

Delray Beach



Water samples taken between May 14 and 18 show those from (l-r) a Delray Beach home on Delray Lakes Drive, a Delray Beach condo on Dotterel Road, a Boca Raton home on Southwest Fifth Street, and two samples from a Delray Beach home on Sandoway Lane that still has old galvanized pipes on one side of the house and PVC on the other. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

NOT CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE

Yellow tap water may be safe to drink, but Delray residents are still concerned

By Rich Pollack

The video posted on Facebook by the city of Delray Beach on April 21 appeared simple enough.

For what seemed like the umpteenth time, Delray leaders set out to explain why the city's water is often discolored, and to once again assure residents that the water is safe to drink.

Instead of quieting down critics, however, the video unleashed a firestorm of negative comments, many taking on a political undertone and pointing fingers at current city leaders.

"Water is supposed to be clear and that's the bottom line," says Tracy Caruso, a former mayoral candidate and an outspoken critic of how the city is dealing with water that at times comes out of the faucet with a green or yellow tint. "I've never been told to drink a glass of yellow water and been told it's OK."

City leaders want to be clear, even if the water isn't. They agree that there's a problem with water color, but say they are disheartened by the steady drumbeat from people who are fostering distrust in

the safety of the city's water. The water, which is tested daily, meets or exceeds all government standards, they say.

The only real solution to significantly reduce the yellow and green tints that cloud Delray's water, say people in neighboring cities who are responsible for having clear water come out of taps, is for Delray to replace its obsolete 70-year-old water treatment plant with one using more up-to-date methods.

That's on the drawing board but it will come at a high cost, one that residents will initially start to see in their water bills as early as July — while a new plant won't be up and running for at least four years.

See **WATER** on page 23

Along the Coast

Condo reserve rules, inspections become law

By Joel Engelhardt and Mary Hladky

Florida condominiums will be required to retain reserves to pay for structural defects under a bill passed May 24 during the special legislative session in response to the Surfside building collapse that killed 98.

The bill, added without notice in the session devoted to insurance reform and signed

by Gov. Ron DeSantis on May 26, also requires condos to undergo structural inspections as they age.

But the reserve requirement appeared to be the sticking point in March, when legislators failed to pass a bill during the regular session.

While cities and counties could have required inspections, as Boca Raton and Highland Beach did in the fallout from Surfside, they can't order condominiums to keep enough money on hand to pay for them — or for subsequent repairs.

See **CONDO** on page 11

Along the Coast

Hunters work to reduce iguana populations

By Joe Capozzi

Air rifle in hand, the hunter spotted his target on a tree branch over the shoreline some 30 yards south of the Briny Breezes marina.

It's the kind of shot Joshua Smith has made countless times in his four years as an iguana trapper with Nexus Nuisance Animal Services. But on this sunny May afternoon, his crafty target sensed danger.

As Smith approached, the bright green lizard slithered up the branch and out of the trapper's jurisdiction.

"He's no longer on (Briny Breezes) property," Smith said, conceding momentary defeat.

His disappointment wouldn't last long. By the end of the week, he would bag a dozen iguanas in the common public areas at Briny Breezes. It was a modest haul compared with the 100 he dispatched from a community west of Boca Raton, but they're all part of a seemingly endless bounty for hunters.

Across South Florida, suburban areas have been under siege from the invasive green iguanas, creatures native to the Caribbean and first reported in Florida

along the southeast coast in the 1960s.

The lizards, which have no known domestic predator, are free to multiply and grow from finger-length hatchlings to bulls the size of small alligators. Their appetite for foliage, flowers and vegetables has turned residential walkways, swimming pools and golf courses into iguana-size Jurassic Parks.

Beyond what's visible, Ocean Ridge Town Manager Tracey Stevens said, "iguanas pose a threat to the

See **IGUANAS** on page 14



Joshua Smith trapped this 6-foot-long iguana west of Lake Worth Beach. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

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The ArtsPaper

RomaDrama Live!
Convention brings together stars of made-for-TV movies.
Page AT7



St. Joseph's gets another year on lease
Episcopal church OKs deal with school.
AT11



Ukrainians find refuge on Hypoluxo Island.
Page AT1

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The Coastal Star is a monthly newspaper with two editions serving Hypoluxo Island, South Palm Beach, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and coastal Delray Beach; Highland Beach and coastal Boca Raton.
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Coastal Star

Love of beach, outdoors makes turtle program leader a natural

By Jan Engoren

Even before sipping her first predawn coffee each day, Joanne Ryan is already compiling data on her team's counting of sea turtle nests and hatchling rescue efforts and sending it off to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

As the Highland Beach permit holder and principal officer for the FWC for the past year, Ryan is in charge of the sea turtle program along the town's 3-mile stretch of beach, coordinating volunteers and overseeing the day-to-day operations.

"I decided to step up when Barbara James, the previous permit holder, stepped down after 15 years," says Ryan, a Delray Beach resident who works full-time as a portfolio accountant for a property management company. "It's a bit of a challenge — you need to get up early, rain or shine — but so rewarding once you do."

Ryan says that Highland Beach "is very turtle friendly. The residents are very receptive and helpful. If we report a lighting issue, it gets handled. I'm proud and happy to have access to the beach and work as guardians for these threatened and endangered sea turtles."

Almost 70% of the nation's sea turtles nest on Florida's beaches. These volunteers try to help the one out of 1,000 hatchlings that makes it to adulthood and returns to the beach to lay eggs.

The eggs incubate for 60 days and when they hatch, volunteers can aim hatchlings toward the ocean if they get disoriented.

Between March 1 and Oct. 31, Ryan and her team rope off the nesting areas of sea turtles; document the crawls and whether or not they result in nests; record the hatches; inventory the number of nests; track the progress of the turtle population and whether it's declining, and so on.

One of Ryan's goals for the group is to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

A photographer and boater, Ryan, 64, was always interested in nature and the outdoors, where she enjoys time with her husband, Steve, a carpenter and volunteer with the Coast Guard.

In high school she dreamed of becoming a *National Geographic* photographer before being persuaded by her parents to look toward business.

She grew up in Yaphank on Long Island, where her grandparents were potato farmers, and she was a member of the Long Island Beach Buggy Association.



Joanne Ryan stands on the fresh tracks of a loggerhead in Highland Beach. Ryan manages the collecting of sea turtle nesting data and is an avid photographer. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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Along with her cousin, she spent many summer nights camped out on the beach.

It was her cousin who first put a camera into her hands.

To this day, Ryan brings her camera to the beach, where she photographs the turtles, the sunrise, the ocean and other wildlife. She hopes one day to sell some of her images.

"When I explain our conservation efforts to people, they say to me, 'You're very passionate,'" Ryan says. "I'm passionate about preserving our environment, ridding the oceans and beaches of plastic and making a difference through education and raising awareness."

Gardening is another of Ryan's passions. A certified Florida master naturalist through the University of Florida's master gardener program, Ryan learned from naturalist Steve Bass, former director of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

She also admires Melissa Groo, a wildlife photographer and conservationist who combines her photos with stories to raise awareness about the natural world and

the species that inhabit it.

Ryan first met her husband after an evening softball game, at the raw bar Dirty Moe's Oyster Boat in Boca Raton. They had rock shrimp and beer back when a pitcher of beer was \$3.95, and a glass of wine could be had for \$1.75.

Dirty Moe's is gone, but the couple, now married 33 years, have two rescue cats, Storm Serge (named after a character in the Tim Dorsey mystery books and because he followed them home like a "storm surge") and Lucy (named after "Lucy the Leatherback Turtle"). The couple are without a dog for the first time in 30 years.

James, who held the Highland Beach permit for 17 years and worked with Ryan for 12 of them, says, "Joanne's commitment to nature and the environment is a win-win for the future of the all-volunteer sea turtle data collecting group."

What drives Ryan in her volunteerism is the conviction that she's making a difference.

"It can be a struggle to get out of bed at 5 a.m., even on a good day," she says, "but once you're out and hit the sand and beach and see the sky and water, it's beautiful. I consider it an honor to do this work."

She quotes an old volunteer adage, "Volunteers don't get paid because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ★

Editor's Note

How to get prepared for hurricane season

Welcome to hurricane season. If you're new to the area you may have recently encountered your first flooded roadways, rising groundwater and canceled windstorm insurance.

Add to that mix La Niña holding in the Pacific, a slowed Gulf Stream, a warmer than usual loop current and the National Hurricane Center's 2022 predictions, and it's looking like we'll be saying "weather channel" into our TV remotes soon.

Luckily in mid-May, we had Saharan dust. Seriously: Dust from Africa can suppress hurricane formation.

If this all sounds confusing and alien, it won't soon. Our South Florida season of storms is just beginning. You'll be a hurricane pro by November.

If you're staying for the summer, you should know that along with rising temperatures and humidity this time of year come government budget workshops. This is when they'll talk about how to spend your tax money.

You might want to attend. This is the critical time for individuals and governments to plan for the possibility of storms.

So, for all you novices, here are some storm lessons learned from past seasons:

- The electricity will go out. Get a generator. Put gas in it — and your car. Be sure you've got propane for the grill. You may need to grill all that food thawing in your freezer. And remember, ATMs, gas stations, pharmacies and grocery stores all need electricity to operate. Get what you need in advance.

- Sewer systems have electric pumps that power lift stations. If you don't want to receive "do not flush" notices from city hall, push your elected officials now to make sure they've got enough working generators to keep things flowing.

- Residents of the barrier island are often asked to evacuate. It's not so much because there's fear of the ocean sweeping us all away; it's because once trees and utility

lines come down, it takes a while to clear roadways for public safety. In other words, paramedics won't be able to get to you. Leave the island, go to higher ground. Especially residents of Briny Breezes. Don't be stubborn. Leave.

- Trees will fall down. Driveways and roads will become impassible. Check with your municipality to make sure it has an adequate contract with a company that can quickly begin clearing the roadways. The sooner this happens, the sooner you can get back on the island.

- Expect roads to have standing water for hours. Clear the storm drains in your neighborhood — including the one at the end of your driveway. Don't contribute to the flooding.

- Fill the freezer with water jugs. It's not so much that there may not be water (although there may not be if systems get contaminated), but you're going to want ice. Trust me.

- Charge your smartphone, tablet and tools and consider backup options, such as a car charger for your phone. Once the storm passes, communication is critical and a dead battery is worthless.

- Don't let your elected officials deplete their reserve accounts. It's a complicated and expensive process to recover from a storm. The federal government usually comes through with assistance, but it can take years for funds to be approved and delivered. Your municipal staff needs access to cash to pay overtime and get life back to normal for residents.

But don't just take my word for it. Check at your city or town hall for vital hurricane preparedness information.

And don't be afraid to push your elected leaders on being prepared. Hurricanes can be survivable, but they aren't cheap. Our elected leaders

shouldn't be either.

Stay safe.

— Mary Kate Leming
Editor



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“We need to keep nurturing and supporting this first-rate facility.”

Why I Give:

Marie & Steve Bedner

Marie and Steve Bedner have an ever-growing relationship with Baptist Health's Bethesda Hospital - these local leaders in agriculture and owners of three Palm Beach County farmer's markets have supported the hospital since 2011.

The Bedners were part of the initial campaign to build Bethesda Hospital West, and have chaired several of its fundraising events. “Now we're reaching a level where the western community is growing rapidly,” says Marie, who is a former Foundation board member and current hospital trustee. “With the new demand, we need to continue to make sure that the support is there from the community.”

Marie and Steve also support the hospital's frontline staff involved in patient care, donating fresh vegetables to them since the beginning of the pandemic. “It says a lot about the system that people want to stay there, and they're well taken care of,” says Marie. “As a business owner, I know that having long-term employees really makes all the difference in the world.”

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Letters to the Editor

Who are these mystery men?



This month's *Coastal Star* mailbag included one letter with a photo and a question for readers: Do you know these flashy dressers?

Coastal Star reader Mary Wollney of Lantana sent in this photograph, which she took sometime between 2008 and 2011, of three unknown but hard-to-miss men she spotted golfing at Palm Beach Par 3.

"They explained that they get together in their distinctive colorful garb to remember one of golf's most admired sportsmen, Payne Stewart," Wollney wrote.

Stewart, who often wore similar clothing on the golf course, died in a plane crash in 1999.

Wollney thought it might be fun to see whether anyone can identify these dapper dressers.

If you know these men, please let us know! Send an email to news@thecoastalstar.com.

Delray leaders get it wrong with so many decisions

What is wrong with the Delray Beach commissioners? They have as a whole completely ruined the award-winning small town of Delray Beach. It has been ruined and they are all to blame.

With their approved overdevelopment, the city has, in a mere couple of years, turned into a big city like Fort Lauderdale, and no one except the tourists is happy about it. The commissioners should all be ashamed of themselves and if they allow the overdevelopment to continue east of Atlantic Crossing, they should all be run out of town!

There have been so many overwhelming mistakes that they have made in governing this town — overdevelopment being the worst and then the fiasco with Delray's water system and now the Cornell Art Museum in Old School Square.

Again, what is wrong with their heads? The Boca Museum of Art has conducted the finest exhibits, lectures and classes in the whole county. It would have been an overwhelming win for Cornell to have been managed by the Boca Museum of Art. One of the commission's main reasons for shooting itself in the foot was that they didn't want someone from out of town running this institution.

Well, since Delray Beach government hasn't managed to do anything right in the past five to 10 years, it would have been a safer bet and one that all of us would have benefited from.

Drain the swamp!

— Susan Hansford
Delray Beach

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Along the Coast

Advantages for homeowners hard to see in new insurance rules

By Charles Elmore

Days before the June 1 start to hurricane season, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed what he called the “most significant reforms to Florida’s homeowners insurance market in a generation” as home and condo owners struggled with dropped policies and runaway rates rising sometimes 30% or more.

But legislators in southeastern Palm Beach County questioned how well the plan’s touted consumer benefits stand up to scrutiny, from rate relief to roof rules.

Insurers are getting access

to a new \$2 billion taxpayer fund to help them cover claims, but GOP legislators rejected amendments from Democrats to tie that to a rate freeze or cut.

“We are giving \$2 billion in general revenue, so it’s basically a corporate bailout,” said Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boynton Beach and an attorney. She called it “reasonable” to make sure customers get something out of it.

The companies taking advantage of the temporary state reinsurance layer must refile rates to reflect that during one of the next two years. Bill backers said they could not

provide any average or projected savings for consumers, and cautioned that at any given insurer, overall premiums could still rise, though perhaps less than they might have otherwise. They said it may take time, but the important thing is to stabilize the market.

“I think we can say we did everything we could to drive down rates,” said sponsor Sen. Jim Boyd, R-Bradenton, who owns an insurance agency.

Also in the package: a provision that insurers cannot drop policies just because a home’s roof is 15 years old or older. Supporters cited that as an example of how the insurance industry was giving up something in a balanced approach to legislation.

At first glance, “it looks good,” said Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, a mediator and lawyer.

But she asked Boyd during late May’s special session: Can’t insurers simply cite another reason, such as they think they have too much concentration of risk in a certain area, and not renew the policy anyway?

Boyd did not deny it.

“Insurance companies have marketing and underwriting guidelines they employ all the time,” he said.

Polsky said that sounded like a rule with “no teeth.”

On the other hand, she said, insurers were getting a wide array of things they wanted in the bill, such as measures making it harder to sue them for acting in “bad faith.”

Industry officials have blamed what they call abusive lawsuits for driving up costs. A string of companies have gone out of business or are in danger of losing financial ratings in a crisis that has accelerated this year.

But Sen. Gary Farmer, D-Fort Lauderdale, said a big problem lies in state regulations, which allow owners to divert money to affiliated companies and maintain low capital requirements, \$15 million. He called that a “joke.” His amendment to double that to \$30 million was defeated.

Another rejected proposal: Consider allowing last-resort insurer Citizens Property Insurance Corp. to insure homes worth more than \$700,000. That matters in a market like Palm Beach County, where home values have been soaring, particularly near the coast. If state-run Citizens is shut out from a growing share of the market, that can leave homeowners with few options

aside from “surplus lines” companies, whose rates are not regulated by the state.

The package revives a safe home program that offers grants up to \$10,000 for measures to retrofit homes against hurricanes. It pays \$2 for every dollar the homeowner spends for approved purchases. Palm Beach County is within the geographic area eligible for the program, but it is only available for homes with insured value up to \$500,000 and the program was not ready to take applications at the time the bill passed.

One option that could lower premiums is a new roof deductible, but it comes with some risk. If the roof does need fixing under certain conditions, the consumer could be on the hook for an amount equal to 2% of the policy dwelling limits or 50% of roof replacement costs. For a \$400,000 home, that could mean \$8,000 out of pocket.

In the end, legislators labored for assurances the package would help their constituents.

“What is the guarantee I can take back to Palm Beach County that we are going to decrease their premium at all?” said Sen. Bobby Powell, D-West Palm Beach. ★

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will be delivered
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Memorial Day, once known as Decoration Day, began after the Civil War to remember the fallen of that conflagration. It now honors all who have died in military service to the country.

LEFT: Boy Scouts from Troop 301 in Delray Beach unfurl a flag before it is raised, and then flown at half-mast, at a ceremony in tribute to the nation's war dead.

Honoring the fallen



More than 100 people gathered at the Delray Beach Memorial Gardens Municipal Cemetery to honor men and women who have died in service to the military.

FAR LEFT: Honor guard commander Jacquie Sandoval leads the Delray Beach Fire Department in a presentation of the colors. She works in the Highland Beach fire station.

ABOVE: Jayne Morrison, a member of Boca Raton American Legion Post 277, prays during the ceremony's invocation.

LEFT: Delray Beach American Legion Post 65 chaplain Bill Stanton places his hand over his heart during the playing of taps.

Photos by Jerry Lower/ The Coastal Star

Delray Beach

Summer fare at Cornell museum unsettled amid commission debate

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach commissioners have not settled on a plan yet for how best to use the Cornell Museum of Art at Old School Square during the fast-approaching summer season.

Following a May 17 commission workshop on the subject, City Manager Terrence Moore met with the Community Redevelopment Agency's executive director and Arts Warehouse manager about their ideas for the museum, and will report back to the commission about the progress made at its June 14 meeting.

The commission has been considering a "Summer of Delray Arts" idea suggested by Commissioner Ryan

Boylston that would give local nonprofits a chance to provide displays in the museum's four galleries.

Many questions remain, including how displaying at the Cornell would affect the organizations' finances.

At the workshop, Deputy Vice Mayor Juli Casale questioned the cost to set up the exhibits, the hours the Cornell would be open and whether the Cornell would charge an entrance fee.

Vice Mayor Adam Frankel, who previously met with CRA Executive Director Renee Jadusingh and Arts Warehouse manager Grace Gdaniec in February about their interest in running the Cornell this summer, wants the emphasis to be on local cultural and arts groups.

"We have so many nonprofits in our city. Let's showcase them, giving a six-week exhibit for the Spady," Frankel said, referring to the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum.

But Casale said displaying at the Cornell might not benefit the organizations because each one has its own building to create displays.

Boylston said: "You are minimizing our arts and culture community."

"I have been begging for a workshop for nearly one year," Boylston said. "It's criminal not to explore turning over the Old School Square campus to our arts and culture community."

The commission has been trying to figure out what to do with the Cornell museum since it voted 3-2 last August to

end the lease with the former Old School Square operators. The commission gave the former operators 180 days' notice to leave, ending a 32-year-long relationship in February.

Frankel and Boylston voted against ending the lease.

At their April 5 meeting, commissioners narrowly rejected allowing the nationally known and accredited Boca Raton Museum of Art to handle the Cornell's operations.

The city will host a charette at 6 p.m. June 23 in the Fieldhouse to gather long-term ideas for the Old School Square campus, which has five venues — including the Fieldhouse and the Cornell — at Atlantic and Swinton avenues. ★



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Gulf Stream

Make way for ducklings (and ducks) near Gulf Stream School

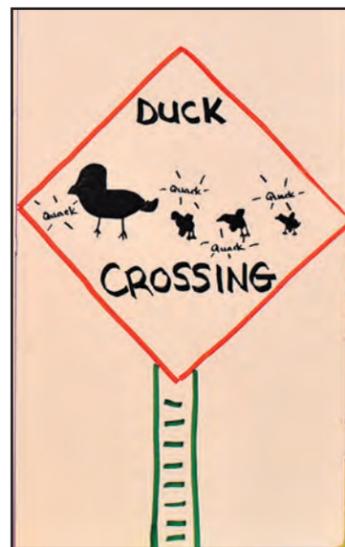
By Steve Plunkett

Thanks to the determined efforts of two Gulf Stream School fourth-graders, signs will soon go up on Sea Road and south of the school warning motorists to watch out for ducks.

Armed with a letter of approval from their head of school, Valentina Autiero and Emma Imperatore returned to the Town Commission's chambers on May 13 after making their initial presentation in March 2020, mere days before COVID threw off the commission's calendar.

"We are here because two years ago I saw a Muscovy duck get hit by a car on Gulfstream Road," Valentina said. "I thought the idea to install a duck crossing sign on Gulfstream Road might help."

The girls wrote letters to The Little Club and two



ABOVE: Emma Imperatore and Valentina Autiero show the Gulf Stream Town Commission possible new locations for duck crossing signs. **LEFT:** Prototype they drew two years ago. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

homeowners, seeking buy-in for the placement of signs on Gulfstream Road, as well as contacting the head of school.

"Congratulations on a wonderful idea for having duck crossing signs in the town of Gulf Stream. I applaud your desire to protect our area's wildlife," Cathy Abrams, the assistant head of school, wrote on Head of School Gray Smith's behalf. "We look forward ... to finding a place that has maximum visibility."

The homeowners were against putting the signs at the front corner of their properties, saying that might interfere with backing out of their driveways. Instead, they proposed the school grounds and police station as better locations.

"We thought that was a good suggestion," Valentina said.

Despite many requests, the girls did not receive a response from The Little Club, which the ducks frequent, Valentina reported.

"We appreciate your support and thank you for your time," she concluded.

Mayor Scott Morgan, who in 2020 counseled Emma and Valentina to contact the club and the school, applauded their "dedication and perseverance."

"More importantly, you're involved in what is our true democratic process, bringing

an issue of your concern to a body that can respond to it and hopefully help with that," Morgan said. "I think it's an admirable effort by you two young 9-year-olds."

Added an enthusiastic Commissioner Paul Lyons: "I think it's a great idea!"

The next step for the girls will be meeting with Town Manager Greg Dunham to determine a final design and site locations.

In other business, commissioners welcomed newly appointed Thom Smith to the dais. Smith replaced Commissioner Donna White, who has her Place Au Soleil home up for sale and is moving out of town.

Commissioners also voiced concern about the condition of Little Club Road, a private thoroughfare that is maintained not by the town but by its owners, The Little Club and two condo complexes — the Hillside House and St. Andrews Club.

"I think it's an embarrassment to the town," Morgan said. "Anyone who goes to The Little Club or goes to the St. Andrews tennis courts or visits Hillside House thinks it's a public road, and it's just in terrible shape."

Commissioner Joan Orthwein agreed. "Also on that road they've let the landscape grow out far into the road, which I find dangerous," she said.

Town officials will explore getting the road's owners to deed their right-of-way to the town. ★



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CONDO

Continued from page 1

“We can do everything we can do, but we can’t do that,” said Richard Radcliffe, executive director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. “So it’s wonderful that they did that.”

Under the bill, condos and co-ops three stories or taller and within 3 miles of the coast must have a “milestone inspection” 25 years after opening and every 10 years thereafter. The first inspection for those farther from the coast would be 30 years.

