

Delray Beach



Volunteers gather one last time in April after cleaning up the garden land next to Cason United Methodist Church, which has agreed to sell the property. The fruit and vegetable garden had been there since 2008. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Along the Coast

Insurance bills soar through roof

House, condo owners face spikes of 30% or more

By Charles Elmore

Palm Beach County's southern coast might have been spared a direct hurricane strike in recent years, but residents are getting pounded by an insurance maelstrom only growing in intensity as the start of storm season approaches June 1.

Home insurance costs for many are spiking 30% or more, agents say — and even doubling or tripling for some condo dwellers.

"They're obviously in a lot of shock," said Steven Kirstein, owner-agent at Kirstein Insurance Services in Boca Raton, describing the customer reactions he is encountering. "No one likes it."

Insurers are not renewing tens of thousands of policies. Two have gone out of business since February alone. And those remaining are often demanding tough new terms or vastly scaling back what they will cover.

Further shrinking the options: The state's insurer of last resort, Citizens Property Insurance Corp., does not cover properties worth more than \$700,000. Given the rocketing

See **RATES** on page 23

The final harvest

Garden volunteers lament closing but seek new digs

By Janis Fontaine

All that remains of the once flourishing community garden near the corner of Lake Ida Road and Swinton Avenue is black weed cloth and concrete blocks. The property is being sold and the garden had to go.

Cason United Methodist Church has been entertaining offers on the valuable Delray

Beach acreage for 10 years. A soccer complex almost came to fruition. Other failed proposals included a water park and a homeless services facility. The current sale of the 4-acre tract won't be final until the end of the year, but the scuttlebutt is that ten \$1 million houses will be built there.

Gary Broidis of Atlantic

See **CASON** on page 9



Candy Evans, Cason Community Garden founder, receives a farewell hug from a volunteer at the garden.

Briny Breezes

Decades on, a warm remembrance

Quilters surprise veterans with mementos to cherish

By Ron Hayes

What do you say to a military veteran after you've said, "Thank you for your service"?

In March, the Briny Breezes Hobby Club said it with needles and thread, yards of colorful fabric and countless volunteer hours.

On that breezy Tuesday morning, nearly a hundred neighbors and friends gathered by the town's fountain to see 45 handmade quilts presented to men and women who had been members of the U.S. Armed Forces long before they were residents of Briny Breezes.

As flags of the U.S. Army, Air Force,

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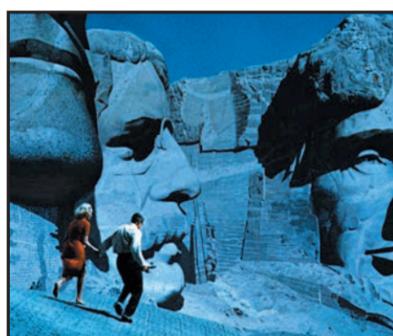


Brenda Dooley presents Dana Littlefield with two quilts, one for himself and another for his brother Nelson Littlefield. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

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Boca museum displays pieces from classic films.
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Water aerobics makes a splash.
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Coastal Star



Phil Wotton, Delray Beach's Ocean Rescue division chief, was riding with his wife, Elaine, on their tandem bicycle when they stopped to assist an unconscious cyclist in March. Photo provided

Lifeguard takes his achievements in stride

By Jan Engoren

Philip "Phil" Wotton is an unassuming fellow. As Ocean Rescue division chief in Delray Beach, Wotton is OK with being called a good Samaritan, but not a hero — despite having spent a huge chunk of his career in the lifesaving business.

On a Sunday in mid-March, Wotton and his wife were out on a tandem-bike ride along State Road A1A headed south to Atlantic Dunes Park. When they turned around and headed back, they spotted a group of people huddled around an unconscious cyclist lying in the bike lane.

Somebody had called 911, but Wotton and his wife got off their bike and he helped stabilize the woman until the paramedics arrived and she was taken to the hospital.

Not taking any credit for his role in aiding the woman, Wotton, 55, says, "I was in the right place at the right time. It's just what I do."

Wotton, Delray Beach's Ocean Rescue division chief since 2015, is responsible for water safety for the city. This means, for example, rescuing people caught in riptides or those who may have been tangled in the tentacles of a Portuguese man o' war.

"It's an occupation that found me," says Wotton, who grew up swimming off the shores of Hollywood Beach and followed in his older brother's footsteps to become a lifeguard.

He stays fit by running and by swimming five mornings in a master class at 5:45 and riding a tandem bike with his wife of 23 years, Elaine. Twice a year he must pass a qualification swim of 500 meters in under 10 minutes.

He loves surfing, swimming, rowing, boating, paddling and fishing — anything to do with water sports.

Wotton met his wife,

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who is from Manchester, England, in 1997, at a Jazz on the Avenue event on Atlantic Avenue.

The Delray Beach couple, who have two sons, one in the Coast Guard and one studying auto mechanics at PBSC, married the following year at sunset on a boat in Key West.

With their sons they traveled and did things outdoors, such as going to the Keys, camping at Long Key State Park and lobstering.

At one Christmas dinner with extended family, Wotton remembers being hailed as a hero for pulling out 23 lobsters for appetizers.

"Chief Wotton is a true beach safety professional," says Delray Beach Fire Chief Keith Tomey. "I do not believe there is any other lifeguard as knowledgeable, as professional or as compassionate about the job as Chief Wotton."

He worked to improve the service and reputation of the lifeguarding profession, relocating the division from the Parks and Recreation Department to public safety at the Fire Rescue Department.

"People don't realize that 35 years ago lifeguards were regarded differently, and it wasn't considered a career," Wotton says. "The concept of lifeguarding or ocean rescue is now a respected profession which people take seriously and choose for their career."

He strives to be a role model to his peers and his staff.

"I don't ask anyone to do something I wouldn't do myself," he says. "I put the operation's needs ahead of my own needs. That is one of the

reasons I swim early in the morning before coming to work. I take care of my mental and physical health. Once at work, there are no guarantees on how the day will unfold."

Wotton was a serious competitor in his younger years and won national lifesaving competitions.

Wotton and his friend Steve Griffith, 61, the Ocean Rescue lieutenant for Boca Raton, were rowing partners and competed as a team in races for lifeguards throughout the country and in run-swim-paddle-row endurance events.

In 2017, Griffith and Wotton took home the gold medal for their age group in the doubles row at the U.S. Lifesaving Association national championships at Daytona Beach.

At the same event, Wotton took the gold in his age group in the American Ironman competition and the silver medal in the surf-race-swim event.

"We were always the team to beat," remembers Griffith.

Griffith also credits Wotton with improving their profession.

"As division chief, Phil has promoted professionalism and a higher-quality standard of care for all lifeguards. Now all lifeguards must be EMTs," Griffith said. "He has raised the bar for the level of care for Delray Beach residents and others."

"Phil is a very passionate guy — passionate about his job, about his professionalism and physical performance on and off the job. He pushes himself to do the best he can for himself, his job and for his city."

Wotton doesn't plan to retire until he is at least 70, meaning he has many more years of doing what he loves.

"As long as I stay healthy and enjoy my job and the people I work with, I'll be here," he says. ★

Editor's Note

Fond memories of lessons from my mom

I can't remember how I learned to swim. I'd like to think I gripped my mother's hands with my pudgy baby fingers as she bounced me up and down in the water of some muddy, Midwestern lake until I was floating — still grasping one finger until I let go.

In reality, I was likely tossed between brothers until they dropped me in the water and waited to see if I burbled back to the surface.

Ah, the life of a little sister. Regardless of how I learned to swim, I do recall my busy mother (She had six children: my four older brothers and one younger sister) helping move my pencil along lined notebook pages to write the alphabet in cursive letters.

And teaching me how to cut fabric with a tissue-paper outline to create the base pattern of a blouse.

And how to hang laundry and make smooth, tight hospital corners on bedsheets.

And knitting. She taught me how to knit.

All of these tasks seem

so old-fashioned. In today's fast-paced, computerized world, these skills could be considered obsolete. And yet, I look back on these lessons as if they're encased in amber.

It was rare to have my mother's undivided attention and witness her (mostly) tireless patience.

Those are the real skills I hope I learned from my mother:

To listen closely with empathy and without interrupting.

To say "let's take a break" when roadblocks seem insurmountable.

To open the umbrella and take a walk when it rains.

To be grateful that I somehow learned to swim (in spite of my brothers).

And to be thankful for my mother's lessons — both obsolete and timeless.

Happy Mother's Day.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor



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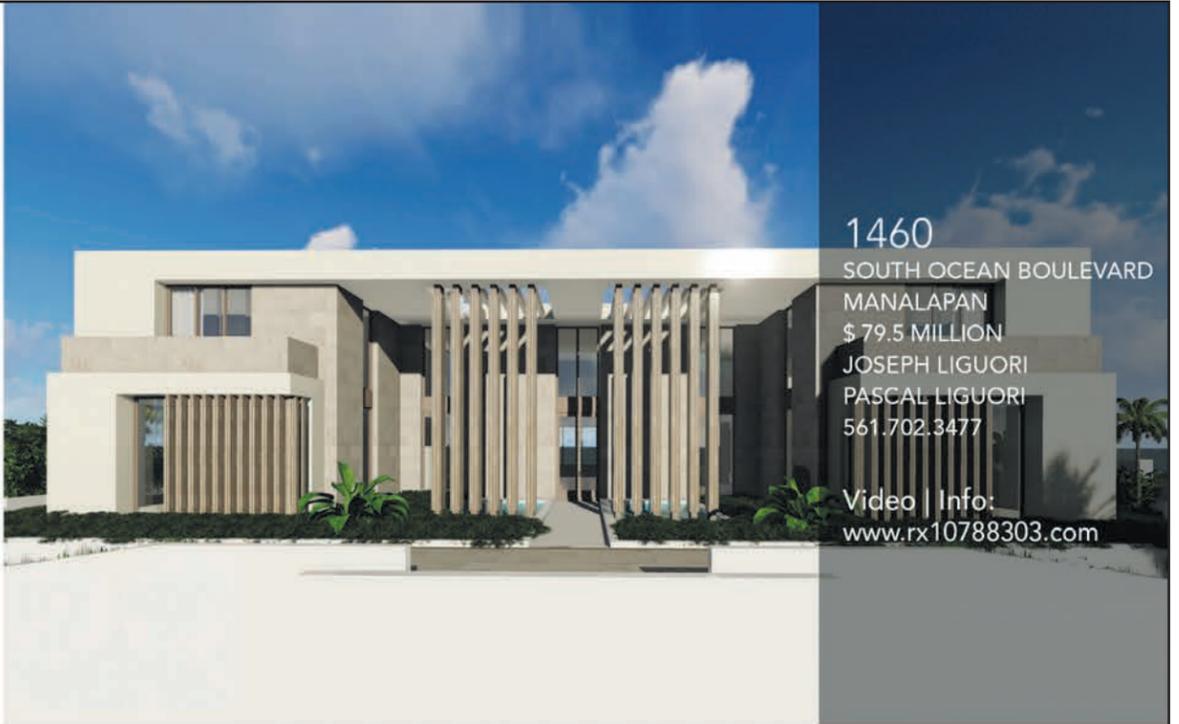
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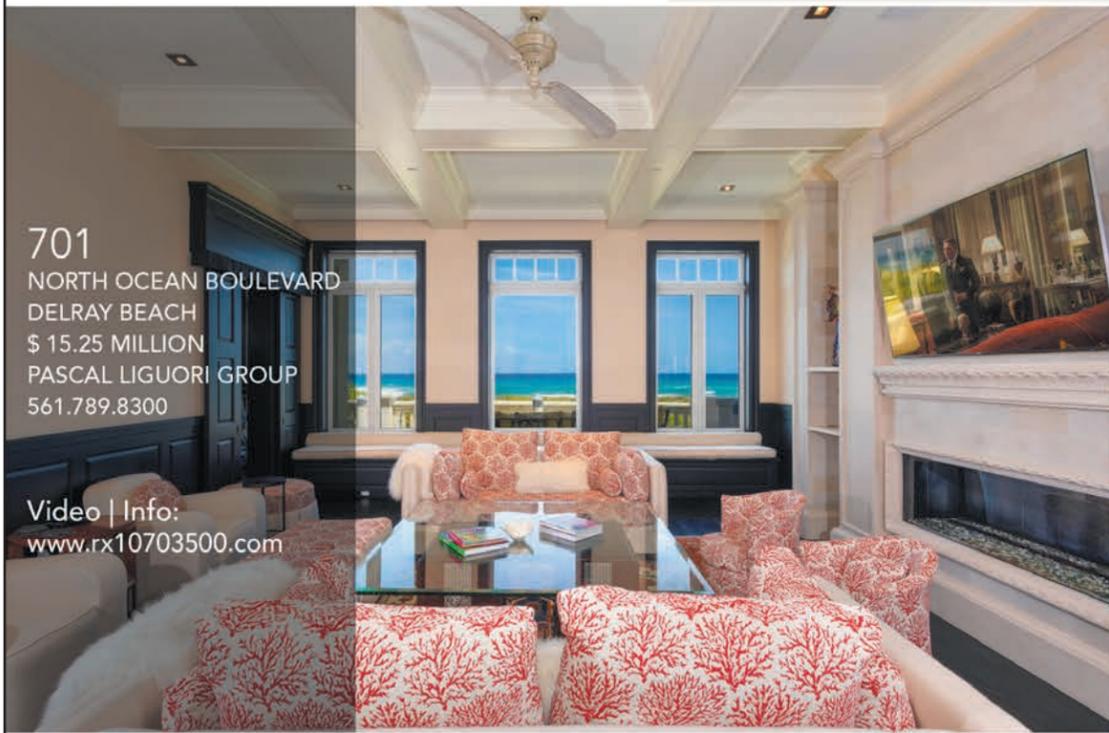
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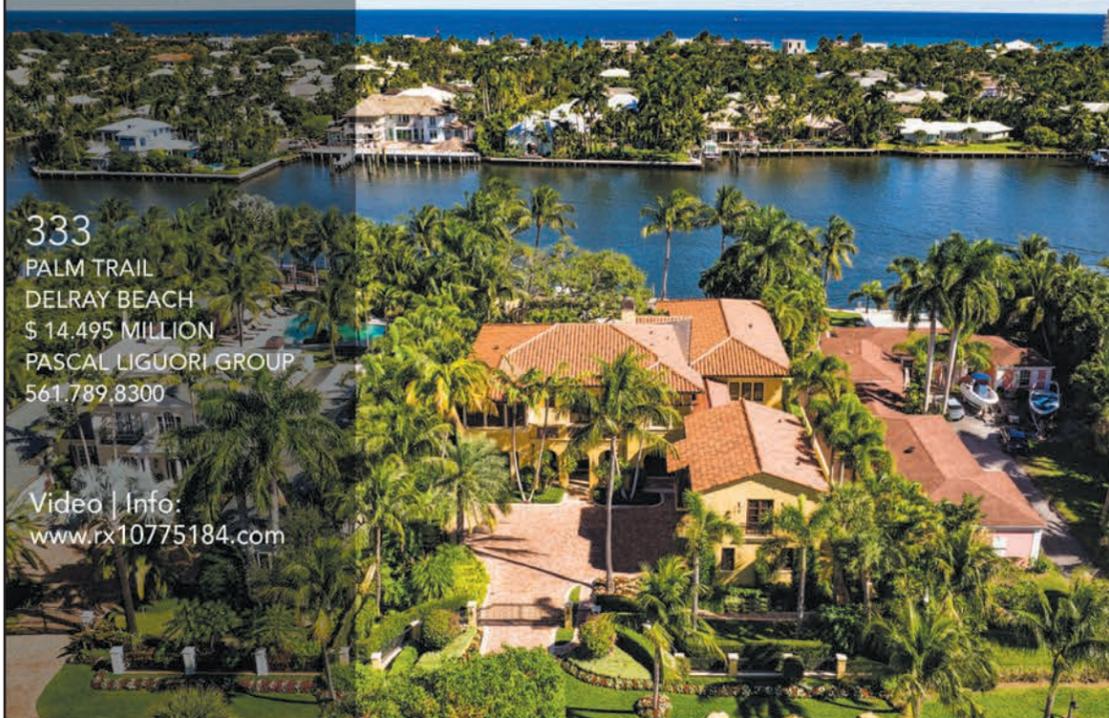
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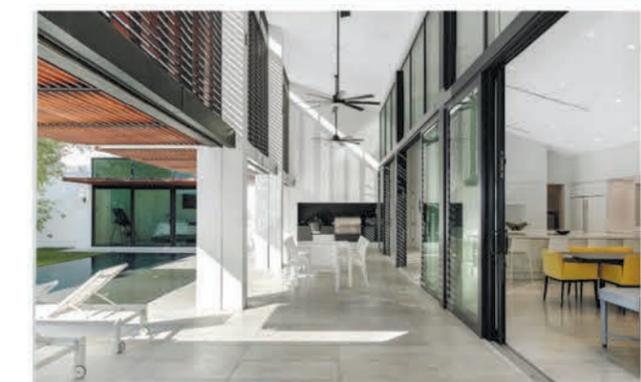
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“It’s good to know that there’s a place with a high level of care when something unexpected happens.”

Why I Give:

Mike and Pam McCarthy with granddaughters Ellis and Nora

A commercial real estate executive, Mike McCarthy has plenty of experience in development. These days, as a member of the Baptist Health Foundation council at Bethesda Hospital, he’s set his sights on helping the facility develop its Emergency Department. “I think emergency rooms are really important,” he says. “I particularly like understanding what’s needed, and then seeing improvements take shape. It’s challenging, but rewarding.”

Emergency care has a special significance to Mike and Pam, who often enjoy visits from their grandchildren, including eight-year-old Ellis and five-year-old Nora. “Something can always happen,” says Mike. “You’re doing this not just for yourself, not just for the good of the community, but also for them.”

Mike is enthusiastic about Bethesda Hospital’s affiliation with Baptist Health. “The quality they’re providing is pretty breathtaking,” he says. “I had an experience with Miami Cancer Institute, and was really blown away at how good they were. It’s comforting to know everybody involved is at the top of their game.”

Generosity Heals.

Photo by Capehart Photography

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Letters to the Editor

9 acres preserved will have real impact

The purchase of 9 acres of mangrove natural area for the town of Ocean Ridge is one of those decisions where I saw a whole town come together and show what living in this paradise really means. It is probably a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community to make a real impact on preserving what we treasure.

I am thrilled that I had the privilege to be sitting on the dais for this momentous decision and thank the community and my fellow commissioners for coming out and saying yes to the purchase.

Ultimately we may be spending a few more dollars in property taxes each year, but the reward of knowing that there are 9 acres of mangrove forest and wetland that will never be developed surely is

worth that. A town united has set the tone for the county, state and national levels by saying, "Yes, we do care about the environment and nature and the species that co-inhabit our community."

Moving the mayor's gavel

In Ocean Ridge, the mayor is elected by the five serving commissioners. The mayor's role is to preside over commission meetings, with his or her voice having the same power as that of the other four members.

Given that Geoff Pugh, Steve Coz and Kristine de Haseth all have served as mayor, it was the most logical choice to have Susan Hurlburt, next in seniority, serve in this role.

I would like to thank Kristine de Haseth for her exceptional service in the position as mayor.

Her leadership within town as well as at the League of Cities and other civic organizations has given our residents exceptional representation. We could not have picked a better mayor two years ago and I am proud of having been the swing vote.

Under Kristine's leadership we have moved from being a town with deferred maintenance to being a proactive town tackling items that are not easy and not cheap, yet need to be done.

I am looking forward to Susan Hurlburt as our new mayor, to continue this journey and to represent our town at the state and national levels.

*Martin Wiescholek
Commissioner, Ocean Ridge*

Happy Mother's Day

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Team effort in Ocean Ridge

On April 23, Ocean Ridge offered residents the amenity of shredding personal papers.

I participated in this generous offer. I was greeted there, most warmly, by town staff and directed to the shred area, where — on a Saturday! — I was additionally greeted by our mayor, town manager and police chief. The chief actually carried my material to the shredder!

I write this letter in disbelief — yet total admiration — for such a dedicated, cohesive team effort. Thank you, Ocean Ridge, and especially all the players who make it a place we are proud to call home.

*L. Kim Jones
Ocean Ridge*

Development ruining Delray

About 15 years ago, my wife and I fell in love with Delray Beach and purchased a condo nearby, which my family enjoys so much. Unfortunately, the ongoing development projects are destroying what was once a wonderful respite from busy city life. You can no longer easily drive down Atlantic Avenue at night, particularly if in search of a parking place. On a recent evening a restaurant valet waved me on, unable to park my car.

The city is becoming way overcrowded and yet the building projects continue to mushroom in quantity and size.

What is the City Commission thinking? Are they beholden to the developers? What we once loved about Delray Beach is being destroyed.

I beg the City Commission to wake up. Enough is enough!

*Christopher S. Sargent
Gulf Stream*



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Delray Beach

Commission majority wants local operator of Cornell, rejects Boca offer

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach city commissioners switched course in early April and rejected a plan by the Boca Raton Museum of Art to run operations at the Cornell Art Museum.

Instead, the commission will hold a workshop May 17 at City Hall and invite other arts groups to give their ideas for the future of the Cornell, one of five venues at the Old School Square campus in the heart of downtown.

Vice Mayor Adam Frankel and commissioners Ryan Boylston and Shirley Johnson voted against the Boca museum takeover at the April 5 meeting. Frankel said he did not like the idea of having an out-of-town group run a Delray Beach showpiece.

“If a Delray museum were to come to Boca, there would be marching in the streets,” Frankel said.

The city needs new management for Old School Square because commissioners voted 3-2 last August to end the lease with the longtime operators of the 4.5-acre campus when it ran out Feb. 9. The city took over some programming on the campus even before the lease officially ended.

City officials were concerned

about how the former operators — the Old School Square Center for the Arts — were spending city dollars. Financial problems plagued the former operators for at least the past six years, according to a city internal auditor review done in August.

Boca museum leaders became interested in running the Cornell following the commission’s August vote, but they waited until the lease ended before meeting with City Manager Terrence Moore on Feb. 14 to discuss their idea.

That set up the commission’s 3-2 vote April 5 against the Boca museum offer. Johnson, who led the charge to end the lease last year, became the swing vote in rejecting the Boca museum plan.

Johnson said the proposal was not clear about the museum’s duties for the \$125,000 it would receive from Delray Beach to run the Cornell. The money would have lasted until Sept. 30, and the Boca museum then would have needed to go through the city’s normal budget process to get further funds.

After the meeting, Johnson fielded calls from residents who complained her vote would allow the former operators room to reorganize and put together a plan to return next year, but she

denied that was her intent.

“I’m hoping one of the local nonprofits will step up. I’m looking for one group to run the entire campus,” she said.

The spokeswoman for the former operators declined to comment when contacted about the commission’s vote.

Boylston said he wants to see a “Summer of Delray Arts” on the campus. He met with Moore on April 29 to review the format for the May 17 workshop.

Boylston would like leaders of his first tier of nonprofits — Arts Garage, Arts Warehouse, Delray Beach Historical Society and Spady Cultural Heritage Museum — to speak at the workshop. The public can’t offer input at the workshop unless a commission consensus allows it.

Vote surprises Boca director

The commission’s vote was unexpected for the Boca museum’s executive director, Irvin Lippman. He said he had spoken to most of the commissioners ahead of the meeting and the majority supported his museum’s taking over the Cornell’s operations, including Johnson.

“It came as something of a surprise,” he said of the final decision. “The political maneuvering seems to have taken sway. I can’t explain how.”

Lippman told commissioners his team had been on a “listening campaign” for the past month and wanted to create a welcoming environment for the diversity that exists in Delray Beach.

He wasn’t aware of the upcoming workshop. “They want to go in another direction,” he said. “We have plenty to do in Boca Raton to keep us occupied.”

Mayor Shelly Petrolia, who supported the Boca museum proposal, was embarrassed for Delray Beach.

“We had tasked Moore to give us options. At the March 1 meeting, he said the Boca museum leaders had contacted him about running the Cornell.

“We gave him consensus to move forward with the discussions,” Petrolia said. “It’s embarrassing to the city when someone comes in to operate a closed museum and they are denied from moving forward. We had the money and would not be dipping into our reserves.”

Concerts and finances

In other actions regarding Old School Square:

- The city has resumed holding semi-monthly concerts on the Pavilion stage on the OSS campus.

- The law firm representing the former operators responded April 8 to the Community Redevelopment Agency’s demand that the group return \$187,500 in funding. It rejected the demand, saying the CRA had given the money after the operators had met the requirements for the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year.

- The CRA staff is trying to obtain financial records the former operators used to receive a paycheck protection loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The first \$309,735 loan was given in 2020 and later turned into a grant.

The CRA is trying to find out if the operators used any of the federal money to pay staff salaries. It is concerned about double-dipping, if some of its money went to pay for salaries already covered by the paycheck protection loan.

The CRA first requested the information from the USSBA, which said it does not have those records, and is now seeking them from the former operators’ lender, which does have them. ★

Mary Hladky contributed to this story.

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CASON

Continued from page 1

Commercial Group is handling the sale, but remains mum about the buyer, the sale price and any development plans.

Garden manager Candy Evans called the closing of Cason Community Garden after 14 years “bittersweet.”

Evans was there with co-founder Lori Robbins when the first shovelful of dirt was turned over in 2008, and she gave the final orders as the organic garden closed April 9. A feeling of gratitude was evident as she exchanged hugs with volunteers she’s cultivated over the years.

The community garden at 342 N. Swinton Ave. began as a Hail Mary to help keep Cason United Methodist Church open. It turns 120 years old this year. But in 2008, the membership was dwindling and leaders were planning to close the church.

As members brainstormed ways to keep the church open, Evans and Robbins suggested using the vacant land just west of the church, unused for decades, as a public community garden.

“We never thought it would make any money,” Evans said. “We just wanted to do something positive for the community.”

Evans and Robbins were guided by three Christian responsibilities: feeding the needy, educating the public and being stewards of the Earth. A garden, they thought, would do all three.

There was one snag: Neither knew much about vegetable gardening.

“But we had everlasting faith,” Evans said.

One day, Michael Lorne of Lorne & Sons Funeral Home found himself carpooling to Miami with the Rev. Linda Mobley of Cason. When Mobley told Lorne, who has a degree in horticulture and is a master gardener, about the new garden, he couldn’t get involved fast enough. Through the years he offered guidance to citizens who bought plots.

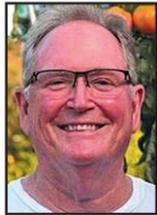
The garden was started with donated compost and weed cloth, and Evans brought a hose from home that stretched from the church across the parking lot to the garden.

In telling the story to the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Evans said: “With every step in the building of the garden at Cason, doors opened, and volunteers and supplies were offered. With God’s hand, we were guided through.”

Like the church, Lorne &



The garden had some floral touches but mostly grew organic produce. More than 25,000 pounds of its food went to Delray’s Caring Kitchen to feed people in need. Photo provided



Lorne

Sons has served the community for decades, since the 1950s. Michael Lorne hoped to take a different career path, in horticulture. But

the family business needed him, and he took his place there in the 1970s. Gardening instead became an avocation, and he loved teaching Cason’s plot-owners the basics of Florida gardening without chemicals.

The first-year crops included strawberries, green beans, Swiss chard, heirloom tomatoes, melons, collard greens, beets, herbs and six kinds of peppers. Enthusiasm for the project grew each year and soon there was a waiting list for plots.

“A professor from the University of Florida came to visit and said it was one of the finest community gardens she’d ever seen,” Lorne said. “It’s a lot of work. You have to have eyes on your plants every day.”

Gardening without chemicals is especially hard because insects in Florida flourish like weeds. “It’s a real hands-on project and Candy Evans is the reason it was successful,” Lorne said.

As a result of the garden, things began to change around the church. It had more laughter, hugging and banter, people helping each other, everything members wanted the church to be. Cason UMC became known

as “the church with the garden.” Sunday attendance more than doubled, from 75 in 2008 to 165 in 2012.

The garden doubled in size too, from 2,500 to 5,000 square feet, with plots in two sizes. Some were rented by families and groups, others by individuals or couples. Evans, who had found support at the church as a new mom of triplets in the early ’90s, now had three

teenage helpers and an ability to delegate.

“I have no problem telling people what to do,” Evans said. With her calm manner she doesn’t sound bossy. And she’s grateful for the help from people like Keith Humphries, whose red pickup was a familiar sight, always carting something somewhere. “Many hands make light work” is one of Evans’ favorite sayings.

The garden closing coincided with a day set aside locally for the annual Great American Cleanup, a months-long event sponsored by Keep America Beautiful Inc. The April 9 event sponsors were the county’s Solid Waste Authority and Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful. Evans and her volunteers left the garden area as neat as a pin so the church wouldn’t be fined by the city as it waits for the sale of the land.

Humphries’ final job was to haul away the last few plants and the garden bench where people had so often rested weary legs and backs after work. His mornings will no longer include watering or weeding plants.

“I probably put in about 15 hours a week,” said Humphries, who lost his wife a year ago. The garden had been his respite. He’s putting his Lake Ida house on the market, and he hasn’t looked too far past that.

The community garden premise is simple: People pay a fee for a plot and grow whatever they like under the guidance of a volunteer master gardener and with the support of the

garden community. Gardeners get to keep most of their organic produce, but are asked to give at least 10% to soup kitchens and other charities that feed homeless people.

And that may be the biggest tangible loss. Evans estimates the garden gave away 25,000 pounds of organic produce to the Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach over the years. Now, the kitchen will have to buy vegetables to feed the hungry. In 2012 there were more than 20 local community gardens. Today there are a handful.

