

Red tide on the key

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PUNTA GORDA

City to receive grant

By **BOB FLUSS**

CHARLOTTE BUSINESS EDITOR

PUNTA GORDA — Team Punta Gorda apparently settled back for a little regrouping after staging an economic development tour of Delray Beach in March and returning the favor for Delray officials the following month.

Actually, Team Punta Gorda, a citizens group dedicated to promoting the city's Hurricane Charley recovery and future development, has quietly put some new programs into the pipeline.

Its newest effort will be revealed on the steps of the Punta Gorda City Hall at 9 a.m. today. Team Punta Gorda will present the city with a \$13,000 grant to help finance a study on restoring, recruiting and retaining businesses.

According to Team Punta Gorda spokesman Lew Morrissey, the grant will provide a local match for \$26,000 already approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Proposals to conduct the study have already been requested, with an Aug. 10 deadline. A committee will select a consultant by Sept. 1.

This committee includes representatives of the city administration, the Punta Gorda and Charlotte County chambers of commerce, and Team Punta Gorda. Also participating will be Betty Williams, county economic development manager, and Becky Bovell, director of the Charlotte County Visitors Bureau.

The study will examine what steps the community should take to promote tourism, arts, retailing, boating and education, among other facets of the local economy.

Scheduled to participate into today's ceremony are Punta Gorda Vice Mayor Larry Friedman, City Councilwoman Marilyn Smith-Mooney and City Manager Howard Kunik. Roger Kress and Thomas Kerr will represent Team Punta Gorda.