In a review of property records last year, *The Coastal Star* found that 90% of the 348 condos along the barrier island from South Palm Beach to Boca Raton are more than 25 years old.

Buildings that opened before July 1992 would have until the end of 2024 to do their first inspections.

The initial Phase 1 inspection would be visual. If no signs of structural deterioration are found, a more in-depth Phase 2 inspection is not required.

But if there are signs of trouble, the next inspection would be more intrusive, including the option of chipping away at columns to determine structural integrity.

Those inspection reports must be distributed to every condo owner, be posted in a conspicuous place on the property and published on the association’s website, under the law.

It requires a reserve study that includes a physical analysis and a financial analysis, with the latter spelling out how much money is required to meet repair needs.

“At a minimum, a structural integrity reserve study must identify the common areas being visually inspected, state the estimated remaining useful life and the estimated replacement cost or deferred maintenance expense of the common areas being visually inspected and provide a recommended annual reserve amount that achieves the estimated replacement cost or deferred maintenance expense of each common area being visually inspected by the end of the estimated remaining useful life of each common area,” the law says.

If an association fails to complete a structural integrity reserve study, it is deemed “a breach of an officer’s and director’s fiduciary relationship to the unit owners.”

Board members can be sued if they breach their fiduciary duty.

Emily Gentile, president of the Beach Condo Association of Boca Raton and Highland Beach, generally supports the legislation, but has concerns about the sudden financial burden on those condos that do not have healthy reserve funds to finance repairs.

The bill repeals, as of Dec. 1, 2024, the ability of condo associations to waive the

funding of reserves or to collect less reserve money than needed to make repairs. Many condos waive reserves, with the result that no money is available to fix problems and owners can face hefty special assessments to cover the costs.

While it’s very important to maintain adequate reserves, Gentile said, the requirement “is another financial burden on condominiums.” It could be lessened if condo boards are given more time to build up their neglected reserve accounts, she said.

The fiduciary provision makes it even more important that condo associations insure their board members, she said. Gentile also noted that condo units attract fewer buyers when there is ongoing litigation. The bill requires disclosure of inspection reports to potential buyers.

Despite her concerns, Gentile said condo boards should accept the changes.

“You have to stand up and

say this is what we need to do to make sure we are OK,” she said.

By requiring inspections for coastal buildings after 25 years, the state law is slightly more stringent than Boca Raton’s ordinance, which requires inspections after 30 years.

When Boca passed the law in August, shortly after the June 24 collapse of Champlain Towers South, Mayor Scott Singer said it was important to act quickly to enhance safety rather than to wait for the state to act.

But Singer said then that he would be willing to revise the city’s ordinance so it would not conflict with state law. After the legislation passed, he said he anticipated a thorough review of it before decisions are made on what action the city will take.

“Our goal was to take proactive measures,” he said. “I am glad the state has reacted a year after we have.”

Boca Raton launched its building certification program in January when it sent out notices to 14 associations

saying their buildings must be inspected. Additional notices would be sent out at three-month intervals until the owners of all 191 buildings that meet the city’s criteria for inspection are notified.

Inspections in Boca must be conducted by both structural and electrical engineers. If repairs are needed, the building owner must submit a repair plan to the city within 30 days. ★

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Along the Coast

Real estate frenzy pushes tax rolls higher

By Mary Hladky

After years of steady growth, the taxable values of Palm Beach County properties have surged in a reflection of the white-hot real estate market and a spike in new construction.

All southeast county municipalities saw impressive gains, with Manalapan's estimated 26.5% jump, Ocean Ridge's 16.5% and Boynton Beach's 15.1% outdistancing the rest.

Those three were also the only southeast coastal communities to outperform the countywide figures, which had taxable property values increasing by an estimated 13.6% from 2021 to 2022, up from 5.8% in the previous year.

Boca Raton's taxable values rose 12.7%, up from the previous year's 3.8%. Delray Beach's went up 13.4%, an increase from 5.4%.

Briny Breezes' rose by 13.4%, Gulf Stream's by 12.3%, Highland Beach's by 10.8%, Lantana's by 13.4% and South Palm Beach's by 8.7%.

In releasing the numbers on May 27, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks pointed to new construction and the demand for real estate.

"Demand for properties of all types continues to grow," she said. "Both commercial and residential markets have seen an increase in value and new construction."

The rise in residential values is due to the influx of new Florida residents and limited supply of homes, while hotels, multi-family apartment complexes and warehousing all saw value increases, she said.

New construction countywide totaled \$4.3 billion, up from the previous \$3.2 billion.

Taxable values up across area

The 2022 preliminary tax roll from the Palm Beach County property appraiser includes increases in existing property values and adds the value of new construction. It helps municipalities prepare their budgets and set tax rates.

	2021	2022	% change
Boca Raton	\$27.07 billion	\$30.50 billion	12.7
Boynton Beach	\$6.94 billion	\$7.98 billion	15.1
Briny Breezes	\$65.80 million	\$74.61 million	13.4
Delray Beach	\$12.50 billion	\$14.18 billion	13.4
Gulf Stream	\$1.26 billion	\$1.41 billion	12.3
Highland Beach	\$2.75 billion	\$3.05 billion	10.8
Lantana	\$1.33 billion	\$1.51 billion	13.4
Manalapan	\$1.49 billion	\$1.89 billion	26.5
Ocean Ridge	\$1.15 billion	\$1.34 billion	16.5
South Palm Beach	\$458.5 million	\$498.3 million	8.7
Palm Beach County	\$221.7 billion	\$251.7 billion	13.6

SOURCE: Palm Beach County property appraiser

Meanwhile, as demand for housing continues to exceed supply, home prices are through the roof.

The county's median sale price hit a record \$601,000 in

April, up 29% from \$466,000 in April 2021, according to Broward, Palm Beaches and St. Lucie Realtors.

"Properties are coming off the market almost as soon as they

are listed," Carlos A. Melendez, the organization's president, wrote in an April report. "Our median time to contract is an astounding nine days."

The property appraiser's numbers are estimates that are based on market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2022.

They will be revised at the end of June, when they will be submitted to the state Department of Revenue. The numbers will change as the Property Appraiser's Office adds more properties to the tax roll and makes final calculations, but the estimates give a good idea of how taxable values fared.

The results are good news for municipal leaders as they head into the time of year when they finalize their budgets for the new fiscal year.

Local governments use taxable values to calculate how much property tax money they can expect. They then set their annual budgets and tax rates.

An increase in taxable values means they will collect more money from property owners if they keep their tax rates the same as the previous fiscal year.

Elected officials can increase the tax rate even though taxable values have risen, but they typically are loath to take that politically problematic step. They often opt to decrease the rate a small amount so they can say they have done so, even though property owners actually will see a tax increase.★

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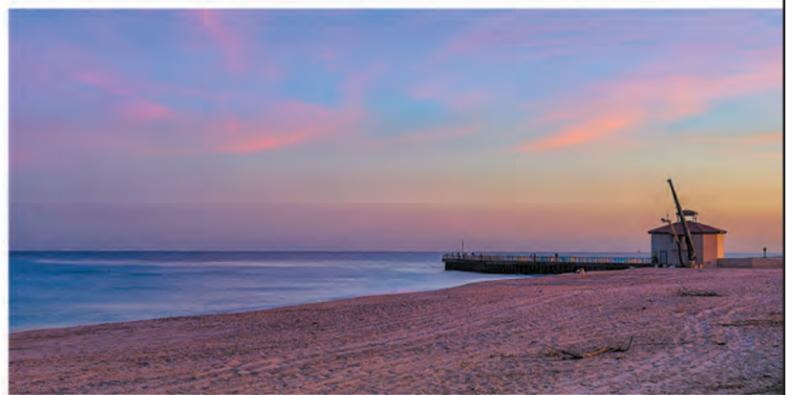
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Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

IGUANAS

Continued from page 1

town’s infrastructure, as they dig burrows that erode and collapse sea walls, sidewalks, foundations, berms and canal banks.”

“They cause damage to landscape vegetation which is important to maintain in an effort to battle the heat island effect which contributes to sea level rise.”

Ocean Ridge has had a removal contract for town

property with Tom Portuallo’s Iguana Control since 2018, and the \$19,200-a-year deal is money well spent considering the millions of dollars in damage the critters can cause if left unchecked.

“They’re like ants, rats and roaches. They’re everywhere. They’re here to stay,” Portuallo said.

There’s also the problem of iguana poop. It’s everywhere, too, and it’s been known to transmit the infectious bacterium salmonella to humans who inadvertently come into contact with it.

And there’s evidence indicating iguanas are posing a threat to native and endangered species of tree snails and nickerbean, which is a host plant of the endangered Miami blue butterfly.

“It will be a forever problem, really,” said Portuallo, who launched his company 14 years ago. “What we try to do is control them.”

Controlling the “forever problem” is the shared mission of dozens of trapping companies that have set up shop in recent years, from Iguana Snipers and Iguana Police to The Iguana Guy and Iguana Busters, which also lets the public (for a fee) accompany its trappers on iguana hunts.

At Iguana Control, business is so brisk that Portuallo is about to launch a sister



Prevention ideas

- Here are steps residents can take to deter green iguanas from frequenting their property, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:
- Remove plants that act as attractants.
 - Fill in holes to discourage burrowing.
 - Hang wind chimes or other items that make intermittent noises.
 - Hang CDs that have reflective surfaces.
 - Spray the animals with water as a deterrent.

company. In June, Iguana Chum will offer fishing bait made from the thousands of lizards bagged by Iguana Control’s trappers from Key West to Jensen Beach.

Like all nonnative reptile species, green iguanas are not protected in Florida except by anti-cruelty laws and can be humanely killed on private property, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

“I know they didn’t choose to be here, but they can cause a lot of damage and can end up costing people a lot of money,” Smith said.

Briny Breezes hired Smith’s Nexus Nuisance Animal Services for one week in May to get a handle on “our small but growing iguana problem,” said Michael Gallacher, general

manager of Briny Breezes Inc. It’s the first time the co-op has hired an iguana trapper.

“We have been lucky, as many waterfront communities are overrun by these animals,” Gallacher said in an email to shareholders in May.

But with more and more iguana sightings along the town’s riprap sea walls, it’s important for the corporation “to eradicate this issue before these animals take over and cause further damage,” he said.

Smith said his fees can range from \$50 to \$200 per visit.

Knowing that a female iguana can lay up to 100 eggs, “it pays to eliminate them as soon as possible before the area along our sea wall is infested with these reptiles,” Gallacher said.

Other coastal municipalities from Boca Raton to South Palm Beach say they don’t have a problem with the reptiles and do not contract with iguana removal companies.

Humane killing legal, but not easy for hunters

Smith and Portuallo said their companies humanely and lawfully exterminate iguanas with pellet shots to the head or neck from air rifles.

But it’s not always a turkey shoot. Iguanas are skittish and agile, posing a challenge for some hunters.

“They can run, they can climb, they can swim, they can hold their breath underwater,” Iguana Control trapper Alejos

TOP LEFT: Using an all-terrain vehicle and an air rifle, Joshua Smith pursues a green iguana in Briny Breezes, near the Intracoastal Waterway.

LOWER LEFT: Smith later used a long pole and snare to capture this juvenile, which he estimated was a year old.

TOP RIGHT: A green iguana blends in well to the green fronds of a cabbage palm.

LEFT: Iguana Control trapper Alejos Serna checks out a stand of trees for his prey near the parking lot of Oceanfront Park.

Serna said as he patrolled the trees near the parking lot of Oceanfront Park one day last month.

“The only thing they can’t do is fly, and thank God for that,” he added.

The largest ones — they can grow up to 6 feet from head to tail — will put up a fight.

“If you corner one the wrong way, they’ve got a very strong tail they can whip you with,” Smith said. “Their nails are very sharp and their teeth are even sharper. I have been bitten, scratched, whipped with the tail more than I would like to admit.”

Perhaps most vexing, trappers say, is that iguanas are not dumb.

As trappers make their rounds, iguanas seem to wise up and attempt to avoid them, even at distances at which they otherwise wouldn’t budge if a walker or jogger approached.

As a result, Portuallo and Serna said, trappers sometimes take different routes on patrols of the same locations or even cover their trapper uniforms with raincoats.

“It’s like he knows who I am and saw me coming,” Smith said after watching the iguana skip town up the tree branch and out of Briny Breezes.

Walking toward the north end of the Briny Breezes marina, Smith ran his fingers along bright hibiscus blooms. “This is their favorite food,” he said. “This tells me the problem here isn’t too bad.”

A few minutes later, he noticed something on the sea wall behind an Ibis Drive home. Upon closer inspection, the suspected iguana turned out to be a harmless mermaid, a statue sunbathing in front of Darlene Lozuaway’s mobile home.

“That’s not an iguana. You leave her right where she’s at,” Lozuaway said with a friendly

laugh as she watched Smith from her back porch.

Smith was voicing surprise about the town’s slim-to-none iguana pickings over the past hour, about to call it a day, when he spotted a bright green target on the sea wall along Flamingo Drive.

It wasn’t very big but it was an iguana. To avoid posing danger to homes behind the sea wall, Smith chose not to use the air rifle.

He grabbed a 21-foot extension pole with a fishing-wire snare at the end. The iguana seemed oblivious to the noose brushed against its head and then looped around its neck.

Smith gave a quick yank, and the lizard flipped and flailed as he reeled it in, the first of 12 iguanas the trapper would bag in Briny that week.

“Smallest one I’ve seen here,” he said. “It’s more fun with the big ones. They put up more of a fight.”

He hogtied the front and rear feet with tape and laid the iguana in the bed of his white Chevy Silverado, right next to a cage containing a large bull snagged a few hours earlier west of Lake Worth Beach.

Both iguanas would be taken home, humanely killed and sold to customers who use them as food, Smith said.

Nearly 6 feet long, with the telltale orange color of an adult male displaying its dominance to competing males, the bull iguana dwarfed the small green one. But it represented one fewer iguana for Briny Breezes to worry about.

Besides, Smith said before cleaning up with a disposable wipe, size doesn’t matter when it comes to eradicating iguanas.

“That,” he said, gesturing from the hogtied green lizard to the spiky orange bull, “will grow into that.” ★

Highland Beach

Town will bank on loan to help start new fire department

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach may have found a financial unicorn.

As the town continued the process of starting its own fire department separate from Delray Beach, leaders began to look for ways to finance a little more than half of the expected \$10 million startup costs.

Rather than go through the time-consuming and cumbersome process of issuing bonds — which would require a vote of residents — town leaders agreed last month to look for bank loans that would provide flexibility and a fixed rate.

What they found was a loan from Georgia-based Synovus Bank with a combination of flexible terms that appear to be just as rare as the elusive mythical creature.

“We call it the unicorn because our financial adviser had never seen anything like it in the marketplace,” said Town Manager Marshall Labadie.

Because of the unique structure of the just over \$5 million, 10-year loan, the town likely will see significant savings on the interest it pays.

“In the long run, it will end up costing us less,” said Mayor Doug Hillman, who along with others on the Town Commission looked at several options. “This is a better deal for the town.”

Under terms of the loan, which comes with a fixed 3.26% interest rate, the town is not required to take all of the money at close and will not begin paying interest until it begins taking the money or until a year and a half after closing.

The arrangement also allows the town to begin paying off the loan early without any penalty and makes it possible for partial payments or a full payment

before all interest has to be paid.

“It also means we don’t pay interest on money we don’t use,” Labadie said.

Those terms are important to Highland Beach since the town is planning to use the loan to help pay for the cost of building a new fire station.

Both Labadie and Hillman point out that expenses related to the construction will not all come at once, so finding a loan that allows the town to take money when needed rather than all at once was important.

Hillman also pointed out that the town may not need all of the loan since it may be able to find additional money during the course of the construction.

The Town Commission already has pledged to use \$4 million from reserves to start the fire department and could pledge additional funds should the reserves grow.

Hillman led the charge for the town to get the loan quickly — and lock in an interest rate — recognizing that interest rates most likely will continue to rise.

“It behooved us to get the loan now, even though we don’t need the money today,” he said.

Along with rising interest rates, the town has had to deal with rising material costs and supply chain issues that could affect the cost of the fire station.

Labadie said he is going over plans for the new station to see if the town can make changes to reduce costs.

Changes, he said, could include different, more accessible materials for things such as flooring than had originally been planned.

“We’re looking at what do we absolutely have to build to satisfy the requirements of what we need for our own fire department,” Labadie said. ★

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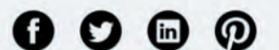
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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Jayne Malfitano

From her desire to become a candy stripper as a teenager, to earning a degree in sociology, to her long-standing role with HomeSafe of Palm Beach County, Jayne Malfitano of coastal Boca Raton has lived a life of caring for people in need.

Malfitano first became involved with HomeSafe in the early '90s and served on the board of directors from 2001 to 2007. She was a driving force behind HomeSafe's establishing group homes in east Boca Raton in 2002.

"My role is just to let people know about HomeSafe, and that I believe it to be a worthwhile place to put your money and put your love," Malfitano said.

Recent contributions have included \$5 million from the Stoops Family Foundation and \$1 million from the Bernstein Family Foundation.

Launched in 1979 as the Council on Child Abuse and Neglect of Palm Beach County Inc., the program soon became known as Connor's Nursery in West Palm Beach, where families and babies with HIV issues would receive treatment. It became HomeSafe in 2011.

"We had volunteers who would come and hold the babies, and adults would get the drugs they needed," Malfitano said. "But after the HIV drugs addressed that issue, it became more of a place where children who were sexually abused or had other needs would come."

Soon it became apparent that one failure of the foster care system involved those children who were badly damaged and placed in facilities where they were being locked away from the rest of society.

"HomeSafe gets these children very specific, individual therapeutic care," Malfitano said. "There's nothing else near us that provides this."

As part of its Healthy Beginnings program, HomeSafe also has volunteers serve as hospital liaisons who meet with the parents of newborns in Palm Beach County. The goal is to address parents' needs and put the children on a path to being ready to start kindergarten at 5 years old.

HomeSafe works with the Department of Children and Family Services as well as the court system and even individual families to find candidates for its programs.

"Some come from families who don't know what to do next with this child," Malfitano said. "They bring them to HomeSafe, and the people who work there — loving, compassionate, caring people, because it's not an easy job — work with them and some have been able to go home."

HomeSafe has several facilities throughout Palm Beach County and has helped nearly 1,500 children and families over its 43 years in operation.



Jayne Malfitano has been with HomeSafe of Palm Beach County since the 1990s. Its Boca Raton facility houses and supports survivors of child abuse. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

"I don't think this will be a problem that ends soon, so I think we'll see more homes — some call them shelters — for kids," Malfitano said.

In addition to her HomeSafe duties, Malfitano is president of the Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation, which offers grants to a wide array of charitable and educational outlets.

Malfitano's husband, Chris, whose career has included jobs in advertising and government, has also launched a nonprofit, Second Chance Initiative, in Boca Raton. It works with women whose histories include drug abuse or prison time. The goal is to teach the women skills they can use to find full-time jobs.

"It's just another wonderful way of giving back," Jayne Malfitano said.

The couple enjoy traveling and have two children: Jeff, 35, who recently moved from California to Naples, and Clare, 30, who resides in New York City.

— Brian Biggane

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

A: I was born in Rochester, New York, went to high school in the suburban town of Pittsford, then on to college at Florida Southern and Nazareth College, which is back in Rochester. Going to a public school was a more diverse experience than a private school would have been, so I got a lot of different thoughts and opinions.

I graduated with a degree in sociology, so I've always been on the path of working with and helping people.

Q: What professions have you worked in? What professional

accomplishments are you most proud of?

A: I've always worked in counseling, but early on didn't have the educational degree to be a counselor, so I worked as a volunteer. After I got married and raised my two kids I returned to the field and am now the president of the Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation, where I am proud of our work with nonprofits. I am also proud of the partnership when I was an active member of the Junior League of Boca Raton with HomeSafe to bring a children's shelter to Boca Raton. I was guardian ad litem from 1990-95, working with sexually abused children, where I saw children languishing and some of the issues happening in the homes, so HomeSafe and our Boca facility came out of that.

Q: What advice do you have for a young person seeking a career today?

A: My advice is to listen, be open to others' thoughts, and be kind. You never know when you will meet again. I see so

many kids who can't listen to what other people have to say. You may still not agree, but listen. And also, being kind. If I'm rude to you the first time we meet, you're going to remember that and have a negative opinion of me going forward.

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

A: My grandparents and dad moved to Boca Raton in the early '70s and we would come and visit from when I was young. It has always been a second home to me. I met my husband here, at the Boca Raton Ball of all places, and we moved to New York City but moved back down to the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club in 1986 and have been there since.

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

A: My wonderful memories of family and friends that we've made over the years. It's such a giving community. Many of the women I've met in Junior League have become very good

friends, and it's because we have such a commitment to all of this. They may be involved in something different, but it's wonderful that we're all doing something.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: *The Boys*, by Ron Howard and his brother Clint Howard. It's like an autobiography that I'm reading for my book club. But what I really enjoy reading is murder mysteries. My book club friends all know that.

Q: What music do you listen to when you want to relax? When you want to be inspired?

A: When I relax, I like quiet, but I love the Doobie Brothers, and I'm going to see them this summer up in Syracuse, where my husband is from. Michael McDonald is going to be on their tour so it's going to be great.

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

A: Fortunately, I have had many and appreciate them all. There's so many people who have taught me so many things. Probably the best mentors I've had have been the volunteers I've worked with. It's not necessarily people as much as it is moments that teach you what you need to know.

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

A: Sandra Bullock, because she has a great sense of humor. You have to have that when you see the sadness all around you. You have to smile and laugh.

Q: Who/what makes you laugh?

A: Just about everything. Laughter is what keeps the joy in your life. I try to find the humor everywhere. When you see the kids smiling and so happy about something like having their own bathroom, after all they've been through, that makes me happy. When you see that, you say: Why am I upset over such little things that really don't matter?

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Briny Breezes

Grant to help with flood planning

By Joe Capozzi

In what town officials call “a huge win,” Briny Breezes has received a \$330,000 state grant to help pay for an ambitious flood and sea level rise protection plan.

The plan is one of 98 projects statewide awarding nearly \$20 million through the Resilient Florida Program, including five others in Palm Beach County.

Delray Beach received \$100,000 for a citywide vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan. Palm Beach County received \$500,000 for vulnerability assessments in unincorporated areas, but for now the assessment will not include the pocket immediately south of Briny Breezes behind Nomad Surf Shop, or any other areas in the Coastal Resilience Partnership of Southeast Palm Beach County, a county official said.

For other local vulnerability studies, \$192,475 went to West Palm Beach, \$105,000 to Palm Beach and \$28,500 to Palm Beach Shores.

For Briny Breezes, where the property tax rate is already at the maximum allowed under state law, the grant will help pay for the plans and studies needed to prepare construction-ready documents for enhanced sea walls, an improved stormwater drainage

system and other 50-year adaptation measures.

“It is a huge win for Briny Breezes,” Michael Gallacher, president of Briny Breezes Inc., told residents in a newsletter.

The grant money will function as a reimbursement, so the town will have to spend money on the projects first and then use the grant to recoup those costs, Town Manager William Thrasher said.

Combined with \$145,000 from the town and corporation, the grant money will help Briny Breezes complete a sustainability study, using state-mandated modeling, and a stormwater master plan. A townwide survey of underground utilities has already been completed.