“It’s harder to find volunteers,” Evans said.

There’s also less interest among younger generations to work the land.

What will happen now? No one knows. At Cason, Robin Fogel is spearheading the search for a new spot for the garden. The gardeners would like 5,000 square feet, and it has to be full sun, fairly flat and cost nothing to take over.

“It would be a shame if the garden never found a new home,” Evans said. “Gardens are special because all at once you can connect with the earth, your spirituality and your community.”

Annual events, such as the popular pumpkin patch in the fall, are still planned on the remaining acreage, but smaller in scale. ★

For more information on how to help the garden find a new location, call the church at 561-276-5302.



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Gulf Stream

A1A resident tapped for 'Place Au Soleil seat' on commission

By Steve Plunkett

For the first time in at least 24 years, no one from Place Au Soleil has a seat on the Gulf Stream Town Commission.

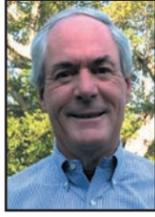
Donna White, who served since June 2013, submitted a resignation letter March 21 saying she is leaving the area. Her 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath home at 2750 Avenue Au Soleil is on the market for \$2.549 million.

The commission appointed Thom Smith, chairman of the town's Architectural Review and Planning Board, to the seat at its April 8 meeting.

"The Town Staff has been a pleasure to work with, always willing and informative on any issue that is presented, and I



White



Smith

have the highest regard for the dedication and integrity of my fellow Commissioners," White wrote in her resignation letter.

"I truly will miss the warmth and camaraderie that I have experienced in all my dealings with the town."

Mayor Scott Morgan "regretfully" announced White's resignation at the meeting.

"She was always someone ... who had great depth of

knowledge and understanding not only of our code but more importantly, the design manual and the importance of preserving what's important in Gulf Stream," Morgan said.

The seat goes to Smith, the mayor's neighbor at the south end of town on State Road A1A.

"He's a home boy. He was born and bred here. He knows the significance of Gulf Stream within the neighboring communities and what makes us a very special community," Morgan said.

"He's got very good judgment," Commissioner Paul Lyons said. "As you said, talking about local knowledge, he has that."

Smith's appointment is

the first change on the dais since 2016, when Lyons, then chairman of the ARPB, filled a vacancy created by Bob Ganger's health-related resignation.

The mayor said he tried to recruit Malcolm Murphy, a Place Au Soleil resident and vice chair of the ARPB, but he asked not to be considered because of his business and travel plans.

White moved to Gulf Stream in 2002, was active in Place Au Soleil's homeowners association and sat on the ARPB from 2006 to 2010. She was appointed to the ARPB after her neighbor, Muriel "Mert" Anderson, was elevated to the commission.

When Anderson resigned, she urged White to signal an interest in the job. White was the only person to do so.

The commission doesn't have districts, "but I really like having someone from Place Au Soleil," then-Commissioner

Ganger said at the time.

Preceding Anderson on the commission was another Place Au Soleil resident, William A. Lynch, who first ran unopposed for a seat in 1998.

In other business, police said they recorded two automobile thefts, one from the Core area and one from an open garage in broad daylight in Place Au Soleil, the first auto theft for that neighborhood. Both vehicles had keys inside.

Chief Edward Allen said a group of thieves is "working the whole state. We've heard from Delray, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan. They just don't know where they are what night or what day."

Allen also said five-year veteran Officer Ramon Batista, who left the police force in July, had rejoined the department after deciding he was not ready for retirement. ★

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Town, O'Boyle settle 3 lawsuits

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream and litigious resident Martin O'Boyle have settled three lawsuits — over a dock he built without permission, a conduit buried in his front yard during the utilities undergrounding project and his demand for \$30,000 in legal fees on another case.

"Basically, they're walk-away settlement agreements," with the lawsuits dismissed and each side paying its own legal bills, said Hudson Gill, the town's outside attorney. "The cases are dismissed with prejudice," meaning O'Boyle cannot refile his claims later.

The town's insurance will cover Gulf Stream attorney's fees and costs in the first two cases, but the town will pay its fees and costs in the third, Hudson said. O'Boyle is liable for the legal bills on his side.

Attorney Jonathan O'Boyle, who handled the negotiations for his father, declined to discuss the outcome.

Mayor Scott Morgan said the settlements "appear to be in our favor," and Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro, who worked on the cases, said, "Correct."

The legal expenses the town will pay come from a lawsuit Martin O'Boyle filed in 2020 that said Gulf Stream, by filing a federal racketeering claim and other state actions against him in 2015, had reneged on an earlier settlement in which both sides promised not to sue.

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, or RICO, action came after town officials said they fielded more than 1,700 public records requests from O'Boyle and former resident Chris O'Hare in the two years after the 2013 settlement, and said the two men filed dozens of suits against Gulf Stream in state and federal courts. The town spent more

than \$1 million to handle the records requests and pay legal bills during that time.

The RICO lawsuit was later dismissed in federal court.

In the dock case, O'Boyle began applying "informally and formally" for a permit to build over the water in April 2017. In 2019, town commissioners rejected an appeal by O'Boyle to let him build a "promenade" 30 to 36 inches higher than his sea wall and extending 12 feet into the canal behind his yard, unanimously agreeing that the structure should comply with the building code for docks.

Town code prohibits docks wider than 5 feet.

The dispute hit a flashpoint in November 2019 when O'Boyle, lacking a building permit, had 20 concrete piles installed behind his house, at 23 Hidden Harbour Drive. Gulf Stream obtained an emergency order that Thanksgiving from a circuit court judge enjoining O'Boyle "from any further construction activity on the proposed water structure without approval."

O'Boyle later got a permit for a 5-foot-wide dock and removed the piles for the extended structure.

In the settlement, he agreed to install no more than two lights on the dock, and they may not project light more than 4 feet above the dock's surface.

The lawsuit over the utility conduit involved empty piping that was left in an easement 6 feet underground after O'Boyle in 2014 complained that it was on his property. The town relocated the planned conduit to an easement off O'Boyle's property.

The offending conduit broke when contractors tried to pull it out and town officials decided to leave it buried rather than dig a costly trench to reach it, according to court documents. ★

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Boynton Beach

Fire chief enters fray as interim city manager

By Tao Woolfe

Chief James Stables has stepped away from the Fire Department and into the fire as Boynton Beach's interim city manager.

His appointment comes at a tumultuous time for the city, which is struggling with discontent within its Black community and stalled efforts to bring its downtown to life.

Stables, Boynton's fire chief for a little more than a year, was awarded the city's top job on April 25 at a special meeting of the City Commission.

The commission's unanimous vote on Stables came days after it voted 4-1 to fire longtime City Manager Lori LaVerriere during an emotional public meeting.

It remains unclear exactly why LaVerriere was fired after 10 years on the job, but she had been criticized lately for a lack of diplomacy and the city's failure to protect itself on the stalled Town Square downtown development project.

For her part, LaVerriere said city managers serve with the knowledge that their jobs can end when political winds shift.

"This isn't a shock. The world will go on. I'll be fine," she said.

She added, however, that the employees who served along with her should remain.

"You have an amazing, professional staff. Let them flourish and do their good work. Let them help you."

In a related development, Police Chief Michael Gregory, who had been chief since July 2018, resigned on April 22.

He said in a published statement that he was leaving to "focus on other areas," but both he and LaVerriere had been lightning rods for anger from the Black community in the months after a 13-year-old boy was killed during a Dec. 26 high-speed police chase.

The boy, Stanley Davis III, crashed his dirt bike at 85 mph on North Federal Highway with Boynton Beach Police Officer Mark Sohn in close pursuit.

Members of the youngster's family, friends and supporters have crowded into subsequent City Commission meetings asking repeatedly for the city to fire those responsible.

Sohn was cleared of all charges in late March by a Florida Highway Patrol investigation. FHP concluded Davis was unlawfully fleeing an attempted traffic stop and going 85 mph in a 35-mph zone.

The Boynton Beach Police Department is still conducting its own investigation.

In early April, commissioners asked LaVerriere to look into whether a merger with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office would benefit the city.

LaVerriere reported back to the commission that the sheriff's proposal was not yet completed. Stables will be expected to follow up on that report.

Many residents at the special



Stables

April 25 commission meeting spoke out against a PBSO merger. They asked that the city work instead to improve the existing Police Department and root out bad officers.

Stables was chosen from among three candidates for the job. The others were David Scott, the city's director of economic development and strategy; and Joseph DeGiulio, Boynton's assistant police chief.

The city commissioners asked all three men how they would build back trust between the city and the Black community.

Communication is the key, all the candidates said.

Stables said his credo of listening to everyone equally is especially important now.

"We're dealing with numbers of people impacted negatively,"

Stables said. "We must be more nimble and responsive. I will be looking to see how to get out in front of things."

The chief said his years of managerial and emergency preparedness experience made him suited for the city manager job, but added that he was honored to be considered among such a strong candidate pool.

Before taking the helm at the Boynton Beach Fire Department, Stables served as chief of fire departments in Johnson City in Tennessee, and Palm Bay and Ormond Beach in Florida. He was district chief in Brevard County from 1992 to 2000, and began his firefighting career in Wilton Manors, where he was a fire inspector and volunteer firefighter in 1985-86.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Barry University in Melbourne, and is working on his master's in public administration — also from Barry, according to his résumé.

Stables supplied to the commission letters of support that praised his leadership, team-building, managerial and communication skills.

Stables is "an accomplished chief officer" who "continues to embody the desire to serve through strong leadership values and behaviors indicative of a selfless public servant," wrote Gregg Lynk, former Palm Bay city manager.

Members of the Boynton Beach City Commission agreed.

The commission itself has been in flux since March, when two term-limited incumbents left their seats. Two new commissioners — Angela Cruz and Thomas Turkin — were elected in March. Another seat opened when Ty Penserga left his District 4 seat to run for mayor, a job he won.

The commission on April 19 chose Aimee Kelley, a paralegal and wife of a Boynton police captain, from among several

contenders to fill the year left on the District 4 term.

In explaining why he chose Stables, Penserga cited the breadth of experience.

He added that all three men have been exemplary at their jobs and he hopes that Scott and DeGiulio will continue in their respective roles.

Woodrow Hay, who initially indicated that he would vote for Scott, ultimately joined his colleagues and voted for Stables.

"All three men could have done the job, but at the end of the day, the right decision was made," Hay said after the meeting. "It's important that we show a united front going forward."

Nonetheless, Hay was the lone dissenter in the vote to fire LaVerriere. Was it loyalty?

"I am loyal as long as the person is doing the work," he replied. "She had been doing the work, and had done a lot of good for the city." ★

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Ocean Ridge

Commission agrees to pay renegotiated \$1.5 million for wetland

By Joe Capozzi

Agreeing they probably are paying more than the land is worth, town commissioners voted to spend \$1.5 million to preserve 9 acres in a mangrove-filled lagoon north of Town Hall.

“Even if we might be overpaying for this piece, it’s a good thing for the town,” Commissioner Martin Wiescholek said at an April 12 commission meeting. “It’s our future and it sets the right tone for Ocean Ridge to say we are environmentally oriented and we want to make sure this town stays the way it is today.”

A week earlier, the town was under contract to buy the land for nearly \$2 million from the William Priest Family Trust, a deal contingent on two appraisals.

But commissioners saw the appraisals for the first time just hours before they were scheduled to consider the purchase for the first time at their regular meeting April

4. One appraisal was for \$1.4 million, the other \$800,000, for an average of \$1.1 million that prompted commissioners to postpone a vote and direct the town manager to renegotiate with the owner over the next week.

Those negotiations settled on \$1.5 million, which the commission unanimously approved at a special meeting April 12, just days before the purchase contract was set to expire.

“I hate to see us spending this kind of money. I think we probably are overpaying by \$300,000 to \$400,000, but it’s the right thing to do,” said Commissioner Steve Coz, who led the call to renegotiate the price.

“If a developer goes in there and develops property, we will then as a town get sued for not providing proper drainage for houses on this island.”

The 9-acre parcel borders a 3.3-acre sliver to the east owned by Waterfront ICW Properties, a company that’s been fighting

the town and nearby condos in court over its plans to build a road and residential homes in the lagoon.

Town officials were careful to avoid mentioning those legal battles in detail. Instead, Town Manager Tracey Stevens promoted plans to rezone the land to conservation/preservation from its current residential use as part of a long-term strategy to possibly open the area for recreation.

Palm Beach County and Spanish Creek LLC have already applied to the town for the same zoning change on land they own immediately south and east of the 9 acres the town bought from the William Priest Family Trust.

The \$1.5 million to purchase the land was taken from the town’s reserves, reducing the emergency budget to \$5.8 million. Town officials hope to recoup some or all of that \$1.5 million by applying for grants and seeking assistance from entities such as The Nature Conservancy.

“With the mitigation rights that could potentially exist on that property and could potentially be sold off, I think we have an actual opportunity of recouping our money,” said Wiescholek.

Most of the 25 residents who attended the April 4 meeting to voice support for the purchase returned April 12 to cheer and clap when the commission approved the purchase.

“I’d be willing to give up a few bucks for it,” said former Commissioner Terry Brown. “We need to move forward and not squander any opportunity to demonstrate that we’re a government that can do something important for the people and protect our natural areas.”

In other business:

• In a commission reorganization vote April 4, Kristine de Haseth and Susan Hurlburt



Hurlburt

swapped positions. Hurlburt was voted mayor and de Haseth was voted vice mayor.

• The commission endorsed the voluntary “Combat Automobile Theft” program. Participating residents will each apply a special reflective sticker to the back of their car. The stickers give Ocean Ridge police officers consent to make traffic stops between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. to make sure the vehicle is not stolen.

“Once the officer turns the lights on and attempts to pull the vehicle over, if the vehicle stops we know it’s a resident. If the vehicle takes off, we know it’s stolen,” Chief Richard Jones said. “It’s just one more method to give us the opportunity to reduce crime.”

• Commissioners voted to spend \$14,000 to remove an abandoned sailboat that washed ashore in March after being damaged in a storm. ★

Commissioners to consider task force safety proposals for Old Ocean

By Joe Capozzi

Ocean Ridge town commissioners in June will consider new proposals by a citizens task force for safety measures on and around Old Ocean Boulevard.

Old Ocean Boulevard runs nearly a mile from Corrine Street in Ocean Ridge to Briny Breezes, east of and parallel with State Road A1A. Segments of the Ocean Ridge stretch offer unobstructed views of the ocean, attracting crowds of walkers, bicyclists and skateboarders, along with vehicles.

The task force, convened early this year at the

suggestion of Mayor Susan Hurlburt, met twice in April and presented the following safety recommendations to commissioners May 2:

• Install removable speed humps (not speed bumps) on Adams Road and Beachway Drive — two east-west streets that connect North Ocean Boulevard and Old Ocean Boulevard — and on Old Ocean from Beachway south to Tropical Drive, a stretch that currently has no stop signs.

• Add signage stating “Residents Only/Local Access Only” at Corinne and Thompson streets, Adams and Beachway.

• Paint a center line down

the length of Old Ocean as a visual reminder for vehicles and bicycles to stay to the right.

• Clear the 5-foot right of way along Old Ocean, in particular the east side of the road where overgrown vegetation doesn’t allow space for pedestrians to move to the side to avoid oncoming traffic.

• Consider lowering the posted speed limit on Old Ocean to an unusual number that would catch the attention of drivers, such as 13 mph or 16 mph.

The recommendations are just the latest round of ideas for enhancing safety on the road, a topic that has been debated off and on at least since 2007

when a traffic study referred to Old Ocean as the “Jewel of the Town.”

But as nearby developments in Boynton Beach send more and more walkers, bicycles and vehicles onto Old Ocean, many town officials and residents say it’s past time to finally implement a safety plan.

“Our hope is that the recommendations we listed, along with continued education and enforcement, will ultimately change behaviors and help improve public safety on our ‘Jewel of the Town,’” task force chair Carolyn Cassidy told commissioners.

Cassidy and several other

task force members asked commissioners to discuss the recommendations immediately, so the town could earmark money for the safety measures when work starts on the next budget.

Commissioners, though, said they wanted to think about the proposals first and then discuss them in June at a meeting where other residents could offer ideas.

Town officials plan to come up with rough cost estimates for the recommendations for commissioners to discuss at their next meeting, at 5 p.m. June 6. The town’s first budget meeting is the same day at 2 p.m. ★

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The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of June 4



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The Briny Breezes Hobby Club honored 45 veterans, many of them seen here saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

VETERANS

Continued from page 1

Navy, Marines and Coast Guard fluttered high above the fountain, club President Marla Guzzardo called out their names.

“Larry Adams ... Michael Amaturro ... Terrence Brabham ... Phillip Brackett.”

Elisabeth Galea, co-chair of the project, met each veteran with a handshake and a quilt — 40-by-60 inches, with red, blue and patriotic panels on a white background.

“Gail Elble ... Tom Goudreau ... Carol Guth ... Bruce Jensen.”

The Briny Breezes Hobby Club had been sewing these quilts for strangers long before they made them for their neighbors.

Quilts Of Valor, they're called.

A dream realized

In 2003, a woman named Catherine Roberts of Seaford, Delaware, whose son Nat was deployed to Iraq, had a dream. Not a metaphor, a real dream.

“I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over,” she recalled. “The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter.”

“Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts equal healing.”

And the Quilts of Valor Project was born. Nearly two decades later, the national group has sewn about 300,000 patriotic quilts and presented them to American veterans.

In the past, the Briny Breezes quilters had sent their quilts to that national organization.

“But we never saw the people who got them,” Guzzardo said.

And so, last October the club placed a notice in the *Briny Bugle* seeking veterans



ABOVE: Under the fluttering flags of the United States and its service branches, Army veteran Paul Sullivan returns to the crowd after receiving his quilt. **RIGHT:** Elisabeth Galea presents a quilt to June Fingerhut in honor of her late husband, Pete. Her son-in-law, Tom Oglesby (in red), also was honored. **Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**



for whom they wanted “to do something special.”

They compiled a list, set to work, and on this Tuesday morning in March, that something special happened.

Serving those who served

“I love this,” said Army Spc. 4th Class Stanley Brunell, who served as a radio telegraph operator in Germany, from 1965 to 1967. “This is awesome. It’ll be a permanent memory.”

Standing beside him as he held his new quilt was his wife, Carole. After marrying in February 1966, she joined him in Germany four months later. And 56 years later, she admired him as he admired his quilt.

Gail Elble graduated high school in 1968, but didn’t join the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1982.

“I was working as a school guidance counselor when I heard about the Direct Commission Officer program, which lets civilians receive a commission if you have special skill and pass the test. My principal flunked the test and I passed.”

She entered as an ensign, served 20 years and retired in 2002 as a lieutenant

commander.

Army Spc. 5th Class Paul Sullivan was surprised.

“It was a total surprise,” he said. “The Briny hobby club is the largest with 200-plus members, and I knew nothing about this project. I don’t know how they got my name.”

But he was glad they did.

Eric Wolffbrandt served on the U.S. Air Force’s Air Defense Command staff in Syracuse, New York, from 1967 to 1969. He had a top-secret clearance, but never saw Vietnam.

“I appreciate this,” he said, holding his quilt but thinking more of others than himself. “I remember during the war our commanding officer told us, ‘Don’t wear your uniform off base because of all the protesters in the street.’ So I appreciate this remembrance, honoring all these men. I have awesome respect for all those who were actually in combat.”

“I’ll put this on a wall somewhere,” he said. “It’s beautifully done.”

They chatted, they posed for smartphone photos with their quilts, and they dispersed. Honored for service decades ago, they returned to their lives today. And the Briny Breezes

Hobby Club will return to its regular hobbies. The something special the members had arranged for the town’s veterans was also something unique.

“This is a one-time event,” Guzzardo said, “but we’ll continue to do this individually as more veterans move to Briny Breezes.” ★

Memorial Day Events

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 27

Memorial Flag Planting at Boynton Beach Memorial Park, 95 North Blvd. Volunteers encouraged. 8 am-10 am. Free. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

MAY 29

Memorial Day Ceremony at Boynton Beach Memorial Park, 95 North Blvd. Presented by Veteran’s Task Force and Boynton Beach Recreation and Parks. 2 pm. Free. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org

MAY 30

Memorial Day Commemorative Ceremony at Boca Raton Cemetery, 451 SW 4th Ave. Veterans groups, music by Ft. Lauderdale Highlanders & Coastmen Chorus, Boca Raton Community High NJROTC, Boca Raton Police & Fire Honor Guard. 9 am. Free. 561-393-7807; myboca.us/specialevents

Memorial Day Observance at Veteran’s Memorial Park, 9400 W Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10556; sponsored by Palm Beach County. 9:30 am. Free. 561-

477-2779; pbcparcs.com

Delray Beach Memorial Day Ceremony, at Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery, 902 S.W. 10th Street. 10 am. Free. 561-243-7250, ext. 7011; parks&recreation@mydelraybeach.com

Memorial Day 2022 hosted by Palm Beach County Veterans Committee, Inc. at South Florida National Cemetery, 6501 S State Rd 7, Lantana. 10 am. Free. pbcveteranscommittee.org

Memorial Day Celebration at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Free. 588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

17th Annual A Day to Remember at Palm Beach Memorial Park, 3691 Seacrest Blvd, Lantana. Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc. presents Emcee Jim Sackett & keynote speaker Staff Sergeant James Pabey with Gunner (USMC, Retired). 11:45 am-1:15 pm. Free. 561-369-2933; forgottensoldiers.org

Memorial Day Concert at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Features Krescendo. Bring blankets/chairs; chairs for rent \$5. Food/beverage available for purchase. No coolers or outside alcoholic beverages permitted. Rain or shine. 6 pm doors open. Free. 561-393-7807; myboca.us/specialevents



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Delray Beach

George Bush bridge reopens, but state law keeps most details secret

By Joel Engelhardt

After a nearly two-month closure, the George Bush Boulevard bridge reopened April 29 once new parts were installed and testing completed.

While supporting the county's work to get the bridge back in service, Palm Beach County Mayor Robert Weinroth said he could do nothing to help make sure the public stays better informed about the capability of county bridges. That's because bridge inspections are almost entirely exempt from public disclosure for security reasons under state law.

After the county said it would cost \$1,100 to publicly release a redacted version of a single inspection report, with no guarantees of any useful information, Weinroth said he would leave questions of public access in staff's hands.

"I'm not an engineer," he said. "I can't say if that's appropriate or not."

Weinroth has said the George Bush Boulevard bridge, which opened in 1949, is in line for a \$1 million evaluation to see if it needs to be replaced. A new bridge is projected to cost \$45 million. He said the money could come from the federal infrastructure bill passed by Congress and lauded by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a mid-March appearance at the bridge.

Weinroth withstood criticism from residents angered by the need to drive a mile south to Atlantic Avenue or 3 miles north to Woolbright Road to get around the stuck bridge.

It had stopped working March 3 after damage to a main shaft and gear system, officials said. The shaft had to be custom-built and, after three weeks of testing to make sure the bridge was aligned correctly, it reopened, the county said in a news release, adding "intermittent bridge closures are to be expected as continued monitoring is planned."

"You have to have a certain amount of tolerance that these bridges get old. Things wear out. We all have to accept that," Weinroth said. "For a county of 1.5 million people, I think we're doing a pretty decent job of taking care of the needs of our residents."

To make matters worse for drivers, about a mile of George Bush Boulevard from Northeast Second Avenue to State Road A1A has been undergoing a \$2 million face-lift since July 2021. The work, which includes resurfacing and new sidewalks and bike lanes, is expected to go on until summer 2023.

Both the county and the state, which own a total of 11 South County Intracoastal bridges, freely provide a single-



The George Bush Boulevard bridge reopened without ceremony late on the afternoon of April 29. It had been shut since March 3 after getting stuck in the up position. The bridge then underwent repairs and three weeks of tests. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

page bridge inspection cover sheet, which shows the date of the inspection, the age of the bridge, the bridge's score on two measures and a check box to indicate whether the bridge is functionally or structurally obsolete.

The six county-owned bridges are at Palmetto Park Road, Woolbright Road, George Bush Boulevard, Linton Boulevard, Ocean Avenue in Lantana and Camino Real in Boca Raton.

The five state-owned bridges are at the Boca Raton Inlet, Spanish River Boulevard, Atlantic Avenue, the Boynton Inlet and East Ocean Avenue in Ocean Ridge.

None of the bridges was marked as structurally obsolete in inspections dating to 2018.

The George Bush Boulevard bridge had by far the lowest "sufficiency rating," at 48.5%.

A bridge with a sufficiency rating below 50% is considered eligible for federal replacement dollars. The ratings run from 0% (poor) to 100% (very good) and take into account structural adequacy, whether the bridge is functionally obsolete and level of service to the public.

None of the other bridges had sufficiency ratings below 60% and one, the East Ocean Avenue bridge in Ocean Ridge, topped 90%.

Five of the bridges — Atlantic Avenue, Boynton Inlet, George Bush Boulevard, Palmetto Park Road and Camino Real — were marked as "functionally obsolete." That could mean the bridges don't have enough lanes or are too narrow, may be drawbridges on congested roads, or may not have enough space for emergency shoulders or bike lanes, County Engineer David Ricks wrote in an email.

Camino Real travelers endured a 16-month closure in 2018 and 2019 as the

county refurbished the 1939 structure. Upon completion, its sufficiency rating jumped to 73.1% from 37.5%.

A six-week paper chase

The Coastal Star engaged in a six-week exchange with county spokespersons, attorneys and engineers to review inspections since 2015 of all Intracoastal Waterway bridges between South Palm

Beach and Boca Raton.

Even though six of the bridges are county-owned, the state pays consultant TranSystems Corp. to conduct the inspections. Payments for inspecting Palm Beach County bridges, which undoubtedly include more than those six bridges, since July 1 have topped \$336,000, a state spokesman said.

Both the county and the

state provided the bridge inspection cover sheets. When asked why they wouldn't provide the entire report with redactions to avoid exposing the confidential security information, as the county does with other public documents, county spokeswoman Nicole Ferris cited state law and pointed to what the bridge inspection consultant wrote on the cover page: "Only the cover page of this report may be inspected and copied."

However, state law doesn't say anything about providing only a cover page of a bridge inspection report. The state law, passed after the 9/11 attacks, exempts from public review "building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings and diagrams" that "depict the internal layout and structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure."

In late April, six weeks after *The Coastal Star's* initial records request, Ricks provided an estimate that it would cost the newspaper \$1,025 plus another \$62 for redacted paper copies of the most recent inspection for the George Bush Boulevard bridge, a 414-page report chock full of schematics.

Without any assurances the nonexempt information would provide anything useful, *The Coastal Star* declined. ★



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Along the Coast

Burglar spotted in baby's room in one of two beach break-ins

By Larry Barszewski

A pair of oceanfront homes were burglarized in April:

- A family residence in Ocean Ridge where the suspect stole at least \$2,000 and made his way upstairs to a bedroom where a baby was sleeping;

- A vacant house in Manalapan on an ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway lot, where one of the suspects told police he brought in a bed and had been squatting there for days.

Police made arrests in both the cases, including of a suspect in Manalapan who ran into the ocean and swam away. It took a few days to catch the Ocean Ridge suspect, who made a mostly clean getaway, but then returned to the area the following night — setting in motion the events that would lead police to his doorstep.

“This is very unusual,” Ocean Ridge Police Chief Richard Jones said of a burglary of an oceanfront home in his town. “It does not happen very often. I can only think of two or three in the last nine years.”

There were no known connections between the two break-ins, Jones said. “Every homeowner should take personal security seriously and lock their doors, set their alarm and call the police immediately when something suspicious occurs,” he said.

Family fright in Ocean Ridge

Ocean Ridge police arrested Zachary Jarod Herring, 20, of Boynton Beach, charging him with unarmed burglary of an occupied dwelling and larceny grand theft in the April 20 break-in shortly after

midnight of the home with an address in the 6000s of North Ocean Boulevard, court documents show.

The homeowners were asleep in the house with three grandchildren, ages 6 and 3 years old, and 8 months old, unaware of the burglar. It was another family member, who was in Miami at the time, who received an alert and video triggered by a security camera that had been set up in the baby's bedroom.

The video showed the burglar near the baby's crib, while other house security video a short while later captured him fleeing out a side door, running across the back of the property and jumping off a 6-foot-high sea wall toward the beach to make his escape.

He appeared to be wearing a white hoodie, face mask and gloves. He had taken credit cards and cash from a purse in the butler's pantry near the side door, police said.

A Boynton Beach police K-9 unit was unsuccessful in finding the suspect around the house and a Palm Beach Sheriff's Office helicopter crew wasn't able to spot him.

But the next night, a security guard stopped Herring for walking on the sea wall of the house next door to the burglarized home.

Ocean Ridge police came and conducted a field interview, with Herring telling them he had come to the beach on his bike to clear his head. He showed police where he had left his bike near the Edith Street crossover and they allowed him to leave after taking down his personal information.

The detective working the burglary case later determined that, after the

burglary, the suspect had dragged a bicycle from behind the house to the Corrine Street beach crossover. A woman the next day found some dumped credit cards from the burglary near the crossover. The detective also realized the suspect and Herring had similar physiques.

With that information, the detective determined Herring was a suspect and went to his home to talk with him, only later finding him at his job. Herring was arrested after confessing to the crime, police said.

The report said he “went on to explain how he comes to this area a lot to admire the homes and he got the idea he might be able to go inside one. He stated he went into the home and when he saw children in the home he left.”

The family estimated \$3,000 was taken. Herring told police he had taken about \$2,000 and that he hadn't spent the money. Police recovered \$1,400 that Herring had on him and \$615 he turned over to them at his home.

