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Greenbacks for Green Space

City parks get hefty grant

■ Miami's parks will receive a hefty sum, thanks to the Bayfront Park Management Trust, led by executive director Tim Schmand. The one-time \$500,000 grant will be distributed among the city's five districts, giving each commissioner \$100,000 to improve programming at designated parks.

The funds will be used to enhance summer programs, after-school activities and programs for people with disabilities.

"As commissioners we have a commitment to the residents in our district to see that changes take place," said District 5 commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones during last month's discussion to approve the grant.

Book Award

Brickell author wins state prize

■ Brickell novelist David Pereda was awarded the Florida Writers Association's second-place prize in the 2006 Royal Palm Literary Awards for his forthcoming novel, "Beyond Midnight in America."

The book is about a Miami architect who fled Cuba during the Mariel boatlift, yet reluctantly returns to his homeland to uncover a 25-year-old family secret. Pereda is also the author of "Havana Confidential," "The Highest Hurdle," "Who Killed Fidel Castro?" and "Getting Filthy Rich." He won the award in the fiction/unpublished category. "Beyond Midnight in America" is scheduled for publication later this year.



Author
David
Pereda

Fathoms Below

Underwater shipwrecks protected

Erl King shipwreck site in
Biscayne National Park



■ After almost five years of negotiations, two federal agencies are finally partnering to protect underwater shipwrecks and other submerged archaeological sites as cultural resources. Biscayne National Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary have agreed to work together to enhance social science research, resource protection, and public information and education surrounding submerged archaeological sites.

Hundreds of shipwrecks and many submerged archaeological sites are scattered underwater between the two areas, with dozens located along the 30 miles of shared jurisdictional boundary. With this collaboration, the agencies hope to reveal the stories of a common maritime heritage. Similar agreements exist between the two agencies for protecting sea grass, coral and other natural resources.

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