The corporation paid \$30,000 to the engineering firm Brizaga for a 144-page flooding adaptation plan, completed in April 2021, to get a head start on its strategies.

“This grant will get us to the next step. It is basically the final step before actually looking at sending out bids. It will give us a picture of how much it might cost,” Thrasher said.

“It’s a multifaceted project that’s going to take multiple years to develop. We are fortunate to receive the grant. That also indicates that others believe that we need to be doing similar work,” he said.

Though construction costs will be in the millions, Thrasher said he’s optimistic the town will receive assistance from federal and state grants.

“I believe in the project,” he said. “I believe it’s necessary and I believe there will be additional funds granted to the town of Briny Breezes for the re-establishment of its sea walls.”

However, in order to be eligible for future assistance, Thrasher told the Town Council at its May 26 meeting that it would be good to create and begin putting money into a reserve fund specifically for the project expenses. Those dollars could be used to meet any matching grant requirements.

Mayor Gene Adams agreed with the concept.

“I do think it’s important for us to start to set aside money because everyone I’ve spoken with talks about cost sharing on it,” Adams said.

The town needs to discuss how it might build reserves — money that’s not there now — to qualify for the much larger grants needed to pay for future work, Thrasher said.

If the grants don’t come through, a future council could designate those reserves for other purposes, he said. ★

Larry Barszewski contributed to this story.

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Manalapan

COVID forces cancellation of commission meeting

By Larry Barszewski

More than two years after the coronavirus first surfaced and after more than a year of vaccinations, the virus can still disrupt the workings of local governments.

The Town Commission in Manalapan canceled its May 24 monthly meeting because there weren’t going to be enough commissioners on hand. At least one commissioner had COVID-19 and several others had been exposed to the virus, Vice Mayor Stewart Satter said.

“There would not have been a quorum at [the] meeting due to this,” Town Manager Linda Stumpf said.

The Manalapan cancellation follows a similar situation in Lantana, where an April 25 Town Council meeting had to be canceled after council members were exposed to the virus.

In Manalapan, where commission meetings typically last an hour or less, the cancellation didn’t have major consequences. The only items on the agenda were reports from staff and a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would give people receiving a town-approved variance or special exception more time to complete their work.

The canceled meeting was a first due to the pandemic for the Town Commission. The town continues to take precautions, strongly requesting that people attending commission meetings and other Town Hall visitors wear masks inside the building. Stumpf said May 23 she was aware of only one current COVID-19 case among town employees.

Of note in Manalapan in May:

- Town officials had to revise trash collection schedules for several days as the town lost two sanitation workers and a supervisor was taken ill, Stumpf said. Three new employees have been hired, she said. Residents are asked to have their trash out on pickup days by 5 a.m. or the night before.

- The Police Department had four vacancies as of May 13, with one officer accepting a job with school police and a sergeant going into the private sector, Police Chief Carmen Mattox wrote in his report for commissioners. Those were in addition to two existing openings.

Mattox said he was processing applications from a retired Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office deputy and two officers with out-of-state experience. Another applicant is to attend police academy training in June and be available for employment in July, he said.

“We are staffing as manpower allows. Due to staffing shortages, vacation requests are not always approved,” Mattox wrote to commissioners. ★

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Ocean Ridge — May 4

Endless, the 43-foot Bristol sailboat that came ashore during windy weather on March 3, was finally removed from the beach in Ocean Ridge on May 4. Numerous inflatable floats and three Sea Tow boats were used to lift and tow the sailboat off the sand. The process took two days and at times drew at least 50 spectators. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**



Boca Raton

After 10 months of work, Boca boat ramps to reopen in July

By **Steve Plunkett**

Boaters who need a ramp to reach the water will have a special Fourth of July

this year — Silver Palm Park’s ramps, off-limits since September, will finally reopen. And permits to use the

ramps, usually \$60 and good from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, will cost \$25 and be valid for this July, August and September. The City Council approved

the rate at its May 24 meeting. “This will just open the boat ramp and the parking area for the boats,” City Manager Leif Ahnell said. “The rest of the park and the other amenities will not be available. We’re actually still working on Silver Palm Park.”

Ahnell also said neighboring Wildflower Park and the rest of Silver Palm will reopen to the public in September, “hopefully the earlier part of September rather than the later.”

Silver Palm’s boat ramps closed on Sept. 7 for what was planned to be six months to relocate the restrooms, add a new ramp and other construction. But supply issues and an unexpected sea wall replacement slowed the work.

Ahnell said he did not yet know whether the new bathrooms will open when the ramps do.

“All of the Wildflower side but even on Silver Palm, there will be areas blocked off, under construction,”

he said. “We as well as the contractor wanted to get the boat ramp opened as quickly as possible.”

The daily use fee for the boat ramps will remain \$25. Any resident of Palm Beach County can buy the daily or three-month permit.

Boaters were directed to other ramps in Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and Deerfield Beach while Silver Palm was closed. But Boynton Beach and Deerfield Beach had plans to limit access because of their own ramp renovations.

Boca Raton’s construction is part of a multimillion-dollar project to enhance Wildflower/Silver Palm Park with new walkways, green spaces, public art, a pavilion, shade structures, additional parking and a much-anticipated connection between both parks under the Palmetto Park Road bridge.

The parks are separated by Palmetto Park Road on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway. ★

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Rail crossing work to close Palmetto Park Road for 5 days

As Brightline works to build its Boca Raton station, railroad crossing reconstructions near the station site east of the Downtown Library will cause road closures and detours in June.

The Florida East Coast Railway crossing at Palmetto Park Road will be closed for five days, from 8 a.m. on June 11, a Saturday, to 7 p.m. the following Wednesday, June 15.

Westbound Palmetto Park Road traffic will be directed north on Dixie Highway to Northwest Second Street, west to Northwest Second Avenue, and south on Northwest Second Avenue to Palmetto Park Road.

Eastbound traffic will travel a reverse route.

The Northwest Second Street crossing will be closed 13 days, from 8 a.m. June 18 to 7 p.m. on June 30.

Westbound Northwest Second Street traffic will be directed to go south on Dixie to Palmetto, west to Northwest Second Avenue, and north to Northwest Second Street.

Eastbound traffic will again do the reverse.

The long-anticipated \$46 million station is expected to open in December.

— Mary Hladky

Obituaries

JoAnn Kern Peart

By Price Patton

DELRAY BEACH — JoAnn Kern Peart, a longtime champion of preserving the charm of Delray Beach's historic places, died on May 4. She was 72.



She was a native Floridian who spent most of her life in Delray Beach, beginning at the age of 6 months. She attended Virginia Intermont College and the University of South Florida.

Mrs. Peart worked to preserve Delray Beach's history by serving as a co-founder, longtime president and board member of the Delray Beach Preservation Trust; president and longtime member of the Delray Beach Historical Society; member of the city's Historic Preservation Board; and president and member of the Lake Ida Neighborhood Homeowners Association.

During her service on the Delray Preservation Trust, she fought the overdevelopment of a precious segment of the Old School Square Historic District, which contained some of the city's oldest and most important buildings. Later, she led the two-year effort to get the Old School Square Arts District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the buildings she helped save were the 1924 Cason Cottage on the campus of the Historical Society, the 1924 Willie Franklin House in the West Settlers Historic District and the 1928 Clint Moore House on North Swinton Avenue.

She also chaired the City Commission-appointed Historic Task Team, which helped strengthen the city's preservation ordinances.

She selflessly gave her time and attention to many causes and to her many friends and family.

For years, she helped manage the family business, Universal Beach Services, founded in 1973 by her husband, John Frederick Peart. He won contracts to clean beaches from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys, as well as contracting with Palm Beach County municipalities and private beachfront homeowners.

The business will continue to be operated by her son Clayton Russell Peart of Delray Beach, who worked for his father and has run the business since 2012.

Mr. Peart, her husband of 38 years, predeceased Mrs. Peart, as did her parents, Joe Russell Kern and Ann Sells Kern.

She is survived by two sons, Curtis William (Joanne) Peart of Tamarindo, Costa Rica, and Clayton; a daughter, Ann Margo (Christopher) Cannon; grandchildren Julie Elizabeth Peart, Jack William Peart, John Peart Cannon and Elizabeth Ann Cannon; a brother, John (Patricia) Kern of Juno Beach; three sisters, Mary Kevin Reynolds of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, Kathy Sherrard of Stephenville, Texas, and Janet Kern of McKinney, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held May 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Delray Beach Preservation Trust and Trinity Delray.

Richard P. (Dickie) McCusker Jr.

DELRAY BEACH — Dickie McCusker died surrounded by family in his Delray Beach home on May 2, four years after a cancer diagnosis. He was 67.

Dickie was born on Nov. 25, 1954, with a twin sister, Diane, in Braintree, Massachusetts. Parents Richard McCusker and Rosemary Sheehan raised the twins and five more children — Tim, Mark, Kathryn, Michael and Megan (who are also twins) — in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

They spent their summers making memories at Oyster Harbors Beach on the Cape.

Dickie moved to Boca Raton with his family in 1965, where they resided in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. He attended elementary school at Hillsboro Day School, and then attended Alexander D. Henderson School at FAU. He was a graduate of Boca Raton High School, Class of 1973.

During his younger school years Mr. McCusker played in a garage rock band. He carried this talent with him throughout his life, as he became an accomplished drummer, singer and guitar player.

After high school, Mr. McCusker packed up his VW camper van — along with two friends, Paul Nolan and Jeff Cutts — and set out to explore life on the road, leading the hippie lifestyle characteristic of the '70s generation. After the many places they traveled, their final stop was Cape Cod, where he worked at his cousin Jep's restaurant.

Eventually, his journey took him to Boulder, Colorado, where he attended the University of Colorado. He then went on to study law at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree. He passed the Florida Bar in 1983 and practiced in the federal courts in the Southern District of Florida. He was also licensed to practice law in Massachusetts.

Dickie met his law partner, Ken Hemmerle, while working in a law office in Boca Raton in 1985. The pair established a law firm in Fort Lauderdale and practiced together for 30 years. He later established a home office in Delray Beach.

Dickie was a champion for the "little guy," practicing law with integrity, a big heart and a good soul.

What he loved the most in his life were his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Erin. Dickie first met

Lisa Withall in high school. Little did he know that she would be the love of his life when they reconnected at a party in Old Floresta in Boca Raton in 1990. After dating for two and a half years, they were married. Three years later they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Erin, into the world.

Dickie was a devoted father spending time with Erin, who was the "apple of his eye." He was also a wonderful son-in-law, who dropped what he was doing to join Ted Withall for a game of golf or to visit Ted and Helen Withall.

Dickie had a love for life, nature and his music. He was an avid reader, loved to cook, and was a huge foodie. He spent his free time running on the beach and many of those years with his dog, Tybee. He rarely missed a day practicing yoga, his favorite being Bikram.

He continued to perform with his friends and band members Greg Welch, J.P. Goss, Jimmy Pearl, Kenny Ropp, John Gillespie, Michael Biro and Paul Norris up until the pandemic.

Dickie did not miss a beat in living life to its fullest. His energy and fun-loving spirit will be missed by his family and friends.

Dickie is survived by his wife and daughter, Lisa and Erin McCusker; siblings Diane McCusker Dopheide (husband Jeff and daughter Caitlin); Megan McCusker Shalvoy (husband Mike, daughter Meredith and son Sean); Kathryn McCusker Johnston (husband David and daughter Hannah); Tim McCusker (wife Carol Marinelli McCusker); Michael McCusker, and Mark McCusker. Other survivors are cousin Thomas Jephtha Smith, sister-in-law Robin Withall Cox, and nephew J.J. McDonough (wife Elizabeth Ziegenfuss and sons Kane and Van).

The family is grateful to Bertha Prosper of Vitas Hospice for her loving care.

Please join us for a celebration of Dickie's life from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 at Chapel 4, 200 SE Seventh Avenue, Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, donate to one of Mr. McCusker's favorite charities:

- World Central Kitchen, donate.wck.org, led by chef Jose Andres, first to the front lines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate and community crises.
- Make A Wish Foundation, wish.org, creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

— Obituary submitted by the family

Maude Erskine Banta

DELRAY BEACH — Maude Erskine Banta — gardener, volunteer and enthusiastic letter writer — died at her home on May 15. She was 97.

Maude Erskine was born Aug. 13, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York, to James Douglas Erskine and Marguerite Maxwell Ogilvie. She was the oldest of three sisters and was raised in a loving multigenerational home. She was a lifelong Dodgers fan, even after they left her hometown.

She graduated from Packer Institute in Brooklyn and attended Wells College in Aurora, New York.

During a family summer vacation, she caught a glimpse of a handsome redhead and knew she had met her future husband, John Stuart Banta. The couple wed in October 1943 and were married for 57 years.

Maude worked at The Colony hotels in Maine and Florida, splitting the year going north and south, as

a director of purchasing. She also prepared flower arrangements for the lobby, dining rooms and for guests with extended stays, and wrote the Colony newsletters. Mrs. Banta was dedicated to the family's hotels and worked well into her 80s.

Mrs. Banta was a devout Christian who was on the altar guild at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Kennebunkport, Maine, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach. She traveled with her church group to Honduras to help girls in need.

She was a docent at the Morikami Museum in Delray Beach and the Taylor-Barry House in Kennebunk.

Mrs. Banta was dedicated to health and wellness before it was in vogue, playing tennis or golf throughout the year. She and her husband could be seen pedaling their bikes through downtown Delray to the tennis courts. In her later years she swam laps daily.

Maude traveled throughout her life and shared her travels with her family through her keen photography and written journals. She was an avid

gardener and an environmentalist at heart who could be found many afternoons with a basket of flowers draped over her arm.

She is survived by her loving family: her sister, Margot Atwood; her daughter, Carol Banta Walker; her son, John Erskine Banta; her five grandchildren, John Edward Martin, Hilary Martin Roche, Paige Martin, Aloveiz Heredic and Nick Banta; her goddaughter, Barbara Backer; her four great-grandchildren — who fondly called her GG — and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Banta was an avid writer of letters to family and friends, and occasionally to people she hardly knew. Her letters were full of humor and details and could brighten the recipients' days. In lieu of flowers, please write a letter to a friend or family member.

A memorial service was held May 24 at St. Paul's.

— Obituary submitted by the family

OBITUARIES in *The Coastal Star*

To place an obituary, call 561-337-1553 or email news@thecoastalstar.com

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The Coastal Star may ask for proof of death provided by a funeral home, cremation society or other institution which meets our standards if we have any doubt on the submitted obituary.

In the event of an error by *The Coastal Star*, our sole liability is to give full credit for paid obituaries.

Obituary deadline:

Is 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to our monthly distribution.

Obituary content:

The headline consists of the deceased's name, which may include maiden name and/or nickname. The titles Dr., the Rev. and military titles can be added.

The dateline is the local city/town in which the person lived last, or where most people reading the obituary would associate that person with.

All obituary photos run in black and white.

Delray Beach

City payroll bookkeeping ripe for abuse, auditor's report says

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach has no way of telling if its city employees are accurately reporting their paid time off, Internal Auditor Julia Davidyan reported to city commissioners at their May 17 meeting.

As examples, she said the city had overpaid an employee 240 hours of sick pay and had continued to pay one employee who passed away \$2,537.60.

Davidyan blamed the shortcomings on the city's manual payroll system and said an automated payroll system with a proper audit trail is needed to ensure accurate reporting.

The question now is how soon can the city find the money to pay for a new system, estimated to cost \$100,000. Once purchased, it will take six to nine months to put in place for employees to use.

City Manager Terrence Moore told commissioners he would try to find the money in the current year's budget. He will let them know the "specifics of what needs to be done" in his June 10 letter to them.

Delray Beach has an estimated \$65 million annual payroll, said Juli Casale, deputy vice mayor, who asked Davidyan to review the payroll system in August. "We have to be accountable to the taxpayers,"

Casale said.

Davidyan reviewed payroll records for the previous budget year that ended Sept. 30.

Davidyan found the majority of the payroll records were processed accurately. But when she pulled 40 employee payroll records, she found internal controls were needed over payroll and paid-time-off processing.

"There's no way to detect who was responsible" for the

overpayments that were made, Mayor Shelly Petrolia said at the meeting. "I can't understand how that happens."

For the past two budget years, the city's former external auditor, Caler, Donten, Levine, Cohen, Porter & Veil, pointed out the deficiencies in the city's payroll processing system, but the city took no action even though city officials agreed with the external auditor's recommendations. ★

County details two-month odyssey to repair bridge

By Joel Engelhardt

In their first detailed account of efforts to fix the George Bush Boulevard bridge, county officials told commissioners on May 17 that initial repairs were halted in late March when consultants determined that key parts needed additional work in the shop.

The bridge reopened April 29 after a 57-day shutdown. The cost of repairs, borne by four consultants, came to \$206,910, an amount paid from Palm Beach County reserves.

Additionally, the county took a first step toward replacing the bridge, issuing a formal notice May 12 for a \$5.5 million project to study design and financing options for a new bridge and then, in phase two, to design the replacement bridge.

In his presentation to commissioners, Assistant County Engineer Steve Carrier showed pictures of the broken shaft that stopped the bridge in midair and was shipped for rebuilding to Steward Machine in Birmingham, Alabama.

After shipping the part on March 7, the county hired New York City-based Hardesty & Hanover, which has offices in Fort Lauderdale, to oversee repairs.

H&H recommended replacing additional drive-shaft parts in mid-March. But when the parts were installed on March 28 and 29, H&H halted work because tolerance limits were exceeded

and shipped the parts back to Steward for adjustments.

Workers reinstalled the parts from April 4 to April 8 and began testing, with the bridge reopening to traffic April 29.

The county also hired H&H for \$72,000 over 12 months to continue monitoring the bridge.

After his presentation, Carrier announced plans to add detection equipment and an audible warning system to enhance safety at the county's eight drawbridges. The move comes after West Palm Beach resident Carol Wright fell to her death Feb. 6 after the state-owned Royal Park Bridge in downtown West Palm opened while she walked her bike across it.

The county also plans additional training for bridge tenders, public service announcements, better signage and cameras to detect people in harm's way.

In South County, the county owns movable bridges at Palmetto Park Road, Woolbright Road, George Bush Boulevard, Linton Boulevard, Ocean Avenue in Lantana and Camino Real in Boca Raton.

While movable bridges are inspected annually, the details are not readily available to the public, *The Coastal Star* reported in May. The county cited the newspaper a \$1,025 fee to redact security information and make available a single inspection report. ★



Palm Beach County engineers showed county commissioners pictures of the broken shaft that forced closure of the George Bush Boulevard bridge in Delray Beach for most of March and April. Photo provided

South Palm Beach

Tours of West Palm treatment plant assure two council members water is safe

By Joe Capozzi

South Palm Beach officials are taking tours of the West Palm Beach water treatment plant to gain a better understanding of the quality of the town's drinking water supply.

Council members Ray McMillan and Monte Berendes took separate tours May 23. Mayor Bonnie Fischer and council members Robert Gottlieb and Bill LeRoy said they expected to take tours in early June.

West Palm Beach supplies drinking water to South Palm Beach under a contract that expires in 2030.

Invitations for the tours were extended by Darrel Graziani, assistant director of West Palm Beach public utilities, as part of outreach efforts nearly a year after unacceptably high levels of the blue-green algal toxin cylindrospermopsin were discovered in the water supply.

In May 2021, the city waited eight days before warning customers in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach and South Palm Beach not to drink from the tap, sparking concerns about why the notifications

weren't sent out sooner.

At the time, the city said it needed eight days to conduct a series of tests to confirm the contamination, which posed a risk to physically vulnerable customers.

But even after West Palm Beach finally disclosed the problem on May 28, South Palm Beach residents were left in the dark. They didn't receive text messages or robocalls from the Palm Beach County Health Department, though West Palm Beach residents did, Fischer said.

In presentations to the Town Council in December 2021 and May of this year, Graziani said the city pledged to improve the notification system in the event of another problem. He also presented testing data showing vastly improved water quality over the past year.

On May 10, he invited the Town Council to tour the water treatment plant at Australian Avenue and Banyan Boulevard. A council meeting and tour were scheduled at the plant for May 23.

But on May 20, the town was forced to cancel the meeting/tour because the city, citing security concerns at the plant, refused to allow *The Coastal Star* or other

members of the public to attend.

Under Florida law, council meetings must be held in public. As an alternative, the city agreed to host separate tours with individual council members.

Berendes and McMillan said the hourlong tours they took separately on May 23 reinforced their beliefs that South Palm Beach is getting quality drinking water. Both council members said they believe the problem in May 2021 was an isolated incident.

"They put in a lot of stopgaps so we don't have those scares anymore," Berendes said. "The water starts out not too pretty, but it comes out perfect or as close to perfect as you can get. I think they are doing more than they need to do to give us better quality water."

West Palm Beach relies on surface water that flows 20 miles from Lake Okeechobee to canals and Grassy Waters Preserve to Lake Mangonia and Clear Lake.

The city uses powdered activated carbon, post-filtration chlorination and ultraviolet disinfectant to make sure its drinking water is safe.

"When you see the amount of filtration and the different chemicals and how they use ultraviolet light tubes, it's just phenomenal," McMillan said.

"I feel totally confident that we are in good hands with our water."

Fischer, who has long been suspicious about the quality of the town's drinking water supply, said she hoped the tour would give her a better understanding of the treatment process.

Gottlieb said the timing of the tours will also help council members as they prepare in coming years to consider possible alternatives for drinking water when the town's contract with West Palm Beach expires.

"It's time to review options and to make sure our residents get the best quality with good delivery," he said.

Options include staying with West Palm Beach or contracting with other providers such as Palm Beach County, Manalapan and Lantana.

"It's good to take a tour and see how they operate," Gottlieb said. ★

WATER

Continued from page 1

An erosion of trust

How did the color of water become such a hotly debated issue in Delray?

Part of it, city leaders say, is due to an erosion of trust in the city's overall ability to provide safe drinking water.

Politics, of course, is also a factor, with water quality issues being raised in the last municipal election and expected to be raised in next year's March election.

"I understand that people may have a trust issue in light of past practices, but in the short term the city has taken necessary steps to make sure the water meets or exceeds all health advisory standards," says Commissioner Juli Casale, who is up for re-election in March and has been the target of many of the critical comments after she reposted the city's video. "In the long term, a new water treatment plant is in the works."

The lack of trust stems from a series of issues that have plagued the city's Utilities Department in recent years. They include:

- Treated wastewater entering the drinking water supply and leading to a \$1 million fine.
- Sludge from the bottom of a water storage tank making its way to people's faucets.
- A complaint from a whistleblower charging the city failed to report required issues to state regulators.

There also are critics of the city's water treatment process who are concerned with PFAs, man-made chemicals that some studies show are harmful to humans. The city says the level of PFAs in city water falls below the danger level set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The color of water

At least one utilities director in a neighboring city, who has faced concerns with off-color water before, says Delray would be wise to resolve the color problem.

"Yellow water isn't going to harm anyone but the perception is that it's not clean," says Chris Helfrich, Boca Raton's utilities director. "You want to be able to drink a clear glass of water."

Helfrich knows firsthand how important it is for drinking water to be devoid of color. Back in the mid-1990s, Boca Raton built a new water treatment plant, in part as a response to complaints about discolored water.

That plant, which uses membranes to filter out color-causing particles as well as other impurities, has helped the city achieve a level of between 4 and 5 color units in its water, which is well under the maximum 15 color units included in the EPA National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations standards. Those regulations set non-mandatory



The city of Delray Beach is working on plans to replace its 70-year-old water plant. A new plant could cost more than \$130 million, and residents are likely to begin paying for it through higher water bills starting this summer. **Photo provided**

standards for 15 contaminants, including color, chlorides, iron and odor.