Manalapan squatter charged

Manalapan police were alerted to suspicious activity April 13 at a vacant house on the ocean and determined a burglary was in progress, Police Chief Carmen Mattox said in a report to town commissioners.

Two women were taken into custody in front of the house with an address in the 3000s of South Ocean Boulevard, a five-bedroom, 6.5-bath house that sold for \$9.85 million last year and is slated for redevelopment.

Two male suspects fled and were apprehended with help from the Sheriff's

Office and police from Ocean Ridge and Lantana, with one of the men trying a water escape.

“Dispatch supervisor [Michelle] Mackey was monitoring the cameras during the event and observed one of the suspects on the beach,” Mattox wrote in his report to commissioners. “She notified the units on scene of the location and that the subject was in the ocean. The Sheriff's Office helicopter located the suspect and followed him until he swam ashore and was taken into custody.”

The two men arrested were Reinaldo Chirino, 30, of Lake Worth, and Yoannes Aleman Jimenez, 45, of Palm Beach Gardens. Chirino told police he went into the house and had been living there for about three days, according to a copy of the police report filed in criminal court.

“During questioning, Chirino admitted to entering the residence through an unlocked door approximately three days prior,” the police report says. “Chirino stated he had smoked marijuana laced with cocaine inside the residence. Chirino stated he brought two box springs and mattress into the residence to sleep on.”

Police said the house's northwest window had been forced open.

Chirino was charged with unarmed burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, possession of cocaine and resisting an officer without violence. Jimenez was charged with unarmed burglary of an unoccupied dwelling.

The women in front of the house, ages 35 and 33, were arrested on outstanding failure to appear charges, according to Sheriff's Office jail information. ★

Manalapan

New main should boost oceanfront water pressure by October

By Larry Barszewski

Work is underway to bring better water pressure to Manalapan's oceanfront homes through the installation of a new water main underneath the Intracoastal Waterway from Point Manalapan to the beach.

The long-planned project should take about eight weeks to complete the crossing and the new main should be in operation in October if no unforeseen delays occur, town officials said.

Residents who haven't left for the summer may have to deal with some headaches, including the sound of drilling as the pipe is installed, having a metal plate in the road until the project

receives all its signoffs, and the blocking of some Intracoastal-side docks as the 10-inch pipe is laid out along the west side of Ocean Boulevard before installation.

“You'll all hear about the metal plate on the road,” Town Manager Linda Stumpf warned commissioners at their April 26 meeting.

The pipe crossing the Intracoastal will run between 1660 Lands End Road and 1550 S. Ocean Blvd., just north of the curve on Ocean Boulevard.

Town commissioners approved a \$628,267 contract in January for the project with DBE Utility Services out of Loxahatchee, which submitted the lowest of three bids for the work. Mock Roos & Associates, a West Palm Beach engineering consulting firm that was paid \$68,000 by the town to put together the bid specifications and review those received, will also be paid up to \$100,000 to handle administration of the contract.

“It's a good project and a needed project,” Mayor Keith Waters said. It will provide better water flow to battle fires at beach properties. It's not replacing any underwater lines, but will be an additional one, Stumpf said.

Divers began doing a

subaqueous vegetation survey of the pipe's projected path in April and the pipe project itself was set to begin the first week of May, she said.

Besides the time it took to get permits for the work through the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies, the town had problems securing the necessary easements until 2020, when Commissioner Hank Siemon agreed to an easement on his property at 1660 Lands End Road. As part of the agreement, Siemon was able to build a dock before finishing construction of his residence at the site.

The town is going to have to let other rules slide for Siemon during construction, because officials say they're working with a very small site and will have to take over its whole south side — up to 10 feet over the easement — during construction.

Siemon will be allowed to park three vehicles in front of the green fence on his property because he won't have space on his lot. He'll also be in line to receive a construction extension because the water main project is forcing him to delay installation of a septic system, pavers and other items.

In other news at the April meeting, commissioners:

- Approved new requirements eliminating the use of parking cones along construction sites and the use of stones or other devices that inhibit parking in swales in front of properties. The rules also limit which properties can have anti-parking devices in front of them at or near construction sites to the following: the actual site, the immediately adjacent properties on either side, and the properties across the street from them.

- Approved construction permit extensions for 1685 Lands End Road and 115 Spoonbill Road, the latter in part because the project's general contractor died after the permit was pulled. Commissioners plan to approve tighter restrictions on granting extensions because they're concerned about the negative impact long-term construction has on neighborhoods, but they're continuing to hear from homeowners who say pandemic-related supply chain interruptions are still making it difficult to meet permit deadlines.

- Authorized the special master in code enforcement cases to hear appeals of code liens and fines and to grant reductions if warranted.

Previously, property owners had to appeal to the Town Commission to try to get penalties reduced.

- Tentatively approved an increase in the time property owners have to complete work under a building permit or town-approved special exception or variance, seeking to make the deadlines more reasonable and to reduce the number of items coming back to the commission for extensions. The proposed change would increase the length of a building permit to two years instead of 18 months, and variances and special exceptions to one year, instead of six months.

- Heard from Police Chief Carmen Mattox about attempts to beef up the security presence at the guard house to the town's Point section. In his report to commissioners, Mattox said there have been complaints about the private security firm not having a strong enough presence at the guardhouse. The guards can't stop vehicles because it is a public road, but Mattox said he is working with the firm to have guards stationed outside the guardhouse to make them more visible. The firm wants the town to install bollards to protect outside guards from being hit by vehicles, he said. ★

LETTERS:

The Coastal Star welcomes letters to the editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200-500 words. Send email to news@thecoastalstar.com.

10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Katie Barr MacDougall

A visitor walking into Katie Barr MacDougall's historic home in Boca Raton's Riviera neighborhood is immediately surrounded by impressive Haitian art.

Louis Rosemond's vibrant *Tree of Life in Eden Twilight* is a focal point in the living room, while Claude Dambreville's *Morning Market* is the dining room's dominant image.

MacDougall's favorite artist is Henri Rousseau, so it is obvious why the Florida Atlantic University graduate with degrees in art history and computer science is drawn to the colorful, naïve paintings.

"It is my passion," she said. When she discovered Haitian art, "I made it my quest."

MacDougall, a city resident since her parents moved to Boca Raton in 1970, opened her first art gallery in the Fifth Avenue Shops plaza in 1989, and later opened another gallery on Delray Beach's Atlantic Avenue.

Hurricane Wilma in 2005 destroyed that gallery, prompting her to concentrate on her online gallery HaitianArt.com, which she established in 1992.

While she is semi-retired now, MacDougall said she will not give up acquiring and selling artwork.

"It is a labor of love and something I can do for the rest of my life," she said. "I never intend to retire from Haitian art."

Although best known for her galleries, MacDougall also has long been active in civic affairs. "If you love where you live, you must be involved," she said.

She was among about a dozen people who contributed to Al Zucaro's BocaWatch blog that styled itself as a watchdog scrutinizing the City Council and what many residents perceived as overdevelopment in downtown Boca.

By filing complaints with local and state ethics commissions, Zucaro played a key role in the downfall of former Mayor Susan Haynie, who was removed from office by then-Gov. Rick Scott in 2018 after she was arrested on public corruption charges.

After Zucaro shuttered the blog later that year, many members of his BocaWatch team, including MacDougall, launched the BocaFirst blog to maintain their voice in city affairs.



Katie Barr MacDougall of Boca Raton founded HaitianArt.com to buy and sell art. Louis Rosemond's *Tree of Life in Eden Twilight* hangs in her living room. MacDougall is semi-retired but calls Haitian art a passion that will last the rest of her life. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

It remains active, with MacDougall interviewing people involved on matters of public interest. She describes BocaFirst as less political than BocaWatch, focusing on issues residents care about, and said it does not endorse candidates for City Council.

BocaFirst recently wrote extensively about a proposed assisted living facility at 2 SW 12th Ave. Neighborhood residents feared that city approval of the ALF would clear the way for more such facilities to be built in single-family neighborhoods, and strongly lobbied the City Council to reject the project. City staff has determined it should not be approved.

MacDougall filed or joined lawsuits in a battle that began in 2015 against construction of a synagogue and Israel museum at 770 E. Palmetto Park Road that would have been a new home for the Chabad of East Boca. Nearby residents contended the project was too large and tall for the location and would overburden streets with traffic.

In the end, the synagogue and museum were never built.

"It wasn't the happiest time in my civic activity," MacDougall said. "People made it into an anti-Semitic thing."

There was no such animus, she said. Residents did not oppose a synagogue, but

objected to such a large-scale development.

"We were suing the city over a questionable zoning change," she said.

As president of the Riviera Civic Association — which encompasses about 450 homes in the Riviera, Por La Mar and Sun & Surf neighborhoods — MacDougall now is involved in efforts to improve East Palmetto Park Road, especially the section from the Intracoastal Waterway to A1A.

In a presentation to the City Council last year, she cited safety problems caused by the absence of crosswalks, the lack of bicycle lanes, narrow sidewalks that hinder walking and the need to move on-street parking.

Council members subsequently made improvements to the roadway a city priority, but no changes have been made yet. One complication is that stretch of road is controlled by Palm Beach County, so the city can't act on its own.

MacDougall said the civic association is keeping up the pressure and is in talks with the county as well. Members also are involved in a related push to improve Palmetto Park Road from Federal Highway to Fifth Avenue.

Of all these efforts, her galleries are closest to her heart. "It has been really, really

rewarding," she said. "I have seen money going into the hands of artists. I feel good about it."

— Mary Hladky

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?

A. Early childhood education was in Brooklyn, New York, Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic University. Areas of study, art history and computer science.

Q. What professions have you worked in? What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

A. During my FAU days, I worked at the Wildflower, later at C.O.R.E. International, a computer hard drive company. I also spent many happy years managing Gay's Perfumery in Royal Palm Plaza. In 1989 my [now deceased] husband, Tony Barr, and I opened the Haitian Art Collection in Boca's Fifth Avenue Plaza. That site is now a Panera Bread.

My work with the Haitian artists has been the most rewarding aspect of my career — the clients were an added bonus. It's a little-known fact that collectors of Haitian art are some of the most interesting people in the world.

Q. What advice do you have

for a young person selecting a career today?

A. It can't be all about you: Your career has to be one that impacts others in a positive way. Keeping that thought front and center will help you do great things.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Boca Raton?

A. My parents moved the family to Boca's Golden Triangle in 1970. I've chosen to remain in Boca Raton because this town feels like family to me. Sometimes dysfunctional but lots of love.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Boca Raton?

A. Besides the people, I would have to say being close to the ocean and seaside amenities, golf, biking, boating, etc. — plus having great restaurants and entertainment close by.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. Malcolm Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers*.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?

A. Inspiration and relaxation, I'll listen to chill-out music, something like the Café del Mar collection. For fun, it has to be Talking Heads, Tom Petty or Snow Patrol.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?

A. "Take the risk of thinking for yourself. Much more happiness, truth, beauty and wisdom will come to you that way." — Christopher Hitchens

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?

A. My art history professor, Kathleen Russo PhD. Her enthusiasm for the subject was like a shot of adrenaline. Also, the supervisor of air traffic control at Port-au-Prince International Airport, Fred Brisson. Fred convinced me to open a Haitian art gallery in Boca.

Q. If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?

A. Gal Gadot (*Wonder Woman* 2020). Why not?!

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South Palm Beach

Erosion's effects on Dune Deck condo make for heated hearing

By Joe Capozzi

Tempers flared at a South Palm Beach special magistrate's hearing April 21 when the town attorney challenged a private structural engineer over the severity of sea-wall erosion at the Dune Deck condominium.

The erosion issues were first brought to the condo's attention in 2018 by structural engineer Bijan Parssi, whose report at the time recommended repairs "to maintain the structural integrity of the sea wall."

In March, a concerned Dune Deck resident notified the town that repairs had still not been made. The town investigated and cited the Dune Deck for code violations.

At a special magistrate hearing in March, a condo official said no repairs could be done until after sea turtle nesting season, which ends Oct. 31. At the town's request, special magistrate Amity Barnard gave the Dune Deck one month to send the town a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection confirming the no-work order.

But a month later the condo sent the town a DEP letter that only generally

outlined state laws about nesting season without mentioning the condition of the sea wall at the Dune Deck.

At the April 21 hearing, Parssi and a condo attorney disputed the town's contention that the building was unsafe — a contention Dune Deck officials did not dispute at the March hearing, which Parssi attended without offering testimony.

Town Attorney Aleksandr Boksner read the conclusion of the 2018 engineering report in which Parssi described "numerous areas of corroded steel throughout the entire sea wall" along with a need for repairs "to maintain the structural integrity of the sea wall."

When Boksner told the special magistrate the conditions are "unsafe," Parssi and a condo attorney took issue with that interpretation.

"I am telling you it is not unsafe. It is not going to come down. It needs to be repaired. We have said that it needs to be repaired," Parssi said. "If it was unsafe, I wouldn't be standing here today."

Boksner pointed out that no repairs have been made in the four years since the report was written. "And here we are

today, saying 'Oh, it's not that bad. It just needs to be repaired,'" he said.

Raising his voice, Boksner continued, "And, yes, I am making an argument that it is structurally unsafe. It was structurally unsafe in 2018 and it is more so now, sir."

Parssi retorted, in a louder voice, "Do you have a structural engineer license?"

The two men talked over each other for a few seconds before the special magistrate interrupted and said, "Let's take it down one level."

At the end of the debate, Barnard slapped at least \$3,300 in fines on the Dune Deck for failing to comply with a previous order to seek state permission to repair an eroding sea wall during sea turtle nesting season.

If the DEP determines the repairs can be made during sea turtle nesting season, Barnard said, there's a chance the \$100-a-day fines can be reduced or eliminated.

The town has been trying diligently to address condo repairs since the Champlain Towers collapse that killed 98 people in Surfside in June. Over the past 10 months, three other South Palm Beach condos have been cited for

erosion problems, all of which have been repaired.

Speaking about the Dune Deck case, Boksner told the special magistrate, "The town does not want to have a situation where, God forbid, something were to happen."

Earlier in the April 21 hearing, Boksner said, "Considering how we are over four years and no work has been done, in the event something were to happen ... that would ultimately be a very, very big problem."

Barnard also expressed unease about the condo's failure to formally submit an application to the DEP for repairs.

"How much longer is it going to take to get through the process is my concern," she said. "I'm not an engineer but if there is a safety concern, that is a serious thing. The fact that there was a report that said there needed to be maintenance and there has been no maintenance in four years and the condition on the sea wall is the same as it was back then, that's concerning."

The case is scheduled to be reviewed again by the special magistrate on May 19. ★

Architects get more input on drafts for renovated and new Town Hall

By Joe Capozzi

The latest renderings of a new or expanded South Palm Beach Town Hall received mostly positive reviews April 29. Architects offered rough estimates of \$5.6 million to build a new two-story structure and nearly \$4.2 million to renovate and add to the existing building.

In renderings shown at a Town Council workshop attended by 20 residents, the renovated version calls for a new interior with the main lobby at the side of the building facing South Ocean Boulevard instead of on the west side as it is now.

The version showing a new Town Hall calls for putting the building farther to the west, with council chambers on the second floor overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. The east half of the property would be devoted to parking. The main entrance would be on the east side of the new building, with a covered drop-off area.

The architectural firm of Synalovski Romanik Saye will return to the council by summer with new renderings reflecting April 29 suggestions from residents and council members. One popular suggestion was to put the council chambers on the first floor, since many residents in town are over the age of 65.

Town Manager Robert



Plans for a proposed new Town Hall complex include (l-r) a kayak launch on the Intracoastal Waterway, picnic area, parking for police and town vehicles, town office and meeting space. Public parking would all be on the east side of the new Town Hall, which would be two stories. **Rendering provided**

Kellogg said he'd offer the council detailed financing options for the project in late May. He said he was confident the town could pay for either a renovated or new Town Hall without raising property taxes.

That's because the town has over \$1 million now in Building Department revenue and \$732,000 from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. On top of that, the town has over \$500,000 from its share of a half-cent sales tax, levied by Palm Beach County, and is expected to collect at least \$500,000 a year from that tax over the next five years.

In addition, the town has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a \$1.5 million grant.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer asked the architects to try to include in the next round of renderings an

option with commercial space that the town could lease for the operation of a restaurant or cafe, which would emphasize the new building's focus as a community center.

In other business:

- West Palm Beach's utility director is scheduled to attend the May 10 council meeting to review the latest water quality testing results. West Palm Beach supplies water to the town.

The review comes about a year after the city reported that its water had an unacceptably high level of the blue-green algae contaminant cylindrospermopsin and posed a risk to physically vulnerable customers. It took the city eight days to alert customers about the problem.

A recent letter about the latest test results, from Feb. 8, indicates "things are improving

significantly," Kellogg said.

- Councilman Robert Gottlieb said Palm Tran, the Palm Beach County transportation service, is looking into the possibility of establishing "bus to the bus" service in South Palm Beach. "From your house to a bus for \$2 then \$2 to get on the bus," he said, adding that Palm Tran is doing a similar plan in the Glades communities.

- A new ordinance, passed by unanimous vote April 12, will require owners of commercial vehicles blocking sidewalks to provide flagmen or hire off-duty police officers to direct pedestrians safely around obstructions. The town emailed a copy of the ordinance, proposed by Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy, to condo managers.

- The town is seeking volunteers to study the

town code and make recommendations for changes. Residents interested in serving on the Code Review Committee should contact Town Clerk Yude Davenport at ydavenport@southpalmbeach.com no later than 4 p.m. June 30.

- Gottlieb was named South Palm Beach voting delegate for the Palm Beach County League of Cities.

- The family of Lenny and Florence Cohen has pledged to pay for the annual ice cream socials for the next 10 years, Fischer said. Florence Cohen died April 3, two weeks after a Town Hall ice cream social held in honor of her husband of 73 years. Lenny Cohen, a longtime resident who started the ice cream socials, died Dec. 7.

- A wine and sliders event at Town Hall is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. May 6. ★



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Obituaries

Theodore 'Ted' Charles Ritota

OCEAN RIDGE — Theodore "Ted" Charles Ritota of Ocean Ridge died April 24 at Bethesda Hospital East in Boynton Beach, where he was in hospice care after suffering an intracerebral hemorrhage. He was 67.

Ted Ritota was born Oct. 18, 1954, at Columbia Hospital in South Orange, New Jersey, to John Patrick and Dolores Anita (Cirillo) Ritota Sr.



Growing up, Ted attended Our Lady of Sorrows and Newark Academy schools, graduating from Columbia High School in South Orange. Attending the University of Colorado in Boulder, he developed a lifelong connection to the snow-covered mountains and love of skiing. His senior year of college had him and his best friend, John Kimmel, with a pretty empty schedule, which in turn made it possible for them to go skiing for days on end. These were to be some of the best years of his youth.

His next step was attending Fairleigh Dickinson Dental School in New Jersey.

His love of sailing led him — and his brother, John Ritota Jr. — to South Florida to set up a dental practice, Delray Dental. They were in their 43rd year of practice.

The brothers were best friends — not only as partners in Delray Dental, but also enjoying fishing, golfing, vacationing and sporting events together.

In 1987, Ted bought his home in Ocean Ridge where he and his wife, Lisa, raised three daughters who always made him proud. Along with his other passions, Dr. Ritota loved the town of Ocean Ridge and Ocean Ridge loved him.

Growing up, Ted's family had a vacation home on the Jersey Shore in Deal where he spent all of his summers. This is where he would make some lifelong friends and memories. He was an avid sailor of Hobie Cats from a young age and continued with this when he moved to Florida, spending most weekends taking his children and wife out for joyrides up and down the coast, snorkeling off the boat or just cruising. It was truly his happy place.

If the conditions weren't right for sailing, you could find him sitting at the beach reading the latest Stuart Woods book while listening to the Beatles, Grateful Dead or Springsteen.

Dr. Ritota's other passion of snow skiing, in particular helicopter skiing in British Columbia, Canada, led him to meet the love of his life, Australia native Lisa Marshall.

He would propose to her in 14 days, marry in 11 months in Australia and, for the next 31 years, build his life with her in Ocean Ridge.

Lisa always said that when she first laid eyes on her "Teddy" all those years ago, it was his beautiful smile and dark brown eyes that caught her eye. His deep American accent helped a little bit, too.

Heli-skiing remained a big part of the couple's life. Dr. Ritota would go on to become an integral part of Canadian Mountain Holidays. Annually Dr. Ritota took 100 or more physicians and dentists to Canada for continuing education while enjoying the great outdoors. He made these trips for over 30 years. He was also working on his next CMH million-foot suit, having already earned eight — a huge accomplishment.

To those who knew Ted, his sense of humor was infectious. A life-of-the-party guy, with a big smile, he was a lover of good food — his favorite being Italian. He treated others to his special homemade red sauce and hot pepper sauce, which were fabulous. People couldn't help but love him.

The couple celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary in February. They had just returned from an "empty nest" ski trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, a week before his passing. It was one of the best trips they'd ever had.

Dr. Ritota is survived by his wife, Lisa; daughters Brianna (partner, Ivan) of Australia, and Vanessa and Giorgina of Ocean Ridge; mother, Dolores Ritota of Boynton Beach; brother, John (June) Ritota of Delray Beach; sister, Dee Ritota of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and nieces Olivia Ritota, Kaylah Gittleman and Shayna Gittleman. He was preceded in death by his father, John Ritota Sr.

Ted was a wonderful son, husband, father, brother, brother-in-law and uncle to all his family and a friend to many. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Dr. Ritota's life will be held at the Ritota home on Sunday May 15 at 5 p.m.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Gail Adams Aaskov

By Eliot Kleinberg

OCEAN RIDGE — In small towns, leaders wear more than one hat. Gail Adams Aaskov was a condominium manager, a real estate broker, a longtime



commissioner and mayor, and a newspaper publisher. Often at the same time. Mrs. Aaskov, who died March 30 at age 86, also published *The History of Ocean Ridge* in 1995, the year she first joined the commission in the barrier island municipality of about 1,600.

"This book may be small, but so is our town," she wrote in the foreword.

"When I moved here, I could not find anything on Ocean Ridge," Aaskov told the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* in 1998.

The book, just 80 pages, had an initial run of 500 copies, which sold out. A second edition was published in 2000 and an updated reissue came out in 2015.

"Gail was our resident historian. She was committed to the town in terms of its history and in terms of its future," former Mayor Ken Kaleel said April 11.

And Betty Bingham, a longtime friend and herself a former elected official, said, "When she saw a need, she would do what she could do to fill a need. But she did it quietly."

Gail Adams, born in June 1935 in Connecticut, graduated from Aurora College — now Aurora University — near Chicago. Living in Illinois and Connecticut, she worked and raised two daughters. In 1975, after a divorce, she moved to the town of Palm Beach.

She became a counselor

at the Broward Correctional Institution, a maximum-security facility for women. There, she once witnessed two male guards beating an inmate, her daughter Cheryl Adams said from New York.

"She reported them," Adams said, "and it pretty much ended her career."

She later transferred to the Lantana Community Correctional Center, where she met center manager Walter "Bud" Aaskov Jr., who would become her second husband.

Gail Aaskov got her real estate license in 1980. In ensuing years, she lived in the Boca Raton, West Palm Beach and Delray Beach areas.

"She was in real estate. I think she was into buying things and moving in," daughter Sharon Adams Poore said from Massachusetts.

The last stop: Ocean Ridge.

"She liked that it was a smaller town," Poore said.

In 1993, the Aaskovs built a three-bedroom home on a canal off the Intracoastal Waterway. Around the same time, Gail Aaskov opened her own company, Ocean Ridge Realty. She also began a 25-year tenure as manager of the Crown Colony Club condominium complex nearby.

"She was one very determined lady," said Denise Medina, who worked at the real estate office for about 15 years. "She ran a tight ship. She had a heart of gold."

Aaskov was elected to the Town Commission in 1995 and reelected in 1998 and 2001. Three times, her colleagues designated her as mayor. She also served as president of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

She lost a re-election bid in 2004. She served on the town's Board of Adjustment until she was returned to the commission

in 2012. She was re-elected in 2015 but was voted out in 2018.

Over the years, one big campaign issue would be Aaskov's role as publisher of a newspaper that at times featured stories about her and her campaign. From 1996 to 2008, she operated the *Ocean Ridge Reporter*, a free monthly whose profits were donated to the Public Safety Department.

Aaskov had to recuse herself any time the town discussed the strip on the 5100 block of North Ocean Boulevard that held just five units, including her real estate office. The five tenants — which at that time included *The Coastal Star* — were the town's only commercial entities. The strip was converted to apartments and Aaskov moved across the street and later to a spot on Boynton Beach Boulevard.

In 2013, Aaskov self-published *Signal 5*. The book — the title is police code for murder — detailed the 2006 slayings of Serena Gomez, a popular former deputy town clerk and police dispatcher, and her husband, former town police officer Joe Gomez. Police in Eustis, about 25 miles north of Orlando in Lake County, said Serena was killed along with Joe, then a Eustis officer, by another Eustis officer who also killed his own wife and finally himself.

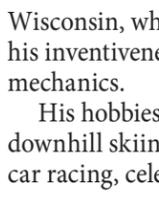
In August 2019, Bud died. Around the same time, Gail closed down her real estate business. By then, Gail's daughters said, her health was failing, and the family moved her to Massachusetts. She was at an assisted living facility at the time of her death.

Mrs. Aaskov is survived by her two daughters and five grandchildren. Services were private.

Harold E. Hollnagel

OCEAN RIDGE — Harold E. Hollnagel, devoted family man and company founder, died April 17. He was 84.

Mr. Hollnagel was born to Harold and Esther Hollnagel on Dec. 22, 1937, in Milwaukee, and went on to become founder and CEO of Mechanical Industries Inc. in Brown Deer,



Wisconsin, where he put to use his inventiveness and love of mechanics.

His hobbies included downhill skiing, fishing, Indy car racing, celebrating his

German heritage, and spending time with his family and friends at the Milwaukee Country Club and the Milwaukee Yacht Club.

He was an active member of Saint John Lutheran Church in Glendale, Wisconsin, and supporter of the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Six years ago, he and his wife, Judy, made Ocean Ridge their permanent home.

Mr. Hollnagel is survived by his wife of 62 years, Judith "Judy" Hollnagel of Ocean Ridge, and their son David, daughter-in-law Christine and granddaughters Julia and Elizabeth Hollnagel of Ocala.

Visitation will be held on

May 21 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Wisconsin Memorial Park Chapel of the Chimes, 13235 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield, with a funeral service at 11:30 a.m. and the entombment to follow the service.

The Bruskiwicz Funeral Home in Milwaukee is assisting the family with the arrangements. Obituaries and condolences can be found on its website, ForestHomeFunerals.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, Florida 33432.

— Obituary submitted by the family

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of June 4

Briny Breezes

Survey on sea-level rise puts council president in hot water

By Joe Capozzi

As Briny Breezes Council President Sue Thaler sees it, there was nothing nefarious about her efforts to gather feedback from residents about a hot topic around town — proposed code changes that would help homes adapt to rising sea levels.

The way she did it, though — taking it upon herself to write and distribute a questionnaire without the rest of the council's knowledge — prompted sharp rebukes from her colleagues and an apology from Thaler.

The drama unfolded April 28 when Town Manager William Thrasher asked the council what he should do with completed questionnaires that people were dropping off at Town Hall.

"To my knowledge, we have not discussed this," Thrasher said, holding a stack in his hands. "I'm not even sure if this is town business, either."

Thaler explained that she wrote the seven-question survey and asked Briny Breezes Corp. to insert copies in the mailboxes of residents.

A summary at the top of the questionnaire read, "The Town invites your comments and questions" about proposed code changes discussed earlier that month at two Planning and Zoning Board meetings.

"It was at the request of several residents, a handful, who did not know how to give us feedback to the Planning and Zoning Board meetings that have been held," Thaler told Thrasher.

Thaler said she thought it was important for the council to hear directly from residents about the issue, "rather than having people talk about them at happy hour, talk about them at the pool, and we don't get that feedback."

The other council members said she should have at least brought the questionnaire idea to the council for discussion first and then distributed the flyers only if the council approved. Some members said they learned about the questionnaire only in passing from residents.

"I knew nothing about this," said Alderwoman Kathy Gross. "I feel like I was kind of blindsided."

"This should not have been put out unless it was from all of us, not just you," Alderman Bill Birch said.

"This being represented as council when it wasn't (discussed) on this dais is not appreciated at all," said Alderwoman Christina Adams. "We never even voted on it."

"I am new," Alderwoman Liz Loper said, "but I thought we always discussed things among ourselves before something was put out. I would never go and assume I should put something out without talking to everybody else. I was as shocked

as everybody else and I don't think it was right for us not to have discussed this."

Thaler apologized and said she would seek the entire council's input "if I were to do it again." Thaler, who said she notified the town manager and clerk in advance about the questionnaire, attended the two advisory board meetings. She said she was left with the impression that "very few people ... understood what was going on and there was a lot of street talk about it."

She said she wanted the replies to come to the council and Town Hall rather than her personally. "I wanted to be sure we got feedback directly from people ... because I think it is important for all of us as municipal representatives to hear what our constituencies are thinking," she said.

Here are the questions, some of which Thrasher and council members characterized as leading and biased:

- "Should the town address current and future flood risk to keep the community safe?"
- "Should the town allow 3-story structures in Briny Breezes?"
- "Should the town allow underlying support columns at a height more than that required by FEMA to allow storage and parking underneath residential units in space that is restricted and uninhabitable?"
- "Should the town allow roof heights up to 35 feet?"
- "Should the town allow bricks-and-mortar homes in Briny Breezes rather than modular or mobile homes?"
- "Should the town allow buildup of the 'dirt' under a home which could create a 'bowl effect,' causing unintended flooding on adjacent lots?"
- "Should the town hold hearings on these major decisions during summer/fall when 75% of owners and residents are gone?"

