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Pasco Times

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NEW PORT RICHEY BAN EASED TO ALLOW SMALLER FIREWORKS

County commissioners on Tuesday revised the county-wide burn ban enacted last week to allow "minor fireworks" such as sparklers and poppers. The ban also doesn't address larger fireworks such as roman candles or cannons that shoot into the sky. Those are banned by state law if used for recreation and cannot be regulated by counties or other local governments. People can buy the larger fireworks at roadside stands by signing a paper saying they will only use them for approved agricultural uses. Sheriff's deputies can still issue a citation if the fireworks are used for recreation on July 4. But commissioner Ted Schrader said he wanted to clarify the ban regarding minor fireworks. He said stands had secured leases and bought inventory and "didn't have any input" in last week's move. Prohibiting minor fireworks, he said, would put an unfair burden on those stands. The ban still covers fires such as bonfires and burning yard debris. Commercial firework displays are allowed with a county permit.

WESLEY CHAPEL Weatherford to speak at meeting

State Rep. Will Weatherford will speak at the July 14 meeting of the Wesley Chapel Republican Club. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. The group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Hyundai dealership at 27000 Wesley Chapel Blvd., a mile west of Interstate 75.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Park visions, but

Commissioners want private operators to share in cou

BY LEE LOGAN Times Staff Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY — Even as Pasco's park system grapples with historic budget cuts, county commissioners went window shopping Tuesday for some whiz-bang future parks that would be operated by private companies and attract flocks of tourists.

And, while their conversation revealed optimism that bad eco-

nomic times won't last forever, they didn't decide to buy anything.

"There really wasn't a productive decision to bring some finality to a tourist destination," said commissioner Ted Schrader.

The parks budget has taken a 30 percent cut since 2007 and this year the last two county swimming pools are on the chopping block. But commission-

ers still want to add new parks and help draw tourists through sports tournaments.

The solution: A public-private partnership where the county would offer up land and taxes to build the park while a private entity operates it.

Now, commissioners have to decide what's next after deals fell through in the past several years on a proposed tennis stadium

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Cooking up a dream

Cream cheese recipes stand out in a contest and keep the cook's taste test