Delray Beach, which also supplies water to Gulf Stream, reports its water coloration hits as high as 12 units. Boynton Beach has two treatment plants, with its east plant that also supplies Ocean Ridge having a level of 8 units, while water from its west plant has a level of less than 1 color unit.

The different processes

Delray Beach's plant uses a lime softening process to treat water and filter out most of the impurities, but it does not remove nearly as much color as the Boca and Boynton plants.

In Boca Raton, a portion of the city's water is treated with a lime softening system similar to Delray's, but then the water is combined with water that is treated using a membrane filtration system that removes more of the impurities.

Boynton Beach's two treatment plants use different technologies, according to Utilities Director Poonam Kalkat. The east treatment plant uses lime softening combined with an ion exchange system that pulls impurities out of the raw water. The city's west plant uses a membrane filtration system similar to that used by Boca.

The stuff in the water

On its website, Delray Beach explains that the color of finished water is determined in large part by the raw water it draws from the aquifer. That water contains what Boca's Helfrich refers to as organic particles — minerals as well as residuals of vegetation in the water.

"Things decay over time," he says.

Some Delray Beach wells

have fewer organics than others, but state and federal restrictions limit the city's options when it comes to pumping.

"Finished water color is greatly influenced by the color of the raw water from the wells running at the time," the city's Utilities Department said in an email response to questions from *The Coastal Star*. "The City is not allowed to only pump raw water from the wells with the least amount of color."

Another factor that can affect water color is the age of pipes that bring water from the city's connection to a property. Those pipes, which are the responsibility of property owners, can be galvanized steel that rusts and can cause discoloration in water, especially in older dwellings.

The Coastal Star recently drew water from a home built in 1937 that had galvanized pipes feeding the kitchen sink, but PVC pipes, installed during an update, feeding the bathroom sink. There was a noticeable difference, with the water from the kitchen faucet having significantly more color.

Testing the water

The discoloration in the water leads to further distrust of the water treatment process as a whole. Critics like Tracy Caruso question the daily testing process that the city conducts in-house to ensure water quality.

"One of the mistakes is that there hasn't been enough oversight," she says, adding that she would like to see outside government agencies more involved in the testing of water.

In fact, in a letter to Delray Beach Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry, Caruso's husband, state Rep. Mike Caruso, offered to reach out to the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection to assist if needed.

In the email to *The Coastal Star*, the city said that its testing process is overseen by state regulators.

"The Florida Department of Health has observed samples being collected, that are then sent to outside laboratories," the city said. "In addition, the water utilities laboratory participates in proficiency testing every year and auditing every two years to maintain its certification."

For his part, Boca's Helfrich says the in-house process used by most water treatment facilities is very reliable.

"There are too many checks and balances to skew the data," he says. "I can't fathom a way to cheat without getting 10 people involved."

Water bills going up

Delray Beach city leaders are still developing plans for a new water treatment plant and have not decided what type it will be.

Whether the city goes with a plant like Boca's or one like Boynton's, Casale says residents can be assured that the plant will have a system that filters out color. Early estimates are the project could cost somewhere between \$130 million and \$145 million.

Where that money will come from is still something the city needs to figure out. Federal and state grant money and other funding most likely will be available to help.

Water users will be picking up much of the cost as the city prepares to raise its water rates. City commissioners plan a final vote on the proposed rates in June that would raise the bill of the average user, calculated to be a resident using 6,000 gallons of water a month, from \$57.85 to \$75.66 monthly by

2026.

That still would keep the city rate, which hasn't been raised since 2009, below that of neighboring cities. But former Delray Beach City Manager David Harden, speaking before the commission, said those numbers don't tell the whole story.

He's concerned the increased costs will be far more for homeowners who don't have access to reclaimed water to irrigate their lawns. He said the monthly \$72 bill he paid at his former home on Swinton Avenue would jump to about \$164 a month in 2026 under the new rates.

The impact of rhetoric

While plans for a new plant are being developed, both Tracy Caruso and Casale are hoping to see the messages the other is sending out toned down.

"The first thing they need to do is stop putting out information saying water with color is normal," Caruso says. "Yellow or green water is not normal."

Caruso said she also is concerned that some city leaders, including Mayor Shelly Petrolia, have encouraged residents to purchase water filtering systems if they're unhappy with city water.

Casale says she is worried about the impact some of the rhetoric from the other side is having on residents, some of whom buy bottled water rather than drink what comes out of their faucets.

"It's very upsetting seeing people purchasing water they could not afford because they were being told they should not drink the water," she says, referring to tap water. ★

Spring means sargassum

Along the beach, Ocean Ridge — May 25



A steady breeze from the east for at least a week piled up mounds of sargassum along the shore in mid-May. Warm temperatures make the naturally occurring seaweed reproduce in large numbers, often to the frustration of beachgoers.

LEFT: A resident picks up trash that floated in with the sargassum.

**Jerry Lower/
The Coastal Star**

Lantana

Library renovations restart after more than four months

By Mary Thurwachter

Construction work resumed in mid-May in what town officials hope is the final chapter to the renovation saga at the Lantana Public Library.

“The contractor is out there this morning,” Town Manager Brian Raducci said May 16.

A week earlier, on May 9, the Town Council unanimously approved a \$734,227 contract with West Construction Inc. of Lantana to finish the project.

Work on the library had been idle since late December, when it was discovered that the main contractor, Sierra Construction Management & Remodeling of Weston, was operating without a license.

Council member Mark

Zeitler, who discovered the licensing problem, said he was relieved when he drove by the construction site at 205 W. Ocean Ave. and noticed the Sierra Construction signs were gone and replaced with West signs.

“I’m glad we finally found a qualified contractor,” Zeitler said.

A plan to turn the work over to a subcontractor, Multitech Corp., failed earlier this year because that company was unable to obtain the bonds required to restart construction.

The town then negotiated with West, which was the second-lowest bidder when the contract was originally put to bid last July.

“It’s good to get the work

finished since costs continue to go up,” Zeitler said.

The total projected cost of the renovations is about \$277,000 more than originally anticipated, according to Raducci.

“West has agreed to complete this work in 120 days from when the notice to proceed is issued [May 11],” Raducci told the council. “That would be Sept. 8.”

As an incentive to finish earlier, the contract includes a performance bonus if the job is done in 90 days, by Aug. 8. The bonus would equal anything remaining from the \$34,963 contingency included in the contract for unexpected expenditures, bond and insurance costs.

“This is obviously very

important to the community,” Raducci said of the library project.

“I know we’ve had a couple setbacks and timing is of very much importance. The performance bonus and contingency funds go hand in hand. That performance bonus would be equal to the maximum amount of the contingency, assuming any of the contingency remains.”

On the other hand, if West doesn’t finish within 120 days, a \$500-per-day penalty would kick in Sept. 8 and continue until the company completes the job.

The renovations will improve how space is used in the library and add a meeting room and outdoor reading garden. The

changes include ADA-compliant restrooms, a centralized circulation desk, special spaces for children and teens and a community center for adult activities.

The contract includes a one-year warranty.

While construction continues, the library is temporarily housed in the recreation center at 418 S. Dixie Highway.

In other news, the council canceled its Aug. 22 meeting, which would have been its second of August. Staff recommended the cancellation, saying it would come at a less busy time of year and would provide staff more time to take summer breaks before adoption of a new budget. ★

Apartments proposed for former Kmart site

By Mary Thurwachter

The Lantana Kmart on South Dixie Highway has been shuttered for two years. If developers have their way, the store famous for blue-light specials will be torn down to make way for a 231-unit apartment complex.

Hugo Pacanins, a regional development partner with Morgan Group, shared the proposal for the 18.6-acre site at a neighborhood meeting at Lantana Pizza, another of the businesses in the Kmart plaza. The property is owned by Saglo Development Corp. of Miami.

Besides construction of studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments, the plans include cosmetic improvements for the other retail portions of the property, including Winn-Dixie.

Four out-parcels — Bank of America, Dunkin’ Donuts, Burger King and a vacant restaurant building — are not

part of the application.

The Town Council paved the way for the Lantana Village Square development in September 2019, when it approved a necessary change to the comprehensive land-use plan for the shopping center on the north side of Hypoluxo Road. The council will be reviewing a site plan in June. If approved, construction could begin as early as next year, Pacanins said.

Cushla Talbut, an attorney with Greenberg Traurig who is processing the application for the planned development, said the project proposes five four-story buildings with elevators and an entry from Greynolds Circle. Among the amenities would be a dog park, gym, pool, upgraded parking lot and a pocket park on the north end of the property.

Community benefits, Talbut said, would include adding more than 500 trees, four electric car charging stations



Although the design may change, the plans for a 231-unit complex drew a positive response at a community meeting. The Lantana Kmart on this site closed two years ago. **Rendering provided**

and public art.

Rents haven’t been decided but it is estimated they will range between \$1,700 and \$2,800 a month. Ten percent of the project would be designated as workforce housing, with rents designed to be affordable to workers in professions such as teaching, firefighting and

nursing.

While many attendees seemed to like the plans, not everyone approved of the architectural designs.

“Where did they get their inspiration — Lego?” asked Ed Shropshire, a former council member who attended the gathering. He suggested

something more in line with Lantana’s seaside fishing village look would be more suitable.

Pacanins said the architectural design was not set in stone and changes were likely.

“Maybe something with more a Key West look,” Pacanins said. ★

Boynton Beach

Police Department gets another interim chief

By Tao Woolfe

Staff changes continued their whirlwind pace in Boynton Beach as interim Police Chief Vanessa Snow resigned from the department in May and was replaced as interim chief by Assistant Chief Joseph DeGiulio.

A news release from the city announcing Snow's departure said the city was "grateful for interim Chief Snow's commitment and service throughout the years, and we wish her much success in her future endeavors."

No reason was given by the city for Snow's resignation, but she and former Police Chief Michael Gregory — who left the city in April — had served during the turmoil following

the death of 13-year-old Stanley Davis III last December.

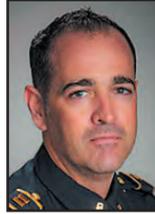
The boy crashed his dirt bike into a median on Federal Highway on Dec. 26 while being pursued by Boynton Beach Police Officer Mark Sohn in his patrol car.

Representatives of the Black community continue to ask the city to fire Sohn. He is the subject of an internal Police Department probe into Davis' death.

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.

Fallout from the incident — as well frustration over the city's role in the stalled Town Square

downtown development — led the commission to fire longtime City Manager Lori LaVerriere in late April.



DeGiulio

has served the Boynton Beach Police Department in various capacities since joining the force as a police officer in 2001. Since then he has served 10 years as a command officer, rising through the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain and assistant chief.

He recently applied for the interim city manager's position, but the commission appointed Fire Chief James Stables to that post on April 25.

In his application letter to the commission for the interim

city manager's job, DeGiulio said he could help build rapport between the Police Department and the community.

"Throughout my years of service my goal has always been to improve relationships with the community and the Police Department with effective leadership and innovation," DeGiulio wrote.

Those skills will be put to the test as the city looks at whether a merger with the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office would benefit the city. Many residents have said they would rather reform the city's Police Department than replace it with the PBSO.

"I look forward to working closely with interim Chief DeGiulio, who will serve as a key member of the city's executive team and assure

the community a seamless transition of leadership in the Police Department," Stables said in a prepared statement.

DeGiulio received his master's degree in leadership from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and a bachelor of science degree in police studies from John Jay College in New York.

He served as a police officer in New York from 1998 to 2001.

The city will also be losing popular City Clerk Crystal Gibson, who is leaving to care full-time for her family.

Asked if she's looking forward to a less stressful job, Gibson laughed.

"There's no such thing as a stress-free job," she said. "There are just different kinds of stresses." ★

Downtown project awaits final OK after agreement with developer

By Tao Woolfe

The city has reached a tentative agreement with Affiliated Development to build a \$73 million complex of apartments, retail stores, restaurants and green space along the west side of Federal Highway.

The agreement — which is expected to be finalized at a special meeting of the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency board on June 7 — was hammered out after months of sometimes testy negotiations.

Two of the main sticking points were:

- A demand by the city that 150 parking spaces, above those required by city code, be provided for the public.
- An agreement on the number of workforce housing units — or affordable apartments — that would be provided.

The developer has tentatively agreed to the extra parking spaces and to provide affordable rental apartment units with this breakdown: 50% (118 units) of the total 236 apartments will remain affordable for 15 years; 30% (about 70 units) will remain affordable for 30 years; and 5% (11 units) will remain affordable in perpetuity.

Affiliated originally wanted to keep all of the increased tax revenue its project would produce, for a 15-year period, as a subsidy to make the workforce housing portion feasible. City commissioners, who act as the CRA's board of directors, have said that amount would deprive the CRA of needed revenue for other projects. Affiliated has tentatively agreed to taking only 95% of the tax revenues, which would be capped at \$7 million over 15 years.

Affiliated would pay the city \$5.5 million for the land.

Although Affiliated's plans for Hurricane Alley Raw Bar &



Affiliated Development's project, called The Pierce after the historical barefoot mailman, Charlie Pierce, appears to be back on track, with a final agreement with the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency to be considered June 7. **Rendering provided**

Restaurant and other existing retail stores on Ocean Avenue were not discussed in detail at the May 10 CRA meeting, it was clear from comments that those businesses would remain part of the final plan.

The developer said in March that Hurricane Alley would be moved from its Ocean Avenue location to a new home at the north end of the project, along Boynton Beach Boulevard next to the Florida East Coast Railway tracks.

In answer to a question about whether the developer would hire local residents to help build the project, Affiliated President Jeff Burns said the company

would hold job fairs in Boynton Beach to achieve that goal.

The commissioners, and members of the public who spoke during a public input session, seemed enthusiastic about the pending deal.

"This is beautiful — sheer art with trees and green space, not a canyon of concrete," said Susan Oyer, whose family owned the property where Hurricane Alley is situated and two other adjacent parcels. The family sold the three parcels to the CRA for \$3.6 million in December.

It was unclear in March whether Affiliated would be chosen as the developer for the site that sits between Ocean

Avenue and Boynton Beach Boulevard.

Former Mayor Steven Grant worked to nail down an agreement with Affiliated before he left office in March, but that effort ran into resistance from former Commissioner Christina Romelus.

Romelus had asked commissioners to dismiss Affiliated and go instead with Related Urban, the second-ranked applicant that had offered to make a portion of its apartments be affordable workforce housing in perpetuity.

But CRA staff continued to negotiate with Affiliated and is now working on the final

agreement.

In other development-related news, the City Commission is looking at imposing a height restriction on city buildings, especially on the east side of town, to make the city friendlier.

The commission is also considering mandating more green space for developments.

Commissioner Thomas Turkin, who suggested both changes, has asked city staff to look into other Palm Beach County cities' height and green space requirements — and zoning practices — and bring the findings back to the commission in the coming weeks. ★

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Business Spotlight

Boynton Beach library wins state recognition

The Florida Library Association has named the Boynton Beach City Library the 2022 Library of the Year. The designation recognizes the library and its staff for tackling unavoidable change by creating innovative programs for the community.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by our professional peers and to be reassured that our library is providing innovative and life-changing programming to the citizens of Boynton Beach,” said Craig Clark, library director. “We have a talented and creative team here at the Boynton Beach City Library, and I am very proud of them.”

To sign up for a library card or to learn more about library resources and programs, call 561-742-6390 or visit boyntonlibrary.org.

Boynton Beach City Library archivist **Georgen**



Charnes

Charnes received the Award of Excellence from the **Boynton Beach Historical Society** for her service

and dedication to the library’s local history archives, which include photographs, personal papers, scrapbooks, small



The Boynton Beach City Library moved to its current location after a new city hall-library complex was completed in 2020. Photo provided

organizational records and newspapers.

When Charnes began as archivist at the library in early 2019, most of the collection was in storage until the new library opened at 100 E. Ocean Ave. in the summer of 2020. She focused on outreach through the internet.

“Our mission is to collect, preserve and make accessible the heritage of the people of our region,” Charnes said. “Over the last couple of years we have focused on getting our materials online, where we have collection descriptions, some newspapers digitized, some photographs and oral histories available.”

Charnes has also helped to “iron out a partnership with the Historical Society,” which she says is “beneficial to the city, the library, the Historical Society

and to local people.”

An archivist for more than 30 years, Charnes previously worked at the Nantucket Historical Association. She became interested in archival work during studies toward her library science master’s degree at the University of Kentucky.

“I love handling historical material and I love the stories that each diary, letter and scrapbook represent,” she said. “It’s all that’s left of a person’s life and finding out about them involves some detective work. It’s important to me that people learn about history, because if we don’t, we are doomed to repeat it.”

To view the collection or to donate archival material, contact Charnes at www.boynton-beach.org/library/archives-faq using the “Contact the Archivist” link.

Stacey Hallberg has been appointed senior managing director of the Boca Raton and Delray Beach offices of **Northern Trust**. Hallberg most recently served as managing director of the Delray Beach office.



Hallberg

“Stacey has a proven track record leading diverse and high-performing teams, and we look forward to her leadership and more accomplishments in south Palm Beach County,” said Mike Bracci, president of Northern Trust’s East Florida Region.

Hallberg, a certified financial planner, received her B.S. at the University of Florida. She serves on the board of directors for the Achievement Centers for Children and Families and previously served on leadership boards at Bethesda Hospital Foundation, Delray Beach Historical Society, Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, Old School Square and Bethesda Corporate Partners.

Delray Beach resident **Ben Baffer**, an operations and project management expert with 34 years of experience in the building industry, has returned to **Kaufman Lynn Construction** as senior vice president.



Baffer

Previously, Baffer worked with Kaufman Lynn Construction for more than 11 years, beginning as a senior project manager and

later serving as vice president of operations. He left the company in 2019 to serve as a senior vice president at Plaza Construction Co. in Miami.

“I’m thrilled to be returning to Kaufman Lynn Construction in this new leadership role,” Baffer said. “I look forward to collaborating with such a talented team ... and it’s great to be back in the Delray Beach community.”

Baffer has lived in Delray Beach with his family for the past 21 years, and serves as chairman of the Delray Beach

Historic Preservation Board.

Attorney **Erin L. Deady**, a certified land planner in Delray Beach, recently assisted local city and county governments in securing funding for six planning awards totaling \$1,133,125 from the state of Florida by having their grant projects approved. The grants were announced by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

In Southeast Florida, they include three vulnerability assessment update and expansion plans, for \$139,350, \$192,475 and \$178,100, as well as \$75,000 for a natural resources adaptation plan.

The funds “are desperately needed by local governments to plan for the impacts of future flood risk and develop projects adapting to the flooding and sea level impacts from climate change,” Deady said. “These plans are required to develop projects for future funding cycles, so the efforts really start at the planning level first.”

Eau Palm Beach has earned five stars in the annual Forbes Travel Guide for the seventh consecutive year for its hotel and the eighth consecutive year for its spa.

“We are thrilled once again to be recognized with the prestigious Forbes five-star rating for Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in 2022, making us only one of six double-star hotel and spa winners in Florida,” said general manager Tim Nardi.

Four Seasons Palm Beach also was recognized. This marks the 24th consecutive year the Four Seasons has received a five-star designation and the sixth year its spa has earned five stars.

PEBB Enterprises and joint venture partner **Banyan Development**, both of Boca Raton, paid \$37.5 million for a long-term ground leasehold interest position in the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University**.

The lease includes seven multi-tenant office buildings with 308,305 square feet at 3600-3998 FAU Blvd., Boca Raton, according to a PEBB Enterprises news release.

According to newspaper reports, the seller is the



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international sovereign wealth fund **Boca R&D Finance**, which shares the same address as New York-based Global Securitization Services. The landlord remains the Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority, which governs the Research Park at FAU.

Avison Young's Keith O'Donnell listed the portfolio on behalf of the seller and led the off-market transaction.

The Research Park, a regional technology business incubator, allows for companies to collaborate with FAU faculty with the goal to strengthen and diversify Boca Raton's business community.

"This is a unique opportunity to own and operate prime office space adjacent to the FAU campus," said PEBB Enterprises President and CEO Ian Weiner. "We continue to target new investment opportunities in Boca Raton, which is underserved from an office supply standpoint."

Current tenants include American Sugar Refining, Xeriant, Baptist Health Surgery Center, FAU College of Medicine Clinical Skills Simulation Center, Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Sandow Media, GenesisCare and 4ocean.

Miami-based **Edgewater**

Capital Investments purchased a multifamily development site in Boynton Beach for \$12 million in a deal that was recorded May 9. The sellers were East Ocean Avenue LLC, 206 Boynton LLC, Boynton Beach Property Holdings LLC, 416 Boynton LLC and First Avenue Boynton LLC.

The 5.1 acres of vacant land at 405 E. Ocean Ave. and 306 SE First Ave. was assembled in multiple transactions from 2013 to 2015 for a total of \$2.74 million, and the city gave approval for 371 apartments and 15,757 square feet of commercial space.

Construction of the **Villages at East Ocean Avenue** did not move forward. Now, under Edgewater, the first phase of the project is scheduled to break ground within a year at 405 E. Ocean Ave. and consist of 336 apartments and about 10,000 square feet of retail, with amenities including a pool, fitness center and clubhouse.

Rental rates for homes and apartments have spiked across the nation, and Florida is at the center of the surge, according to a new study from **Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University** and **University of Alabama**.

While ranking the 25 most overvalued U.S. rental markets, they found that the

first five are all in Florida. And, South Florida heads that list, with renters in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties paying an average \$2,832 a month, which is 21.75% above what they should be paying, based on the area's long-term leasing trends.

Fort Myers is No. 2, with a \$2,052 monthly average rent, which is 18.16% above the long-term leasing trend for the area. Tampa (17.08% premium), Sarasota-Bradenton (16.98%) and Port St. Lucie (15.61%) round out the top five.

"Landlords can charge exorbitant rents because if the existing tenants do not accept the new lease terms, other people will accept them quickly. This all points back to a persistent inventory shortage in rental units," said Ken H. Johnson, Ph.D., an economist in FAU's College of Business.

Lang Realty, through its community outreach arm **Lang Cares**, delivered more than 13,000 diapers to several South Florida charities through **The Diaper Bank Covering South Florida**. "There is a great need for diapers throughout South Florida," Lang's Pamela Agran and Amy Snook said in a news release. "Our agents, partners and communities rallied together to help make this substantial donation and

our first diaper drive such a success."

Salt Life, a store that sells sunglasses and accessories, opened in May at **Mizner Park**, 327 Plaza Real in Boca Raton. The 1,952-square-foot retail store is between Max's Grille and Blue Mercury.

This new store will be joined by others in the next few months.

New restaurants slated to open include the American Social, Crema Gourmet Espresso Bar, Penelope New Orleans Kitchen, Pure Green, Shaker & Pie, and Eddie V's Prime Seafood. Also due to open soon are Liv2100 Aesthetics & Hormones, the Shade Store, and Spirits & Spice.

"We are looking forward to welcoming a diverse roster of new tenants in the coming months that will bring an exciting mix of eateries, hot spots and more to downtown Boca Raton," said Vicki Baisden, general manager of Mizner Park.

The owners of **Ellie's 50's Diner** in Delray Beach announced their retirement in May — and the sale of the landmark eatery.