Thrasher said he was concerned the questionnaire gave the appearance that the Town Council was trying to circumvent the Planning and Zoning Board.

"The Planning and Zoning Board would have eventually sifted all this out. They would have had no need for a survey. They are gathering information. They are sensing from the community," he said. "I trust Planning and Zoning to come up with an applicable recommendation to this council when they are ready to do so."

Town Attorney Keith Davis said he understood a council member's urge to act alone, but "there's still an opportunity for a misunderstanding if something is done unilaterally and your colleagues are not aware of it."

"Anything coming from council should come from action of council at a public meeting." ★

Save the Seas

Ocean Ridge Town Hall — April 2



ABOVE: Lake Worth Beach resident Aaron Barnes, one of the founders of the local branch of the Surfrider Foundation, sorts through trash collected by volunteers at the cleanup and education event hosted by the Ocean Ridge Garden Club and the Town of Ocean Ridge. More than 100 people attended, including the 30-plus who spent a good share of the morning picking up trash on the beach. Volunteers representing 11 environmental organizations put up educational exhibits.

LEFT: David Anderson and his 4-year-old son, Thomas, act like surfers in an exhibit the Surfrider Foundation created out of recycled plastic bottles. Anderson is the sea turtle conservation coordinator at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

Photos by Jerry Lower/ The Coastal Star

Earth Day beach cleanup

Delray Municipal Beach — April 22



The Kolter Group, a Delray Beach-based real estate development firm, partnered with the End Ocean Plastic Foundation to clear plastic and other trash from the beach. **ABOVE:** Some of the nearly 100 corporate employees gather behind the foundation founders, Miles Julien (far left) and Jake Julien (far right), and their father, Bobby Julien, CEO of Kolter. **RIGHT:** Kolter employees bag trash from the dune. **Photos provided**



RATES

Continued from page 1

surge in home values, that leaves fewer and fewer properties eligible near the coast. Owners must scramble for whatever they can find — such as “surplus lines” insurers, whose rates are not regulated by the state.

Condo owners can feel the pinch in multiple ways. They might pay not only for policies to cover the contents of their individual units, but also assessments to a condo association to handle insurance for outer structures and common areas and the cost of any improvements made to those.

In Delray Beach, downtown condo unit owners including Vern Torney felt stunned to realize association assessments could roughly double from \$530 per month to more than \$1,000. That prospect arrived suddenly after an insurer threatened not to renew coverage unless owners replaced metal roofing about 20 years old, he said.

People who lived there thought the roof was fine and even understood it was supposed to last up to 50 years, only to have the insurer insist on the change before hurricane season. That left owners scrambling to assess their options, such as how to pay for it, late into April.

“‘Sticker shock’ fits here,” Torney said. “It’s also sort of out of the blue. Just a few months ago we didn’t realize the insurance company was not going to renew us. We were just blindsided on this roofing project and the cost of it. It’s very disruptive.”

Conditions have become so jarring that state legislators plan to meet in a May 23-27 special session to address property insurance, though it is far from clear if there is an easy fix or consensus on what to do.

From climate threats to contractor lawsuits to soaring property values to inflation in construction and repair materials, a host of issues are swirling together at once for the insurance industry and its customers in Florida.

The stream of Palm Beach County customers flowing into Florida’s last-resort insurer, Citizens, shot up 57% in one year to more than 87,000 by mid-April.

“The Florida property insurance market is in crisis and on a trajectory toward collapse,” said Mark Friedlander, Florida-based director of corporate communications for the industry-funded Insurance Information Institute.

The average home premium in Florida, about \$3,600, is the highest in the nation, and it rose 25% in 2021, compared to 4% nationally, he said. The state is projected to average 30% to 40% increases in 2022, he said.

State-run Citizens is adding more than 6,000 policies a week and recently passed 800,000 customers statewide, President Barry Gilway said. He expects Citizens to swell to more than 1

million customers by year’s end.

“Policyholders in southeast Florida continue to see a very tight market, with many private companies non-renewing policies or placing further restrictions on what they will cover,” Citizens spokesman Michael Peltier said.

Owners of single-family homes pay Citizens an average of \$3,806 annually in Palm Beach County, up about 8% from last year. Condo residents pay an average of \$1,398 to cover the contents of their individual units, a 10.8% rise from 2021.

That’s just a county average. Premiums can run higher near the coast.

Citizens seeks max increase

Buckle up for more. In its latest rate filing, Citizens seeks permission from regulators to raise premiums close to 11% statewide, its legally allowed maximum, by August.

Citizens officials said they posted a \$166.5 million underwriting loss last year, though the company’s

investment portfolio more than offset that to produce net income of \$81.1 million. The insurer also has \$6.5 billion in reserves to help cover future claims.

Not every private insurer has proved to be so stable in a Florida market heavily reliant on smaller, homegrown companies. In February, St. Johns Insurance Co., with 160,000 customers, became the fifth Florida-based insurer to be liquidated since 2019.

That was followed in March by an order of liquidation for Avatar Property & Casualty Insurance Co., affecting more than 37,000 customers.

Then came reports Lexington Insurance Co., which specializes in covering homes worth \$1 million or more, is pulling out of Florida. That affects an estimated 8,000 affluent customers. A company spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

While no major hurricane has recently hit the most heavily populated southern end of the

state, storms have made landfall in other places including the Panhandle.

Fix eludes lawmakers

Incandescent real estate sales along Florida’s southeast coast during the pandemic have sent home values to record highs. Supply-chain issues have pushed up the cost of construction materials. That means properties can quickly get much more expensive for insurers to repair or replace.

Meanwhile, the Surfside condo collapse near Miami last year brought renewed attention to risks for seaside structures, which were already under scrutiny as communities weighed how to respond to rises in sea level and other climate issues. State lawmakers failed to reach agreement in the spring’s regular legislative session on a range of insurance, safety and inspection proposals.

Many insurers have been trimming their risks in coastal counties. Homeowners Choice Property & Casualty Insurance

Co., for example, entered 2022 with 12,485 customers in Palm Beach County, down from 14,020 a year earlier, according to a state database.

Then there are the financial ripple effects of weather catastrophes in other parts of the nation and world, affecting the cost of reinsurance — insurance that insurers buy — and insurers’ overall appetite for risk.

“Insurance rates continue to climb as home prices increase and unexpected events like tornadoes continue around the country,” said Bill Sample, senior loan officer for Choice Mortgage in Boca Raton. “It is going up like everything else unfortunately.”

That’s why insurance agents are having more difficult conversations than they might prefer lately.

“It happens every single day,” Kirstein said. ★

Mary Hladky contributed to this story.

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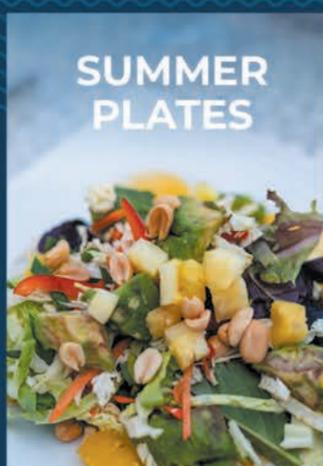
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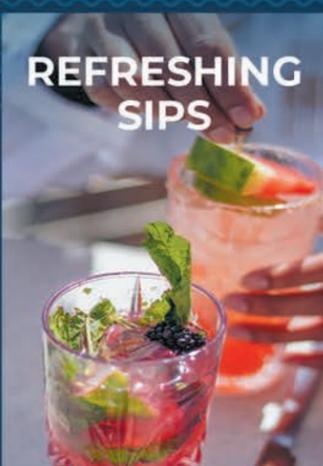
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Delray Beach

Biggs house reconstruction resumes, but will it remain historic?

By Jane Smith

Real estate developer Michael Marco is pouring millions of dollars into reconstructing a historic home on the barrier island in Delray Beach — a project that was delayed after he ran afoul of city regulations.

“I’m trying not to think about the lost time and increased cost,” he said in April at the historic house site at 212 Seabreeze Avenue that he plans to make his family home. The city shut down the renovation in August 2020 for not having a needed demolition permit and did not allow the work to restart until December 2021.

While the actual construction costs have more than doubled over earlier estimates, some preservationists say the city’s history is incurring a much dearer price. They say Marco — no matter how well-intentioned — is not so much preserving history as he is building a close replica of it.

For them, the history was lost in less than 24 hours in July 2020, when workers removed the glass panels and louvers of the mid-century modern house, leaving only a steel skeleton on the site. Marco did not get a demolition permit, which is required if more than 25% of a home is going to be removed.

The city shut down the construction site for almost 1½ years. In December, the Historic Preservation Board and the City Commission unanimously approved allowing Marco to proceed with his reconstruction of the Paul Rudolph-designed home, while also allowing it to stay on the city’s register of historic homes.

Marco apologized to the board for stripping the house to its skeleton without contacting the city. “We should have reviewed everything with the historic staff before it was done. That was our mistake, a huge mistake on my part,” he said.

Why it could be historic

Rudolph, a pioneer of the Sarasota School of Architecture, was acclaimed for his modernism and later became chairman of the Yale School of Architecture. Marco’s house was one of the few Rudolph designs built on Florida’s East Coast, with most being in the Sarasota and Bradenton area on the Gulf Coast.

The predominantly glass Delray Beach house — built in 1955 before air-conditioning was widely available — was done for Sewell C. Biggs, a Delaware native who collected American art.

Richard Heisenbottle, a historic preservation architect hired by the city to review the Biggs house situation, said it’s still possible for the house to be historic.

If the reconstruction follows the U.S. Secretary of Interior’s guidelines that call for photos and plans of the original design to be used in the redesign, then the reconstructed house can be considered historic, he told the board members.

“We have the documentation that is required by that standard,” Heisenbottle, from Coral Gables, said at the December meeting.

The city originally approved listing the house in its historic inventory in 2005 at the request of the owners at the time, Virginia and Erskine Courtenay. She loved the house because it gave her a feeling of being up in the trees, according to the documents prepared for that designation.

The historic-designation report described the Biggs house as “a significant example of the modernism which swept through the state in the years after World War II. It is an example of the work of a leading American architect, Paul Rudolph, whose testing ground was Florida.”

Why others say it can’t be

Not everyone agrees the Rudolph-designed home should remain on the city’s inventory of historic homes without an explanation.

“Things can be rebuilt, but it’s not a historic structure,” said John Miller, who has twice chaired the Historic Preservation Board. “Personally, I don’t think it can stay on the city’s list of historic places without an asterisk saying it was a historic structure and rebuilt in the Paul Rudolph style, with the mass of the home not the same.”

Miller, a Delray Beach native, is president of the Delray Beach Historical Society. He became a local history buff because his great-grandfather and grandfather were Delray Beach mayors.

The Paul Rudolph Heritage Foundation no longer lists the Delray Beach house on its website. Its chief executive has said the new homeowners are assuming they know how Rudolph would react to today’s construction issues — something that’s not possible.

For that reason, the foundation’s website states: “The Paul Rudolph Heritage Foundation will not support such a rebuilding as an authentic Rudolph design. ... The original residence will remain ‘demolished’ in our project list.”

‘Labor of love’ for owner

Historic Preservation Board Chairman Ben Baffer asked Heisenbottle to write a letter to the Rudolph Foundation after the Biggs house is reconstructed, explaining why it should still be considered an authentic Rudolph-designed

History of Biggs house



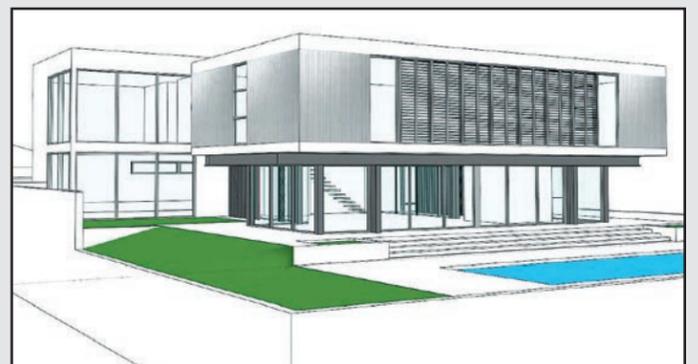
1955 The original Paul Rudolph-designed home on Seabreeze Avenue built for Sewell C. Biggs.



2007 The Biggs house after an addition designed by Delray Beach architect Robert Currie.



2020 Contractors take the house down to its steel skeleton, without city officials’ knowledge.



Future Homeowner and developer Michael Marco’s vision of the reconstructed home.

Photos and rendering provided

home. Heisenbottle agreed.

Construction workers have been able to reuse most of the steel beams by sanding them and painting them, a process that took months, Marco said.

His wife, Nina, found the original Rudolph house plans that called for the ground floor to be enclosed in glass.

They will add air-conditioning, but they will not tint the glass to reduce the heat from the Florida sun. Tinted glass was not part of the Rudolph design. The reconstructed house will be about 60% glass.

After the house is rebuilt to look like the original Rudolph design, Marco will apply to the city for property tax abatements

for his historic property improvements for 10 years. Marco expects reconstructing the home will take another 12 to 18 months.

His hard costs for the reconstruction now exceed \$2 million. In January 2021, GLM Builders estimated the reconstruction cost to be about \$920,000.

His soft costs for attorneys, engineers, architects and other consultants are mounting. He even gave up his day job as a residential real estate developer to oversee the daily work at his Seabreeze property.

“It’s a labor of love,” Marco said. “That’s how it makes sense to me.” ★

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Delray Beach

Fired water inspector alleges retaliation in complaint against city

By Jane Smith

A former Delray Beach water quality inspector filed a federal complaint against the city on April 18, claiming she was wrongfully dismissed for pointing out problems with the city's beleaguered reclaimed water program.

Christine Ferrigan, who earlier received Florida whistleblower protection from Palm Beach County's inspector general, said she was let go in January, five days after she filed a written retaliation complaint against two of her Utilities Department supervisors.

City Manager Terrence Moore said then that Ferrigan's position was eliminated in a reorganization "done for efficiency and austerity reasons." However, Ferrigan's position was the only one eliminated in the reorganization of the Utilities Department, according to her complaint.

Moore sent Ferrigan a Jan. 26 email saying her services were no longer needed, effective immediately. Ferrigan turned in her badge and was escorted out of the building, she said in an April 25 conference call interview that her attorneys also attended.

Her son also was let go from his job in the city's Public

Works Department on March 2. His job loss was described in the complaint as "the City's continuing agenda to retaliate against" Ferrigan.

The city does not comment on pending legal action, but spokeswoman Gina Carter said in an email to *The Coastal Star*: "The City has the unfettered right to organize (and reorganize) its departments in ways that are efficient and fiscally responsible. In the case of Utilities, Director Hassan Hadjimiry chose to streamline efficiencies within his department. The position Ferrigan held was not related to reclaimed water but rather to the City's Industrial Pretreatment Program."

Ferrigan, though, said she received approval in the summer of 2018 from her now-retired supervisor, Scott Solomon, to set up the city's reclaimed water program. Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater suitable only for lawn irrigation, not for human or pet consumption.

OSHA to probe complaint

Ferrigan's complaint is filed with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. One of her attorneys, Richard Condit, called it the "first step" in her

legal fight with the city.

She is seeking 11 remedies, including back pay, a different position because hers no longer exists, training for staff and managers about whistleblower rights, and attorneys' fees.

OSHA will conduct its own investigation, including interviewing witnesses and reviewing reports, Erika Ruthman, U.S. Department of Labor spokeswoman, said in an April 26 email to *The Coastal Star*. The Labor Department oversees OSHA.

Ruthman said whistleblower investigations vary in the length of time. Ferrigan's attorney, who specializes in such cases, said most last between six months to a year. If either side does not agree with the results, then it can appeal to an administrative law judge, Ruthman said.

Ferrigan, hired in June 2017, often sided with barrier island residents and provided information to the Florida Department of Health after it began investigating the city's reclaimed water program.

In late 2018, Ferrigan inspected South Ocean Boulevard locations and interviewed residents who were reporting being sickened after the reclaimed water was connected in the area. The city issued a boil-water order for the

area in December 2018.

According to Ferrigan's complaint, the city should have reported the illnesses to the Health Department and let the department investigate whether the water was responsible.

The Health Department investigation began after it received a January 2020 complaint from one of the South Ocean Boulevard residents, who said she did not understand the cross connection that occurred at her house in December 2018.

Cross connections happen when the drinking water pipes are mistakenly connected to the reclaimed water lines.

In February 2020, triggered by the resident's complaint, the city shut down its entire reclaimed water system to avoid a citywide boil-water order.

Whistleblower status

When giving Ferrigan whistleblower protection in September 2020, the county inspector general wrote that the city's staff and elected officials "potentially still are being less than truthful in documenting and describing the city's water problems."

However, in a May 2021 report, the inspector general was not able to link the illnesses of the South Ocean Boulevard residents to the reclaimed water.

The Health Department's investigation led the city to sign a five-year consent order Nov. 9 with the department, agreeing to pay \$1 million in civil fines to settle issues in the reclaimed water program.

But the same month the consent order was signed, Ferrigan reported to the Health Department concerns of fellow staffers who feared retaliation, according to her complaint. They had been ordered by Hadjimiry to remove information that was required from the city's database of backflow preventers, the complaint reads. Backflow preventers stop reclaimed water from flowing back into the drinking water supply.

This is Ferrigan's second whistleblower battle with a South County coastal city.

She claimed whistleblower status in 2008 after she was fired from Boca Raton's water department. She sued the city, claiming she was let go because of information she provided to state environmental officials about the city's backflow and cross connection programs.

Ferrigan and her attorneys received a \$537,500 settlement in 2014 from the city's insurance company, published reports said. The city did not admit any wrongdoing. ★

City water customers face significant rate increases

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach residents could see average water and sewer bills jump more than 30% over the next five years, while the cost for those who regularly use much more city drinking water could double.

City commissioners unanimously approved the increases in a preliminary vote at their May 3 meeting, with

the largest increases in the potable water rates. A final vote is expected May 17, when the public will have a chance to comment on the proposed rates.

The average residential water user, who consumes 6,000 gallons a month, would see a combined monthly bill of \$75.66 in five years, up from the current \$57.85.

Officials say the added income is needed to pay for

a new water treatment plant. That plant will cost about \$125 million, Daryll Parker of Willdan Financial Services, the city's water rate study consultant, said at the March 8 commission meeting. The current plant is one of the oldest in the state.

Delray Beach has not raised its potable water rates since 2009, said retired City Manager David Harden, who

discussed his concerns with *The Coastal Star*.

"The rates need to be modified," Harden said, but the ones proposed "are too high, too fast."

In January, he and his wife, Andrea, sold their historic home on Swinton Avenue. They used 29,500 gallons a month, mostly for the lawn, he said, because the city's cheaper, reclaimed water isn't available

for irrigation there.

Their water consumption put them in one of the highest-use residential categories.

Their average monthly water bill was \$72.01, Harden said. If they had stayed in that house, their monthly water bill would increase to \$164.35 under the proposed rates, he said, raising the water portion of the bill more than \$1,100 a year. ★

Lantana

COVID cancels meeting, extends delay of library renovations

By Mary Thurwachter

Just when it looked like construction on Lantana's library was about to resume, a canceled Town Council meeting on April 25 further slowed the progress.

On the agenda was a \$734,227 contract with West Construction, Inc., to complete the library renovation. Work has been at a standstill since late December when it was discovered that the general contractor, Sierra Construction Management & Remodeling of Weston, was operating without a license.

But no vote was taken April 25, of course, since there was no meeting.

A notice on the door of the council chambers, written on the letterhead of Mayor Robert Hagerty, said the meeting was canceled "due to circumstances beyond our control."

Vice Mayor Karen Lythgoe offered insight on the circumstances, saying

in a telephone interview that the entire five-member council, town manager and town attorney had been exposed to COVID-19 during a visioning retreat with department heads on April 22.

"One of the people at the retreat came down with COVID," Lythgoe said. "We've all been exposed, and two other people are showing symptoms of COVID, but negative so far. It was decided we should just call it off."

Town Manager Brian Raducci said it hadn't been determined if a special meeting would be called regarding the library contract.

After the town shut down Sierra's work at the library, at 205 W. Ocean Ave., in December, it sought to turn the work over to a subcontractor, Multitech Corp. However, Multitech was unable to obtain the bonds required to restart the work.

The town then negotiated with West, which had been the second-lowest bidder when the contract was awarded in July.

West bid \$883,932 then, compared to Sierra's \$723,200.

According to the agenda report for the April 25 meeting, West has agreed to complete the work within 120 days from the date it receives a notice to proceed from the town. Failure to do so would cost the contractor \$500 a day.

The total cost of the library is about \$277,000 more than originally anticipated. Any funding shortfall will be paid for through the infrastructure surtax funds, other revenue sources or from the town's reserve funds, according to the agenda report.

The library is temporarily housed in the Recreation Center at 418 S. Dixie Highway.

Visioning retreat

No one from the public attended the morning-long visioning retreat, which was held at the Finlandia House, just steps from Town Hall. The meeting

wasn't recorded, but minutes were taken, Town Clerk Kathleen Dominguez said.

Lythgoe said the retreat was "excellent," but that the public notifications for events like that could be better. The meeting was noticed on the town's website with an agenda, Dominguez said.

"I'm thinking email blasts or robo-texting," Lythgoe said.

"We've got to drive traffic" to the website, she said. "We've got to get a better website. The website sucks. We've been talking about this for two years."

The retreat allowed the council to hear from directors about their departments, what shortcomings they see and what they plan in the future — and for council members to submit their own priorities, including direction for the upcoming budget, Lythgoe said.

"We were all pretty much in alignment," she said. ★

Business Spotlight

\$40 million sale sets record for Highland Beach

O maha businessman Steve Buchanan and his wife, Samantha, paid \$40 million for the mansion at 2455 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, in a sale that was recorded in public records on April 6. This sale marks a record for the town, surpassing the \$34.7 million sale in February of the home next door at 2445 S. Ocean Blvd.

The Buchanans made their purchase with a \$30 million mortgage from JPMorgan Chase. Buchanan founded Buchanan Energy and Bucky's Convenience Stores, which he sold last year to the convenience store chain Casey's General Stores for \$580 million, according to a news release.

The sellers were Bruce Leeds and Marina Rubio Ruiz. The property was purchased for an undisclosed amount in 2011

and the 23,625-square-foot estate was built in 2014 on the 1.88-acre lot with 150 feet of beachfront. The estate was designed by Madey Architects NY, and was built by Mark Timothy Luxury Homes, with interiors by Marc-Michaels.

Jonathan Postma of the Jonathan Postma Group represented the buyers. Ocean Estate Properties' **Bev Aluise Knight** represented the sellers.

The 1.43-acre ocean to-Intracoastal parcel at 1260 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan was sold for \$40 million by 1260 S. Ocean LLC, managed by **Stewart A. Satter**, through his real estate company, Carnegie Hill Development. The sale, at a record price for a vacant lot of its size in Manalapan, was recorded March 31.

Buyers were Saltbox



The 23,625-square-foot estate was built in 2014 on nearly two acres. Photo provided

LLC and Artemis Realty, both managed by attorney Carolyn S. Nachmias in Burlington, New Jersey. **Robert Preston** with Carnegie Hill Realty represented Satter. **Jack Elkins** and **Bunny**

Hiatt with William Raveis Real Estate represented the buyer.

Satter, Manalapan's vice mayor, purchased the lot in March 2021 for \$15.45 million from 1260 Manalapan Properties LLC, managed by

Tonio Arcaini. Satter offered the property for sale two ways: vacant, with town-approved house plans and building permits for a 27,000-square-foot estate, which he listed for \$42.5 million. He also had it listed for \$125 million, with the furnished estate to be executed by the team he often uses for his projects: RWB Construction, Marc-Michaels Interior Design and the Benedict Bullock architecture group.

"Frankly, I would have sold it either way," he said, adding that the buyer plans to build with his team using his plans with minor changes. "It's an unusual lot, ocean to Intracoastal in Manalapan, and the buyer saw the value. She will save time with having the permitting in hand and she'll also save money versus me finishing it and buying a finished project."

The property drew considerable interest even after this deal went hard, Satter said.

"A couple Realtors said, 'Hey, I have a buyer who will pay the full price of \$42.5 million.' You never know if those deals would have gone to fruition, but those buyers couldn't find what they wanted," he said.

A previous comparable sale price for vacant land in Manalapan occurred in July 2005 when developer Frank McKinney paid a recorded \$42.5 million for 8.6 acres with 820 feet of ocean and lake frontage at 700 S. Ocean Blvd. McKinney divided the parcel into five lots for redevelopment.

The estate at 2929 N. Ocean Blvd., Gulf Stream, sold in March for \$26,694,444 to the David J. Miller Trust. The seller was 2929 Ocean Trust, which bought the property for \$15,900,338 in May 2021.

The six-bedroom, 9,269-total-square-foot estate has 121 feet on the ocean. Corcoran Group agents **Candace Friis** and **Phill Friis** represented both the buyer and seller, according to Zillow.

Dermatologist and health book author Dr. Nicholas Perricone paid \$6.8 million for an oceanfront five-bedroom, 5,480-square-foot townhouse, Unit 2, at Ocean Place

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- T** = Time is of the essence, call 911



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Villas, 4211 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, in a sale that was recorded March 29. The seller was Marton Anka, who bought the property in 2014 for \$4.6 million. **Emily Roberts** with Douglas Elliman represented the seller. **Mariela Stochetti** with Douglas Elliman and **Suzanne Petrizzi** with Corcoran represented the buyer.

Daniel Shooster and his wife, Leslee, paid \$5.6 million for Unit 601 in the first completed phase of the Alina Residences development at **200 SE Mizner Blvd. in downtown Boca Raton**. The sale was recorded March 28.

The developer, El-Ad National Properties, sold the four-bedroom, 4,836-square-foot condo. **Alejandro Salazar** and **Rochelle LeCavalier** of Douglas Elliman represented the seller. **Alex Platt** of Compass represented the buyer.

The nine-story building has 102 condo units, 12 penthouses and seven villas.

Daniel Shooster is a former owner of the Festival Flea Market in Pompano Beach.

El-Ad has broken ground on the second phase of the **Alina Residences**. It will have two nine-story residential buildings and complete the project. The company said Phase 2 was 40% sold and that construction is scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of 2024.

The Alina 210 building will consist of 30 corner residences, with floor plans that include three or four bedrooms plus a den, ranging in size from 3,300 to 5,400 square feet. Pricing starts at \$3.5 million.

Alina 220 will have 152 residences of one to four bedrooms with den. These range from 1,400 to 5,400 square feet, priced from \$1.7 million to more than \$8 million. Douglas Elliman Development Marketing is the exclusive sales team. For more information, visit eladnational.com.

The official groundbreaking of 1625 Ocean — a U.S. Construction development with 10 condominiums and four penthouses on 120 feet of oceanfront in Delray Beach — took place in April. Architect Randall Stofft is the designer.

Of the 14 residences at **1625 S. Ocean Blvd.**, only one was still available for sale in April. “Our near sellout prior to groundbreaking is more evidence that the South Florida market is still hot, and still very attractive to those from the Northeast, California and residents who already live locally,” said John Farina, CEO of U.S. Construction.

Each unit is named after a musician. The final penthouse, The Sting, offered at \$6.495 million, features four bedrooms, 5,000 square feet, terraces, a plunge pool, and summer kitchen. IMI Living is handling the sale. For more information visit www.1625Ocean.com or call 800-755-0358.

After receiving a \$100,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan, the **Delray Beach Public Library**, partnering with the city’s **Housing Authority**, is distributing 54 GrandPad tablets to seniors at **Lake Delray Apartments**. A GrandPad is a computer tablet designed for people who have little to no experience with technology.

“The GrandPad project, brought to me by Isabella Rowan, our program coordinator and volunteer manager, has reconnected seniors on fixed incomes with the world” after some lived in isolation during the pandemic, said Karen Ronald, the library’s executive director.

“I haven’t seen my grandson in person and this device lets me laugh and talk with him,” said Phyllis Martin, one recipient. “I have become more comfortable with the technology and I want to thank the library and hope we can continue to use them.”

The grant expires Sept. 30 and the library will need to set up a fundraising program to keep the program going. For information, contact Rowan at 561-266-9490 or isabella.rowan@delraylibrary.org

Ethan Shapiro, head of school at Saint Andrew’s School, was named the Business Leader of the Year during the **Boca Chamber’s** annual business awards luncheon in March at Boca West Country Club.

Boca Raton Innovation Campus was recognized as the Business of the Year. The Small Business Leader of the Year Award recipient was **Erick Solms**, president of Simplifyfy.

The awards honor entrepreneurs and businesspeople who generate economic prosperity and have strong philanthropic involvement in the community.

Gina Pierre of Amazon Hub Delray received a **President**

Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award for being part of the first minority mother/daughter duo to own and operate an Amazon Hub and Amazon counter location in the United States.

“I don’t set out to win awards. But when you receive an award it’s an affirmation. It means that people appreciate what you do. Every award I have received is a confirmation of something I have done, and that motivates me to push a little harder,” Pierre said.

Amazon Hub Delray is at 401 W. Atlantic Ave.

Florida Peninsula Insurance announced that litigation manager **Paige Crider** received the Emerging Leader Award at the inaugural **Florida Women in Insurance Leadership Awards**, presented in Tallahassee by the Gunster law firm. The luncheon served as part of Gunster’s Leading Florida Forward initiative.

Florida Peninsula’s director of special investigations, Virginia Austin, and the underwriting analytics manager, Tamie Moran, received recognition as nominees.

