

# Martin

COUNTY

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## Business

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INSIDE

### PALM CITY

# 50-year-old tree puts down new roots



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SILVER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Jose Ambrosion (left), of Paul B. Leffler Landscaping Service, climbs up the trunk of the 50-foot tree moved from the intersection of 36th Street and Southwest Feroe Avenue in Palm City to Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club as Leffler's crew works to tie it down Tuesday morning.

#### By Kim Hughes

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

**PALMCITY**— Even the best-laid plans can go awry. After spending several months planning the relocation of a 50-year-old live oak from the Indian Street Bridge construction site to its new home in Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club in Palm City, the project hit a snag.

Just after 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, as the trailer carrying the tree headed toward Southwest Mapp Road, branches snapped a power line overhead, bringing the undertaking to a halt.

After a visit from Florida Power & Light Co., the trailer reached Southwest Mapp Road about an hour later and successfully transported its precious cargo to Piper's Landing.

The plan came to fruition thanks to Piper's Landing resident Barbara Flowers.

Flowers wanted to transplant the tree to memorialize her parents, Robert and Virginia McDaniel, longtime residents of the community.

When she learned the golf course was looking to replace a diseased tree on the 10th hole, the opportunity seemed ripe. Finding a tree that might not have otherwise been saved was a bonus.

"I wanted to make a statement," Flowers said. Although she did not want to disclose the cost of the project, she did say it was in "the tens of thousands of dollars."

Flowers said she believed her parents "would be very pleased. They loved the golf course.

They loved Piper's Landing."

After Piper's Landing resident Lee Rawlinson spotted the tree about a mile up the road from the community, officials from Piper's Landing approached the county about relocating it.

"They were excited about the idea," Rawlinson said.

Terry Rauth, deputy county engineer for Martin County, called the tree "a nice specimen" and said, "It's great that Piper's Landing was willing to do it.

On road projects, we always try to save trees if we can."

Brian Reich, general manager of Piper's Landing, said the community has been focusing on adding more trees to the golf



"I just wanted to do something to keep their memory alive," said Barbara Flowers (center) of Palm City about relocating the tree in memory of her parents. Flowers is joined by Pat Pierce (left), Piper's Landing office manager, and Russ Attridge (right).

course and held a fundraising tournament last summer to provide the necessary money.

Removing the tree on that hole without replacing it would have altered the intended design of the

course, Reich said.

"It's an integral part of the 10th hole. It guards the green."

Plans were for the tree to be planted immediately during a memorial dedication later Tuesday.