Bob and Ellie Smela have owned and run the nostalgia-filled spot for 32 years. They

announced the sale of the property on their social media site, but assured diners they have time to visit through mid-July when the diner will close permanently.

There was no immediate word on what's next for the property at 2410 N. Federal Highway.

The first **South Florida Business & Brews**, a networking social for community-engaged professionals, planned to kick off June 1 at **NOBO Brewing Co.**, with Boynton Beach Director of Economic Development David Scott.

Periodic meetings will each have a presentation by a community leader, followed by a Q&A.

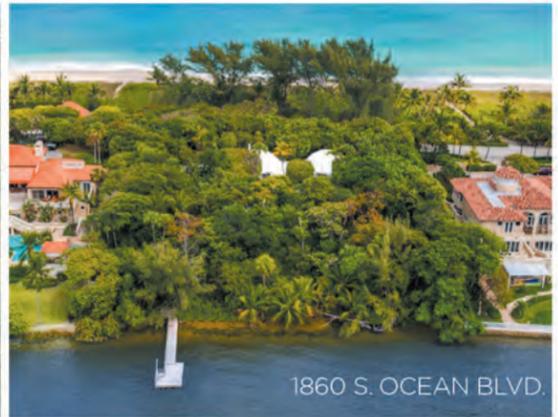
Business & Brews, launched in South Carolina in 2015, plans to make stops in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Martin counties over the next 12 months. Visit its events page at www.facebook.com/events/120754320338295.

Jan Norris contributed to this column.



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

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Around Town

Philanthropy - Page AT2
Celebrations - Page AT4
Religion - Page AT 11
Tots & Teens - Page AT14
Calendar - Page AT18

June 2022

The Coastal  Star

Inside



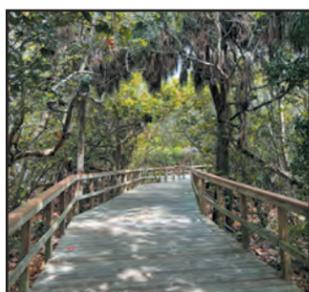
Dining

The new trend toward casual fine dining. Page AT6



Health & Harmony

Boca author touts nature's ability to heal. Page AT12



Outdoors

Boca's two 'south' parks offer contrasting vibes. Page AT16



Al fresco events

A schedule of outdoor activities. Page AT17



A safe haven

Ukrainian refugees Khrystyna Balmush and her 10-year-old son, Davyd, are staying with Hypoluxo Island residents Joni Epstein-Feld and Norm Feld, seen here with their dog, Oskar. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Hypoluxo Island couple welcomes refugees from war in Ukraine

By Tao Woolfe

When a Hypoluxo Island couple opened their hearts — and their home — to Ukrainian refugees, they discovered firsthand how a war abroad can unite people at home.

Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, Norm Feld and Joni Epstein-Feld decided that they had to do something to help the Ukrainian people.

"Norm wanted to go to Poland and serve food to refugees fleeing the country," Epstein-Feld said. "I didn't think that was a good idea."

Instead, the Felds contacted the Ukrainian Refugee Settlement Project, an interfaith organization in South Florida that unites host families with Eastern European refugees. The couple offered their home as a sanctuary.

In late April, Khrystyna Balmush, 30, and her 10-year-old son, Davyd, arrived on the Felds' doorstep.

Mother and child had fled the bombing in their small

See **UKRAINE** on page AT3



Keeping Davyd Balmush safe was his mother's main motivation for fleeing the war in Ukraine.

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Philanthropy Notes

Boca Raton Airport Authority flies into action with food drive

More than 300 pounds of food was donated to Boca Helping Hands courtesy of volunteers at the Boca Raton Airport Authority.

Cereal and other breakfast items were provided to help families in need with the most important meal of the day.

“Boca Helping Hands is a vital organization that exceeds expectations while providing for our local community,” Boca Raton Airport Authority Executive Director Clara Bennett said. “We are always so excited to get involved and help our community soar.”

For more information, call 561-417-0913 or visit bocahelpinghands.org.



Boca Raton Airport Authority board members (l-r) Gene Folden, Jim Nau, Bob Tucker, Randy Nobles, Cheryl Budd and Melvin Pollack hold a few of the breakfast food items gathered for Boca Helping Hands. Photo provided

For more information, call 561-266-7698 or visit delraylibrary.org.

New board members at Children's Foundation

Beth Schlager and Stu Steckler have been appointed as board members of the Boca West Children's Foundation, which funds projects to assist needy children and their families in South County.

The foundation achieves its goals through a network of 30 local charities.

“We have a very dynamic and committed board of directors, and we are thrilled to welcome Beth and Stu to join us in our mission to serve the kids in Palm Beach County,” Chairman Richard Zenker said. “Both of these individuals are committed to improving the community, and they both have significant business and volunteer experience to bring to the board.”

For more information, call 561-488-6980 or visit bocawestfoundation.org.



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

'Rebound and Recovery' focuses on mental health

As the country calls attention to the growing epidemic of mental health issues, the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties has teamed up with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and Florida State University on a new initiative.

Titled “Rebound and Recovery,” the collaboration aims to tackle the pandemic-aggravated emotional challenges faced by children and teens. FSU's College of Social Work, as well as its Center for the Study

and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children, will spearhead the effort.

“Once we develop the new curriculum and pilot it with the Boys & Girls Clubs, we'll be able to share it with others in the county, across the state and beyond,” said Jeff Stoops, an FSU graduate who helped start the center in Tallahassee. “Working together within this unique collaboration, we hope to build a program that is scalable and can have a real lifelong impact on the mental

health of our youth and teens.”

For more information, call 561-659-6800 or visit yourcommunityfoundation.org.

Laugh with the Library raises more than \$230,000

Good humor and laughter were in abundance at the Delray Beach Public Library's Laugh with the Library, taking place at the Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa.

The event, co-chaired by Chiara Clark and Alissa Rabin, is a perennial favorite for its

creative, casual, fun-filled night of comedy, cocktails and dinner-by-the-bite. The headliner was comedian Pat McGann.

“The Delray Beach Public Library depends on the success of this fundraiser to provide support for library materials,” said Kae Jonsons, director of development and community relations, noting that more than \$230,000 was generated. “The pandemic led to an increase in demand as well as the cost of books, and digital materials have risen greatly.”



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UKRAINE

Continued from page AT1

village in western Ukraine near Lviv. They were exhausted and frightened when they got here, having traveled a long and circuitous route through Poland, Mexico and California before landing in Miami.

“They slept in airports for six days,” Epstein-Feld said. “The day she got to Mexico they closed the border.”

Khrystyna used her phone to find help and eventually located the Ukrainian Settlement Project — and the Felds.

After the Balmushes had settled into the Felds’ commodious home on Hypoluxo Island, they walked down the street and were astonished to see small, replica Ukrainian flags planted in the neighbors’ lush lawns.

The island community has shown support in other ways as well. Ann McGlenn-Work has taken the newcomers to Lantana’s Holy Spirit Catholic Church on Sundays, and plans to take them to a Polish Mass on a Saturday night.

“Khrystyna speaks some English but Davyd doesn’t really understand what’s being said in church,” McGlenn-Work said. “The first couple of times he fell asleep on her arm.”

McGlenn-Work said that she will not understand what’s said in the Polish Mass, but that’s OK. The spirit transcends language, she said.

Neighbor Michael Betras said soccer also transcends language.

“I have played pickup soccer with him and he’s really good,” Betras said of Davyd. “I don’t have to say anything — not one word. Soccer is all we need.”

Epstein-Feld said the neighbors have always been friendly, but since the Balmushes arrived, a deeper spirit of kinship has evolved.

“This is really a wonderful community. Everybody has stepped up to help,” Norm Feld said.

And Khrystyna, a single mom who worked in restaurants before the war, has responded in kind. Every week she cooks Ukrainian dishes for the neighbors — borscht and pierogi.

“We must have handed out 20 containers of borscht,” Norm Feld said.

Not all has been rosy for the Balmushes, however.

Khrystyna misses her parents, whom she left behind, and she has heard that two cousins who joined the battle have been badly injured by bombs and bullets.



Ukrainian native Khrystyna Balmush and her 10-year-old son, Davyd, stroll with Hypoluxo Island resident Joni Epstein-Feld, who is providing them with a place to stay during the war in their homeland. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



Davyd Balmush plays soccer with his friend and neighbor Michael Betras at McKinley Park on Hypoluxo Island. Betras says soccer transcends the language barrier.

When the bombing of her village began, Khrystyna Balmush became determined to get her son out of the country.

“The bombs came in my house every day. I heard this — windows breaking,” she said. “I

was very nervous.”

Messages sent to her phone told the family to evacuate, she said, but the family had nowhere to go.

“I told my mother I’m going. I must keep my son safe.”

Today, thanks to the Felds, Khrystyna and Davyd do feel that way.

“I say every day to my mother I am safe and OK with these people. Now I have two families,” Khrystyna said. “They

are good people who help us every day, every day.”

The Balmushes have their own little apartment in a guest house behind the Felds’ pool. They walk around the neighborhood at night to talk about their future in America.

Eventually Khrystyna wants to go to college, maybe to study information technology. First, she says, she needs to take English classes so she can communicate and get a job.

Meanwhile, Epstein-Feld has enrolled Davyd in a local school after weeks of working through red tape.

“He came home today and said he had made three friends,” Epstein-Feld said with a smile. “That is a real accomplishment.”

Neighbors say the Felds are always quick to lend a hand to people in need.

“They are just amazing people,” McGlenn-Work said. “Khrystyna and Davyd couldn’t have found a better spot — or better hosts.”

For their part, the Felds hope others will read their story and become inspired.

“There are not many host families in Palm Beach County,” Epstein-Feld said. “Our hope is that others will offer to host Ukrainian families.” ★

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Celebrations

Literacy Links

Palm Beach Par 3 — April 29



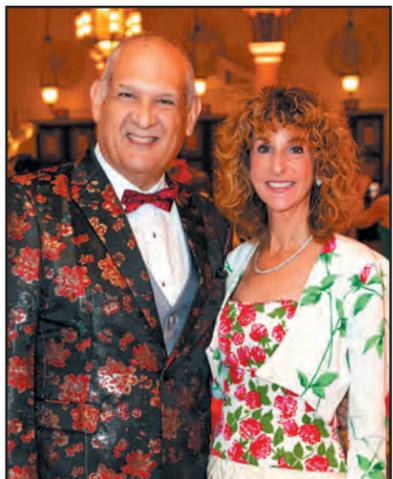
The sixth annual golf tournament in support of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County raised \$33,000. The money will be used for programs that help local children and adults succeed in school and life. 'Our annual Literacy Links golf tournament is one of our most popular fundraisers, and it's easy to see why,' coalition CEO Kristin Calder said. 'The Palm Beach Par 3 offers spectacular views and excellent food, but more than that, these golfers are fans of the programs we provide in Palm Beach County, and this tournament is a fun way for them to chip in.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Betsy Greene, Brenda Medore, Casey Syring and Caron Dockerty. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Winter Ball

The Breakers, Palm Beach — April 8



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's 50th-anniversary celebration raised a record-breaking \$8 million to support club programming and the construction of a new facility. During the Moroccan-themed gala, a \$5 million lead gift for the construction was announced. 'The guests at the Winter Ball came to support this worthy cause,' said Gretchen Leach, event chairwoman. 'It was a truly outstanding evening where everyone was happy, festive and generous.' **TOP:** Sacha and Josh McGraw. **INSET:** Robert and Pamela Weinroth. **Photos provided by Capehart**



Escape from Extinction

Café Boulud, Palm Beach — March 20



American Humane's exotic brunch delighted guests with a bit of everything, including an exquisite menu, a beautiful setting, live music and even a rescued sloth named Mila. 'Sincere thanks to everyone here today for your love of animals and our work together to protect, promote and preserve the wonderful animals with whom we share this earth,' CEO Robin Ganzert said in welcoming the guests. A special highlight was a check presentation from Delray Beach-based Delivery Dudes in the amount of \$5,000. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Jean Shafiroff, Lois Pope holding Nicely-Nicely, and Ganzert. **Photo provided by Capehart**

Raise the Bar

Rocco's Tacos, Boca Raton — April 28



The Endowment Fund of the Junior League of Boca Raton's annual fundraiser not only celebrated the 16th anniversary of the fund but also raised \$30,000 for the league. More than 150 attended. Proceeds will benefit the Vegso Community Resource Center, which offers free training for local nonprofits. 'Everyone had a great time,' said Lisa Bariso, league president. 'We were excited to be able to have the event after a two-year hiatus.' **ABOVE:** Celebrity bartenders (l-r) Kimberley Trombly-Burmeister, Kelly Fleming, Forrest Heathcott, Melissa Bonaros, Tim Snow, Jamie Sauer, Doug Flash, Reilly Glasser, Sal Saleh, Howard Guggenheim and Eric Applewhite. **Photo provided**

Reception

La Goulue, Palm Beach — April 14



La Goulue partners Ed Carter, Kevin Richards and Janna Bullock staged an unforgettable fundraiser in support of the Ukraine Resistance Organisation, an on-the-ground network based in Kyiv. Featured speakers were Richards, who recently returned from Kyiv, as well as Aleksey Brynzak and Ireesha Blohina, who created the URO the day of the invasion. Brynzak and Blohina shared touching, heartbreaking stories via satellite of what life is like during a war. More than \$20,000 was donated to the cause. 'This is our country, our city, our family,' Blohina said. 'Like so many of you, I am a mother of two beautiful children.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Brett Orlove, Dina Fink and Ron Burkhardt. **Photo provided by Christopher Fay**

Celebrations

Legacy Polo Brunch

International Polo Club Palm Beach, Wellington — March 13



The Fuller Center event, held for the second time, featured delectable food and on-field action to benefit underserved children and families. Attendees included 50 members of the center's Legacy Society, a group instrumental in fulfilling the Fuller Center mission. 'We were so pleased to see such a great response from our Legacy Society members who play a critical role in helping local kids and families in need,' event co-chairwoman Peg Anderson said. **ABOVE:** (l-r, front) Stacey Packer, Doug and Marcia Mithun, Ellyn Okrent, Lori Shepard, Kathy Yaffe, Cheryl Leskar and Valerie Silverman with (l-r back), Nerone de Brito, Elen de Paula, Steve Okrent, Murray Shepard, Dan Yaffe, Marc Silverman and Yvette Drucker. **Photo provided**

Granting Wishes

The Polo Club of Boca Raton — April 1



The Jewish Women's Foundation has granted the wishes of 10 organizations — nine of them local and one from Israel — to further good deeds. Thrilled to celebrate in person after two years apart, the crowd of 200 marked the largest in the history of the foundation — a program of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. In all, a total of \$105,000 was donated. 'Today you have seen the impact of the grants we have funded,' trustee Randee Rubenstein said. 'Women are a powerful force in philanthropy, and that power shapes our world and our community.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Janet Sahr, Miriam Atzmon, Dana Egert, Roxane Lipton, Amy Rosenberg and Rubenstein. **LEFT:** Harriet Kimball and Laurie Kamhi. **Photos provided by Jeffrey Tholl Photography**

Family Picnic

National Croquet Center, West Palm — March 6

To underscore the Hanley Foundation's belief that family time is time well spent, the 27th annual outdoor event took place with more than 220 in attendance. Chairs Joe and Kelly Rooney and Christian and Ann-Britt Angle ensured a day filled with fun for all. Proceeds will go toward substance-abuse prevention programming in Florida. 'At Hanley Foundation, we know that the best thing we can do to help keep our children safe from drugs and alcohol is to spend time with them,' said Turner Benoit, the foundation's chief philanthropy officer. 'Imagine a world free of addiction — we do.' **INSET:** Jeff and Aggie Stoops. **Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography**



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Dining

Fries to Caviar, others bring elegant, creative food to casual diners

Adaptation is the word in restaurants as remnants of the pandemic shutdowns still affect the industry. Fine dining is almost a thing of the past, for a number of reasons including lack of qualified servers and kitchen staff, as well as capital costs. You're as apt to eat on a patio as in a white-linen dining room.

But chef-driven spots remain, bringing upscale, creative foods to newer, more casual audiences.

Example: caviar service on a patio with a burger. Check out Fries to Caviar in Boca Raton, billed as an American garden bistro "with a hint of fine dining."

Fries to Caviar owner Philipp Hawkins elevated the way roe is presented to include a traditional caviar service with blini and chopped egg. But diners may instead opt for large plank fries served with creme fraiche and the roe.

With no formal restaurant experience, Hawkins dove into the restaurant world — and ultimately, the caviar industry — to learn about different fish eggs, quality and sourcing. The former casino security expert tries to demystify the food for a new clientele who come for a burger but are curious about the caviar menu.

He's also adapting in other ways — lowering the price of caviar, to start.

"It should be accessible to everybody," Hawkins said. "I know how much I pay — why do I need to be greedy?"

It is still a costly item, as is the mother-of-pearl spoon used to serve it. "Caviar should never touch metal; it dulls the flavor. So, we ordered the special spoons for each service," he said.

To discourage pilfering of the delicate spoons, Hawkins said, the servers trained to describe the details include the sentence, "Our spoons are available for purchase if you'd like one."

He also doesn't want dining here to be a stuffy experience.

"At one point I thought about taking the restaurant to fine dining, but my chef Lily, who comes from a fine-dining background, said it would kill the business," Hawkins said.

The atmosphere at Fries to Caviar is upscale casual, but people in dress clothes would feel at home.

"I remember going to Tarks, in Hollywood," Hawkins said. "There were bikers at the counter, and gentlemen wearing suits. Two ends of the spectrum of society eating and enjoying each others' company."

That's his ideal, he said.

Hawkins also is lowering the prices of other foods on his menu that are frequently found at much higher prices around

town. He said it's an expectation of doing volume to achieve a reasonable profit without gouging.

"My branzino is 'catch of the day' here. There are restaurants in the neighborhood who charge north of \$85 for it. I know what they pay per pound. It's ridiculous to charge that.

"I think some of the restaurant owners who've been in the business a long time have lost sight of what it's like to be a customer. I call myself a professional customer," Hawkins said.

"I may not have tons of restaurant experience, but I've eaten thousands of meals out, so I come into this with a different perspective."

Fries to Caviar, 6299 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Phone 561-617-5965; friestocaviar.com. Open for dinner from 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; Sunday brunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Summer madness happy hour, 4-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

A number of other restaurants in the area feature chef-driven menus and fine-dining touches in more casual settings. Here are but a few:

Prime Catch, 700 E. Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach. The seafood, service and Intracoastal Waterway view qualify as top-tier; a fish sandwich is delivered with the same quality as a full entree. Servers are on top of things here. Florida fish is the specialty. The tiki bar dockside is the way to come-as-you-are and get the full experience of waterfront dining.

Brule Bistro, 200 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. A casual sidewalk bistro (indoor dining, too) with an array of house-made foods from a chef who adds to the traditionals. Always check out the specials. Weekend brunch is a favorite for off-Avenue dining. Visit Brule's sister restaurant nearby, Rose's Daughter.

Driftwood, 2005 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. The chef, Jimmy Everett, brings the unexpected to food and drink. Definitely a spot to order from the daily menu. Patio and inside bar and dining room — all intimate.

Gary Rack's Farmhouse Kitchen, 399 SE Mizner Blvd. (Royal Palm Place), Boca Raton; 204 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. A healthful approach to cooking "just good food" comes from these kitchens. Gary Rack wants us to dine, not just eat, he says. Make a meal of just their apps: Zucchini chips and



LEFT: At Fries to Caviar in Boca Raton, you can eat indoors or take advantage of the casual patio setting at the back of the restaurant.

BELOW: French fries pair well with a variety of roe, served with mother-of-pearl spoons.



LEFT: Consistently fresh food, including these oysters, is a hallmark of Prime Catch in Boynton Beach.

ABOVE: Grouper au poivre with roasted potato and cipollini onion and asparagus in a brandy-cream reduction is a favorite at Gary Rack's Farmhouse Kitchen. It has locations in Boca Raton and Delray Beach. **Photos provided**

buffalo cauliflower, or truffle-yaki brussels sprouts give an idea of what's to come from the full menus. These are places where vegans and omnivores meet.

Max's Grille, 404 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. Arguably the beginning of upscale, chef-driven casual in the area is here. It adapts its full-on bistro menu with something for everyone. From sushi to pork chops with peaches, a signature tomato bisque and loaded chicken Caesar, plus a notable wine list, it's Boca's own icon.

Josie's Ristorante, 1602 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Old-school Italian service and friendly bartending with modern casual dining are what you get, along with a chef-driven menu that spins off the classics. Salads are stars instead of afterthoughts, and pastas creative, well-prepared dishes you'll remember. Don't miss desserts. Josie's does a lot of takeout.

La Cigale, 253 SE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach. People in the know seek out this Mediterranean spot in between the U.S. Highway 1 split. Outdoor dining under a tent is a result of the pandemic, but the serene dining room is a nice fit for the food. Classic service that doesn't feel stuffy; dishes are explained and recommendations made. Great wine list, too.

800 Palm Trail Grill, 800 Palm Trail, Delray Beach. Chef touches abound at the Grill (the former Patio). Unusual ingredients and a thoughtful use of herbs, spices and flavors in both drinks and foods make this a hidden gem.

A huge patio, comfortable even in summer, gives visitors and locals alike the tropical feel apropos to the name. Specialties include Maryland style crabcakes, and herb-crusted scallops. The Palm salad is a favorite for summer. Going for drinks only? Don't miss the Black & Tan onion rings as a snack. (Dinner only, daily.)

In brief: Longtime Palm Beach County diners know of the iconic **Cafe L'Europe** in Palm Beach. We were sorry to hear of the passing of **Lidia Goldner**, co-founder of the restaurant. A peppy Brazilian, she oversaw the beautiful dining room for years and made guests feel as though they were equal to all the dignitaries who dined there, as well as part of her family. ...

Sorry, Delray, but a **Planta** restaurant isn't in your immediate future. We had our avenues wrong in last month's column — a new Planta Queen recently opened on Las Olas in Fort Lauderdale. No plans for Delray at the moment. The closest one is in West Palm Beach at The Square on Okeechobee Boulevard.



Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com

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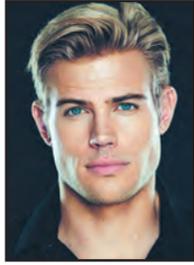
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RomaDrama Live! gathers Hallmark, Lifetime movie celebrities in West Palm

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

Bringing the stars, screenwriters and producers of made-for-TV movies and the romantic dramas of The Hallmark Channel, Lifetime and Netflix to West Palm Beach, RomaDrama Live! comes to the Palm Beach Convention Center this month.

Originally scheduled for January, the event was rescheduled to June 24-26 because of COVID-19 and the omicron variant.

"We are thrilled to be coming to West Palm Beach," said Gabrielle Graf Palmer, co-founder and partner of RomaDrama Live! "While delaying our January event was frustrating, it was necessary to ensure the health and safety of all those



Friends Gabrielle Graf Palmer and Sara Lunsford conceived RomaDrama Live! while attending Wizard World Comicon in 2018. Photo by Laurie Pearson

we hold dear. We always say that we are a RomaDrama family."

Featuring panel discussions, Q&As, meet-and-greets with the actors, autograph sessions, photo ops and plenty of mixing-and-mingling with favorite TV characters, the event is the brainchild of entrepreneurs and best friends Palmer and Sara Lunsford.

It all started in 2018 on a girls' birthday weekend when Palmer and Lunsford set out to meet Sam Heughan, star of the Starz series *Outlander*, at Wizard World Comicon in Chicago.