In an annual **Mother’s Day** promotion, shoppers can receive a phalaenopsis orchid plant with every \$200 they spend at downtown Delray Beach’s stores, gift shops, art galleries, spas, salons and fitness studios through May 7. To claim an orchid, bring a receipt dated May 2 through 7 to the front of Global Pursuit at 400 E. Atlantic Ave. or Sara Campbell at 1051 E. Atlantic from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 5-7. Restaurant, green market, hotel stay, food and beverage receipts are not valid.

Send business news to **Christine Davis** at cdavis9797@gmail.com.



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The Coastal  Star

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House of the month

Palm Trail masterpiece in Delray Beach. Page AT23

Wet & Wonderful



Sharon Goldstein, 89, on the pool steps at Berkshire by the Sea in Delray Beach. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Almost-90 fitness fan makes big splash with her seaside water aerobics classes

By Mary Thurwacher

Sharon Goldstein's students wear caps with substantial visors and dark sunglasses to partake in her morning water aerobics sessions at Berkshire by the Sea. After all, the sun can be brutal as it rises over the Atlantic.

Goldstein's class isn't brutal, but it's no walk in the park either.

"It's a place to get some healthy exercise," the soon-to-be nonagenarian says. (She'll turn 90 in September.) "I work them very hard. It is work, but

something you get used to."

The classes are free and offered Monday through Friday from mid-March to the end of April, when Goldstein lives at her Delray Beach timeshare.

Her students are "quite a bionic group," she says. "I have so many people in the pool with me that have had hip replacements, knee replacements and shoulder replacements. It's been great for them because most doctors, after they've had that kind of surgery, will recommend exercise after they've gone to rehab. They tell

See **WATER** on page AT6



People in the seasonal classes are 'quite a bionic group,' Goldstein says, with various joint replacements. She took up water aerobics at age 75 after injuring her foot while playing tennis.

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Philanthropy Notes

Greenberg Foundation gives \$1 million to Boca hospital campaign

The Martin F. Greenberg Family Foundation contributed \$1 million to a health care cause that will result in the naming of the post-anesthesia care unit.

On the second floor of Boca Raton Regional Hospital's Center for Surgical Services, the state-of-the-art Martin F. Greenberg and Family PACU will have 26 bays, isolation rooms and two nurses stations.

"When I decide to support an organization, it's really because it tickles my fancy," Greenberg said of the hospital and its foundation. "Its mission and goals need to be sound and impactful. And, just as importantly, its people need to be worthy. The hospital and the foundation ... they are made up of special people."

The donation, announced in March, brought to \$224 million the total raised for "Keeping the Promise — the Campaign for Boca Raton Regional Hospital."

The goal is \$250 million for the largest fundraising initiative in the hospital's history. The money is supporting its most ambitious period of expansion.

"This leadership gift to Boca Regional is especially meaningful to me and Tali because it benefits our friends and neighbors," Greenberg

said, referring to his wife. "Boca Raton Regional Hospital has a great impact on our community, and we want to do everything we can to support it."

For more information, call 561-955-4142 or visit <https://donate.brrh.com>.

Boynton Woman's Club awards scholarships

The Boynton Woman's Club, which has been awarding scholarships to local high schoolers for nearly 50 years, continued the tradition by giving out five more to students who plan to attend Florida colleges in the fall.

The recipients were honored at a luncheon at Quail Ridge Country Club.

"All applicants were so talented, and it was very difficult to make decisions," club president Christy Hintz said. "Our winners stood out though because they were all so accomplished and articulate, and each one had made a special effort to help other people."

The recipients are:

- Jake Palmer, Park Vista Community High School
- Daniela Rivera, Boynton Beach Community High School
- Ryan "RJ" Rudnet, Park Vista
- Ryan Sohn, Park Vista

• Christian Tomas, Park Vista

A separate scholarship intended for a woman who is returning to continue her education, was awarded to Nilza Madden.

"This has made such a difference in my life," Madden said. "When I graduate, I will be able to contribute to the health of our communities and also fulfill a longtime goal of making a difference to the well-being of everyone in the whole community."

For more information, call 561-369-2300 or visit www.boyntonwomansclub.com.

Impact 100 announces winners of \$100,000 grants

Impact 100 Palm Beach County announced winners of its \$100,000 grants for 2021-2022.

Recipients are: Young Singers of the Palm Beaches — South County Sings for Healing in the Arts, culture & historic preservation category; Friends of Foster Children — Kinship Care & Connections, in the family category; Marine Education Initiative — Sustainable Agriculture Education Initiative, in the environment & animal welfare category; Xcel Mentoring

Network — Youth Training & Wellness Project that addresses career training and health, in the education category; the Soup Kitchen — Lift Up, in the health & wellness category.

Additional grant winners are Unicorn Children's Foundation — Family Navigator Program; and Love Serving Autism — Serving with Heart in South Palm Beach County.

Impact 100 PBC is a group of philanthropic women who award grants to 501(c)(3)

nonprofits to allow them to launch or expand high-impact initiatives or programs.

For more information, call 561-336-4623 or visit www.impact100pbc.org/contact-us



Send news and notes to Amy Woods at flamywoods@bellsouth.net.

Pay It Forward

Pay It Forward

MAY

Saturday - 5/7 - Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum's Boca Bacchanal at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Wrap up the two-day event with a serving of delectable cuisine from local restaurants during the Grand Tasting. 7 pm. \$200. 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocabacchanal.com.

Friday - 5/14 - Delray Beach Historical Society's "Twilight in the Garden" at Three N.E. First St. Meander garden pathways to enchanting food and craft cocktail vignettes, bid on one-of-a-kind auction items and enjoy live music during the organization's annual fundraiser. 6 pm. \$150. 561-274-9578 or delraybeachhistory.org.

Wednesday - 5/18 - Unity School Fundraiser at Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 N.W. Ninth St. Join in on a special evening of music with The Joe Cotton Band and raise proceeds to be split between the school and the playhouse. 6:30 pm. \$10. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com.

Saturday - 5/21 - Milagro Center's "Sip, Sip, Hooray! Celebrate Our 25th Birthday!" at The Loft At Congress, 530 N.W. 77th St., Boca Raton. Celebrate 25 years of providing life-changing, afterschool academic and cultural-arts programs to hundreds of underserved children and teens in Delray Beach at an event featuring a special performance by Almost ABBA." 7-10 pm. \$125. 561-279-2970 or milagrocenter.org.

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Celebrations

Les Girls celebrate 50 years of camaraderie

By Tao Woolfe

The women lined up along the eastern wall of the tiny, posh Palm Beach restaurant, looking more like rows of flowers than members of a private diplomatic corps.

They were dressed in bright spring dresses and hats, trying their best to squeeze together for a group photo without losing their composure — or bumping their neighbors' brims.

The occasion was the 50th anniversary of Les Girls of Palm Beach, a social club for



women born outside the United States. Represented in the photo — and the club — are some

30 nationalities among its 45 members.

Although the luncheon at Cafe L'Europe in late March was a special event, the club holds similar events throughout the year at various Palm Beach venues to celebrate the international network members have created.

"Many of the women come to this country and may not have a community they can turn to," said Rita Sullivan, who moved from Spain, lives in Palm Beach and serves as the group's media liaison. "The club provides that support."

The club also provides support to charities in the West Palm Beach area, donating funds to a different cause each year. Among the recent recipients are the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, The Lord's Place, St. Ann Place, Holy Ground homeless shelter and Hope House.

The charities are chosen by the club's board of directors, which also decides who will be allowed into the club. Members sponsor new potential members, but everyone is interviewed and carefully vetted before joining the ranks, Sullivan said at a recent meeting of the board.

"We don't advertise at all," said Marcella De Muth Gintowt, the board chair, who lives in West Palm Beach. "We do screen."

A few exceptions are made for candidates who are not foreign-born, but they must have strong ties to another country — either through language or culture, or both.

Using her background as an example, Sullivan, who has lived in the United States for nearly 50 years, says that "I am American, but I am Spanish in my heart."

Although the current members would not reveal names, they said celebrities had graced the ranks: an opera singer from Finland, a *Vogue* model, the wife of a Coca-Cola mogul.

Asked whether they had an opinion on this nation's controversies about



Some of Les Girls are (front, l-r) Maureen Hamilton, Neide Duran, Roshan Massoumi, Laila Sedfaoui, Monika Erikson; (second row) Cobie Bill, Sophia Isaac, Monique Sheft, Poon-sri Pierce, Rita Sullivan; (back) Nelly Mellander, Mignon Gardner, Stephanie Lefes, Margarita Abrishami, Margaret Kallman and Carlene Kolbe.



LEFT: (l-r) Carlene Kolbe, Maureen Hamilton and Laila Sedfaoui. BELOW: (l-r) Estela Fanjul, Martina Covarrubias, Andree Dowling, Henya Betras, Sophia Isaac and Rita Sullivan with seated Marcella De Muth Gintowt. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



immigration, the board of directors seemed to physically draw back from the conversation.

"We don't talk about politics," said De Muth Gintowt. "We are diplomatically very neutral. We don't let that divide us."

But at least two of the members at the anniversary luncheon silently expressed solidarity with a nation in distress. They were dressed in yellow dresses and wore bright blue hats: the colors of Ukraine.

"From Finland to Venezuela, from Scotland to Iran. ... We have come in all ages, different backgrounds and faiths," club president Martina Covarrubias said in her speech opening the luncheon festivities.

She was quoting from a

speech given by founding member Giovanna Phillips at the club's 25th anniversary.

Phillips, who taught Spanish, English and French at the Palm Beach Recreation Center,

formed Les Girls of Palm Beach at the request of her students, who wanted to get together to practice their new language skills.

According to club history, the growing membership met monthly for lunch, and later, dinner at members' homes. An early qualification for inclusion was a home large enough to entertain the ranks — including, at times, the husbands.

Members would bring typical dishes from their native countries to share with the group. The tradition, however, grew unwieldy as the ranks swelled to more than 50, Sullivan said.

Through the years of events and charity work, great friendships have formed. There has even been one successful matchmaking effort, said Henya Betras of Hypoluxo Island in Lantana.

"We had a party and they met and were married," Betras said. "These things happen."

The members say that such networking, here and abroad, remains the key to the club's longevity.

Or, as founder Phillips said more eloquently, "We all have in common a great secret: It is the gold of friendship." ★

Congratulations to Affirm's Class of '22 for all their college acceptances!



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Celebrations

Founders Dinner

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — Feb. 14



More than 150 major donors and guests attended a dinner to honor benefactors, founders and sponsors as well as members of the Dress Circle. A Valentine's Day-themed three-course meal was followed by singing from Audra McDonald. 'We are so delighted you are here with us, especially after such a long break without events and live performances,' board Chairman Jeffrey Stoops said. 'Tonight's dinner is our opportunity to show our appreciation to all of you for your extraordinary loyalty and generosity.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Stoops, CEO Diane Quinn and sponsor Mike Bracci. **Photo provided by Capehart**

Panel discussion

Private home, Boca Raton — March 29



The King David Society of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County welcomed former Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and Israel Democracy Institute President Yohanan Plesner to a conversation that touched on current events. Topics included challenges to Israel's democracy and future opportunities in the Jewish state. 'The discussion was 'insightful, stimulating and relevant to the world today,' federation Chairman Larry Feldman said. **ABOVE:** Judy and Sid Swartz. **Photo provided by Jeffrey Tholl Photography**

The Classic Rock & Roll Party

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood — March 26



Hundreds of guests enjoyed '80s-era entertainment in support of South Florida's most vulnerable residents. HomeSafe's 19th annual fundraiser featured celebrity host Nicko McBrain — Iron Maiden's drummer — and generated proceeds that will go toward the nonprofit's mission of creating safer, more productive lives for children and families. 'This moment in HomeSafe's history is a huge undertaking, and we are so grateful that so many have supported our efforts during the initial fundraising phase of our Healing the Hurt campaign,' CEO Matt Ladika said.



ABOVE: (l-r) Lori Keezer with sponsors Maggie and Ken Rosenberg and Steve Bernstein. **INSET:** Sponsors Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — April 1



The signature benefit for the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County raised \$175,000 to aid children and adults struggling with reading skills. Bestselling author Elizabeth Berg was a huge hit with attendees. Berg penned the 2021-22 Read Together Palm Beach County book *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. Coalition board members Bernadette O'Grady and Debra Ghostine co-chaired. 'The luncheon was an inspiring celebration and tribute to the love of literacy and our significant efforts in the community,' CEO Kristin Calder said. 'We are grateful to the sponsors, volunteers and attendees for their generous support to help us increase our impact to transform lives through literacy.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Louise Glover, Christine Olson, Tandy Robinson, Berg, Deborah Dowd and Susie Roegers. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Lion of Judah Luncheon

B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton — March 10



Marking its first in-person event since the onset of the pandemic, the Lion of Judah welcomed more than 300 guests to a special conversation with noted author and journalist Bari Weiss. The gathering rang in the 50th anniversary of the organization's founding and issued a call to action for the local Jewish community. 'Our south Palm Beach community Lions have always had a huge heart for our beloved Holocaust survivors, our special-needs community, those battling food insecurities and mental and physical illnesses,' member Karen Dern said. 'This work never stopped.' **ABOVE:** (l-r, seated) Michele Meisner, Robynn Ginsberg, Jill Deutch, Randi Winter, (standing) Amy Zamore, Naomi Steinberg, Wendi Lipsich, Kathy Green, Laura Beininger and Gail Greenspoon. **Photo provided by Jeffrey Tholl Photography**

Mad Hatter Luncheon

Benvenuto, Boynton Beach — April 19



Members of St. Lucy Catholic Church's Palm Beach Diocesan Council of Catholic Women donned their favorite Easter toppers to attend a festive celebration that not only recognized the holiday but also signaled the end of season. The council's charitable activities and fundraisers include food and clothing donations for underserved people in Pahokee, helping needy mothers and children through the Birthline / Lifeline program and organizing collections for Ukraine. **ABOVE:** (l-r) The Rev. D. Brian Horgan, council Vice President Susan Hiles, co-President Anne Dunn, Recording Secretary Eleanor Hoffman and co-President Mary Lou Goldberg. **Photo provided**

Dining

Tours in Delray and Mother's Day dining suggestions

With all the new restaurants in Delray Beach, it's hard to keep up. A couple of guys have a solution: a food tour.

Matt Guidice and Anthony Guzman, both of South Florida, founded culinary walking tours of Delray Beach and Fort Lauderdale just as the coronavirus pandemic hit. They regrouped after it was safe to return to public spaces, and now lead tours in both cities through their company, Craft Food Tours.

The off-Avenue walking tour of Delray starts at 11:30 a.m. weekends and takes up to 14 visitors to five restaurants for 10 sips and tastes. It's enough for lunch and provides history and architecture commentary along the way.

Private tours can be arranged for up to 80 people, and they do corporate events as well.

The restaurants that participate rotate, so guests don't exactly know where they'll be going; it's a combination of flavors and styles. Chefs often come out to greet guests and describe their plates.

There's also a happy hour tour at 6 p.m. Thursdays where the venues change to emphasize drinks and small plates, with eight drinks and four plates at three spots. Children must be 13 or older for this tour.

It's rain or shine, and you do walk throughout — about 1.5 miles, give or take, but only a stretch of three or four blocks at a time before you're seated and eating, drinking and learning.

Cost for the food tour is \$79 per adult, \$65 per child. Dietary restrictions are accommodated with advance notice; booking well in advance is encouraged.

Find more information about the tours and bookings at www.craftfoodtours.com.

If you haven't made reservations for Mother's Day — one of the biggest dining-out days of the year — get on it. Despite the growing number of restaurants, they book quickly for brunch, the traditional meal for moms.

There's a new one in Delray Beach, and not many have heard of it: **Drift**. It's the signature restaurant in the Opal Grand Resort — the redux of the Delray Beach Marriott on the ocean.

Billed as an endless summer atmosphere, the nautical-themed space has five dining areas, including a large wrap-around bar, lounge area with "mixology room," a chef's galley, the main dining room and an outdoor veranda. A rooftop event deck is open for booking as well.

The all-day menu has favorites such as charcuterie boards, a variety of dips and spreads for sharing, and the twist on the trend: lobster and avocado toast. Seafood is prevalent with Maine lobster bisque, baked oysters, and in



ABOVE: Drift, the new signature restaurant in the Opal Grand Resort along A1A in Delray Beach, will feature a Sunday brunch on Mother's Day, May 8. **LEFT:** Brulee Brioche in Delray and others will offer free desserts for mothers. **Photos provided**

salads, with Ora king salmon, and tonno — olive oil poached tuna. That salmon can also be ordered a la plancha. Chicken, burgers and fish tacos also are on the menu.

Sunday brunch runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with chicken and waffles, short rib hash, a roasted vegetable scramble, and other breakfast-type items served alongside the butcher's block carving station. Meats and fish include overnight smoked brisket, Moroccan spiced leg of lamb, a rosemary crusted rib rack, pastrami spiced salmon and cherry bourbon glazed ham. Salads, flatbreads, burgers, desserts and several sides also are on the menu.

Live entertainment, and plenty of adult beverages complete the package.

Prices for Mother's Day brunch: \$89.95 for adults and \$25.95 for kids under 12. **Drift, at the Opal Grand, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. 561-274-3289; www.opalgrand.com.**

Need other ideas? All the big spots have a brunch — though few have gone back to actual buffets because of the pandemic, so expect a la carte. Some are putting a few specials on the menu just for Mother's Day.

Call in advance to confirm information that may have changed since this writing.

The main tip: Make your reservation now.

The Addison, 2 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 561-372-0568; theaddisonofbocaraton.com. Outside courtyard seating available. Reservations start at 10 a.m.

Brulee Bistro, 200 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. 561-274-2046; bruleebistro.com. A la carte brunch menu; free dessert for moms.

Caffe Luna Rosa, 34 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. 561-274-9404; caffelunaros.com. No reservations, but the restaurant opens at 7 a.m. A la carte menu; great open-air dining across from the beach.

Elisabetta's Ristorante, 32 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 561-560-6699; elisabettas.com. A la carte menu with specials such as burrata toast. Lively atmosphere upstairs and down.

Farmer's Table, 1901 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 561-417-5836; dinefarmerstable.com. A special menu for brunch. Farm-to-table including juices and drinks.

Farmhouse Kitchen, 399 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. 561-826-2625; farmhousekitchen-boca.com. Vegan and vegetarian dishes on the a la carte menu here. Some specials offered for Mother's Day.

Harvest Seasonal Grill, 1841 S. Federal Highway, Delray Beach. 561-266-3239; harvest-seasonal.com. Healthy choices at the farm-to-table concept restaurant. A la carte menu.

Lionfish, 307 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 561-639-8700; lionfishdelray.com. A la carte, seafood-focused menu. Open air dining room, lively bar.

Pavilion Grille, 301 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. 561-912-0000; paviliongrille.com. Brunch buffet followed by live entertainment from Elvis tribute performer David Morin starting at 5 p.m.

Prime Catch, 700 E. Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach. 561-737-8822; primecatchboynnton.com. Nice waterfront setting with tiki bar. Seafood-focused a la carte menu.

The Ray Hotel Ember Grill, 233 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. 561-739-1705; embergrilldelray.com. Brunch

served 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Rose's Daughter, 169 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. 561-271-9423; rosesdaughterdelray.com. A la carte Italian menu with some specials. Free dessert for moms.

SALT 7, 32 SE Second Ave., Delray Beach. 561-274-7258; salt7.com. A la carte menu. Famous "fishbowls" of signature drinks for table sharing.

Sundy House, 106 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-272-5678; sundyhouse.com. Buffet, but it's more about the lush garden setting here.

Death or Glory, in the historic Falcon house in Delray Beach, will switch names again, though the format will stay largely the same.

One half of the current ownership, Annie Blake, has partnered with Sean Iglehart, one of the owners of Boynton Beach's Sweetwater, to reopen mid- to late May as **The Falcon**.

"There's so much history to the house," Blake said. "It's coming up on 100 years old."

The opportunity for a refresh comes after Blake's business partner, Ayme Harrison, moved to England to open an ice cream shop. "We had a good five-year

run," Blake said. "This was a good finale and the timing worked out."

Upscale bar food with sharable plates will continue with the emphasis on craft cocktails.

For longtime fans, Blake has comforting news: "Buddy, our mascot, will still be here." Buddy is the Havanese-poodle mix with his image on plates and so on.

"The Halloween and Christmas pop-ups will be back," she said. "We're bringing the house party back."

Death or Glory closed last month, going out with a full-dress funeral party.

Another plant-based spot is coming soon to Delray: **Planta Queen**, a spinoff of wildly successful Planta from New York. There's one in West Palm Beach at The Square if you want a preview. Modern, calming, and you can fool a carnivore here, or at least sate one.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com



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WATER

Continued from page AT1

them to get to a pool and walk. I expand on that theme.”

The water workouts have helped Goldstein stay fit. “I don’t have any bionic parts,” she laughs.

Her daughter Jane Kapusta says: “Mom has always been into exercise and eating healthy. She is not an extremist. Desserts are usually included after dinner.”

Commanding attention

Sometimes, the morning workouts become a little too social.

“At the beginning of each class, I announce that the only voice I want to hear is mine, otherwise I kind of lose control when everybody starts talking,” Goldstein says.

The suntanned fitness guru has been coming to the Berkshire, a 51-unit timeshare resort on North Ocean Boulevard in Delray Beach, for more than 40 years, but didn’t start teaching water aerobics there until 15 years ago.

The mother of five from Milwaukee took up tennis when she was 40, loved it and excelled at it until a foot injury sidelined her at age 75. That’s when she took the plunge into water aerobics.

“It was such a wonderful outlet because when I couldn’t play tennis anymore, I thought, oh, what am I going to do?” she says. “My life is at an end. But then one of my dear friends said ‘you would really enjoy water aerobics. Try it.’ I did — and I



The Berkshire provides pool noodles and someone else brings a music player to spice up the class. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

got hooked.”

The following winter, when she arrived at the Berkshire, she marched down to the pool first thing in the morning and began to do water exercises. Another woman asked to join her and, before long, a class was born.

“We put up notices right in front of the elevator that there was a water aerobics class from 9 to 10 every day Monday through Friday, and no charge. Come and exercise and get some healthy workouts,” Goldstein recalls. “That’s kind of how it evolved.”

Music was part of the program from the start but as time went on, she got help with that.

“One of the guys comes

with his iPad or pod and plays music,” she says. “I’m so not tech; all I know is he has this small thing, and he connects it to that, and it makes wonderful music.”

Most any kind of music will do, she says: “Disco, songs from musicals, all kinds of stuff just as long as it has a decent beat.”

She learned many of the exercises during classes she takes four days a week back in Wisconsin, although she does improvise. Exercise balls and pool noodles used in her classes are provided by the resort, for which she is most grateful.

Early on, she bought those items herself.

She’s also grateful for “Sergio and Heron,” two resort

employees who faithfully clean the pool before each class. “The pool sparkles every morning,” Goldstein says.

Positive feedback

Reviews of her work can be collected by talking to the folks around the pool or in the hot tub where arthritic exercisers go to unwind after the vigorous sessions conclude.

“I’ve been with her since the first year,” says 79-year-old Bonnie Arnold from Prince Edward Island province in Canada. “I have a lot of arthritis. It has certainly helped me.”

When the group gets chatty, Goldstein “gets us to settle down. We laugh and carry on. We have a good time. The feeling is just wonderful.”

Another student is Goldstein’s daughter from Mazomanie, Wisconsin. Kapusta says her mom is “not a drill sergeant, but wants everyone to get a great hour of water aerobic exercise, but at each person’s physical ability and to stay focused during class.”

Kapusta, 62, has a bad back and goes at her own pace but says she still gets a great workout.

One of Goldstein’s students discovered she and Goldstein were neighbors back in Milwaukee.

“We both live on Lake Michigan about two blocks apart,” says Mary Dengel, 83. While most in the class stay at the Berkshire, Dengel has an apartment at the East Wind Beach Club co-op next door. “We’ve become very good friends,” says Dengel, who like Goldstein is a widow.

Goldstein’s husband, Bob, died a year and a half ago at 92 from complications of COVID-19. He had been an enthusiastic participant in his wife’s aqua exercise classes.

“Sharon’s just amazing how she does these water aerobics,” Dengel says. “We do a lot of stretching and we jog in place and get our heart going.”

Certain weeks have bigger groups, Goldstein says. “We have the turnover people that are only here for a week or two or three, and then I get a new group. But most of them are repeaters.

“My biggest thrill is when they come back and say ‘oh, I continued this when I went home.’ That’s always a good feeling for me.” ★



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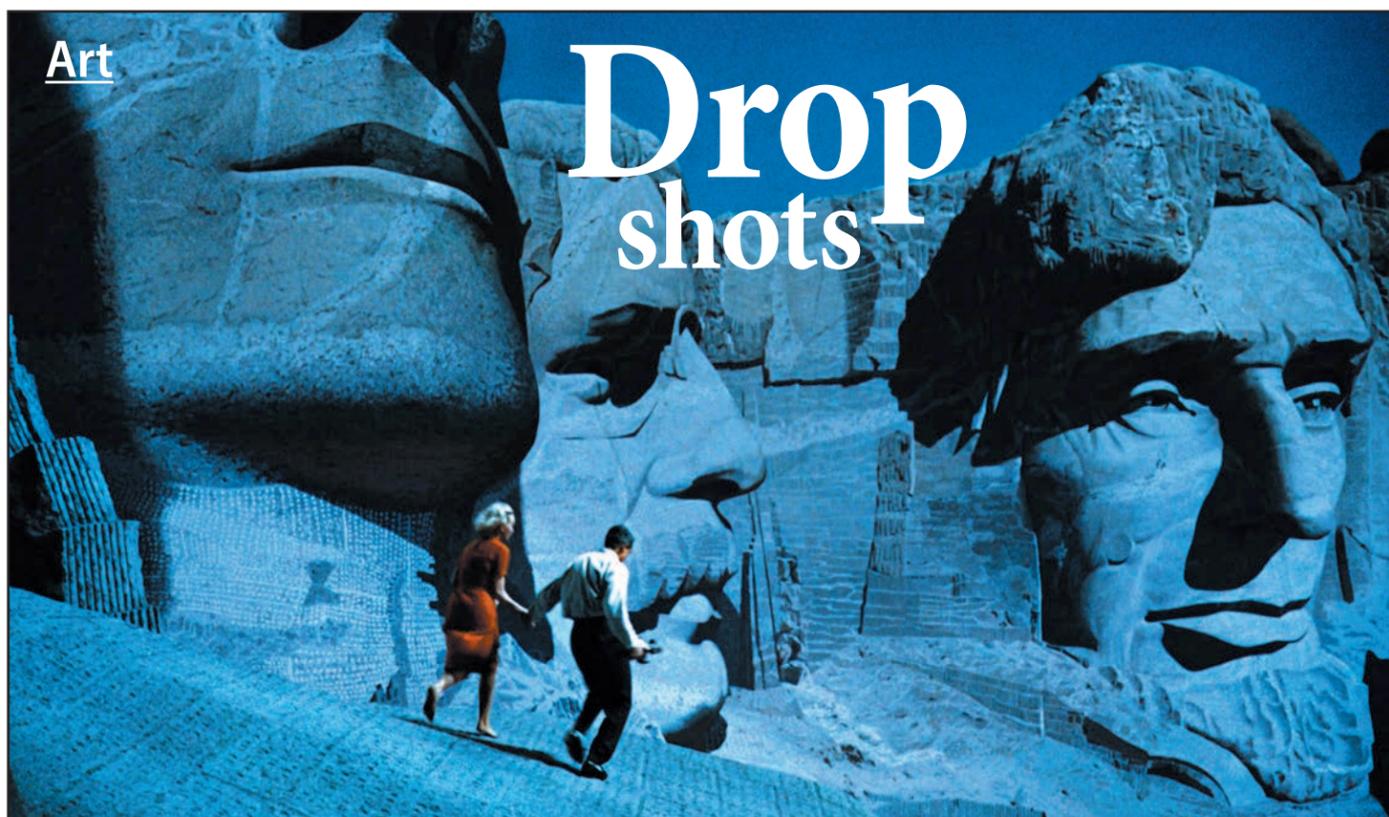
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Art

Drop shots

Eva Marie Saint and Cary Grant in a scene from the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock thriller *North by Northwest*. The backdrop of Mount Rushmore is by Clark Provins and Albert Joseph Londraville. **Digital still provided by Boca Raton Museum of Art**

Grandeur, artistry of film backdrops on full display in Boca Museum exhibit

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

Remember Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 film *North By Northwest*, starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint, and their harrowing descent down the face of Mount Rushmore?

That two-minute montage defines Hitchcock's classic film, yet credit went to everyone making the film except the scenic artists who made the dangerous escape possible by creating the 90-foot-wide backdrop depicting Mount Rushmore (yes, it wasn't real).

That backdrop and more are at the Boca Raton Museum of Art in the first dedicated museum exhibition of its kind: *Art of the Hollywood Backdrop: Cinema's Creative Legacy*.



Exhibit creators Karen Maness and Thomas Walsh with backdrop and props used for the 1952 film *Singin' in the Rain*. **Photo provided**

The exhibit and the backdrop recovery project, created by curators Thomas A. Walsh, past president of the Art Directors Guild, and Karen L. Maness, associate director of Texas Performing Arts Fabrication Studios, seek to bring long-overdue credit to the artisans who made a certain kind of movie magic happen.

"It is miraculous that these historic monumental paintings were not lost

forever, as so many Hollywood treasures have disappeared," said Irvin Lippman, executive director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art

Among the other 22 memorable backdrops on display, made between 1938 and 1968, are *Ben Hur's* Rome, the Von Trapp family's Austrian Alps and Gene Kelly's Paris street dance scene.

