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Venice news briefs

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Charlotte's tap water

is tops with the judges

CHARLOTTE COUNTY -- When Charlotte County residents quench their thirst with a glass of tap water, they are getting the tastiest water in the region, according to a recent rating.

Charlotte County Utilities recently was recognized as having the region's best-tasting drinking water in an annual taste test for the Florida Section American Water Works Association Region X, which includes Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota.

CCU will represent Region X at the statewide competition in Tallahassee on April 1.

The water utilities submitted two-liter samples of their drinking water for a blind taste test by a five-judge panel.

The American Water Works Association is an international, nonprofit association dedicated to improving drinking water. The taste test is intended to educate consumers about water-related issues and raise awareness about water conservation.

Grant to provide help with down payments

CHARLOTTE COUNTY -- Charlotte County is expected to receive \$2 million from a state housing fund to give down payment assistance to low- to moderate-income residents.

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board approved a total of \$10 million in allocations to seven counties and two cities on Friday, a board spokeswoman said. Counties became eligible for the funds by reducing impact fees on developers by a minimum of 25 percent for a minimum of 18 months, said county housing

manager Bob Hebert.

Hebert said eligible applicants must earn 120 percent or less of the median income in the area. For a family of four, the eligible income cap would be about \$63,000, he said.

Hebert said the funds would be administered through the Housing Corporation of Charlotte County and Habitat for Humanity. He said the county must first receive official notification of the grant award, which then must be approved by the County Commission.

Venice woman wins \$250,000 in lottery

Venice resident Melitta Gay recently won \$250,000 on a scratch-off lottery ticket, the Floria Lottery said Friday.

Gay, 81, bought her ticket from the Publix at 535 Tamiami Trail S.

Gay was playing the new Sterling Silver scratch-off game launched in December, according to a lottery press release. The game has more than \$36 million in prizes.

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