As fangirls, it occurred to them that there was nothing comparable for devotees, as they were, of The Hallmark Channel or Lifetime. Sitting at the hotel bar later that night, scribbling notes on a napkin, the two came up with ideas for

what has turned into RomaDrama Live! part convention, part boutique fan experience and all wholesome good time.

"This is truly a personal labor of love for both of us," Palmer said.

"We both faced some adversity and found ourselves suddenly single," she said. "We had two choices: Be swallowed up whole or take control of our lives and forge a new path for ourselves and our children."

"We decided to give it everything we have and push forward," she recalled. "We always loved Lifetime and the Hallmark Channel and now the new GAC (Great American Country) channel."

The two founded BriteStar Events LLC and held their first RomaDrama Live!

See ROMADRAMA on page 9

Appreciation

Poetry fest founder left lasting legacy

ArtsPaper Staff

Miles Coon, a former business executive who founded the Palm Beach Poetry Festival after coming to the art form late in life, has died, festival officials said.

Coon, who was 84, died May 21, the festival said.

Susan Williamson, the festival's director, remembers Coon as the first poet who welcomed her to Florida in 2006 and got her a seat at the workshop that year, despite it being sold out.

"Miles was a visionary," said Williamson, noting that when he founded the festival in 2005, besides the wider-focused Key West Literary Seminar and the Miami Book Fair, there were no events dedicated solely to poetry, and certainly not in the winter when academics are teaching.

"This was a revolutionary idea," she said. "Spending time with other



Coon

poets at the top of their game is a big part of what Miles created and what people will remember. In addition to being very generous and thoughtful, it's

rare to be in an atmosphere with that many poets at the same time all speaking the same language."

The festival, which has taken place at Old School Square in Delray Beach for six days each January since 2005, offers would-be poets the chance to meet with major practitioners in a workshop setting, and interested observers

See COON on page 8

Art

Yale alumni share creative light and harsh truths in NSU exhibit

By Gretel Sarmiento
ArtsPaper Art Writer

A rocket ship, a sentinel, and mirror-faced sculptures are among the artworks composing a deeply personal and vocal exhibition born out of camaraderie and moral support. If it says anything, it's that injustice benefits from silence and shadows.

On view through Oct. 23 at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, *Lux et Veritas* highlights 21 artists of color who bonded over their singularity and created a support system while attending Yale School of

Art between 2000 and 2010. A variety of disciplines, including film, painting and sculpture, are represented. The works are arranged mostly chronologically, based on the year each artist completed his or her graduate studies. They cover the entire first floor of the museum.

Immediately past the welcoming panel is where we find *Sentinel VI* by Wangechi Mutu. This tall, tree-looking humanoid with a pronounced rib cage looks as if lifted from a Guillermo del Toro horror movie. The arm branches and the trunk-like body sport the color and texture of clay. The

eyes, courtesy of tiger cowry shells, rescue the creature from complete abstraction and lend it a hint of normal resemblance.

Nearby stand two long-haired sculptures with round mirrors for faces. They are by Mutu also. Slightly human and yet completely alien, they are not the type of works we can exactly claim to like. Whether it's their rough texture or the lack of warmth and color, something about *Mirror Faced I* and *Mirror Faced II* feels unapproachable. The Kenyan artist is known for complex compositions that address equally complex



Battle Royale by Wardell Milan is part of *Lux et Veritas* at the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale. Photo provided

See NSU on page 8

NSU

Continued from page 7

topics such as colonialism and cultural identity. A vast combination of elements drives her message, which explains the array of materials (red soil, jawbone, baobab fruit, and hair) employed for the works shown here.

The decade that welcomed Mutu and a new generation of artists to the prestigious Connecticut-based university was characterized by a lack of diversity in the school's curriculum and faculty. Collegial relationships thus emerged out of a need for feedback, encouragement, and guidance. The defective environment became the perfect impulse for young talent to experiment, express ideas, and correct the observed deficiencies by way of their creations.

Among them is a family of rocket ships by Anna Tsouhlarakis that confronts viewers with candid messages in the form of stickers adorning the exterior and interior body of

If You Go

Lux et Veritas runs through Oct. 23 at the NSU Art Museum, 1 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale
Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.
Admission: \$12, \$8 seniors and military, \$5 students (with valid ID).
Info: 954-525-5500 or nsuartmuseum.org.

the space shuttles. One declares “we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children,” while another one reads “defend the sacred.”

The dire future of Earth and potential human migration to other planets was the Native American artist's inspiration for *Rocketship 3/4*. Wrapped in aluminum, the silver objects radiate optimism and potential. They seem to say “the possibilities are endless; the sky is the limit” while simultaneously pointing out that some might not be able to

escape in sophisticated ships when Earth's natural resources dry up.

Tsouhlarakis's ships are basic hard copies of a child's imagination held up with foamboard and duct tape. Tinted circular windows lighten up the room and inject color. The interior, furnished with pillows and a cozy fleece, extends a warm invitation to climb the ladder and step inside one of them, whose hatch has been left open.

Further down, a tower made up of 200 found speakers commands understandable attention due to its size and ingenuity. The speakers, neatly piled on top of one another, face outward as if ready to broadcast a message on short notice. Each fits perfectly into the giant box like a piece in a black-and-brown Rubik's cube.

A Willie Colon vinyl record at the base of the structure delivers a touch of sarcasm with its jacket designed after a Wanted poster and featuring phrases like “armed with trombone and considered dangerous.” The piece, titled *machu picchu after dark*, is by Peruvian artist William Cordova, whose interests include architecture, history, and the roots of abstraction.

The dramatically charged *Another Fight for Remembrance*, by Titus Kaphar, portrays a black man with his hands raised up and a dark bandanna concealing half of his face. A cloud of white brushstrokes on the subject's body, as if attacking his presence and identity. A barely there gold halo appears atop the man's bald head as if accentuating his innocence. His eyes, slightly closed, reflect a sense of resignation to what



Visitors to the exhibit are greeted by *Sentinel VI* by Wangechi Mutu. Photo provided by Gretel Sarmiento

he believes to be his pre-determined destiny.

This is one in a series of paintings the American artist produced following *Time* magazine's request for a cover image to represent the 2014 protests in Ferguson, Missouri, after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. Sadly, this isn't the only such painting Kaphar went on to create. The magazine came knocking again following George Floyd's tragic murder.

The show — which is titled after Yale University's credo

“Light and Truth” — broaches topics that art institutions began addressing since the global conversation on diversity, gender parity, and inclusion grew so loud it left them no choice.

To that point, *Lux et Veritas* acknowledges these artists' roles in airing shortfalls present during their enrollment. It credits them with making much ado about plenty, for the path to curing unfairness can never have too much transparency and exposure.

COON

Continued from page 7

the opportunity to hear special guests such as former poet laureates Billy Collins, Robert Pinsky, and Natasha Trethewey.

Other poets such as the late Thomas Lux, Laure-Anne Bosselaar and Carolyn Forché, as well as performance poets Glenis Redmond, Taylor Mali and Patricia Smith, also were guests of the festival.

But Williamson said the future of the festival is in question, in part because the city of Delray Beach has cut ties with the nonprofit organization that ran Old School Square.

“There's a lot of uncertainty,” she said.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Great Neck, N.Y., Coon was a 1959 graduate of the University of Virginia and a 1962 graduate of Harvard Law School. After Harvard, he practiced law for several years before agreeing to take over the management of his father's apparel-store supply business in New York.

He sold the company after 30 years to a British firm that kept him on as non-executive chairman, but as he told *Palm Beach ArtsPaper* in 2008, never consulted him. Seeking a way to channel his self-described Type

A personality into something productive, he turned to literature.

“I began writing short stories because I felt like I was living in one,” Coon said then. “But they kept getting shorter. My stories wanted to be poems.”

After working with poets Malena Morling and Thomas Lux, Coon entered the master of fine arts program at Sarah Lawrence College, a two-year program that took him four years to finish because he took time off for winters at his home in Palm Beach.

“It was the happiest four years of my life,” Coon told *ArtsPaper*. His poems were published in literary magazines including *The Cortland Review*, and a chapbook of his work was published by Jeanne Duval Editions in 2005.

His debut full-length book of poetry, *The Quotient of My Self Divided by Myself*, will be published next month by Press 53. All proceeds from the book will go to the festival.

Jennifer Coon, Coon's daughter, a psychologist and budding poet herself, remembers her father's consistency the most.

“Whether he was a student, a lawyer, a businessman, a poet or the founder of the Palm

Beach Poetry Festival, my father dedicated himself with a full heart and conducted himself with warmth, grace and ethics,” she said.

Noting that he loved his Sarah Lawrence experience, Jennifer Coon said her father sought to recreate that warm and welcoming community in Palm Beach County, and said that when she attended the workshops herself the sense of belonging and community made them special.

“He dedicated himself to truth and beauty in the form of poetry,” she said from Palm Beach.

In 2008, Miles Coon said that poetry had a singular effect on the way people relate to the outside world.

“You have to be observant,” he said then. “We rush around, but poetry slows us down. It says, ‘Hey, take it slow and look at what's around you.’ ... In the business world, I didn't see anything around me. Now that I write poems, I'm more in tune with what's out there.”

In addition to his daughter Jennifer, Coon is survived by his wife, Mimi, son, Matthew, and grandson Elias. Burial was private, but the festival he founded is planning a memorial celebration in the near future.

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Art

Norton print exhibit shows three masters at height of their craft

By Greg Stepanich
ArtsPaper Editor

Sometimes, a celebrated turn of phrase from literature perfectly sums up an experience — and for a current exhibition at the Norton Museum of Art, the magic words were written by Christopher Marlowe in 1589: “Infinite riches in a little room.”

The West Palm Beach museum has been promised prints by three supreme masters of the genre — Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Pablo Picasso — and 26 of them are on display through Sept. 11 in a tiny, low-light gallery just inside the entrance to the museum.

In this dark and holy space are some of the best-known images in Western art, and it is no small thing for the Norton to be promised possession of them to add to its collection.

Dürer, Rembrandt and Picasso: *Three Masters of the Print* is a Norton-curated show that rewards close attention, in part because most of the works are quite small, but also because they offer sterling examples of the power of tiny lines to suggest immense distances.

Dürer in particular seems to revel in this technique; far off to the right of *Adam and Eve* (1504), a mountain goat stands atop a craggy rock; and in *The Sea Monster* (1495), a man rushes to the beach to stop the one-horned merman from carrying off his female prize — all in front of an elaborate fortress, while far in the distance, a ship sits on the water, its sails filled by a strong wind.

In Rembrandt's *The Three Trees* (1643), the tumultuous



Bust of a Woman with a Hat (1962), linocut by Pablo Picasso. Photo provided by Norton Museum of Art

sky above the trees in the countryside outside Amsterdam is suggested by whirling strokes, smudges of ink to call up clouds, and slashing diagonal lines to the left that are about to bring rain onto the arboreal trinity as well as the fisherman in the foreground and an artist on a hill behind the trees.

Most of Rembrandt's works are drawn from biblical, historical or mythological subjects, and while five of the six Picasso works here include facial studies of lovers Dora Maar and Françoise Gilot and his daughter Paloma and his daughter Paloma and his daughter Paloma, the lone one that draws on myth, *Faun Unveiling a Sleeping Girl* (1936), is paired with the Rembrandt

print that inspired it, *Jupiter and Antiope* (1659). Picasso's print, which combines aquatint, sugar lift etching, engraving and scraping, is a beautiful image that despite the artist's well-known misogyny and cruelty, was made by a man who loved women.

The faun in the print looks somewhat stiff and crude as he reaches out to the slumbering woman in this erotic aubade, the light and shadow masterfully indicated with light and heavy ink; but the nude woman is barely outlined, a body of line and implication. The background myth, a typically brutal one of godly rape (with profound consequences), is not

If You Go

Masters of the Print runs through Sept. 11 at the Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach.

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Sat.; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri.; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun.
Admission: \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 students, free for children 12 and under
Info: 561-832-5196, www.norton.org

necessarily evident.

Rembrandt's *Jupiter and Antiope* is more explicitly predatory, with the satyr (likely the face of Rembrandt himself) looking with a smile on the sleeping woman in the moment before he awakens her.

This exhibit also is something of a greatest-hits collection of iconic images, with Dürer's *Erasmus of Rotterdam* (1526), *St. Jerome in His Study* (1514) and *Knight, Death and the Devil* (1513) among the German artist's prints on view. These works were enormously popular in their day, offering citizens of the rising market society of the early 16th century a chance to have some affordable art, and they have been reproduced countless times.

The joy of seeing them up close is in seeing a master draftsman at work, someone who knew how to draw the human figure believably and give it depth, while at the same time being able to create a wide variety of shade and effect by changing the variety and layout of his strokes, and by building persuasive detail by varying the knots in the wooden beams

above St. Jerome's head.

But focusing on those points of sophistication doesn't take away from the immense power of the central figures such as Death on a horse, trying to talk to a knight.

While woodcuts, engravings and etchings were the printmaking mediums for Dürer and Rembrandt, aquatints, lithographs and linocuts join the mix for Picasso. His *Paloma and Her Doll on a Black Background* (1952), a large lithograph, shows the artist's young daughter with a cherubic face on which are incised shapes and lines, while the face of her doll is bereft of them, and smeared with black ink.

The effect today, after years of Hollywood horror movies featuring psychotic clowns and murderous dolls, is somewhat menacing, but without those pop-culture references it is a picture that is full of life and youthful energy.

All of these prints have been written about extensively, some of them for centuries. They are known quantities, and there are many other impressions of these prints on view at museums around the world. But what matters here is that they will soon join the Norton's collection, which lifts the profile of the museum and potentially gives it more weight as a research institution.

Community pride, as well as an extended feast of Old Master pictures, are good reasons to see the show. Maybe the best reason is that some of the pieces are more than 500 years old and have lost none of their ability to astonish a viewer.

ROMADRAMA

Continued from page 7

event last summer outside Nashville.

“It's just plain fun,” Palmer said of the event. “Bring your girlfriends, daughter, or grandchildren, meet your favorite actors, let your hair down and feel like yourself again.”

Newly added to the agenda is actor (*All My Children*), author and motivational speaker Colin Egglesfield, who will share his program “Inspire,” offering tools and strategies to thrive and move forward in life. Also available is the “Inspire” weekend package for \$129.99 offering a number of VIP events with the speaker.

Additionally, fans will have the opportunity to mingle with actors best known for their roles in romantic dramas including Ryan Paevey (*General Hospital*, *Marrying Mr. Darcy*, *Timeless Christmas*), Andrew Walker (*Christmas On My Mind*, *Bottled with Love*, *My Secret Valentine*), Danica McKellar (*My Christmas Dream*, *Perfect Match*, *Love in Design*), Kristin Booth (*Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, *Workin' Mom*), Lily Anne Harrison (*Christmas Camp*, *The Vanished*) and Trevor Donovan (*90210*, *USS Christmas*, *Marry Me at Christmas*).

Donovan, graced with the good looks of a classic celluloid idol, admires the careers of actors Paul Newman, Robert



Screenwriter Karen Schaler, known for her Christmas-themed movies, will be part of a panel. Photo provided

Redford and Brad Pitt.

He just wrapped shooting on three films and is back home in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., where he grew up.

In the soon-to-be-released movie *Reagan*, Donovan plays John Barletta, former President Ronald Reagan's longest-serving Secret Service agent, alongside Dennis Quaid, and will appear in the upcoming Christmas film *Jingle Bell Christmas*, which will premiere in December on GAC.

Of his new, two-year deal with GAC, he said, “It's pretty cool. I'm excited.”

Donovan's career took off in the 2009

reboot of *Beverly Hills: 90210*, where he played the role of Teddy Montgomery for four seasons. “I found my bread and butter,” the former model said.

Athletic, but shy as a kid, Donovan says he initially hated acting. “It was terrifying,” he remembered. “I didn't like performing in front of people and couldn't tell you why I kept doing it.”

Despite his trepidations, Donovan pushed on and, “I fell in love with it.”

And, now, it seems, people are in love with him.

Also participating in the event are a number of award-winning authors and screenwriters, including Jeff Fisher, director of *Christmas Camp*, *My Christmas Love*, *The Simple Life* and producer of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*; Rick Garman, screenwriter with more than 25 Hallmark movie credits; GLAAD media award-winner Julie Sherman-Wolfe, writer of *One Royal Holiday*, *Wedding Every Weekend*, *The Birthday Wish*; and three-time Emmy-winning screenwriter, author, and TV host Karen Schaler, known as “Christmas Karen.” Schaler has written five Christmas movies and five holiday novels in the last three years, including the Netflix hit *A Christmas Prince*, Hallmark's *Christmas Camp*, and Lifetime's *Every Day Is Christmas* starring Toni Braxton.

Schaler is also creator and host of Travel Therapy TV, traveling to more

If You Go

RomaDrama Live! will be June 24-26 at the Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Admission: Single-day, two-day, and three-day VIP tickets range from \$40 to \$799.99.

Info: romadrama.com.

than 68 countries in search of the most inspiring stories. She also is a former Emmy award-winning war correspondent in Afghanistan.

Her latest endeavor is her trademarked Christmas Camps, bringing her Hallmark movie and books to life for grownups at destinations, resorts and hotels, where you feel like you're starring in your own Christmas movie. Schaler will sit on a panel with director Fisher and actress Harrison to discuss the movie-making process and dish fun, behind-the-scene anecdotes.

“I fell in love with the concept of RomaDrama Live!,” Schaler said from Scottsdale, Ariz., where she has a home.

“Gabrielle and Sara are giving me an amazing platform,” she said. “I'm so grateful to them and to connect with the fans; I get so much from them. There is so much love and passion that goes into planning the event. We care about our fans and want to make sure they have an unforgettable experience.”

Reviews

Here are edited reviews of current and recent arts events in South Florida. For the full reviews, visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

The Belle of Amherst (Palm Beach Dramaworks, West Palm Beach; through June 5)

For the past 46 years, the theatrical image that many of us have had of poet Emily Dickinson has come from William Luce's one-woman play, *The Belle of Amherst*, and from Julie Harris' Tony Award-winning performance in the role. But now, aided by new information about Dickinson, Palm Beach Dramaworks and actress Margery Lowe are putting a different spin on the text, resulting in an eye-opening new vision of the Massachusetts woman of letters.

Whether the approach of Lowe — and her director William Hayes — is more accurate than Harris' is hard to tell, but it is certainly more entertaining. For she puts the emphasis on Dickinson's sly and saucy nature, embracing life, though from the vantage point of her self-exile within her family home in Amherst. And if the neighbors see her as "Squire Edward Dickinson's half-cracked daughter," that amuses her as well.

The production's lightened tone is welcome, because the play — a two-and-a-quarter-hour monologue — is a bit of a slog, with all of the usual limitations of the biographical monodrama genre. If Lowe seems comfortable delivering all of Luce's verbiage (and she does), that could be because this is her second go-round with the material. *The Belle of Amherst* was originally scheduled in Dramaworks' previous, COVID-scrapped season, salvaged by a fully staged and filmed version of the work available through streaming last April.

Now revived, the play gains the diminutive Lowe's command of the stage and rapport with the audience.

When we first meet Dickinson, she is 53, just a few years before her death in 1886 following 2½ years of ill health. The play then switches back and forth in time throughout her life, and Lowe does a remarkable job of subtly delineating her character's aging process.

A little startled at first to see guests in her home, she quickly adjusts to having company and guides us about Michael Amico's well-appointed period parlor and through her life.

Deflecting attention away from herself, she introduces us to her stern, but beloved congressman father, her siblings and her suitors, sometimes by one-sided conversations, solo-show style.

Over the span of the play, we hear several of Dickinson's estimated 1,800 poems, often as they first arrive in her brain



Margery Lowe shines as the late poet Emily Dickinson in Palm Beach Dramaworks' production of *The Belle of Amherst* in West Palm Beach. Photo provided by William Hayes

and she scurries to write them down on scraps of newspaper or envelopes.

Much of the first act is light in tone, to contrast with the second half, when her poems take a darker turn due to her obsession with death.

Throughout the play, Lowe moves about the wide stage, alighting in various spaces, a self-conscious cliché of one-person shows. Similarly, Kirk Bookman's lighting keeps illuminating and extinguishing those areas, underlining the artificiality of the exercise.

Still, if you can get beyond these liabilities to concentrate on Dickinson's words and immerse yourself in Lowe's performance, there is much to admire in this *Belle of Amherst*. — *Hap Erstein*

Black Pumas (May 1, SunFest, West Palm Beach)

For many of the SunFest performers, 2022 turned into RainFest in its first three days.

Yet hope was kept alive on day four. Following a country music-heavy opening night, plus additional headliners attempting to deliver whining pop, forced glam, and frat-boy rock between the raindrops, the Austin, Texas-based soul group Black Pumas closed the fest's southern LaBovick Law Group Stage on May 1 with a flourish.

Led by vocalist/guitarist Eric Burton and guitarist/producer Adrian Quesada, the Pumas provided an organic breath of fresh air akin to the one they're currently delivering within a popular music industry obsessed with sampling, programming, overproduction, video, and auto-tuned vocals.

The headliners even brought better weather, which was also enjoyed by the West Palm Beach crowds attending sets by the Pumas' south stage predecessors Topless in Tokyo and Mihali.

By the time the Pumas' seven-piece lineup (rounded out by keyboardist JaRon Marshall, bassist Brendan Bond, drummer Stephen Bidwell, and backing vocalists Angela Miller and Lauren Cervantes) strode on stage at 7:35 p.m., a sizable crowd had formed, which grew as the band kicked into the loping "Next To You."

Burton's soulful, gospel-influenced vocals and

impressive falsetto notes were attention-grabbing, except that he wasn't front and center — because he'd started the set singing on a wireless microphone within the crowd before climbing onstage.

The singer's background is steeped in church and musical theater, both of which surface often within his commanding presence, vocal phrasing, and octave-scaling attack that's parts Al Green, Otis Redding, and David Bowie.

When Burton relocated east from his native California to the Austin area several years ago, the Texas-born Quesada (already a Grammy winner with the band Grupo Fantasma) knew he'd struck gold with a front man for his latest R&B, soul and funk foundation. The Pumas released their self-titled debut album in 2019, which became a 2020 Grammy nominee before the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed their roll.

In Marshall, Bond and Bidwell, Quesada's instrumental foundation is rock-solid (with Bond especially providing impactful bass lines and accents), but the enigmatic Burton is the key. The vocalist added his own hollow-bodied guitar parts to more blues and rock-influenced funk tracks like "Touch the Sky," and made a few more crowd-pleasing trips into the growing audience as the 70-minute set progressed.

"Can we get to know you a little better?" Burton asked. "Repeat after me." He then led the growing throng in call-and-response chants to introduce another debut album favorite, "Know You Better."

The piece featured dramatic builds and decrescendos, and provided the opportunity for Miller and Cervantes — both singers in spot-on tandem with Burton all night, notably here and on the late "Mrs. Postman" — to each get solo vocal spotlights.

Seventy minutes passed all too quickly, leading to solos by Marshall and Quesada on another oft-requested debut album cut, the closing "Colors." There would be no encore because SunFest's fireworks finale was due to start offshore, but the festival was wise not to have another act follow the Pumas. — *Bill Meredith*

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through July 2, 2022, were current as of May 22. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through June 30: *Bradley Theodore in the Garden of the Palms*. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$7 children/students; free for members. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Through June 9: *Art of the Phoenix Exhibition*, works by students in a program for youths in trauma recovery. \$5 non-members. 10 am-4 pm T-F, 10 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org.