The exhibit was conceived in February 2020 after Lippman watched a *CBS Sunday Morning* segment on this lost art form and of the effort to preserve the backdrops that were stored in the basement of MGM's studios.

It highlighted Maness's and Walsh's efforts to salvage thousands of backdrops from the dustbins of history and to give them their proper attribution.

"I'm so excited that these artists who were never given credit for their work are being seen," Maness says. "They were extraordinary painters; the mark-making is so immediate, fresh and confident."

She notes that the backdrops were

See **BACKDROPS** on page 9

Opera

Palm Beach Opera gets \$6 million gift

Palm Beach ArtsPaper Staff

Palm Beach Opera has received a gift of \$6 million from a local foundation, the largest donation in the company's 61-year history.

The gift, announced in April, will allow Palm Beach Opera to move forward with renovations on its new home in the artsy Northwood section of West Palm Beach. The company announced in September it had bought an 18,000-square-foot space at 425 24th St. that it planned to use for a rehearsal space, production storage and artist training, as well as new programming and community engagement outreach.

The \$6 million also will help pay for three mainstage productions and the Apprentice Artist program. The company's current rehearsal space is on Florida Avenue off Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach, with its offices just west on South Australian Avenue.

"We are immensely grateful for this extraordinary, record-breaking support and commitment to Palm Beach Opera," General Director David Walker said in a prepared statement.

The foundation has asked that its identity be kept confidential at this time, but Palm Beach Opera notes that the donor will be naming the company's new home when it is complete.

The gift — roughly equivalent to

See **OPERA** on page 10



Walker

Theater

Maltz (finally) hits the ground running in its new and improved facility

By Hap Erstein
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

After two postponed productions and a third delayed by a week, the Maltz Jupiter Theatre opened in late March with critical acclaim for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and for its renovated and expanded playhouse. With much of the stress of construction deadlines over, producing artistic director Andrew Kato paused long enough to discuss the new, improved theater and the upcoming first full season there.

"It was a very complicated process, putting an existing

building together with a new building. We basically doubled our square footage," he told *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* by phone. "So perhaps the idea of getting it done in the time frame that was allotted may have been a little optimistic."

Although it added to his frustration, Kato has no complaints about the delayed opening of the theater over an occupancy permit issue.

"Rightfully so, when you have 569 guests in your home, you want to be able to certify that it's a safe place to be in. To be able to get that certification, the city wants things done the

way they want them," he says. "I have to compliment the town of Jupiter. They were very helpful to us. And in fact, the theater will be closing again on May 9 for two weeks so that we can expand our fire panel, so we can integrate the additional elements that come into the building to our fire panel."

The new three-story façade to the theater is visually stunning, though the classrooms and offices for the conservatory of student training, as well as an expanded costume shop, are still to come. The mainstage auditorium appears similar

See **MALTZ** on page 8



After undergoing a \$36 million expansion and renovation, the Maltz Jupiter Theatre opened belatedly for the season with a well-received production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. **Photo provided**

MALTZ

Continued from page 7

to the former one, but look closely and you may notice the addition of 42 seats and an orchestra lift at the front of the theater that drops down into the trap system. "That's mostly for loading equipment, believe it or not, not for revealing the orchestra like they do at Radio City Music Hall," says Kato.

The stage area has been increased to Broadway dimensions, to accommodate future New York-bound tryouts.

Still to come in future construction phases are a second performance space devoted to plays and new work development, as well as a dining experience dubbed Scenes. Kato says it will be an amenity for donors rather than a public restaurant, "catered and themed to the shows most likely." Completion timing of both is dependent on further funding.

The new Maltz's first full season begins Oct. 25 with a three-week run of *Jersey Boys*. The jukebox biography of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons was originally scheduled for January of this year at Roger Dean Stadium.

Next will be *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Nov. 29-Dec. 18), the ancient Roman farce with music and lyrics by the late Stephen Sondheim. "Coming out of COVID, I just thought, 'Give the audience a little breathing room. Give them a little comedy tonight,'" Kato says.

It will be followed by the



The multiple Tony-winning musical *Hadestown* comes to the Kravis Center in January. Photo by T. Charles Erickson

other show postponed from the past season, *Sweet Charity* (Jan. 10-29), a bittersweet musical about a lovelorn dance hall dame for hire, what Kato calls a tale of "unrequited love and perseverance."

The Maltz will continue its commitment to non-musicals as well with David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People* (Feb. 12-26), a surprising drama about an impoverished single mother on Boston's South Side.

The season will wrap with *Oliver!* (March 14-April 2). The family-friendly musical with a large ensemble of youngsters is meant, in part, to help jump-start again the theater's Goldner Conservatory of Performing Arts.

New season lineups

Meanwhile, other area theater companies have announced their plans for 2022-23:

West Palm Beach's **Palm**

Beach Dramaworks' season opener is Amy Herzog's *4000 Miles* (Oct. 14-30), about a 21-year-old biker and his fragile 91-year-old grandmother. It will be followed by *Twelve Angry Men* (Dec. 9-24) by Reginald Rose; and the world premiere of *The Science of Leaving Omaha* by Carter W. Lewis (Feb. 3-19), about an odd couple who meet and spend an evening in a Nebraska funeral home.

Actor-playwright Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning *August: Osage County* is March 31-April 16; and PBD's season ends with Suzan-Lori Parks' *Topdog/Underdog* (May 26-June 11), the Pulitzer Prize-winning tale of two brothers and their simmering sibling rivalry.

Boca Raton's **Wick Theatre** has announced a five-show 2022-23 season of mainstream musicals, beginning with *Milk and Honey* (Oct. 13-

Nov. 6), Jerry Herman's first Broadway score, about a group of American widows on a tour of Israel in search of romance. Next is Rodgers and Hammerstein's version of *Cinderella* (Nov. 25-Dec. 24), with an updated libretto by Douglas Carter Beane. The company also will produce Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* (Jan. 12-Feb. 12), the toe-tapping 1934 tale of an ocean liner crossing the Atlantic with a madcap passenger list.

The previously postponed *Damn Yankees* is next (March 2-April 2), about a middle-aged baseball fan who sells his soul to Satan to help the woeful Washington Senators win the pennant. The Wick season concludes with *Million Dollar Quartet* (April 20-May 14), a fictional version of a real-life Sun Records jam session with Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. Thank you very much.

At the nearby Sol Theatre, **Boca Stage** will serve up three South Florida premieres and an updated comedy classic. First up will be *The Thin Place* by Lucas Hnath (Nov. 3-20), an offbeat ghost story centering on a woman who can see and communicate with the dead. The second production is Alessandro Camon's *Time Alone* (Jan. 6-22), about a grief-stricken widow and a young man serving a life sentence, who have an unexpected connection. Next up is *Grand Horizons*, by Bess Wohl (Feb. 10-26), about a couple married 50 years who suddenly decide to divorce.

Boca Stage's season ends with Neil Simon's classic laughfest *The Odd Couple* (March 17-April 2), but in this female-centric version, opposites Florence and Olive move in together and get on each other's nerves.

Fort Lauderdale's **Broward Center** has a Broadway series that features four South Florida premieres. They include *Six* (Oct. 11-23), a rock concert about the six wives of England's

King Henry VIII; Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (March 28-April 9), the Southern social drama of attorney Atticus Finch and his two kids, adapted to the stage by Aaron Sorkin; *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* (Jan. 17-29), the biographical tale of the "Proud Mary" whirlwind; and *Beetlejuice* (June 13-25), the raucous musical about a dead couple who try to haunt their former home.

Also on the series is the return of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* (Nov. 22-Dec. 11), the hip-hop blockbuster about the Founding Father, first secretary of the Treasury and lousy duelist. Plus, available to subscribers as add-on options are Riverdance's 25th Anniversary Show (Jan. 13-15), *Chicago* (Feb. 14-19) and *Mean Girls* (May 2-7).

Celebrating its 30th anniversary season, the **Kravis Center** offers a Broadway show lineup heavy on movie-inspired musicals. The season leads off with *9 to 5: The Musical* (Nov. 15-20), about a trio of female co-workers who turn the tables on their sexist boss, to a score by Dolly Parton. It will be followed by Disney's *Aladdin* (Dec. 14-23), the Arabian tale of a lamp and three wishes. Then there's *Tootsie* (Feb. 7-12), about a difficult actor who cannot get hired until he dresses as a woman. *Tootsie* will be followed by *Pretty Woman: The Musical* (March 7-12), the cable-TV perennial movie, a contemporary take on the Cinderella legend.

Three other musicals are on the Kravis schedule: *Hadestown*, winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards, based on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, relocated to New Orleans (Jan. 3-8); *Wicked* (March 29-April 9), about two witches-in-training before one turns evil; and *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations* (April 26-30) follows the tightly choreographed guy group from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

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Art

Ann Norton exhibit shows artist's keen, vibrant eye for pop personality

By Gretel Sarmiento
ArtsPaper Art Writer

Think of a thermal imaging camera illuminating areas of high body temperature in a black canvas and you would begin to get a sense of Bradley Theodore's painting *The Last Supper*. Undiscernible features, bold tones, and broad strokes delivered in rapid fashion shape this familiar scene of 13 diners against a wall. The colors clearly missed the memo that three is a crowd and instead seize on Jesus and his disciples.

This demotion of the flesh and individual traits in favor of vivid hues, electrifying energy, and universal skeletal attributes is the mark of Theodore's style. A native of Turks and Caicos, Theodore taps into his digital advertising and graphic design background to bring forward emotions and memories via the use of color. He is known for his dark-humor portraits of contemporary icons, which are reminiscent of the masks and adornments associated with Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

A selection of about 20 of his works is the latest in a string of colorful exhibitions taking Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens by storm. On view through June 30, *Bradley Theodore in the Garden of the Palms* feels fresh, unpretentious, and positive despite carrying undertones of darkness and mortality. The show features acrylic and oil portraits of pop culture and fashion personalities such as Karl Lagerfeld, Carolina



Bradley Theodore's 2018 portrait of Karl Lagerfeld, *Karl in Oil*, is one of the works on display in the exhibit at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. Photo provided

Herrera and Iris Apfel, along with works the artist produced while in residence at Ann Norton's Studio. Even his skull sculptures, the largest of which appear in the garden facing each other, are evocative of celebration, with bright colors and impeccable lapels balancing up their macabre appearance.

Colorful patches, fashionable shades, and a bright white ponytail masterfully conceal that morbid appearance in *Karl in Oil* — but they can only do so

for so long. Stare a little longer and notice how the peachy skin erodes in certain spots, giving in to a bony semblance.

This is not, however, an invitation to mourn the loss of the legendary German fashion designer, but a resurrection of his inner beauty and sartorial elegance. The piece, done a year before Lagerfeld's death, can be found in Ann Norton's studio.

Inside the galleries, a feminine deity radiating patience and humility holds

If You Go

Bradley Theodore in the Garden of the Palms runs through June 30 at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach.

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday to Sunday

Admission: Members free, adults, \$15; seniors, \$10; children/student, \$7.

Info: 561-832-5328, ansng.org

her palms together in a prayer gesture. She floats on a bed of flowers including roses and lilies. Her features are childish and primitive, and her blond locks of hair messy. The brushstrokes accentuate her spine and rib cage and seem more preoccupied with her bone structure than with grace. The lively blue drapery hugging her pink robe is a clue.

This is none other than *Virgin Mary*. The familiar pose and hues allude to her traditional depiction, but the saturation and the setting have been dialed up. The result is an apparition that is more clownish than divine, which is to say more human, less fear-inspiring.

The adjacent room houses a painting of a Victorian ball gown oscillating between pastel and cobalt blues and with the consistency of cake frosting. Its opulence reminds us of a charismatic character who lacked empathy and tact. Visually, it's playful, innocent and doesn't offend the eyes.

As evidence of an oblivious royal removed from reality, it's

lethal. This would be Exhibit A in Marie Antoinette's trial. The jeweled queen, plastered with makeup, stands passively as if resigned to face the viewers' judgment, but the ridiculous extravagance with which she is captured is punishment enough. Theodore gives this 2022 portrait of the notorious character a casual title, *Marie*.

The multidisciplinary artist, who is based in New York City and has collaborated with Puma, Lego, and Google (among other companies), revisits the young French queen in *My love* (2021). This time she appears riding a horse dressed in a mint-green gown while her towering white wig remains intact. The cobalt blue background showered with warm flowers makes for a romantic vintage postcard. The bright palette assign to the animal highlights its musculature. It's as if Theodore were identifying each of its organs and mapping its blood circulation. In that sense, the piece feels a tad anatomical.

The amusing works featured in *Bradley Theodore in the Garden of the Palms* are not to be taken too seriously. The lighthearted approach to a heavy topic such as mortality seems unorthodox but should hardly come as a surprise.

Each person's relationship with death is personal, and Theodore clearly treats his as a life partnership and collaboration. He is simply the latest messenger to remind us Death is the greatest joke of all.

BACKDROPS

Continued from page 7

designed to "snap into realism" at a distance through the camera, but up close one is able to see the artists' ink making and markings.

"I continue to be inspired by them as artists," says Maness, herself a professional studio artist. "And I'm excited to train the next generation of digital and analog artists who can learn from these masters."

In 2016, Maness and stage designer Richard M. Isackes collaborated on a book, *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*, to highlight efforts to preserve the backings and make them available for study. The book is currently out of print, but 24 are available for sale at the museum during the exhibit.

Maness set out to interview some of the remaining scenic artists.

"This is the first time this story has been chronicled," says Maness, who has spent 10 years on this project. "I'm honored to make these artists seen and known."

One of the best-known scenic artists of that era was George Gibson, who worked for MGM for 34 years and left his mark on such iconic films as *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *An American in Paris* (1951), *Brigadoon* (1954) and *North by Northwest*.

"Despite being among the largest paintings ever created, they were never recognized in cinematic history nor



Kym Karath, Debbie Turner, Angela Cartwright, Duane Chase, Heather Menzies, Nicholas Hammond, Charmian Carr, Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer in *The Sound of Music* (1965), standing in front of the backdrop painted by John Coakley for the project. Photo provided by Margaret Herrick Library

were the artists," Maness says. "And the techniques used in these paintings are the foundation for the evolution of our modern special effects."

Maness admits she has a special place in her heart for the painting that was the Von Trapp terrace in *The Sound of Music*, a film that was a treasured part of her childhood.

Maness says she was able to definitively attribute the work to John Coakley, a protégé of Gibson.

"It knocked my socks off when I first saw it," she says. "You can see the

freshness of his hand. He clutched the brush with his fingers splayed between it to create the leaf patterns. It has the feel of a *plein air* painting."

Unlike Maness, Walsh cannot pick a favorite backdrop.

"It's like choosing a favorite child," he says.

"It is difficult for people to get their minds around the awesome size of these magical spaces, until they see them in person," Walsh says. "People are often shocked and surprised by the scale and visual impact of these massive creations."

If You Go

The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop: Cinema's Creative Legacy runs to Jan. 22 at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday

Admission: Adults \$12; seniors \$10; students and children enter free.

Info: bocamuseum.org or 561-392-2500

For the exhibit, interactive video reels were created in Hollywood, telling the stories behind each backdrop. Soundscapes will surround visitors, including atmospheric sound effects related to the original movies and to the scenic vistas.

The show also features an education gallery created especially for this exhibition, showcasing historic tools of the trade used by the artists.

The "unique industrial techniques" employed by the scenic artists "permitted them to be Norman Rockwell at one moment, and then Turner, Rembrandt or Vermeer at another," Walsh notes.

"It's important for our collective memory to preserve these paintings," he adds. "The only way to understand how they were painted is to have them as physical evidence and in use as study models."

"There's nothing better than the real thing," he says.

OPERA

Continued from page 7

the troupe's annual operating budget — is spread out over three years, annually funding one mainstage production and the Apprentice Artist program, which offers 10 recent graduates of conservatory vocal programs a five-month residency with the opera company.

“This transformative gift will ... ensure that world-class opera will continue to thrive in our community for years to come,” opera Board Chairman David Genser said in a statement. Palm Beach Opera has hired



Palm Beach Opera's new facility. Photo provided

Minneapolis-based theatrical design firm Schuler Shook to bring the project to fruition. The company expects to begin

moving into the renovated building this fall.

The opera company has also announced its 61st season, which will contain three operas, all performed at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

First up is one of the world's favorite operas, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, on Jan. 20-22. This 1904 opera, set in Japan, tells the story of the teenage geisha Cio-Cio San and the American naval man who betrays her. No casting has yet been announced for the season.

The second production, Feb. 24-26, is Mozart's 1790 comedy *Così fan Tutte*, his final collaboration with the librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte. The story concerns a

bet made by a cynical “old philosopher” who tells two young men their beloveds will not remain faithful to them, given the chance.

The season ends March 24-26 with a company premiere, Verdi's *Falstaff*, premiered in 1893 when the Italian composer was 80. It is essentially a setting of Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor*, with librettist Arrigo Boito adding material from other Shakespeare plays, featuring the disreputable old knight Sir John Falstaff. The sparkling score is only the second comic opera Verdi ever composed.

For more information, visit pbopera.org.

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through June 3, 2022, were current as of April 20. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through June 30: *Bradley Theodore in the Garden of the Palms*. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$7 children/students; free/members. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Opens May 21: *Art of the Phoenix Exhibition*, works by students in a program for youths in trauma recovery. Through June 9. 10 am-4 pm T-F, 10 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org.

Boca Raton Museum of Art: *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*. Through Jan. 22. With *Bonnie Lautenberg: Art Meets Hollywood — Artistic! Diptychs of photographs of artworks paired with movie stills from the same year; artists include Jackson Pollock and Piet Mondrian*. \$12/adults, \$10/seniors, students and children/free. 11 am-6 F, Sat, Sun; 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: *Art Acquisitions Large and Small*, works by 20 artists, accompanying the council's new print guide for art collectors. Through June 25. Noon-5 pm T-F, first Saturday. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Lighthouse ArtCenter: *Art Connects Across the*

Ages, works in glass, wood, paper and plastic. Through Aug. 7. \$5 non-members. 9 am-6 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Opens May 7: *Beyond the Wall: Visions of the Asian Experience in America*, works by Asian-American artists Boy Kong, Elena Ohlander, Casey Kawaguchi, Hiromi Mizugai Moneyhun and Juuri. Through Sept. 25. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free/members, ages 5 and under. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233 or morikami.org.

Norton Museum of Art: Through June 12: *Jane Peterson: Impressions of Light and Water*, eight works by the early 20th-century American impressionist who captured classic images of the Palm Beach area; through Sept. 11: *Dürer, Rembrandt and Picasso: Three Masters of the Print, A Remarkable Gathering: The Fisher Landau Family Collection*; through Sept. 25: *The Howard and Judie Ganek Collection*, featuring a selection of works from a promised gift to the Norton. \$18; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free/members, ages 12 and under. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196 or www.norton.org.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, May 8
Master Chorale of South Florida: The large community choir under the direction of Brett Karlin closes its season with Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, the German composer's 1936 cantata featuring medieval student songs, written in a stripped-down way that made its opening

number, *O Fortuna*, a staple of Goth entertainment everywhere. \$30/advance, \$35/door. 4 pm at the University Theatre, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. 954-641-2653 or www.masterchoraleofsouthflorida.org. Friday, May 13

Spotlight on Young Musicians: The annual Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County celebration. \$10/advance, \$12/door. 7 pm at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-823-7469 or www.kravis.org. Saturday, May 28

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches: The 250-member chorus of singers 8 to 18 offers a program of songs of uplift in a concert called *We'll Rise Above*. \$15 and up. 7:30 pm at the Kravis Center, 561-823-7469 or www.kravis.org.

DANCE

Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8
Boca Ballet Theatre: Dan Guin and Jane Tyree's company presents its annual Spring Curation on Mother's Day weekend, with a mix of classical and contemporary works. 7:30 pm Sat, 2 pm Sun, Olympic Heights High School, 20101 Lyons Road, Boca Raton. \$35, \$25 seniors. 561-995-0709 or www.bocaballet.org. Sunday, May 15

Paris Ballet and Dance: The Jupiter community dance troupe presents *Cinderella*. 8 pm at the Kravis Center. \$14 and up. 561-823-7469 or www.kravis.org. Friday, May 27-Sunday, May 29

Harid Conservatory: The dance school offers its spring program, featuring excerpts from

Raymonda, *Don Quixote* and *The Fairy Doll*. 7:30 pm Friday, 3 pm Sat and Sun. Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. \$25-\$30. 561-997-2677 or harid.edu.

JAZZ

Sunday, May 8
Denise King Quintet: The Philadelphia-born vocalist evokes the stylings of classic female jazz artists. 7 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org. Saturday, May 14

Marlow Rosado Latin Jazz Ensemble: The Miami-based Latin jazz orchestra previews his newest album. 8 pm, Arts Garage. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org. Friday, May 20

Warren Wolf Group: The vibraphonist and pianist brings his own band to Delray Beach. 8 pm, Arts Garage. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

OPERA

Saturday, May 14, Sunday, May 15, Tuesday, May 17, Thursday, May 19

Agrippina: This 1709 opera is one of the first from George Frideric Handel, and concerns how the title character, mother of the future Roman Emperor Nero, plots to secure the throne for her son. Florida Grand Opera's production features Christine Lyons, Flora Hawk, Kenneth Tarver and Neil Nelson. 7 pm Sat, 2 pm Sun, 8 pm T and Th. Miami Scottish Rite Temple, 471 NW 3rd St., Miami. 800-741-1010 or fgo.org.

POPULAR MUSIC

Saturday, May 7
Tim McGraw: The Louisiana-born country singer has had 10 No. 1 albums on the country charts. iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. www.livenation.com. Saturday, May 14

Miranda Lambert and Little Big Town: The country singer and the country quartet join forces for The Bandwagon Tour. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com. Tuesday, May 17

Halsey: The singer born Ashley Frangipane released *If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power*, last year. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com. Friday, May 20

The Lumineers: The Colorado folk-rock band

released its fourth album, *Brightside*, in January. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com.

Saturday, May 28-Sunday, May 29
Dave Matthews Band: The South African native's Charlottesville-based band returns for what has been an annual weekend in West Palm Beach. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com.

THEATER

Through Sunday, May 8
Much Ado About Nothing: Shakespeare's classic play of the lovers Beatrice and Benedict and the almost-thwarted lovers Hero and Leander. \$35 and up. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworth-playhouse.org.

An Officer and a Gentleman: The jukebox musical revamp of the popular 1982 film starring Richard Gere and Debra Winger. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$32 and up. 561-823-7469 or www.kravis.org. Through Sunday, May 15

The Sound Inside: Adam Rapp's 2018 play about an alliance between a professor and a mysterious student won Mary-Louise Parker a Tony Award. \$45-\$50. Boca Stage in the Sol Theatre, 3333 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-447-8829 or bocastage.org

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do: Ben Winters and Erik Jackson's musical revue that uses 18 songs by 1960s pop songwriter Neil Sedaka. The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. \$75-\$85. 561-995-2333 or www.thewick.org. **Same Time, Next Year:** Bernard Slade's 1975 romantic comedy about two married people who meet at a California inn and continue their affair once a year for 25 years. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 561-272-1281, ext. 5, or www.delraybeachplayhouse.com. Opens Friday, May 20

Summer: The Donna Summer Musical: The story of the Boston girl who became the Queen of Disco. Through May 26. Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$32 and up. 561-823-7469 or www.kravis.org

The Belle of Amherst: William Luce's one-woman play about poet Emily Dickinson. With Margery Lowe. Through June 5. Don and Ann Brown Theatre, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

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Gardens

Heritage Gardens a growing part of Delray's history exhibits

By Jan Engoren

On a beautiful Friday morning, volunteer Dan Kowalski is watering the Heritage Gardens, the Florida native garden at the Delray Beach Historical Society outside the 1920s Cason Cottage.

The garden at Swinton Avenue and Northeast First Street was conceived in 2017 as a collaboration between the Historical Society and the Grass River Garden Club. It was born out of the desire to teach the importance of utilizing native plants and as a way to mitigate the dwindling green space and natural habitats in the city due to increased development.

"It's an asset and a green oasis in the midst of downtown Delray Beach," says Winnie Diggans Edwards, president of the Historical Society. "We're blessed with 1 acre of property and as a gathering place for the community. We wanted to create an outdoor classroom to educate the public on its history through nature."

She credits Carl Terwilliger of Meadow Beauty Nursery in Lake Worth with helping design and plant the garden and her volunteer garden committee, which includes several master gardeners, for maintaining it.

Kowalski is outside most days from 8-11 a.m., doing his part to keep the beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*), the blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) and the coontie plants (*Zamia pumila*) watered.

Growing native Florida gardens as opposed to Florida-friendly gardens "is best for sustainability reasons," says Kowalski. "We don't use any chemical fertilizers and we make use of the natural rainwater, as we have more than 300 gallons of water stored in our rain barrels."

The garden has distinct sections, including a Florida scrub section, a pollinator garden, the Lower Keys, oak hammock, Dade County pine forest, wetlands, a raised bed heritage farm, a raised bed gladiola garden, and a fruit grove with a starfruit tree, Zill mango tree and a Brazilian grape tree or jaboticaba (*Plinia cauliflora*).

In the wetland area are swamp milkweed, a host for monarch butterflies, fragrant water lilies, buttonbush and a pond apple tree (*Annona glabra*).

Still in the works are educational kiosks to be located in each distinct habitat, providing an information panel describing the habitat's plants, the fauna that benefits and messages about perpetuating Florida native gardens, endangerment issues and sustainability.

The improvements will assist the garden in providing guided

Twilight in the Garden

What: Delray Beach Historical Society fundraiser.

When: 6-10 p.m. May 14

Where: Historical Society campus (Cason Cottage), 3 NE First St.

Admission: \$150

Reservations: Call 561-274-9578 or visit <https://delraybeachhistory.org>

Details: Food and craft cocktails from Caffe Luna Rosa, Farmer's Table, Meso Beach House, Costa Organic Kitchen, Dada, Ember Grill at The Ray, Ceasar's BBQ, Delray Hideaway, Hawker's, Hoppportunities, Warren Delray, Deke's in Delray and others. Music from Brett Staska and Uproot Hootenanny.

and self-guided tours. The Historical Society also plans to hold lectures, classes and kids summer camp, all centered on native gardening, sustainability and conservation.

As detailed on the society's website, the mission is "to provide an outdoor, interactive experience that engages and inspires visitors of all ages to preserve our history, cultural heritage, and planet for future generations."

Edibles are next

The next phase of the garden will be to plant green beans, tomatoes and pineapple, all original crops dating back to the city's agricultural heritage.

Edwards says Delray Beach has a rich history of garden clubs beginning in the late 1800s, when the town was founded as an agricultural city. She credits the Ladies Improvement Association of 1902 with the genesis of the city's beautification efforts. One of those early garden clubs, the Poinciana Garden Club, remains active to this day, and a scrapbook with memorabilia from the nine original clubs sits in the Historical Society archives.

Edwards says the Delray Affair, which had its 60-year anniversary last month, began as a celebration of the city's agricultural heritage and was first known as the Gladiola Festival, because the city was the gladiola capital of the country.

At last month's gala the Historical Society sold special Florida-hardy gladiola bulbs, known as corms.

Connie Cook Lyons, a third-generation Delray Beacher and former naturalist with the Deering Estate in Miami, has deep roots to the Historical Society and has volunteered at the garden since the start.

Her father and Edwards' father were founding members



ABOVE: Historical Society president Winnie Diggans Edwards (left) counts on volunteers like Dan Kowalski and Connie Cook Lyons to keep the Heritage Gardens thriving.

LEFT: The property includes the Cason Cottage, whose furnishings showcase Delray's early history.

Photos by Jan Engoren/The Coastal Star

of the Historical Society and her brother, David Cook, is the vice president.

Walking through the Heritage garden, Cook Lyons highlights the native coontie plant, used by the atala butterfly to lay its eggs.

"This plant helped bring the atala butterfly back from the brink of extinction," she says.

She points out the Hercules club tree (*Zanthoxylum clavaherculis*), a member of the citrus family and a host plant for caterpillars of the giant swallowtail butterfly.

"The garden is a place to

come for peace and tranquility and to look for butterflies," says Cook Lyons.

"We are bringing things full circle," she says. "Learn about Delray's history, stroll through the gardens, take pictures and use them as inspiration to create your own native garden."

"Preservation and conservation are twin tenets of our mission. The garden is an oasis of beauty and learning for years to come. We hope to leave a strong legacy for future generations."

She quotes an old gardening adage especially relevant for

native gardens: "In their first year, they sleep, in their second year they creep and by the third year, they leap."

This particularly applies to slow-growing plants such as manzanitas, mahonias and other shrubs.

Now in their third year, they are "ready to leap," says Cook Lyons. ★

Educational Heritage Gardens: Open year-round. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Suggested donation, \$5. Group tours welcome.

Garden Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 8-14

5/12 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

5/12 - Workshop: The Art of Flower Arranging at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Held again 2-3:30 pm 5/28. 7-8:30 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

MAY 22-28

5/28 - Basic Orchid Care: How to Repot an Orchid at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

IRC receives \$10K to continue plant diversity project

The Institute for Regional Conservation, a Delray Beach nonprofit that aims to protect, restore and manage biodiversity regionally, and to prevent the local extinctions of rare plant, animals and ecosystems, was awarded a \$10,000 Community Impact Grant from New York Life.

The grant will support Restoring the Gold Coast phase two, which aims to recover the beauty and

diversity of plants and animals native to coastal ecosystems in Palm Beach County.

In its second phase, Restoring the Gold Coast expands from a concentration on the coastal dune system to include the whole barrier island west to the mainland along the Intracoastal and adjacent waterways.

