance, he made \$191,651 in the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Lannon also gave up some money. In 2008, he released the St. Lucie County School Board from having to pay him either a cost-of-living increase or the percentage raise teachers receive.

Martin County Schools newly elected superintendent, Nancy Kline, will have the lowest salary. The state sets elected superintendents salaries, and Kline is slated to earn \$117,466 for a full year's work. Her salary is about \$40,000 less per year than her predecessor and less than that of Martin County School Board Attorney Doug Griffin.

Griffin made \$132,061 in 2007-08 and is the only Treasure Coast school board attorney who works full time as an on-staff attorney for a school district. The other districts contract with outside attorneys for legal work. St. Lucie paid Dan Harrell

See \$100K+, page A8

OTHER TOP EARNERS

- Besides school district employees, more than 300 government employees on the Treasure Coast earned \$100,000 or more in the 2008 budget year.
- Martin County had the largest share, with 140 of the \$100,000 earners.
- Visit TCPalm.com for a look at government employees making more than \$100,000.

Chinese drywall in 100K homes

The Associated Press

PARKLAND — At the height of the U.S. housing boom, when building materials were in short supply, American construction companies used millions of pounds of Chinese-made drywall because it was abundant and cheap.

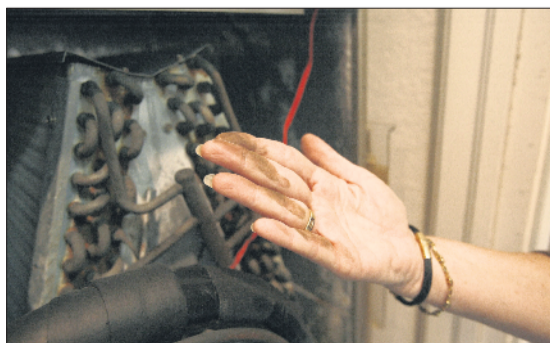
Now that decision is haunting hundreds of homeowners and apartment dwellers who are concerned that the wallboard gives off fumes that can corrode copper pipes, blacken jewelry and silverware, and

INSIDE: Lennar Homes in Indian River County is proactively replacing Chinese drywall. **B3**

possibly sicken people.

Shipping records reviewed by The Associated Press indicate that imports of potentially tainted Chinese building materials exceeded 500 million pounds during a four-year period of soaring home prices. The

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The Associated Press

Mary Ann Schultheis shows black dust from Chinese drywall covering the copper tubes in the air conditioner of her Parkland home April 8.

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