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through Jan. 22, 2023: *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*. Runs with *Bonnie Lautenberg: Art Meets Hollywood -- Artistic!* Artworks paired with movie stills from the same year. Through Aug. 21. \$12; \$10 seniors. 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach

County: Through June 25: *Art Acquisitions Large and Small*. Noon-5 pm T-F, first Saturday. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through June 23: *Warhol! Warhol! Warhol!* Through Aug. 7: *Art Connects Across the Ages*, works in glass, wood, paper and plastic. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through June 27: *Painting Enlightenment*. Through Sept. 25: *Beyond the Wall: Visions of the Asian Experience in America*, works by five artists. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for 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 classic images of the Palm Beach area; through Sept. 11: *Dürer, Rembrandt and Picasso: Three Masters of the Print*, featuring works on paper; *A Remarkable Gathering: The Fisher Landau Family Collection*, paintings and sculptures by celebrated artists of the late 20th century; through Sept. 25: *The Howard and Judie Ganek Collection*, artworks from a promised gift to the Norton. \$18; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for 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

Saturday, June 4-Sunday, June 19
Mainly Mozart Festival: The annual summer music festival in Coral Gables, which opened May 21, continues this month with cellist Alexander Hersh (June 4-5); violinist Kevin Zhu (June 11-12); and clarinetist Moran Katz (June 18-19), all accompanied by festival director and pianist Marina Radiushina. Saturday concerts are at 4 pm in the Sanctuary of the Arts, 410 Andalusia Ave., Coral Gables; Sunday's concerts start at 2 pm at the Miami Beach Community Church, 1620 Drexel Ave., Miami Beach. \$25. 786-556-1715 or www.mainlymozart.com.
Thursday, June 17; Thursday, June 24
South Florida Symphony Chamber Music: The Key West-based orchestra offers a series of chamber concerts through July. June's concert features violinist Askar Salimdzhanov and pianist Tamila Salimdzhanova in works by Mozart, Richard Strauss, Franz Waxman (*Carmen Fantasy*) and Igor Frolov (*Porgy and Bess Fantasy*). Both concerts begin at 7:30 pm; the June 24 concert is at the Center for Spiritual Living, 4849 N. Dixie Highway, Oakland Park; the June 25 concert is at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th St., Miami. \$30. 954-522-8445 or southfloridasymphony.org.

DANCE

Saturday, June 11
Paris Ballet and Dance: Jean-Hugue Feray's Jupiter company performs and end-of-year mixed program, with special guest Le Jeune Dance of Cincinnati. 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm, at the Rinker Playhouse,

Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$35. 561-308-8377, www.parisballetdance.com, www.kravis.org.

JAZZ

Saturday, June 4

Tito Puente Jr.: The son of the legendary Latin jazz icon has a formidable jazz ensemble and reputation all his own. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

Friday, June 10-Saturday, June 11
Ann Hampton Callaway: The pop/jazz singer and Tony nominee offers a concert of songs associated with the beloved chanteuse Peggy Lee. 8 pm both shows, Arts Garage. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

Friday, June 17
Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra: The nine-member band presents "Jubanojazz," a concert featuring traditional Jewish klezmer music melded with Latin jazz and swing. 8 pm, Arts Garage. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

POPULAR MUSIC

Thursday, June 9

Tears for Fears: The British duo that known for its 1980s pop songs (*Head Over Heels*, *Shout*) has a new album to pitch on its Tipping Point World Tour. 7:30 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$29 and up; www.livenation.com.

Friday, June 10
Kid Rock and Grand Funk Railroad: The rocker who dabbles in right-wing politics and the 1970s band team up for the Bad Reputation Tour. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. \$45 and up; www.livenation.com.

Saturday, June 11
Keith Urban: The New Zealand country singer and husband of actress Nicole Kidman comes to West Palm on his The Speed of Now World Tour. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. \$28 and up; www.livenation.com.

Sunday, June 19
Styx, REO Speedwagon, Loverboy: If you miss the big arena-pop bands of the 1970s and 1980s, here's your chance to see them on their Live and UnZoomed tour. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. \$22 and up; www.livenation.com.

Wednesday, June 22
Backstreet Boys: The O-Town boys band that lit up Tween Nation in the early 1990s is back on the road for its DNA World Tour. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com.
Friday, June 24

Train: The San Francisco rock septet (*Drops of Jupiter*) is on tour promoting its new album, *AM Gold*. iThink Financial Amphitheatre. www.livenation.com.

THEATER

Through Sunday, June 5

The Belle of Amherst: William Luce's one-woman play about the American poet Emily Dickinson. With Margery Lowe. Don and Ann Brown Theatre, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

Monday, June 6-Wednesday, June 8
Swinging on a Star: A musical revue that pays tribute to the songs of Jimmy Van Heusen (*High Hopes*, *All The Way*, *My Kind of Town*, *Call Me Irresponsible*). Performances at 2 pm and 7:30 pm each day at the Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 561-272-1281, ext. 5, or delraybeachplayhouse.com. Opens Friday, June 10

Head Over Heels: The 2015 jukebox musical that sets an adaptation of a romance by the Elizabethan poet Philip Sidney to the music of The Go-Go's. At Slow Burn Theatre through June 26. Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$49-\$65. 954-462-0222 or www.slowburntheatre.org.
Through Sunday, June 26

The Year of Magical Thinking: Sara Morse stars in this one-woman play adaptation of Joan Didion's classic memoir that recounts her grief over the death of her husband and the severe illness of her daughter. At GableStage, Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables. \$35 and up. 305-445-1119 or gablestage.org.

Religion

St. Joseph's gets another school year on lease in deal with church

By Janis Fontaine

After weeks of anxious scrambling to find a school for their children next year, the parents of St. Joseph's Episcopal School received a reprieve late last month.

Leaders of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, which has rented church property to the school for decades, relented on an earlier decision not to renew the school's lease when it expires in November and have reached a new agreement that will allow the school to remain open until June 30, 2023.

"This is a wonderful way to kick off the upcoming summer break," Bill Swaney, president of the school's board of trustees, wrote in a May 26 email to parents.

While the two entities share a name and land on Seacrest Boulevard in Boynton Beach, the school is independent from the church.

Just a few days earlier, a weary Pastor Marty Zlatic had



Zlatic

addressed parishioners during Sunday services, imploring them not to discuss the school's lawsuit against the church.

After services,

Zlatic warmly greeted the congregation — it was a busy weekend of graduations and milestones so church attendance was good — but declined to say anything about the church's actions or reasoning.

Swaney, 84, a big benefactor to both the school and the church, is co-plaintiff in a class action filed May 14 to resist the lease termination. The \$5 million suit alleged breach of contract and misappropriation of restricted charitable donations. The lawsuit will proceed as planned despite the extension of the lease, Swaney

said in the email.

The tumult caused by the church's April 21 announcement to cancel the lease prompted outraged responses and speculation on social media and flurries of emails among parents. Some picketed outside the homes of the church's nine-member vestry, which made the decision to end the lease.

Zlatic has been harshly criticized by school parents on Facebook for taking a vacation cruise after the hectic Easter holidays (a priest's busiest time) with his wife, Dee, just as parents found out about the lease.

"I worked every day," Zlatic said of his two-week vacation.

Some parents think Zlatic, 65, wants to retire and they still cannot fathom the church's reasoning for the sudden non-renewal of the lease.

Despite a claim of "transparency," the vestry has been silent. According to the church's website, the vestry had sincerely hoped that mediation would resolve the dispute, but the school elected to file a lawsuit instead.

The school claims it was "blindsided" over the non-renewal of its \$5-per-year lease on church-owned land after more than 50 years.

While many suspect that money is the root of the dispute, the lawsuit claims that the deadlock started because of mask mandates.

Board president has big investment in school

As children returned for the 2021-22 school year, the school's leadership opted for a mask-optional classroom. The lawsuit alleges that "in July/August 2021, the Church vehemently disagreed with the School's mask policy for the current school year," and the school leadership points to that disagreement as the heart of the matter.

Swaney admits that masks were the only issue he could point to where the school and church differed.

The Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida had been exceedingly cautious where the coronavirus was concerned, and while the diocese dictates what its fellow churches and schools — like St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Day School — must do, St. Joseph's School is independent and free to make its own decisions.

Since Swaney and his wife, Nancy, joined the church in the late '80s, he has funded repairs and improvements to the church buildings and paid for sabbaticals and pilgrimages for staff, but most of his attention has been on the school. "I have 17 grandchildren," he said. "I care deeply about the kids."

"We tried to have a conversation back in February and we've been trying ever since. I don't think it's about the money," Swaney said by phone from Michigan before the agreement was announced.

He said the church has other strong donors and a nice endowment.

Even though he's not physically in Boynton Beach, "there's still Zoom and email," he laughed. And he's found the positive side: "The school is really doing well, and there are a lot of good people working to resolve this."

In February 1994, Swaney donated 50,000 shares of stock of his company, Perrigo,

which at the time was worth approximately \$2.5 million, to the church "for the express purpose of the church constructing buildings and facilities for use by the school," according to the lawsuit.

Swaney made it clear to the vestry that this gift was being made in exchange for a promise from the church that the school would never be displaced from its property. The church sold the stock and built a gymnasium, library, classrooms and administrative offices.

In 1995, the school, which had been under the umbrella of the Episcopal Diocese, split away from the church and incorporated independently from it.

At the private school, tuition and fees range from \$12,000 for pre-K half-day to \$18,000 for fifth through eight grades.

City concerned, parents speculating

The church — like many churches nationwide — is struggling to stay afloat. The church's annual report for 2021 shows that it met none of its goals for income and it saw extra pandemic-related expenses for cleaning and sanitizing.

Andrea Barnett, a St. Joe parent, spoke to the Boynton Beach City Commission meeting on May 18, calling out anyone interested in profiting from the valuable acreage. She said the commission has "a moral and political obligation to eliminate any internal or

external parties that are enticed to develop that land where our children once played."

After listening to dozens of school supporters, commissioners said no zoning change requests had been made, but appeared concerned about the possible loss of a school in their city.

Eric McCabe, who owns McCabe Brothers Construction, has two kids enrolled at St. Joseph's and one who has already graduated.

He told *The Coastal Star* he and his kids "don't connect" to Father Zlatic, who doesn't support the school. "You have to have a unifying pastor. I heard a lot of the parishioners had no idea what was happening. I feel like we're losing our church and our school."

Although parents at the school suggest it's a real estate deal the church is pursuing, the church denies it. In a statement on its website, the church spokesperson wrote: "... we feel it is imperative to clearly state that there are no plans to sell or develop the property."

McCabe would just like to get to the truth.

"There's a lot of speculation," McCabe said.

Someone suggested a seminary might be a possibility. The fair market value of the rental of the school's property is estimated in the church's tax filings at \$695,339 annually — money a struggling church could use for survival. ★

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 5-11

Monday - 6/6 - 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

6/6 - 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 - 6/7 - 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

6/7 - Virtual Lunch and Learn: Visiting the Sick and Comforting the Bereaved with Rabbi Steve Moss presented by Temple Beth El, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Every T through 6/28 noon-1 pm. Free. 561-391-8900; tbeoca.org

Wednesday - 6/8 - 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 - 6/9 - 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. 7 am in person 1st Th; phone meeting (720-740-9634, pass code 2152894) all but 1st Th. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

6/9 - 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

6/9 - 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 - 6/10 - Praesidium of The Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

6/10 - 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

JUNE 19-25

6/24 - Holy Hour of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Follows 5 pm Mass. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

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Health & Harmony

Book touts nature's power to soothe and renew children

School's out and the promise of summer stretches from one Florida coast to the other and back again. Children long-jump into boundless, homework-free days. It's time for morning lie-ins and stay-up-too-late sleepovers. It's wet bathing suits and ice pops pilfered from the freezer.

For parents, well, it's a bit more complicated.

But not to worry. Boca Raton author and journalist Sandi Schwartz has you covered with her just-published book, *Finding Ecohappiness: Fun Nature Activities to Help Your Kids Feel Happier and Calmer*. This engaging and informative guide may become as essential as sunscreen to your family this summer and far beyond.

In her book, Schwartz — the founder and director of the Ecohappiness Project — shares wide-ranging and persuasive research that confirms what she has long believed: Nature has the power to soothe and renew. And with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling children's mental health "an ongoing public health concern," Schwartz's work to connect children with nature feels timelier still.

"Humans evolved to live in nature, not indoors staring at screens all day. We all have a powerful instinct to experience nature, so creating a daily nature habit can help us feel



Sandi Schwartz of Boca Raton has written a new book, *Finding Ecohappiness: Fun Nature Activities to Help Your Kids Feel Happier and Calmer*. Photo provided

more balanced," she says. "I have found in my own battle with stress and anxiety that connecting with nature can soothe anxiety, calm the mind and promote feelings of joy. I call this connection eco-happiness."

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, calls her book "a prescription for reducing the loneliness of our species."

Schwartz had returned in mid-May from a Children & Nature Network conference, where she heard Louv speak. She quoted Louv as saying there are two types of people: the doers and people who write about them.

"And I feel like my job was to bring together all of the science,

the research, the knowledge, the examples from all these amazing people that are doing the work on the ground, so that parents have this toolkit. And not just parents. The book is for therapists, guidance counselors, teachers, camp counselors."

Schwartz introduces readers to the "nature tools" of mindfulness, awe and gratitude, outdoor play and adventure, creative arts, food and volunteering. Each gets its own chapter with lots of suggested activities and resources.

"This is the toolkit I wish I had growing up," she writes. "My goal is to give my children, and all children, the ability to turn to some simple natural tools when they feel distraught. The last thing I want is for

anyone to get stuck in the anxiety quicksand like I did."

You can enjoy Schwartz's book as a cover-to-cover read or dip into it on demand, thanks to its robust index.

"I always say, start with what your family or your individual child already loves. If they're already into art and painting, I would suggest taking the arts and crafts outside. This could be making a collage of nature elements you collect on a hike. ... Or it could be taking a blanket to the playground and having the kids pull out their journals and their crayons or their paints. ... So, if you have a kid already kind of doodling or making cartoons or something and stuck inside, get them outside to do their creating."

The good news is that you and your children can enjoy time in nature without spending a penny. Why not kick off your shoes and join the kids for "earthing" — a mindful walk across a patch of grass, soil or sand, when it feels cool enough?

"The goal is to walk barefoot while paying close attention to the soles of your feet as they connect with the Earth's surface," Schwartz writes.

"This practice provides several benefits for our kids. First, it feels good to them. It is freeing to walk around without feeling constrained by their shoes all the time. Next, it improves their senses as the bottom of

their feet touch different types of textures, sometimes for the first time."

Of course, there are some necessary items for any outdoor excursion — particularly during a Florida summer — so don't forget water and eco-friendly insect repellent.

A bit of planning can mitigate any "too hot, too humid, too buggy" pushback from the kids. The beach is lovely in the late afternoon and Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands in Boynton Beach, one of Schwartz's favorite spots, opens at 7.

"I personally think any way a child is engaging with being outdoors in nature is great," she says. "I think if we're too specific or judging people on how they engage in it, that's just not going to get us anywhere. ... So, it's finding what works for you and that's going to also make you happy."

Finding Ecohappiness: Fun Nature Activities to Help Your Kids Feel Happier and Calmer is available online at IndieBound, Amazon, and wherever books are sold. For more information, visit ecohappinessproject.com.



Joyce Reingold writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to joyce.reingold@yahoo.com.

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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PREFERRED EDITION: Boca Raton/Highland Beach Delray Beach through South Palm Beach

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 4

Saturday - 6/4 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

6/4 - Alateen at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, 501 SW 3rd St, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 888-4AL-ANON; al-anon.org/teen-info

6/4 - 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

6/4 - 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

6/4 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JUNE 5-11

Sunday - 6/5 - 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 - 6/6 - Strength and Stretch Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every M 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

Tuesday - 6/7 - Cardio Strength/Balance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 8/30 1-2 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/7 - Zumba Fitness Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave.

Age 18+. Every T through 7/26 6-7 pm. \$64/resident; \$80/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/7 - Al-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 - 6/8 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JUNE 12-18

Monday - 6/13 - 5 Apps to Destress at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-544-8577; bocalibrary.org

JUNE 26-JULY 2

Wednesday - 6/29 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: The Hunt for Regenerative Medicines with Michael Bollong. 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

The Coastal Star – Shining a Light to Connect Our Communities

To make a tax-deductible donation go to <https://fpf.column.us/the-coastal-star>

Health Notes



South Tech Academy senior Katherine Ledsome (center) designed the winning poster and stands with (l-r) Ryan Wertepny, Diamond Howard, Trinetta Ledsome and Kathryn Grace, director of prevention for the Hanley Foundation. **Photo provided**

Hanley Foundation honors student artist

Katherine Ledsome, a senior at South Tech Academy in Boynton Beach, won the 12th annual School Bus Drug Prevention Poster Contest, and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hanley Foundation. Ledsome plans to attend Palm Beach State College in the fall.

The theme for this year's contest was "Adventure with Me Alcohol Free. Adventure with Me Vape Free." Ledsome's graphic featured a woman on a rainforest adventure and noted an important statistic from the 2020 Florida Youth Substance Survey: 86% of Palm Beach County teens are alcohol free.

As part of Ledsome's award, her poster will be displayed inside up to 1,000 of the school district's buses and will be displayed in schools.

"Katherine's poster used key statistics to show that most of her peers are not engaging in underage drinking," said Kathryn Grace, director of prevention for the Hanley Foundation. "The goal of this contest is to show that despite what some teens think, most of their friends aren't drinking alcohol and this poster drives that message home."

The annual School Bus Drug Prevention Poster Contest was held by the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida Students Against Drunk Driving, Florida Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Art Synergy.

Sponsors included the Hanley Foundation, the Judith Carreras Scholarship, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Rotary Club of Wellington, the South Florida Fairgrounds and the Michael Joseph Brink Foundation.

Satter family donates \$1 million for Bethesda

Manalapan Vice Mayor Stewart Satter, former president and CEO



Manalapan Vice Mayor Stewart Satter with his wife, Susan, and Bethesda Hospitals CEO Nelson Lazo. The Satters' \$1 million gift will help fund renovation of the emergency department at Bethesda Hospital East. **Photo provided**

of Consumer Testing Laboratories, and his wife, Susan Satter, donated \$1 million to the Baptist Health Foundation in May. Their gift will benefit the renovation of the Bethesda Hospital East Emergency Department that is scheduled for completion in June 2024.

"The importance of high-quality emergency care to the community cannot be overstated," Stewart Satter said. "The ER is the front door to the hospital for so many, and now more than ever, it's essential to the well-being of Palm Beach County."

"We are most grateful to the Satter family for this generous gift," said Barbara James, vice president of development and development support at Baptist Health Foundation. "This \$15 million campaign will be philanthropically funded entirely by members of the community, and will make a tremendous difference in the quality of emergency care in our area. With the Satters' donation, we are now 70% to our fundraising goal."

Bethesda Hospital aims to modernize its emergency department into a state-of-the-art facility with private rooms, smart technology and optimized patient care.

Boca Helping Hands in health care partnership

Boca Helping Hands has partnered with Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and Genesis Community Health to help provide access to health care services.

Through a voucher program, Boca Helping Hands funds the cost of providing uninsured individuals access to free primary medical, dental and behavioral care at FAU's two nurse-led clinics in West Palm Beach and Genesis Community Health's clinics in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach.

"The Florida Atlantic University Northwest Community Health Alliance clinics provide integrative mental health services to those with limited access to quality care," said Dr. Karethy Edwards, CEO/executive director of FAU/NCHA Community Health Center. "Our partnership with Boca Helping Hands enables us to treat more local residents with physical, mental and chronic illnesses."

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com

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- Dr. K.D.

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Tots & Teens

Student's renovated RV finally finds home with veterans group

By Janis Fontaine

Mia Bonutti, a senior at Oxbridge Academy and a resident of Manalapan, finally found a permanent home for her remodeled RV.

Bonutti made news in February when she finished the renovation on the once dilapidated, pull-behind motor home as part of her student project.

Her hope was to donate the RV as living space for a veteran without a home. But the plan hit its biggest snag when she tried to give the RV away.

Bonutti didn't want the RV to be auctioned or sold for cash. She wanted it to be a home for a veteran. Finally, after turning down offers from Louisiana to Lakeland, she found House A Vet in Stuart. The small nonprofit started in November 2013 in Martin and St. Lucie counties with the idea of helping Habitat for Humanity of Martin County build a home for a veteran.

But helping one veteran a year still left others on the streets. According to the Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report, 2,472 homeless veterans lived in Florida in 2019. National estimates exceeded 40,000.

To help more people, House A Vet started to do free home maintenance for struggling veterans. It has a food pantry that feeds 65 families every week, and weekly "lunch and learns" on topics like healthy eating, positive thinking, budgeting and job placement. It also provides haircuts and other personal services.

In 2018, House A Vet received the American Legion Department of Florida Homeless Veteran Award. All programs are funded through direct donations from the community, without any federal or state money.

House A Vet says having Bonutti's RV will save the organization about \$7,000 annually in hotel room costs.

Kevin Donahue, director of House A Vet, negotiated a deal with Phipps Park in Stuart that the RV can stay rent-free at the campground in exchange for the occupants doing a few hours of work a day keeping the grounds neat.

"I was really impressed with Mia," said Donahue, who served in the Navy from 1977 to 1981.

House A Vet is able to get about 10 veterans off the street each year, but he'd like to do more. His dream is to purchase a nearby trailer park where he could build a community of tiny homes for veterans. Though that takes substantial cash, Donahue is hopeful. People like Bonutti, he says, encourage him.

Bonutti says she feels like House A Vet is a good fit for her RV. She's happy that it will be close to Palm Beach County and has plans to visit the site before



Rob Bonoit, a recipient of House A Vet services who is now a volunteer, met with Kevin Donahue, director of House A Vet, and Mia Bonutti to make the formal exchange of the RV that Bonutti renovated for a school project. Its new home will be at Phipps Park Campground in Stuart when it's occupied. When it's not, House A Vet plans to store it in a warehouse on its site. **Photo provided**

she heads to the University of Virginia, where she'll study chemical engineering.

"I'm definitely ready for a change," Bonutti said. She's been in classes with 20 students or fewer most of her life. A bigger pond awaits.

When she visited the Charlottesville campus recently, she met the dean, who told her nearly 33% of students studying math and science are women.

"I can't wait to meet people with similar interests to mine," Bonutti said, buoyed by the university's commitment to women in STEM.

At home, Mia's brother Mark, 16, will take over oldest sibling duties like the complicated carpool pickup of their four younger brothers and sisters.

"He's already had some experience with the chaos," Mia said.

House A Vet is in need of volunteers and donations. Call 772-678-8149 or visit www.houseavet.org.

FAU High girls' project wins Philanthropy Tank award

Four nature-loving students at FAU High School received \$10,500 for their community butterfly garden project through the Philanthropy Tank, a nonprofit group that sponsors an annual challenge for high school students in solving social problems.

On April 11, Elise Siegel of Highland Beach, Alyssa Jiggetts of Coconut Creek, and Mallory Thomas and Anna Jarvis of Boca Raton made a presentation of the project they called GNOME — Growing Native Oases Made for Engagement.

GNOME would build and plant easy-to-sustain community butterfly gardens designed to lower people's stress and add green space. Its secondary purpose is to promote the use of native plants in local landscapes.