— Staff report

Heading North?

While The Coastal Star is delivered free to each household in South Palm Beach, Hypoluxo Island, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream, Coastal Delray Beach, Coastal Boca Raton and Highland Beach, it may not make it to everyone who cares about our towns. If you are not currently receiving our paper, and wish to subscribe, please complete the form below.



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Mitzvah Day

Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Boca Raton — March 27



The federation welcomed hundreds of residents to do a good deed — or mitzvah — by offering activities with the goal of helping others. Everything was free and open to the public. 'The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County wanted to celebrate our big giving day with an even bigger give-back effort,' Mitzvah Day Chairwoman Sandy Gerstein said. 'Additionally, we wanted to welcome our community with feel-good events, where we could reconnect, meet new people and feel safe outside, among friends.' ABOVE: (l-r) Robin Siegal, Cathy Haubenstein, Jill Rose, Susan Strulowitz and Karen Green. Photo provided by FANEFOTO

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 8-14

Monday - 5/9 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
5/9 - Rosary for Peace at St Vincent Ferrer Adoration Chapel, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com
Tuesday - 5/10 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
Wednesday - 5/11 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by

Rev. Laurie Durgan. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
Thursday - 5/12 - Thursday Morning Prosperity Coffee at Unity of Delray Beach Church Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. In person: Every 1st Th; phone meeting (720-740-9634, pass code 2152894); all but 1st Th 7 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
5/12 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
5/12 - Women's Discipleship Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
Friday - 5/13 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-

276-6892; stvincentferrer.com
5/13 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

MAY 15-21

Tuesday - 5/17 - The Values That Shape Judaism's Civil Code: Beyond Right at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Rohr Jewish Learning Institute 6-week course. Virtual or in person class. Every T through 6/21 7-8:30 pm. \$79/includes textbook. RSVP: 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.com/JLI

MAY 29-JUNE 4

Thursday - 6/2 - Islamic Center of Boca Raton Open House at 3480 NW 5th Ave, Boca Raton. All welcome. Refreshments, tour of the mosque, Q&A. 1st Th 7-9 pm. Free. 561-395-7221; icbr.org

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Religion News

Mini food collection boxes let neighbors help neighbors

You may have noticed the colorful Little Free Pantry boxes popping up around the area.

Little Free Pantries are small, localized food collection boxes for folks who need a little help meeting their family's nutritional needs. These pantries can hold only a small amount of canned or boxed goods, donated by neighbors, but they make a huge difference.

Jessica McClard launched the grassroots mini-pantry movement in May 2016 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Summer Faerman at B'nai Torah Congregation of Boca Raton spearheaded the project locally, with more than a dozen pantries popping up in Boca Raton and Delray Beach in the past year.

The newly opened pantry at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton is supported by the church, but some are started by neighbors or schools.

The philosophy is simple: "Take what you need; give what you can." There's no organization, just neighbors helping neighbors.

A typical pantry will stock tomato sauce, pasta, rice, cereal, canned tuna, fruits and vegetables, and toiletries.

McClard offered guidelines on starting your own Little Free Pantry, and Faerman used those as a guide. If you're getting ready to head north for the summer, consider donating those unneeded pantry items to the project. You can find locations and information about starting your own Little Free Pantry at <https://btcboca.org/littlefreepantry>.

New deacons ordained

St. Vincent de Paul Seminary ordained 11 seminarians as transitional deacons on April 2, including Marc Gustinelli from Palm Beach diocese. The

ordination Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Boca Raton was celebrated by Bishop David Toups, who formerly served as rector of St. Vincent de Paul before he was named bishop of Beaumont, Texas.

St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach is an ATS-accredited school founded in 1963 with a student population of more than 115 seminarians. Over the years, 650 of its seminarians have gone on to serve as priests in parishes in the Southeast and Caribbean.

New life skills center

JARC Florida announced that the new Caryn J. Clayman Life Skills Center will break ground in Boca Raton in September and open about a year later. The demand for services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities continues to grow along with south Palm Beach County's population. The 13,000-square-foot facility will be a modern space where the nonsectarian organization can serve more residents.

JARC Florida, based in Boca Raton, operates 10 group homes in the Boca Raton and Delray Beach area for adults with developmental disabilities. For more information, or to volunteer, visit <http://jarcfl.org>.

Morning coffee and prayer

The Prosperity Coffee prayer meeting at Unity of Delray Beach resumed in April. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month — the next were set for 7 a.m. May 5 and June 2 — at 101 NW 22nd St.

Prosperity Coffee is led by Charlene Wilkinson and is using the book *The Prayer Way to Health, Wealth and Happiness*, by Lowell Fillmore, available online. Phone meetings are also held. To be a part of the phone group, call

720-740-9634 and use pass code 2152894. For more information, visit www.unityofdelraybeach.org or call 561-276-5796.

Spring tea and fashion

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church will celebrate women and mothers at the annual Spring Tea and Fashion Show from 2 to 4 p.m. May 7 at the church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds benefit the church's ministries and outreach programs. Call 561-395-8285; www.stgregorysepiscopal.org.

Mother's Day novena

St. Lucy Catholic Church offers parishioners an opportunity to celebrate their mothers, living or dead, with special Masses from May 8 through 16. A novena is a series of nine prayers or Masses that are focused on a specific intention. These "spiritual bouquets" for Mother's Day are an option for those who can't bring mom flowers. For more information about honoring your mother with a special prayer, call the church office at 561-278-1280.

5K run to fight hunger set

Registration has begun for the 2022 Hustle to End Hunger 5K to be held Oct. 1 at John



The Delray String Quartet will perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach on May 22. Photo provided

Prince Park in Lake Worth. Registration fees are \$40 until Aug. 31. There will also be a 5K walk and a virtual option.

Sponsors and volunteers are needed. The race benefits CROS Ministries. To register, visit www.runsignup.com. For more information, visit www.crosministries.org.

Chabad class registration

Chabad of South Palm Beach will offer the course "Beyond Right: The Values That Shape Judaism's Civil Code" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays from May 17 to June 21 at Chabad Center, 224 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan.

The course is in-person only and registration is \$79. Returning students save \$10.

Call 561-889-3499 or visit www.chabadofsouthpalmbeach.org.

Music at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal Church's monthly offering of classical music continues at a special time on May 22. The program "Romantic Power and Poetry" by the Delray String Quartet begins at 5 p.m. and features works of Hugo Wolf, Alexander Glazunov, Giacomo Puccini and Robert Schumann.

Tickets are \$20, free for ages 18 and younger. St. Paul's is at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

For more information, call 561-278-6003 or visit <https://stpaulsdelray.org>.

— Janis Fontaine

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Health & Harmony

Delray surgeon excited by success of ultrasound treatment for tremors

Incisionless focused ultrasound. They are three words that when combined describe a potentially life-changing treatment for people who have tremor-dominant Parkinson's disease or essential tremor.

Last year, Delray Medical Center became the first hospital in Palm Beach County to offer this procedure, which uses magnetic resonance imaging to direct high-intensity ultrasound at the brain tissue at the source of the tremor.

"Tears, joy, amazement," says Dr. Lloyd Zucker, chief of neurosurgery at the medical center, describing patients' reactions when they see their steady arms and hands at the end of the treatment. "I still stand in awe every single time we do it."

Zucker has been performing the procedure for three years — most recently in his role at Delray Medical Center, which is part of Tenet Healthcare. It's done using the Exablate Neuro device, which was developed by InSightec.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration approved the use of the InSightec device in 2016 for essential tremor and in 2018 for Parkinson's disease.

While it's not a treatment option for every patient with motor symptoms, it's a life-changing addition to the options already available.

"For many years, medication

was the mainstay of treatment. ... If you look at patients with essential tremor, many of them have tried one of three different medications. Fifty to 70% of them fail on medication treatment in five to seven years," Zucker says.



Zucker

"In the '80s ... there was the advent of something called deep brain stimulation, which is kind of what it sounds like. You put an electrode within the brain, you lead a wire under the scalp behind the ear and you put a pacemaker-like device by the clavicle.

"This delivers electrical impulses to the area of the brain that you've targeted and can be used for the tremors of essential tremor. And it can be used for the tremors of Parkinson's disease and some of the other aspects like rigidity and slowness of motion. But there's been a large number of patients that have been reluctant to undergo an intervention as great as that."

Scalpel-free treatment

The focused ultrasound is an outpatient procedure. Most patients go home the same day and return to their regular activities within a few days. Zucker explains how it works:

"Ultrasound is usually a

very benign form of energy and we use it for many things. But now what we've done is we've combined a helmet with 1,000 ultrasound sources that are focused at a point. And when you focus all that ultrasound at a point, it generates heat. That in and of itself wouldn't be enough, but we've used the MRI to help us target where we want to access within the brain.

"The end result of that is without an incision, without a hole, it basically works directly through the skull without ever having opened it," he says.

Zucker says the ultrasound frequency is ablative, "which means it destroys a small area of the brain by using heat. So, we are using that to knock out an area that's causing the symptom that we would like to see relieved or at least abated."

The patient experience

In preparation for treatment, patients receive a local anesthetic so the special frame can be put on their heads. This holds heads still in the MRI.

"The patient is usually lying there anywhere from as short as an hour and a half to as long as about three hours. The actual treatments are ranging from 10 and 12 seconds to up to about 35 seconds. In between the treatments, the machine is actually going through a cooling phase. What makes it a longer day than just three 12-second treatments is that in-between

time," Zucker says.

Patients are evaluated during treatment intervals. "And when we're satisfied that we've gotten reasonably good control or elimination of the tremor, we get them off the table and they go home," he says.

Studies show tremor control in patients who had the procedure seven to 10 years ago, Zucker says. "It's been studied a little longer in Europe. Obviously, the experience in the United States is a little bit shorter, but it appears to be a fairly robust and long-lasting therapy."

Possible side effects

Medical interventions have their risks, of course. In InSightec-sponsored clinical studies, the most common adverse events associated with the MR-guided focused ultrasound were imbalance/gait disturbance (26% of study patients), numbness/tingling (33%) and headache/head pain (51%).

"Most of these events were classified as mild or moderate, and 48% of all adverse events resolved on their own within 30 days," InSightec says on its website. (Learn more at www.insightec.com/safety-information.)

During the treatment, Zucker says some patients describe a feeling of warmth. Others have described feeling pressure, "and a few, extreme pressure."

"Some patients have no discomfort at all. Some patients have mild to moderate discomfort. But nobody has gotten off the table with their tremor gone and complained about what they went through."

'It's like I was born again'

South Floridian Carol Klein, one of Zucker's patients, first felt disbelief, wonderment and then teary-eyed after treatment. A video on the InSightec Facebook page shows Klein, at procedure's end, holding out a steady arm, the severe hand shaking from essential tremor gone.

"I have my old life back, and I thought it was gone. I did. It's like I was born again," she says in the video. Watch the video at www.facebook.com/INSIGHTEC.MRGFUS/videos/643328180376267/.

"Anybody that sees one of these surgeries, sees the patient before, sees the patient afterward, knows that it is life-changing. And when you get to do that, that's kind of why I went into medicine in the first place," Zucker says.

Joyce Reingold writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to joyce.reingold@yahoo.com.



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Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm; Saturday 9 am-noon

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 7

Saturday - 5/7 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

5/7 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6-8 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

5/7 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Class held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

5/7 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

MAY 8-14

Sunday - 5/8 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton.

Class held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Monday - 5/9 - Senior Sneakers Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

Tuesday - 5/10 - AI-Anon 12-Step Study at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 5/11 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

MAY 15-21

Sunday - 5/15 - Savasana, Sake + Salads at Ramen Lab Eatery, 25 NE 2nd Ave #114,

Delray Beach. 1-hr yoga flow; sip/salad follows. 10:30 am. \$35. Tickets: 561-455-2311; ramenlabeatery.com

5/15 - Remembering and Healing Together at Centennial Park and Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Presented by Boynton Beach Mental Health Committee, honors the memories of those lost to Covid-19. Entertainment, music, food trucks, children's activities, mental health resources, Memorial Tree, more. 1-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org/healing

MAY 22-28

Tuesday - 5/24 - Planks + Poke at Ramen Lab Eatery, 25 NE 2nd Ave #114, Delray Beach. 45-minute outdoor HIT sweat session; create your own poke bowl follows. 6:30 am. \$35. Tickets: 561-455-2311; ramenlabeatery.com

Thursday - 5/26 - Virtual Discussion: Mental Health Month Book Club presented by Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

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- Dr. K.D.

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Health Notes

Construction begins on Boca Regional's patient tower

Boca Raton Regional Hospital officially broke ground in March for the new Gloria Drummond Patient Tower. The building is the cornerstone for the hospital's campus transformation and the \$250 million Keeping the Promise capital campaign.

At the center of the day's event were Elaine J. Wold and her Bay Branch Foundation. Wold made a \$25 million gift to Keeping the Promise and she named the tower in memory of Boca Regional's founder, Gloria Drummond, her lifelong friend, who died in 2011.

"I believe we all have a responsibility to improve the level of health care in our area, to forge new directions, and bring new medicine to our families here," said Wold. "It is also important to remember and honor our origins, which is really the foundation of everything this hospital has become."

"Gloria Drummond's name is synonymous with Boca Raton Regional Hospital. Her legacy and spirit remain deeply ingrained in everything we do and whatever future we create."

Wold previously gifted \$10 million to construct the hospital's 37,500-square-foot Gloria Drummond Physical Rehabilitation Institute, and



The groundbreaking included (l-r) Stan Barry, Mayor Scott Singer, Christine E. Lynn, Barbara Schmidt, Elaine J. Wold, Dick Schmidt, Bo Boulenger, hospital CEO Lincoln Mendez and Mark Larkin. Wold made a \$25 million gift to Boca Regional's fundraising effort. Photo provided

she donated money to expand and modernize the hospital's emergency department, creating the Wold Family Center for Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Jeff Newman, medical director of cardiothoracic



Newman

Newman, who has been on the medical staff at the hospital

surgery at Delray Medical Center, was appointed chairman of the hospital's governing board.

for more than 25 years, received his medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla. He did his internship and residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City, in general surgery.

Newman completed his fellowship at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in thoracic surgery.

His focus is on adult cardiac surgery, along with expertise in traditional coronary and valve surgery. He also focuses on mini-mitral valve surgery and mini-aortic valve surgery. He is

proficient at using the da Vinci robotic system for lung cancer surgery and is involved in trans-catheter aortic and mitral valve procedures completed at Delray Medical Center.

Delray Medical Center's chief operating officer, Maria Morales Menendez, was selected as a member of Modern Healthcare's 2022 class of Top 25 Emerging Leaders.

Modern Healthcare annually honors emerging leaders, age 40 or under, who are making significant contributions in the areas of innovation and financial, operational and

clinical excellence.

"Maria was appointed COO at one of the most challenging times facing any health care professional. Despite being in the early stages of her career, she has proven to be an excellent leader, overseeing programs to enhance quality of care, patient safety, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to our employees and medical staff," said Maggie Gill, chief executive officer of the Palm Beach Health Network and Delray Medical Center.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association selected Delray Medical Center as a Blue Distinction Center for knee and hip replacement as well for spine surgery. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated health-care facilities that show a commitment to delivering high-quality patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community and accreditation and quality organizations.

For more on the center's orthopedics program, call 561-637-5197 or go to www.delraymedicalctr.com/services/orthopedics.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.



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On the Water

Slowing down, planning are easiest ways for boaters to save fuel

Boaters don't need to be reminded of the recent jump in fuel prices at marinas and gas stations.

In early April, non-ethanol gasoline was selling for \$5.50 to \$5.65 at Boynton Beach area marinas.

But as they do when handling foul weather and other adverse conditions, boaters often figure out ways to adapt.

Let's face it. If you own a seaworthy boat, it probably cost tens of thousands of dollars (or more) and you pay by the year for insurance and storage.

So it probably doesn't make sense to leave your boat sitting around because of a spike in fuel prices.

Do the math. If your boat uses 30 gallons on a trip and your fuel bill jumped from, say, \$110 to \$170, that's \$60. It hurts, for sure, but it's not a trip killer.

Nonetheless, this is a good time to think about your boat's efficiency and about planning trips that minimize fuel consumption.

Sea Tow recently issued a list of fuel-conservation tips for its members, including tuning engines, fixing and cleaning props, cleaning the boat's bottom to minimize drag and trimming the boat properly to maximize mileage.

If you don't already know the most efficient speed for your boat, read about your model or check the manufacturer's spec sheet to find the most efficient cruising speed and rpm.

Many boats come with smart gauges that display miles per gallon while you're running. Most boats have a "sweet spot," or most efficient speed.

Ben Belanger, general manager of Gulfstream Boat Club, said the club's members in general do not seem to be overly



Connor Dodge pumps gas into his boat, Defiant II, at Boynton Harbor Marina, where marine gasoline sold for \$5.449 a gallon on April 18. Dodge, Matt Broda and three other friends went fishing that day, catching a mahi that they split among themselves to feed their families. 'It's been hard with these gas prices, especially for the young guys and local guys who are just trying to get out and catch fish,' Dodge said. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

concerned with the increase in fuel prices.

Belanger advises members not to plow a boat with its nose in the air and not to run full speed, either, to conserve fuel.

I like to run my 31-foot Contender between 3,500 and 4,200 rpm. The twin engines hum along at those speeds, as if they're saying "ahhhh, this is what we were built to do."

The result: about 1.4 mpg.

If I feel like going fast and throttle them up to over 5,200 rpm, mileage drops down to 1 mpg or below, depending on the load and sea conditions.

At the end of the day on a clear stretch of water, I still like to run my engines up to 5,200 or higher. But with higher fuel prices in mind, I limit my high-speed time to less than a minute.

Trip planning helps, too.

If the current flows north, as it usually does along the coast of

South Florida, run south after you clear the inlet and drift back toward home.

If you're planning to hit four spots during a fishing or dive trip, think about the sequence to minimize running distance.

There's no need to run your boat north, then south, then back north again — unless a change in plans or conditions makes it worthwhile.

If you usually troll, try drifting part of the day.

If you don't want to change anything about your boating style and still minimize fuel costs, invite that friend or neighbor you have been promising to take out, noting that you're planning to split the fuel bill.

A \$170 fuel bill split three ways is about \$57. Split four ways, it's \$42.50 — not bad for a day on the water.

Don't skimp on fuel and risk

running out.

When planning a boating trip, follow the rule of thirds. Budget one third of your fuel to reach your destination, one third to get back and keep one third in reserve.

Resilient Island under construction

Palm Beach County is overseeing the \$600,000 restoration of a small island in the Lake Worth Lagoon to create habitat for oysters, mangroves and bird-nesting.

Located north of Southern Boulevard on the east side of the Intracoastal Waterway, the restoration project dubbed Resilient Island is being paid for by The Nature Conservancy and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Resilient Island is just south of the Tarpon Cove islands being built to improve fish and

wildlife habitat along South Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach.

Work on the 1.2-acre Resilient Island is expected to be completed this fall, when 2,100 red mangroves are scheduled to be planted there.

Although Resilient Island is not meant for public access, shallow-water anglers and nature lovers should be able to enjoy the waters around the island by kayak or small boat.

Stretching from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge, the Lake Worth Lagoon is Palm Beach County's largest estuary.



Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Email tiowillie@bellsouth.net.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 7

Saturday - 5/7 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion in lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

5/7 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9 am-10:30 pm. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

5/7 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet in Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility for presentation. All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2-2:20 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

MAY 8-14

Sunday - 5/8 - Mother's Day in Mother Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Celebrate Mother's Day in the butterfly garden; special outdoor program & fun nature craft. Age 5-adult; child under 18 must be

accompanied by an adult. 9 am-10:30 pm. \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 5/10 - A Walk in the Hammock at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided nature walk along ¼-mile boardwalk trail winds through the hammock, along the mangroves by the Intracoastal. All ages; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 5/24 9:30-10:30 am. \$5/resident; \$8/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Thursday - 5/12 - 27th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby Captain's Party at Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 6-9 pm. Free buffet, music, more. 561-585-8664; lantanafishingderby.com

Saturday May 14: Lantana Fishing Derby. Captain's meeting set for 6 p.m. May 12 at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S. Dixie Highway. The awards party is set for May 15 at the recreation center. Entry fee \$200 per boat by May 1 or \$250 thereafter. Register online at www.Lantanafishingderby.com. For details, call the Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce at 561-585-8664.

South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. For paddlers age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Friday - 5/20 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 5/21 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. Held again 10-11:30 am 5/22 and 6-7:30 pm 5/27. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

MAY 22-28

Saturday - 5/28 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

Winning dolphin

Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, Boynton Beach — April 23



Anglers Eric Carter and Brian Miller, center, show off the 23.9-pound dolphinfish they caught using live bait in the ocean off Jupiter with teammates on the Reel Line. The team's bull dolphin won heaviest dolphin in the April 23 Boynton Beach Firefighters Fishing Tournament and Chili Cook-Off, based at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park. **Willie Howard/The Coastal Star**

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Paws Up for Pets

Is your cat behaving badly? Try enriching life indoors

Does your cat have a case of the kitty blahs? A day spent eating, sleeping and grooming may sound welcoming at first. But imagine if you had to stay inside your home every day without television, your laptop or even the chance to converse with a friend on the phone. You might become bored and find ways to act out.

Far too many indoor cats feel that way. Without enriched environments, some act out from sheer boredom. They may bypass the litter box and pee on your new living room rug. Or want to play pillow tag with you in the middle of the night. They may overeat and transform into hairy ottomans.

Let's be clear. Unlike dogs, cats are not big on sharing their feelings. That's because cats are uniquely prey and predators, which means they are always on the hunt while staying alert not to be hunted. Yes, that's the mindset even if they only prowl inside our homes.

Pinning down what's causing them to act out can be challenging — but it can be accomplished and addressed.

"First, let's put ourselves in our cats' paws," says Dr. Lisa Radosta, DVM, a board-certified veterinary behaviorist who runs the Florida

Veterinary Behavior Service with locations in West Palm Beach and Coral Springs. "Environmental enrichment is extremely important for indoor cats. It helps to maintain their mental and physical health. Proper enrichment helps relieve stress and can positively affect many behavior problems, such as aggression and inappropriate elimination."

The United States has only 90 board-certified veterinary behaviorists, and Radosta is the only one in South Florida. She and her staff strive to ensure cats stay in homes and are not surrendered to humane shelters. They also create plans to improve the bonds between cats and their people.

Take the case of Deborah Fertig and her cat, Arya. Fertig, a flight attendant from Palm Beach Gardens, adopted Arya and her sister, Dany, as 10-week-old kittens. Arya began to urinate on everything and continued to act out as a young adult during the



Siblings Arya and Dany enjoy a feline favorite: being elevated in a cozy cat tree. Photo provided

pandemic when few visitors came to Fertig's home.

"The last straw was when she jumped up on my lap and peed on me," says Fertig. "That's when I knew she needed professional help."

After ruling out any medical issues with Arya, Radosta's team, led by Dr. Alison Gerken, mapped out a plan that included switching types of litter and adding a spacious catio, an enclosure that gave Arya and Fertig's other cats the opportunity to see, smell and hear the great outdoors in a safe manner.

"Arya is not 100% yet, but she has made great progress," says Fertig. "It was helpful to talk to veterinarians who understand cat behavior versus friends or family members who would say, 'Why put up with this? Just get rid of the cat.'"

"My biggest takeaway is that the clinic taught me how Arya might sense her world through smell and routine. I've learned how to look at Arya and her body language for clues so I could act instead of react. Arya is a lovable cat and I did not want to give up on her."

Treating your cat to an enriched life does not have to take a big bite out of your wallet or consume a lot of your time.

Radosta offers a sampling of ways you can enrich your cat's indoor life:

- Release his inner tiger. Treat your cat to toys that move and spark his predatory drive. Examples include Da Bird, FroliCat laser toy and Kong Kickeroo.
- Make old toys seem new. Rotate your cat's toys so your

Learn more

Dr. Lisa Radosta and her team at Florida Veterinary Behavior Service offer one-on-one services as well as online courses and informative blog posts. Learn more by visiting <https://flvetbehavior.com>.

by putting the food in a cat food puzzle or on a snuffle mat for her to sniff out the pieces of kibble. These strategies help work your cat's brain.

- Select the right toys. Like us, cats have preferences. Step one: Buy five or six types of cat toys. Factor in the sound, smell, type of movement and feel of each toy. Watch how your cat plays or ignores each toy for a month. By observing, you are learning whether your cat prefers toys with feathers, say, or those that are battery operated. Donate the ones your cat ignores to your local cat rescue group or animal shelter.

- Look at your home from your cat's perspective. There should be at least one resting space for each cat per room that your cats frequent. Make sure there are plenty of hiding spaces for your cat to dash to when she is feeling anxious or scared.

- Do be led by your nose. Cats possess a much more powerful sense of smell than we

have. Try sprinkling silver vine or catnip on toys, a favorite hiding spot or napping area for your cat.

- School your cat to banish boredom. Some cats love to learn new tricks. Just keep the sessions short. In no time, your cat may be shaking paws, jumping on a chair on cue and even walking on a leash.

- Finally, if your budget and space allow, consider adding a catio to give your cat safe access to the outdoors. Or, place your cat in a lightweight nylon pet popup enclosure so she can join you safely on your deck or in the backyard. But do not leave your cat in this zippered enclosure for a long time or without your supervision.

"Safe outdoor access gives cats access to new smells, the chance to feel the grass and sun, to hear the birds and to watch lizards and bugs," says Radosta.

Arden Moore, founder of *FourLeggedLife.com*, is an animal behavior consultant, author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor.

She hosts *Oh Behave!* weekly on *PetLifeRadio.com*. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.



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Tots & Teens

Kids raise money, awareness in support of children in Ukraine

By Janis Fontaine

Local kids are showing their compassion for Ukraine's children by raising money and awareness through a variety of projects and events.

The Sheldon sisters Violet, 7, and Willa, 3, of Hypoluxo Island in Lantana went old-school with a lemonade stand fundraiser on a sweltering day in March.

Hayley Sheldon, the girls' mom, said Violet had asked about the bright blue and yellow flags she was seeing in the neighbors' yards. "I thought, 'she doesn't really have to know that at age 7,' so I told her in the most age-appropriate terms about the war."

It's funny how kids connect one thing to another, Hayley said. A few weeks before, Violet had read an American Girl book about a girl who had raised money for the polio vaccine back in the 1950s. Experts say reading books with empathetic characters encourages self-acceptance, which leads to accepting others.

"Violet really has a big heart," Hayley said. The Sheldon family sponsors a child in Haiti who has become Violet's pen pal, and she loves volunteering to fill shoe boxes for charity.

Violet had always wanted to do a lemonade stand, and Willa always wants to do what Violet is doing, and since it was spring break, the timing



was right for the multiple-day project. One day they made their colorful signs offering homemade lemonade. The next day they made their lemonade from scratch, squeezing the lemons and adding just the right amount of sweetener.

The next day, Violet loaded up their little red wagon and she and Willa set up the stand out in the driveway.

In two hours, the girls sold out of lemonade, and they'd raised \$300. Violet told her mom that she wanted to give the money to the kids of Ukraine,

so they chose the international charity UNICEF and earmarked the money for Ukraine.

"I'm proud of my girls, but I'm so proud of the community," Hayley said. "People were calling neighbors to come out and see the lemonade stand. Most people didn't even buy lemonade. They just made a donation. I'm so glad the girls got that positive reinforcement."

After the sale, Violet told her mother, "I'm so happy I could cry."

Violet wasn't the only local kid working to raise awareness



LEFT: Willa and Violet Sheldon of Hypoluxo Island sold lemonade to raise money for children in war-torn Ukraine. **Photo provided**
ABOVE: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi asked Delray Beach resident Kiki Casale to join her at the podium. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

and money for children in Ukraine, or the only person overwhelmed by the response.

When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was in Palm Beach County in mid-March to talk about the federal government's \$19 billion investment in Florida's infrastructure, she spoke near the broken George Bush Boulevard drawbridge in Delray Beach (stuck in the up position until late April).

Kiki Casale, 12, was there handing out Ukrainian flags to raise money for the American Red Cross's humanitarian

work in Ukraine. Kiki proved that someone can make a clear statement without uttering a word when she handed Pelosi a Ukrainian flag. That earned Kiki an invitation to join Pelosi on stage. The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives said:

"Let me begin by saluting Kiki again for giving us the flag to remind us that children are suffering, that people are fighting for democracy in Ukraine," Pelosi said. "Tell them what you are doing, Kiki."

Without missing a beat, Kiki told Pelosi and a crowd of other elected officials and guests, "So we are gathering ... still are gathering donations for the Ukrainian children going through funding programs. We are giving out flags today to spread the word, but we don't need donations today since we are — have been very successful. And we're just hoping that we can get out of this humanitarian crisis, because it's very horrible and nobody should be going through this, especially not children."

That earned the young woman a big hug from Pelosi, and it's worth noting that Pelosi and Kiki were color-coordinated in Ukraine blue.

If Kiki Casale sounds like a born politician, she comes by it honestly: Kiki's mom is Juli Casale, the deputy vice mayor of Delray Beach. ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 7

Saturday - 5/7 - 7on7 Flag Football Tournament at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 11-16. 9 am-1 pm. \$200/resident; \$250/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org
5/7 - Saturday Morning Art (smART) at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W Palmetto

Park Rd. Studio workshops for families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy visual arts. 10-11 am. \$10/family; \$5/member family. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
5/7 - Shark Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sat noon; Sun 1 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
5/7 - Tail Waggin Tutors at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school

children read to certified therapy dog. Grade K-5. Every Sat noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
5/7 - Chess Club at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Th 5-6 pm; Sat noon-2 pm. 561-352-7145; spadmuseum.com
5/7 - Daily Aquarium Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 2 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
5/7 - Got Gaming Club: Mario Kart Tournament at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
5/7 - Croc vs Alligator at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Every W & Sat 2:30 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

MAY 8-14

Monday - 5/9 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time with Ms. Tea at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. 2nd & 4th M 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
5/9 - Teen Tech Sandbox: Motion Capture with Adobe Character Animation at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
5/9 - Teen Photoshop at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Tuesday - 5/10 - The Art of the Story at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. One author/illustrator at each class; children create their own art in the style of the featured book. Age 3-7. Every T through 5/31 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
5/10 - Craft Corner at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Discover which book inspires the cool craft you can take/make at home. Age 6 & under. 2nd T 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
5/10-11 - Sensational Story 'n More at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning

Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm through 5/31 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Wednesday - 5/11 - Yoga Fun Class at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every W through 5/25 11-11:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
5/11 - Turn The Tables Career & Internship Expo at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 15+. 2:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6014; boynton-beach.org
5/11 - Youth Chess Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Teens & tweens; all skill levels. Every W 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
5/11 - Teen Tech Sandbox: Motion Capture Character Animation at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
5/11 - Tween Anime Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Thursday - 5/12 - Tumble Tots with First Steps Dance and Tumbling at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every Th through 5/26 10-10:30 am. Per class \$12 + paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
5/12 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
5/12 - Messy Play at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every Th through 5/26 11-11:45 am. \$10/member; \$12/non-members + paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
5/12 - The Club House at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Children show off

creative side doing arts/crafts. Age 7-11. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
5/12 - Sew & Sip at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
5/12 - Teen Anime Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Friday - 5/13 - Indigo Yoga for Children presented by Delray Beach Public Library at Merritt Park, 316 SW 2nd Ave. Age 3-7. 2nd & 4th F 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
5/13 - Art Explorations at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Open art exploration in a specific medium. Age 2-5. Every F through 5/27 10-10:45 am. Drop-in \$10/museum member; \$12/non-member + admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
5/13 - Animal Encounters at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Every F 3 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
5/13 - Artist of the Month at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Saturday - 5/14 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-11 am. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org
5/14 - Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult. Noon-1 pm. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

MAY 15-21

Monday - 5/16 - Story Chasers Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. In person or Zoom. Grades 1-3. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Tuesday - 5/17 - Teen Book Club via Zoom:

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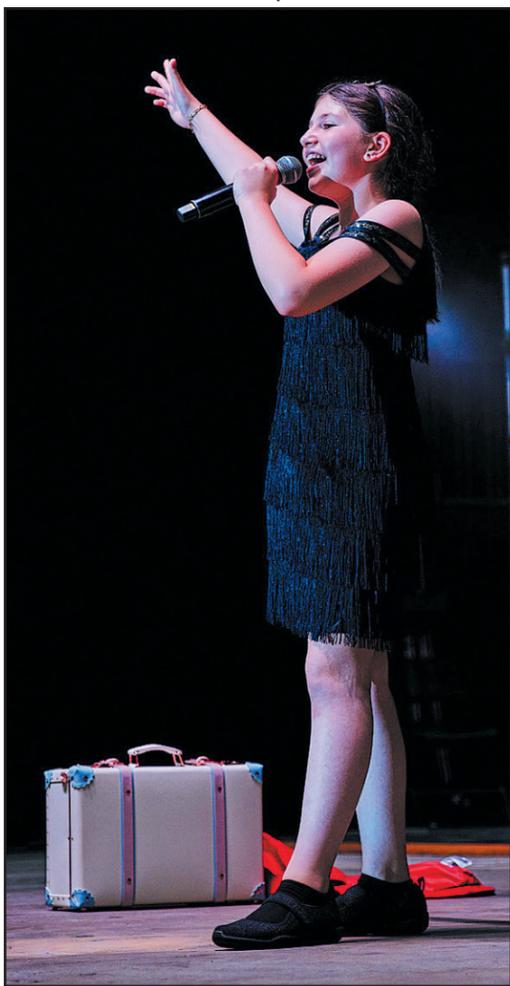
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Future stars

Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton — April 3

Bella Nazzaro belts out 'Not for the Life of Me' from the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on her way to winning the middle school vocal category at the 18th annual Future Stars Performing Arts Competition sponsored by the Rotary Club of Boca Raton. Bella, 12, is the daughter of Trey and Khrysti Nazzaro of Lake Worth. The competition included 72 middle and high school vocalists and dancers from Broward and Palm Beach counties. Co-chair Julie Vianale said the event was more



emotional than previous ones because last year's was canceled due to the pandemic. Students interested in next year's competition can email bocarotaryfuturestars@gmail.com. Photo provided by Christina Pelino

Carve the Mark by Veronica Roth at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 1st & 3rd T 5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 5/18 - Oh Baby Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap bounces. Age 3 months to not-yet-walking. 1st & 3rd W 9 & 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

5/18 - The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf part of Tween Book Jam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 5/19 - Youth STEM Lab at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/19 - Teen Book Club: Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 5/21 - Bike, Splash, Read, & Play! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Celebrate National Bike Month. Wear helmet & clothes that can get wet; pack towel, water bottle, light snack in a backpack. Meet at the library, decorate bicycles, ride in a caravan to Catherine Strong Park; bike-themed story, play group games, enjoy the water park. All children must wear a helmet & be accompanied by a chaperone age 15+. Age 5-11. 9:45 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

MAY 22-28

Wednesday - 5/25 - Pajama Playdate at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 1-6. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 5/26 - Picture Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 2nd Th 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 5/27 - Stop, Drop and Slide at John Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Splash/play on slip 'n slides, meet Boynton Beach Fire Rescue firefighters, learn about water & fire safety. Family fare. Noon-4 pm. Free; regular pool admission fees apply. 561-742-6645; boynton-beach.org

Saturday - 5/28 - Family Fun Mural Kids Collage Day presented by Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 1-4 pm. Free. 561-276-9925; artdecopb.org

5/28 - Citizen Science Squad at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New hands-on science experience

every month. Age 9+; must be signed in/out by parent/guardian. 2-3 pm. \$5/member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

MAY 29-JUNE 4

Sunday - 5/29 - The Science of Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11 am. \$5/resident; \$8/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Monday - 5/30 - Ocean Adventure Camp: South Inlet Park, 1100 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 5-15. Fun/adventure through education/exploration of Florida's waters. 9 am-3 pm M-F 5/30-8/5 \$425/week, \$99/day. Registration: 561-715-0499; underbluewaters.com

5/30 - Fishing & Boaters Safety Summer Camp at Lake Ida East, 950 NW 9th St, Delray Beach. Age 7+. Learn a variety of fishing skills, fish identification, biology, basic boat safety, navigation, angler techniques. 9 am-3 pm M-F 5/30-7/29 \$450/week; \$110/day. Register online: 561-715-0499; underbluewaters.com

5/30 - Inlet Adventure Camp: Ocean Inlet Park, 6690 S Ocean Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 5-15. Water sport activities: snorkeling, boogie boarding, skimboarding, paddleboarding, surfing, fishing. 9 am-3 pm M-F 5/30-8/5. \$425/week; \$99/day. Register online: 561-715-0499; underbluewaters.com

Wednesday - 6/1 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every W/F through 6/24. Level 1 & 2 3:30-4:15 pm; Level 3 & 4 4:30-5:15 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org

Friday - 6/3 - Summer Kickoff with Didgeridoo Down Under at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Learn about Aussie culture, sea creatures, more; move/groove to rhythms of the didgeridoo. All ages. 1:30 pm. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/3 - Didgeridoo Workshop: Aussie Funk Jam Session at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Learn to play the "didge." Age 9-12. 3:15 pm. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 6/4 - Annual Splash Day at Sunset Ridge Park, 1528 14th Ave N, Lake Worth Beach. Bring sunblock, towel. 11:30 am-2 pm. Free. 561-586-1600; lakeworthbeachfl.gov

6/4 - Youth Art Activity at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 279-8883; spadmuseum.com

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Tots & Teens

Parents blindsided by news church won't renew St. Joe's school lease

By Janis Fontaine

Parents, teachers and school administrators at St. Joseph's Episcopal School in Boynton Beach are in shock after St. Joseph's Episcopal Church officials notified the school that they would not renew its lease on the property on Seacrest Boulevard when it expires Nov. 30.

The private, independent Christian school opened in 1958 at the site. Although established as a parish day school, it became fully independent in 1990. More than 200 students in pre-K through eighth grade are enrolled at the school, and more than 40 faculty and staff will also be affected if the lease is not renewed.

The property is owned by St. Joseph's Episcopal Church and the church says it "does not have any control over school operations, it only serves as the school's landlord."

The school as tenant has had a lease that renewed every five years — with an opportunity for updates and/or edits presented by either party — six times without an issue.

According to a website post by Head of School Kyle Aubrey, the board of trustees



Students protest in front of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church on April 24 after the church's decision. The lease ends Nov. 30. A mediator may help settle the dispute. Photo provided by Change.org

of the school was made aware that the church vestry was considering changes to the lease agreement this past winter.

Peter Philip, the vice president of the board of trustees at St. Joseph's Episcopal School, called the news "a bombshell" on WPTV News. He also said that the

board of trustees has been trying to discuss the matter "since February," but were "not invited to have that one-on-one conversation."

Then in April, the vestry formally announced it wouldn't be renewing the lease, news that blindsided the parents whose children attend St. Joe's — some of them since they were toddlers.

The church hired a public relations spokesperson to handle the fallout as parents wrote emails that said the end of the lease came "without warning or explanation."

Others think the message is clear in the church's April 21 letter to William Swaney, the school's board chair: "Over the last several months, the Vestry

carried out a careful evaluation and has determined that the interests of both parties have shifted over the course of the last 10 years."

In other words, the goals of the church and school have diverged and are no longer in sync.

Heidi Hayn of Boynton Beach, who says she was married at St. Joe's, wrote in a Facebook post, "We can say with confidence that our school leadership does not understand why this decision was made without any attempt to negotiate new terms for our lease. Our pleas for answers have been responded with vague, blanketed, scripted statements that do not offer clarification or specifics."

The church's PR firm claims that "the church remains committed to offering the greatest level of transparency." Yet no explanation has been given for the nonrenewal.

Parents and others affiliated with the school were so upset, they protested in front of the church on April 24, a Sunday.

Parent Eric McCabe, who was at the protest, told CBS 12 News, "We had our children in front of the church crying. We had parents crying. It was unbelievable."

Inside the church, Father Marty Zlatic told his congregation that the decision by the nine-member vestry was the hardest that church leadership has ever made. The church had been asking for a third-party mediator to discuss the matter, but said its emails went unanswered, while instead a protest during church services was planned and carried out. Now mediated negotiations were planned to begin the first week of May.

Aimee Adler Cooke, the church's hired spokesperson, wrote, "We remain committed to working with a third-party mediator to hopefully determine terms that are mutually agreeable to both parties. Joint discussions and thought sharing are the only way forward."

To be better prepared, on April 27, school leadership publicly announced it had retained legal counsel.

Most of the angst among the community comes from not knowing why this is happening, and that the reason for the nonrenewal remains unclear. Many speculate the church will sell a portion of the property. Others deny this motivation.

Parents are likely to understand the church's need to make solid business decisions, but are upset about the way this situation was handled. Parent Kelly Alexander told WPTV, "This just strikes me as the opposite of Christian." ★

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 4/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

MAY 7

Saturday - 5/7 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Zoom Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

5/7 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every F through 5/28 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

5/7 - One Blood Blood Drive at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. Donors receive wellness checkup, e-gift card, t-shirt. 10 am-4 pm. Free. Schedule appointment/click link on town website: oceanridgeflorida.com

5/7 - Workshop: Mixed Media & Street Art Techniques at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. 10:30 am-4 pm. \$120. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

5/7 - Unhappily Ever After at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 7-14. 2 & 7 pm. \$8/adult; \$6/child 12 & under. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

5/7 - Col D'Orcia Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$100/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

5/7 - Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$45-\$49. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

5/7 - Ladies of Simone perform the Music of Nina Simone at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

5/7 - Annual Grand Tasting & Boca Bacchanal at The Boca Raton, 501 E Camino Real & private homes. Benefits Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum. Fine wine, food, live/silent auctions, more. \$200. Check website for events, schedule, tickets: bocabacchanal.com

5/7-9 - 4th Annual PIM Open: USTA Boys' and Girls' 14s at Delray Swim & Tennis Club, 2350 Jaeger Dr, and Delray Beach Tennis Center, 210 W Atlantic Ave. Nationally ranked participants compete in boys & girls 14s age division. 8 am matches begin daily. Free/spectator admission. 561-330-6003; yellowtennisball.com/pim-open

MAY 8-14

Sunday - 5/8 - Mother's Day: For dining suggestions, see page AT5

Monday - 5/9 - Custom Card Crafting Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards using Cricut Maker, Cricut Explore Air, or Sizzix machine. Adults. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/9 - Smart Money Mondays - The Home

Stretch: 6 Key Areas to Evaluate for Retirement at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/9 - Zoom Intermediate Italian presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every M through 8/22 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/9-10 - Mainstage Auditions: Heathers The Musical at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7 pm. First come first served. 586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

5/9-12 - Social Services Assistance at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Topics include homelessness, nutrition needs, veterans' services, senior services, crisis services, more. Complete confidential intake form online before visit. Adults. Every M (9am-5pm); T (9am-3pm); W (9am-4pm); & Th (9am-2pm). Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/9-12 - Celebrating Stephen Sondheim! Broadway's Most Acclaimed Composer at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 5/12. M-W 2 pm & 7:30 pm. \$38. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 5/10 - Career & Employment Help with CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/employment, re-employment, resumes, filing for unemployment, career path assistance. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/10 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: Left You Dead by Peter James at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/10 - Zoom Intermediate Spanish presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T through 8/23 1-2:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/10 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

5/10 - The Midnight Library by Matt Haig part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

5/10 - Custom Card Crafting Club: Evening Edition at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Create custom greeting cards using Cricut Maker, Cricut Explore Air, or Sizzix machine. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/10 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2nd T 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 5/11 - GFWC Woman's Club of Delray Beach Meeting at Teen Center, 505 SE 5th Ave. Bring your own refreshments/coffee. 10 am. Free. delraywomensclub.com

5/11 - Discover Studio Open Lab for Adults

Municipal Meetings

5/9 & 5/23 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

5/10 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

5/10 & 5/24 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at Boca Raton Fire Rescue Administrative Offices auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

5/13 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulfstream.org

5/17 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

5/17 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

5/17 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 5:30 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

5/24 - Manalapan - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

5/26 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every W 5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/11 - Freedom and Technological Change at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

5/11 - Writer's Corner at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Monthly program; free manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. 2nd W 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/11 - Art Deco 2nd Wednesdays: Art & Art Deco Show & Tell at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 7-9 pm. Free. 561-276-9925; artdecopb.org

Thursday - 5/12 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Sale of quilted items supports the Library. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

5/12 - Tech Talk at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Th in May. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/12 - 3D Printing and Design with TinkerCAD Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

5/12 - Last Teacher Standing at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave. Benefits Delray Beach public schools & non-profits. Presented by Delray Beach Chamber Education Fund. Age 21+. 6:30 pm. \$25. lastteacherstanding.com

5/12 - Open Reading at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. 305-393-0386; boynton-beach.org

5/12 - Virtual Artist Talk featuring Jamie Dawson, Ramona La Roche, Rhea Leonard & Yuki Jackson presented by Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 6:30-8 pm. Free. Reservations: 279-8883; spadymuseum.com

5/12 - Virtual Historical Fictionados Book Club: What Storm, What Thunder by Myrian J.A. Chancy presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/12 - Presenting Films from the National Film Preservation Board: The Best of the Best with Kurt F. Stone at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 6/2 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$25/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

5/12-13 - Film Screening: Lifeline: Clyfford Still! (2019) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Th 6-7:30 pm; F 2-3:30 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Friday - 5/13 - iPad/iPhone Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

5/13 - Town Hall Tea Time at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. Where Were You in '72? Foods of the 1970s. 2 pm. Free/BRHS member; \$10/non-member. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; office@bocahistory.org

5/13 - Movies in the Park: Casablanca at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair or blanket. Free popcorn & snow cones courtesy of Delray Beach Police Department. 8-10 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

5/13 - Indigenous at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

5/13-14 - Alice In Wonderland by Lewis Carroll at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. F/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$10. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 5/14 - How to Start, Grow, & Run A Business at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 9:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/14 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

5/14 - Lecture: Public Art Murals presented by Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 2 pm. Free. 561-276-9925; artdecopb.org

5/14 - Learn Basic Cricut Design Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2nd Sat 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

5/14 - 2nd Annual ACCF Pickleball Tournament at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. Presented by/benefits Achievement Centers for Children & Families. Round-robin tournament, snacks, soft drinks, music, more. 6 pm. \$65. Registration: 561-276-0520; achievementcentersfl.org/pickleball_2022

5/14 - Northern Rhone Syrah at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$75/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

5/14 - Free Concert: The Groove 2.0 at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair or blanket. 7:30-10 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

MAY 15-21

Sunday - 5/15 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/15 - Naming True: An Intimate Tale of Survival, Redemption, and the Deep Human Desire to Share Our Stories at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7:30 pm. \$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 5/16 - Introduction to Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

5/16 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

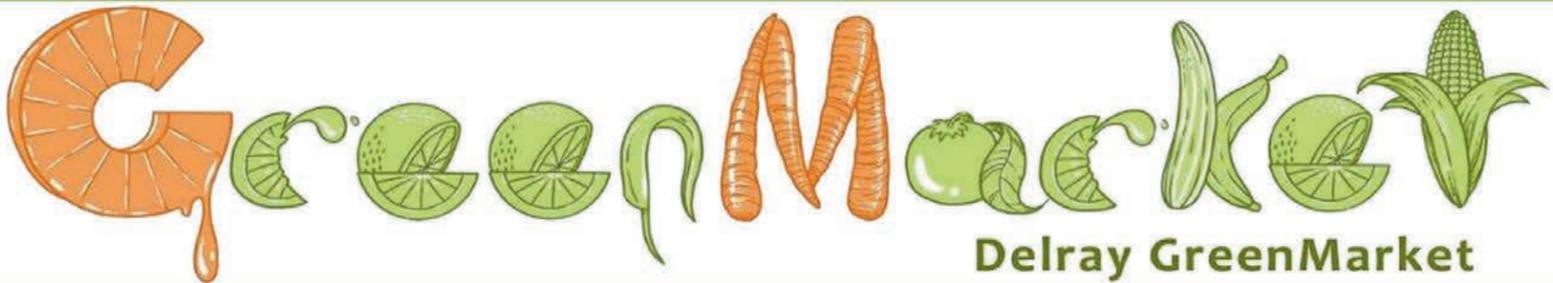
Tuesday - 5/17 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Schedule subject to change: 1st F & 3rd T 7 pm. Free. 561-297-STAR; physics.fau.edu/observatory

Wednesday - 5/18 - Book Buzz: Adult Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

5/18 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Discussion: PBC Tax Update with Dorothy Jacks and Anne Gannon. Interactive Zoom video session. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. 561-276-4898; lwvpsc.org

5/18 - Immersive Spanish Conversation Workshop at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Completion of Intermediate Spanish III required or equivalent language

EVERY SATURDAY • 9 AM - 2 PM



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proficiency. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
5/18 - Dramawise: The Belle of Amherst with Gary Cadwallader at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$75/3 events for members; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu
5/18 - Unity School Fundraiser: The Joe Cotton Band at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 6:30 pm. \$10. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
5/18 - Workshop: Paint Your Denim at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6:30-9 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
5/18 - The American Free Speech Tradition at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
5/18 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Thursday - 5/19 - Mac 101 Part 1 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906;

bocalibrary.org
5/19 - Amplified: University Galleries' Artist Mentorship Program Exhibition at Florida Atlantic University Schmidt Center Gallery Public Space, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 6/30. T-F 1-4 pm; Sat 1-5 pm. Free. 561-297-2661; fau.edu/galleries
5/19 - Create a Greeting Card with Adobe InDesign at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
5/19 - Catena Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
Friday - 5/20 - Friday Flicks: Grease at Centennial Park Under the Banyans, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Different movie every month. 5-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org/flicks
5/20 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band: Music Making America at Boynton Beach Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Bring chairs & blankets. 7-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; goldcoastband.org
05/20 - The Belle of Amherst by William Luce at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St, West Palm Beach. Runs through 6/5. Check website for times/tickets: 561-514-4042 x2; palmbeachdramaworks.org
5/20-22 - Men are from Mars Women

are from Venus Live! at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat 4 pm; Sun 2 pm; F/Sat 8 pm. \$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Saturday - 5/21 - Golf Tournament & Lunch By The Ocean at Palm Beach Par 3, 345 S Ocean Blvd. Benefits Delray Beach Public Library. 7:30 am registration; 8:30 am shotgun start. \$200/golfer includes cart fees, refreshments, lunch. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
5/21 - FAU Data-Driven Science and AI Conference at Florida Atlantic University Student Union Live Oak Pavilion, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 8 am-5 pm. \$20-\$40. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
5/21 - Landmarks in Lake Worth Beach Walking Tour presented by Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 10 am. \$18/advance; \$24/at the gate. RSVP: 561-699-7899; artdecopb.org
5/21 - Workshop: Paint Your Pet Portrait at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 11 am-2 pm. \$110. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
5/21 - Songfest for Vets III: Building Bridges To Ukraine - Boca Beer Wine & Spirits Festival at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Ukrainian food

Green Markets

Artisans Market every Friday at Mizner Park, 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Unique artisan/handcrafted items; fresh produce; locally prepared foods, condiments, baked items; more. 4-9 pm. Free/admission. 561+362-0606; miznerpark.com
Lantana Twilight Market every Friday night at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. Featuring live music, craft beers and dozens of Artisan & Food Vendors. Through 5/27. 5:30-9:30 pm. 515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com
Lake Worth Farmers Market every Saturday under the overpass at A1A and Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com
Delray Beach GreenMarket every Saturday on the front lawn of the Cornell Museum of Art at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. Through 5/21. Summer GreenMarket opens 6/2. 9am-2pm. 276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market
Lantana Sunday Morning Green Market every Sunday at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 9 am-1 pm. 515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com
Mizner Park Green Market every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. 362-0606; miznerpark.com

& artists, Trident Thunder Motorcycle Run, kids activities. Presented by VFV Post 9610 & American Legion. 2-11 pm. Free/donations welcome. songfestforvets.com
5/21 - Rock the Block at Dewey Park, 100 NE 4th St, Boynton Beach. Live music, entertainment. Stroll the avenue, visit downtown merchants & restaurants. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com
5/21 - Let's Celebrate: Art Walk at Boynton Beach Art District, 410 W Industrial Ave. 6-9 pm. Free. 786-521-1199; boyntonbeachartdistrict.com
5/21 - Comedy Off the Green starring Jon Fisch at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$30-\$45. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com
5/21 - Wines of Spain Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$125/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
5/21 - Free Concert: Fleetwood Max at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair or blanket. 7:30-10 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

Harid's Class of 2022. F 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun 3 pm. Tickets start at \$15. 561-998-8038; harid.edu/performances
Saturday - 5/28 - Career Writing Workshop at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
5/28 - J. Lohr Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$75/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
5/28 - Spidey: Mentalist of the Year at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$32-\$42. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
5/28 - The Matt Schofield Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
5/28-29 - 24th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Memorial Day Weekend Craft Festival at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. Juried outdoor craft showcase, original crafts, green market, craft media. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

MAY 29-JUNE 4

Sunday - 5/29 - The Chris Santiago Quartet Presents: CHET - Prince of Cool at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Monday - 5/30 - Memorial Day: 14For local events, see page 14.
5/30 - Jam Session at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Last M 8 pm. Free/performer; \$5-\$7/patron. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
5/30-6/3 - Boynton Beach Tire Amnesty Week. Residents may place up to 8 car/passenger tires w/ or w/o rims at curb for free pickup on scheduled bulk trash day in your neighborhood. Free. 561-742-6200; boynton-beach.org
Wednesday - 6/1 - The Future of Money: Cryptocurrency 101 Part 2 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
6/1 - Town Hall Tea Time at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy. Where Were You in '72? Fashions of the 1970s. 2 pm. Free/BRHS member; \$10/non-member. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; office@bocahistory.org
6/1 - Free Speech & the Right to be Forgotten at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 6/2 - Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro Class presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/2-4 - One Funny Mother at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Th/F 8 pm; Sat 2 pm; Sun 6 pm. \$25-\$42. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com
Friday - 6/3 - Battle of the Bands at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Teen competition & 20+ competition. 7-10:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us/2093/Battle-of-the-Bands
6/3 - Free Concert: Shane Duncan Band at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair or blanket. 7:30 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov
6/3-4 - Tito Puente, Jr. & His Latin Jazz Ensemble at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
6/3-5 - A Rocky Mountain High Experience Live! John Denver Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat 4 pm; Sun 2 pm; F/Sat 8 pm. \$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Saturday - 6/4 - Lecture: A Decade of Art in the Alley presented by Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 2 pm. Free. 561-276-9925; artdecopb.org
6/4 - Pinot Noir Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$100/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com



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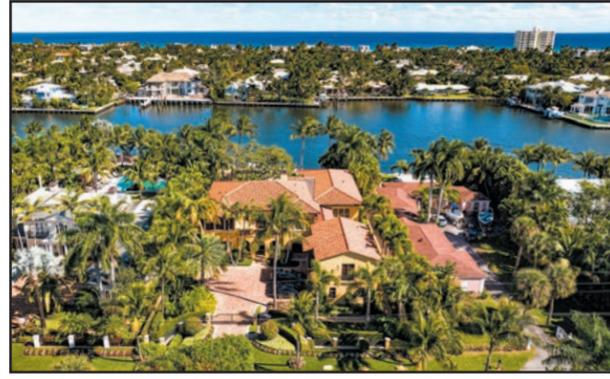
Boca Raton | Delray Beach | Palm Beach Gardens | Stuart

MAY 22-28

Sunday - 5/22 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Razorblade Tears by S.A. Cosby presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Email for zoom link DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
5/22 - Exhibit Artists Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 6/11. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org
5/22 - Music in the Museum: Tim Brumfield, piano at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 3-4 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
5/22 - Delray String Quartet: Romantic Power and Poetry part of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. \$20/person; free/age 18 & under. 561-276-4541; musicstpauls.org
5/22 - Alex Cuba at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Monday - 5/23 - Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
Tuesday - 5/24 - Crafts and Coffee: Paper Quilling at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials & instruction provided. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Wednesday - 5/25 - Lunch Club Matinee: The Victory Dolls at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$44. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
5/25 - Art & Jazz on the Avenue at Atlantic Avenue & SW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach. Live music, art, special promotions by retailers/merchants. 6-10 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com
5/25 - Privacy, Virtual Surveillance, and the Constitution at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 5/26 - Introduction to Laser Cutting at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
5/26 - Napa Cabernet Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$150/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
Friday - 5/27 - Spidey: Mentalist of the Year at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$32-\$42. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com
5/27 - Garage Queens: Fierce, Fabulous and Fascinating at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
05/27-29 - The Harid Conservatory Spring Performances at Countess de Hoernle Theater, 5100 Jog Rd, Boca Raton. Features

House of the Month

Each month, The Coastal Star features a house for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.



FAR LEFT: The master suite upstairs has a separate seating area and custom-fitted closets.
LEFT: Located on Palm Trail on an abundantly landscaped half-acre, the home is directly on the Intracoastal Waterway.



The living room is welcoming, from the fireplace to the arched French doors that open to maximize the pleasant breezes from the Intracoastal.

Palm Trail delight in Delray Beach



ABOVE: A first-floor sunroom and second-floor master suite overlook the pool with views of the Intracoastal Waterway.

RIGHT: A library, also with an Intracoastal view, features a wood-beamed ceiling, wood floor and custom built-ins.



This fabulous Spanish Colonial-style, six-bedroom, custom-designed estate has 12,914 +/- total square feet. It features handsome wood-beamed ceilings and clay-tile flooring that were reclaimed from a French villa. The Intracoastal Waterway is the backdrop throughout ... from the reception foyer and grand stair hall through the formal garden-view dining room that connects via a butler's pantry and wine room to the Intracoastal-view breakfast room.

The family room and center-island kitchen, which is fitted with custom wood cabinets, granite counters, tile back splashes, two pantry closets, a menu station and professional-grade appliances, are on the first floor. Also there is a guest bedroom suite that could serve as an office.

Upstairs, French doors in the primary bedroom suite open to a balcony overlooking the pool and Intracoastal, and the suite's dressing area accesses a large walk-in custom-fitted closet and two spa-inspired luxury bathrooms, one with French doors that open to a private sunroom. Two guest bedroom suites and the VIP suite complete the second-floor layout.

A guest house is accessed via a hallway from the main house or its separate entry, and a garage accommodates three cars. Additional amenities include impact-glass windows and doors, full-house generator and water softener systems, a Creston system, two 75-gallon hot-water heaters, central vacuum system, two laundry rooms in the main house and a washer and dryer in the guest house.

The Intracoastal dock can accommodate a 20,000-pound craft and has a lift that can hold a smaller vessel or jet skis.

Offered at \$14,495,000 by The Pascal Liguori Group, 900 E. Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33483. PascalLiguoriGroup.com or 561-789-8300.

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Margaret Russell | 561.358.1298



SOSO | West Palm Beach
4112 Washington Road | \$2,390,000
Shawn Olson | 561.236.8217



Boynton Beach
4191 Gleneagles Drive | \$1,500,000
Michael Mullin | 561.441.0635



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Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021
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