Alyssa Jiggetts, Elise Siegel, Anna Jarvis and Mallory Thomas (l-r) make their case to the Philanthropy Tank. **Photo provided**

The group worked with adviser Adriene Tynes, who spent five years on the board of Community Greening, a collective effort to improve the environment with trees. The students will be mentored by Frances Fisher as they enter the new phase of making gardens happen.

"The presentation went really well. All the preparation was worth it," Mallory said.

The team filmed a video for National Learn About Composting Day in May to bring awareness to its work. To make GNOME sustainable, the team plans to start a club at FAU High School to carry on the work when the seniors on the team graduate.

For more information on the Philanthropy Tank, visit www.philanthropytank.org.

Delray student wins filmmaking scholarship

After the candidates walked a red carpet at Maltz Jupiter Theatre, the winners of the Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films were



White

Heritage School in Delray Beach heard his name.

Most of the film showcase awards recognize individuals for their filmmaking, but the Burt Reynolds and Sara Fuller scholarships are different.

Before Reynolds died in

2018, he played a vital role in the selection process and personally handed out the award each year. Reynolds looked carefully at the applicants' character as well as their talents and aspirations.

Fuller was a pioneer in Florida's film production industry, and this scholarship sponsored by Film Florida honors her memory by supporting future filmmakers and encouraging excellence in the field of motion picture education.

For this award, White said, "I submitted a film reel, a letter of recommendation, an acceptance letter from a four-year university, and an essay as to why I think I should be considered for the award."

The scholarship award is \$1,000.

White, 18, who lives in Delray Beach, called the award "an amazing honor." His parents, Troy and Suzanne, are equally excited about Joseph's next chapter. He is going to the Savannah College of Art and Design to study film directing and producing.

The Palm Beaches film showcase has been supporting blossoming filmmakers for more than 25 years by providing cash awards, prizes and scholarships to creative students from Palm Beach County, giving out about \$20,000 to talented seniors each year.

For more information, visit www.pbfilm.com/ssof.

Columnists on vacation this month

They will return in July edition



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.



Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Email tiowillie@bellsouth.net.

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 4

Saturday - 6/4 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-11. Every Sat through 6/25 9-9:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/4 - Drumming with Getz at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Joe Getz gives drumming lessons, hones everyone's musical skills. Age 8-12. Every Sat through 7/9 (no class 7/2) 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/4 - Gymnastics/Cheerleading Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Learn basic cheer & tumbling techniques. Age 5-10. Every Sat through 6/25 10-10:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/4 - Saturday Morning Art (smART): Monumental Backdrops 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. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

6/4 - 4th Annual Battle of the Beaches Double Elimination Basketball Tournament at Ezell Hester, Jr. Community Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 11-14. 11 am-8 pm. \$150/resident; \$188/non-resident. Pre-registration: 561-742-6552; boynton-beach.org

6/4 - Drama & Musical Theater Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat through 6/25 11-11:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/4 - Lego Leaders! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Stop by the Children's Dept tech lab, join other self-led Lego lovers, take on a different book-inspired Build It! Lego Engineering Challenge. Held again 6/25, 7/23 & 30. Age 6-11. 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/4 - 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

6/4 - Tail Waggin Tutors at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children read to certified therapy dog. Grade K-5. Held again 6/18 noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/4 - Got Gaming Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 6/18, 6/24 (1-3 pm) & 7/2. Age 13-17. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/4 - 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

6/4 - 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

6/4 - Youth Art Activity at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-279-8883; spadmuseum.com

JUNE 5-11

Monday - 6/6 - Summer Lunch Program and Book Buddies at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Palm Beach County School District serves lunch; children practice reading w/a kind, non-judgmental friend until lunch is served, continue reading as they eat, or be read to. Age 18 & under. M-F through 8/5 11 am-noon Book Buddies; 11:30 am-noon lunch. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/6 - Teen Fiber Arts Studio: Needlepoint at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/6-10 - Vacation Bible School at St. Vincent Ferrer, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Grades rising K-rising 5th. 8:45 am-noon. \$60/child. Registration: 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

Tuesday - 6/7 - Crafty Kids at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. Every T 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/7 - T-Shirt Creations at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Use Cricut machine to create one-of-a-kind, decorated t-shirts. Bring your own or use one of ours (limited youth S-XL shirts will be provided). 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

6/7 - Anime Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 6/8 - Summer STEAM Stars

at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Join Mr. Kevin & Ms. Sonia for S.T.E.A.M.-inspired activities, hands-on exploration. Age 8-12. Every W through 7/20 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/8 - Youth Chess Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. For teens & tweens; all skill levels. Every W 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/8 - Tween Crochet at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. Every W 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 6/9 - 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

6/9 - Youth Summer Program: Flying Fish (Stomp Rockets) at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/9 - Thursday Performance Showcase at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Roster of professionals in arts & sciences. Age 5-12. Held again 6/16 & 23. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Friday - 6/10 - Space Exploration Kerbal Kamp at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Join the Summer Leadership Academy Space Program, run your space agency from the ground to the stars. Learn basics of rocketry, how to get into orbit, the value of doing science in space. Held again 7/8 & 8/5. Age 8-12. 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/10 - My Image, My Power at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Work with a self-image coach, develop important life skills. Registrants must commit to all 6 sessions. Books, journals, refreshments provided. Age 9-12. Every F through 7/15 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/10 - Game On! Family Feud at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/10 - Children's Friday Special: Cesar Domico, Magician at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Child must be accompanied by an adult. All ages. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/10 - 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

Saturday - 6/11 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/adult. 10-11 am. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

6/11 - Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/adult. Noon-1 pm. \$8/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

JUNE 12-18

Monday - 6/13 - Crafty Holiday: Juneteenth at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop in, take a craft to make at home, celebrate Juneteenth. Send the library a picture of you celebrating the holiday w/your crafty creation; they'll post it on their Instagram page. Age 3-6. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/13 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to "non-walking." Every M through 6/27 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

6/13 - Play & Learn for Babies at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/literacy-based toys. Age 0 months to "non-walking." 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/13 - Teen Tech Sandbox: Intro to Virtual Reality at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 6/14 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/14 - Play & Learn for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/literacy-based toys. Age walking to 35 mos. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/14 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 4 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/14 - Teen Yoga at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stretching, relaxation, rejuvenation. Bring yoga mat or use one provided. Held again 6/28. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

6/14 - Karate Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basics of traditional karate. Age 5+. T/Th through 7/21. Beginner 5:30-6:30 pm; Intermediate 6:30-7:30 pm. \$75/resident; \$94/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Wednesday - 6/15 - Preschool Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Every W 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/15 - A is for Alphabet Art at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Story time w/music, puppets, movement, felt boards, fingerplays. Age 2-4. Every W through 7/20 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/15 - Play & Learn for Preschoolers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/ literacy-based toys. Age 3-5. 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 6/16 - Youth Summer Program: Air Dry Clay Critters at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/16 - Pin Your Pride! Tween & Teen Button Making at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 6/17 - Game On! Movie Trivia at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

JUNE 19-25

Tuesday - 6/21 - Mario Kart Tournament at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 6/23 - Youth Summer Program: 3D Paper Aquarium at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/23 - Pride Book Talk at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 6/24 - Game On! Pictionary at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/24 - Children's Friday Special: Mad Science at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Child must be accompanied by an adult. All ages. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 6/25 - 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

JUNE 26-JULY 2

Tuesday - 6/28 - Seeds of Creativity Graphic Novel Workshop at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-week workshop in art, writing, production; create your own graphic novels, bound & published for keeps. Registrants must commit to all 6 sessions. All materials provided. Age 8-12. Every T through 8/2 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 6/30 - Summer Feature Film at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Movie followed by discussion. Age 5-12. Includes free popcorn; bring water bottle or drink. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

6/30 - Youth Summer Program: Ceramic Sea Creature Painting at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/30 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Th through 7/21. Age 4-6 5:30-6:15 pm; age 5-11 6:30-7:15 pm or 7:15-8 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/30 - Teen Art Program: Teen Tie Dye at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 12-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 7/1 - Game On! Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 8-12. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 7/2 - Got Gaming Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 7/16 & 7/22 (1-3 pm). Age 13-17. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Outdoors

Winning wahoo

Lantana Fishing Derby, Old Key Lime House, Lantana — May 14



Jim Wrona holds the 50.4-pound wahoo that took first-place honors during the 27th annual Lantana Fishing Derby. Wrona, who along with teammates Pete Reardon, John Dimiceli and Rich Mitchell caught the fish while trolling off Palm Beach at a depth of 250 feet, said the 45-minute fight ended with the team landing it on the boat by 8:30 a.m. — taking pressure off the rest of the day. The Posh Properties team received \$4,500 in prize money. Photo provided by Leonard Bryant Photography

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 4

Saturday - 6/4 - 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

JUNE 5-11

Tuesday - 6/7 - Turtle Walk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 8+; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every T-Th through 7/7 8:45 pm. \$15/resident & member; \$20/non-resident. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Friday - 6/10 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-adult; each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. Held again 9-10:30

JUNE 19-25

6/24 - Climate Kids' Ocean Lovers Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Learn about marine biology, beach, wetlands conservation. Age 8-12. Held again 7/15 & 7/29. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

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Outdoors



South Inlet Park is a county-owned recreation area next to the Boca Raton Inlet. **LEFT:** Eugene Katal and his son Victor try fishing from the jetty. **ABOVE:** Cousins Rosanne DiFilippo and Frank Kopa soak up some sun on the beach. **RIGHT:** Amanda Engelhart takes a break on the park's boardwalk. **Photos by Tao Woolfe/The Coastal Star**



South Inlet offers quiet contrast to South Beach Park in Boca

By Tao Woolfe

South Inlet Park, one of Boca Raton's smallest, quietest oceanside parks, offers a laid-back day at the beach for families and serenity seekers.

It's just south of Boca's spectacular 2-mile oceanfront recreation area, but the humbler South Inlet Park — which is tucked alongside the Boca Inlet — feels almost undiscovered.

Among those who appreciate the charms of the county-operated park is Frank Kopa, who lives in Boca Raton during the winter months and returns to the New Jersey shore for the summer.

He and cousin Rosanne DiFilippo, nestled deeply into their low-slung beach chairs one recent afternoon, talked about how the beach had changed in the last 40 years.

"I don't remember these big condo buildings all around," said DiFilippo, who first visited South Inlet Park when she was about 20. "There used to be more dunes — and trees."

The overpowering smell of baking seaweed seemed not to faze the cousins, whose bodies were golden brown.

"My skin is used to it. I don't even use lotion," Kopa said. "We're beach freaks, here every day."

DiFilippo said she likes South Inlet Park because it is more natural and less crowded than other area beaches.

The park offers barbecue grills adjacent to five small pavilions with picnic tables; a play area for kids 5 to 12 years old; and a jetty along the south side of the inlet that is a popular fishing spot.

Eugene Katal, accompanied by his son Victor, 6, stood on the rocky jetty and repeatedly cast his line into the wake of passing boats.

As late afternoon clouds rolled in from the west, father and son, their baskets and buckets empty, packed up their gear.

"It's my first time here and my first time fishing," Eugene



ABOVE: Boca Raton's South Beach Park features a large, oceanfront pavilion at the eastern terminus of Palmetto Park Road. **RIGHT:** This boardwalk provides an easy walk through the coastal hammock dominated by cabbage palm trees.

Katal said with a shrug. "It's a very nice park."

The park's largest pavilion is the last architectural remnant of the 1930s Cabana Club — a semicircular group of cabanas, card lounges and dining rooms that was demolished in 1980 to make way for the Addison on the Ocean condominium.

The pavilion, which originally served as a sheltered area for club guests exiting their cars, was preserved and moved to South Inlet Park in 1981. The porte cochere (covered entrance) is now on Palm Beach County's Register of Historic Places.

The park has tree-covered wooden walkways through the scrub, and shady coves with benches where beachgoers can get out of the sun.

Amanda Engelhart had stopped along a walkway to knock the sand off her red sneakers and appreciate the surrounding little forest.

"I think this park is beautiful, cozy," she said. "There are areas in the water where you can see tropical fish and coral, and it's always clean."

Engelhart, of Minnesota, said she was traveling and stopped for a long stay in Boca Raton. She goes to South Inlet Park

almost every day, she said.

"This little spot is well preserved and incorporates the city with nature," Engelhart said. "It's a good place for me to find solitude. It's a good place for all."

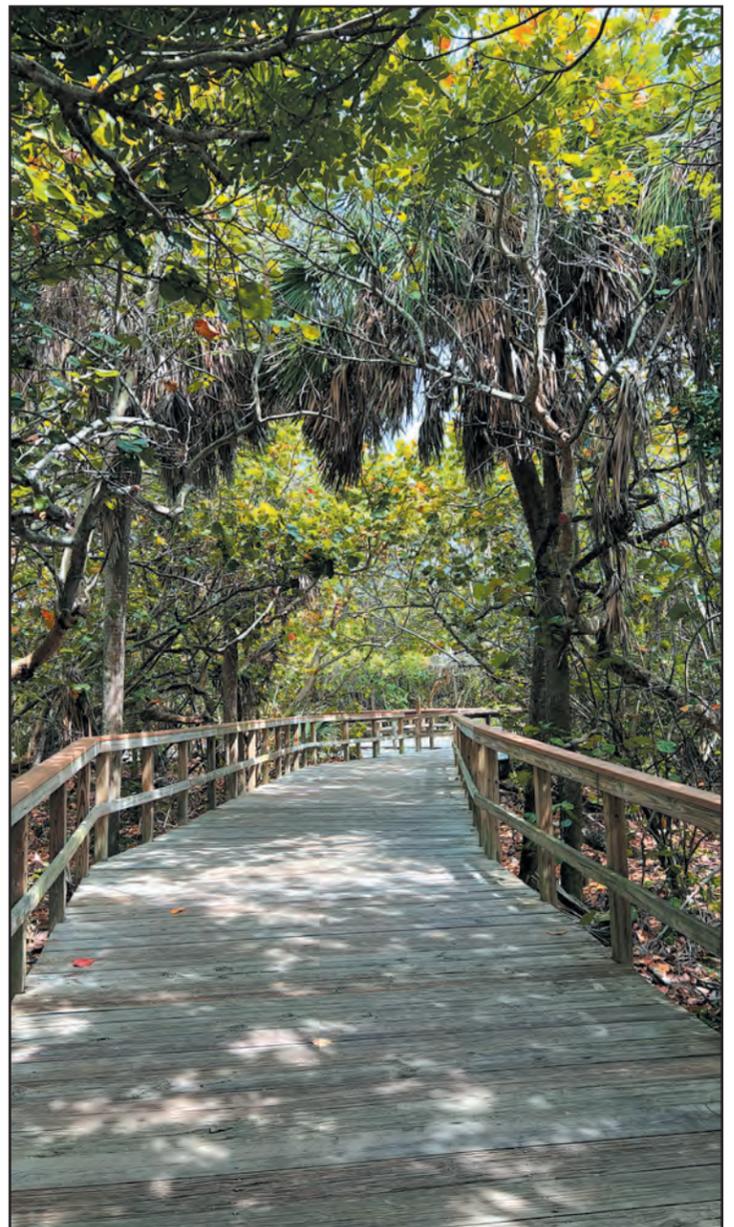
South Inlet Park at 1100 S. Ocean Blvd. is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Dogs are not allowed on the beach. Balloons endanger sea turtles and are prohibited. Parking costs \$3 an hour weekdays and \$4 an hour on weekends and holidays.

South Beach Park

Boca Raton's other "south" park is the southernmost point of the city's renowned coastal recreation area.

South Beach Park is known for its big, shady pavilion at the intersection of A1A and Palmetto Park Road; its walking paths shaded by sea grape trees; and its white sand beach.

"South Beach has been, and remains, one of Boca Raton's most visited and utilized parks," said Michael Kalvort, the city's recreation services director. "Over the course of the pandemic, we saw unprecedented attendance and usage by our citizens as they



looked to recreate, get healthy, and enjoy a moment of respite during these interesting times."

Most of the 24.5-acre park is owned by the city of Boca Raton, but a 6.5-acre parcel within the park is owned by Palm Beach County, said Anne Marie Connolly, Boca's communications and marketing manager.

About 50 years ago, the city entered into a dollar-a-year lease agreement with the county allowing the city to use the land as a park.

The city recently renewed the lease for 20 years, although the price has risen to \$10 a year, Connolly said. The city has an option to twice renew its lease in the coming decades.

"This allows for our residents to utilize the parkland as we ... continue to maintain it," she said. ★

South Beach Park is at 400 N. State Road A1A. Hours are 8 a.m. to sundown, seven days a week. No fires, camping, alcohol or smoking. Lifeguards are on duty from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during standard time, and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. during daylight saving time. Surf fishing is allowed, but not in designated swimming areas during normal swimming hours. Pets are not allowed. On-street parking is \$2 an hour. All-day parking for South Beach Park, and adjacent Red Reef Park, is \$25 for cars and minivans.



AL FRESCO ADVENTURES

From outdoor movies and concerts, to green markets and nature hikes, we want to soak up as much open-air activity as possible before hurricane season settles in and the oppressive heat and humidity drive us indoors. Searching for ideas? Look no further than our calendar listings — assembled each month by Michele Smith and Kathleen Bell. **ABOVE:** After successfully screening *Casablanca* in May, Delray plans to show *Tom and Jerry* on June 25. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Free Outdoor Events

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 4

Saturday - 6/4 - 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

6/4 - Summer GreenMarket every Saturday at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-2pm. 276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

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 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2096/Gumbo-Limbo-Nature-Center

6/4 - Crafted On the Ave at Libby Wesley Plaza, 2 SW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Open-air craft market highlights local small & microbusinesses; merchants/creators of handmade products, art, other crafts/goods. 1st Sat 1-4 pm thru 8/6. Free. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

JUNE 5-11

Sunday - 6/5 - Coco Connections Market at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market; 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals, various healing modalities, live music, 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 1st F 9 am-2 pm thru 12/31. Free. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

6/5 - Mizner Park Green Market every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. 362-0606; miznerpark.com

Wednesday - 6/8 - Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library, under the banyan tree outside City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 6/22. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 6/10 - 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

6/10 - Lantana Twilight Market every Friday through 6/24, at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. Featuring interactive family games, live music, craft beers and dozens of artisan and food vendors. 5:30-9:30 pm. 561-577-0755; petwants.com/delraybeach

6/10 - Concert: U2 by Tribute Band UV at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music

series. 8 pm. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us
Saturday - 6/11 - Rock the Marina & Lion Fish Derby at Boynton Harbor Marina, 735 Casa Loma Blvd, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from plaza restaurants. Lionfish Derby 8 am-12:30 pm; Rock the Marina Noon-4 pm. Free. 732-8590; boyntonbeachcra.com

JUNE 12-18

Wednesday - 6/15 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 6/29. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 6/17 - 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; search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

6/17 - Concert: Yacht Rock - Soft Rock Hits From the Late 70s-early 80s at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 8 pm. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

Saturday - 6/18 - Zumba Class at Patch Reef Park, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Wellness series. 9 am. Free.

561-393-7700; myboca.us
6/18 - Free Concert: Scott Ross and Blue Ruin at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket. 7:30-10 pm. Free. 243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

JUNE 19-25

Sunday - 6/19 - 10th Annual Mizner Park Downtown Drive Car Show at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Fees & donations benefit Make-A-Wish Southern Florida. 150+ cars. 9 am-3 pm. Free/admission. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

Friday - 6/24 - Summer Splash! A Side-by-Side with The Symphonia and FAU Summer Concert Band at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm concert. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

Saturday - 6/25 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

6/25 - Movies in the Park: Tom & Jerry at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Bring lawn chair/blanket. Free popcorn & snow cones courtesy of Delray Beach Police Department. 8:30-10:30 pm. Free. 561-243-7000; delraybeachfl.gov

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 4

Saturday - 6/4 - 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

6/4 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 8/27 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/4 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. Moderator Chuck Lehmann: 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

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

6/4 - Sommore: Queen Chandelier at The Wick Theatre and Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 7 & 10 pm. \$55-\$75. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

6/4 - Sick Puppies Improv Comedy Show at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Held again 6/18 & 25. 7:30 & 8:30 pm. \$20-\$30. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

6/4-5 - A Rocky Mountain High Experience Live! John Denver Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat 4 pm; Sun 2 pm; Sat 8 pm. \$55. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

JUNE 5-11

Sunday - 6/5 - From Rapture to Rapture: The Hollywood Backdrop's Legacy in a Digital World with Dr. Stephen Charbonneau at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

6/5 - Hot Brass: The Ultimate Interactive Chicago/Earth Wind & Fire Experience at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$35-\$45. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com

Monday - 6/6 - Smart Money Mondays: Money Is Honey! at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
Tuesday - 6/7 - Career & Employment Help with CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/

employment, resumes, unemployment, career path assistance. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/7 - LGBTQ+ People and Events That Helped Define a Community at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/7 - 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

6/7 - Comedy Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Held again 5/3 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 6/8 - 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 W 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/8 - Exploring Pastels Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W through 6/29 1-4 pm. \$140/resident; \$175/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/8 - Discover Studio Open Lab for Adults at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every W 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8572; bocalibrary.org

6/8 - Writer's Corner at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. 2nd W 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/8 - Art Deco Song & Dance Movie Clips with Prof. Arthur Decobellis presented by Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches via Zoom. 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: 561-276-9925; artdecopb.org

Thursday - 6/9 - 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

6/9 - Tech Talk at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/9 - Image Compositing with Adobe Photoshop Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/9 - Poets on the Fringe at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every Th 6-7:45 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/9 - The Poppy War by R.F. Kuang presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd

Municipal Meetings

6/6 - Ocean Ridge - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 8 am. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

6/7 & 6/21 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

6/7 & 6/21 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

6/7 & 6/21 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 5:30 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

6/10 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

6/13 & 6/27 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

6/14 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

6/14 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

6/23 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

6/28 - Manalapan - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

Ave. Part of Unbound World Virtual Book Club. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

6/9 - Tenshen Wines Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

6/9-10 - Film Screening: Keith Haring: Street Art Boy (2020) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Th 6-7 pm; F 2-3 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Friday - 6/10 - Sick Puppies Improv Stand-Up Comedy Showcase with Casey Casperson at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Held again 6/17 & 24. 8 pm. \$25-\$30. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

6/10-12 - Brighton Beach Memoirs at Florida Atlantic University Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 6/25. F/Sat 7 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$27; \$15/faculty/staff/alumni. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Saturday - 6/11 - George Snow Scholarship Fund Annual Awards Ceremony at Lynn University, 3601 N Military Tr, Boca Raton. Recognizes scholarship recipients, thanks individuals & organizations for their resources. 9-11:30 am. Free. 561-347-6799; scholarship.org

6/11 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

6/11 - Lecture: International World Art Deco 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

6/11 - Workshop: Beginner Figure Drawing at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach.

2-4 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

6/11 - 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

6/11 - Exhibition Opening Reception: about women at MAC ART Galleries, 390 SE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Runs through 7/1. 6-9 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-332-3352; macfineart.com

6/11 - Burgundy Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$100/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

JUNE 12-18

Sunday - 6/12 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 6/13 - 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

6/13 - Closing Party 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

6/13 - The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line with Major General Mari K. Eder at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 6/14 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: Silverview by John le Carre at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. In person or virtual. 10:30-11:30 am. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/14 - Unsettled Ground by Claire Fuller part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/14 - 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

6/14 - 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 - 6/15 - Book Buzz: Adult Book Club - The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/15 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Discussion: The Importance of Public Defenders on the Supreme Court Interactive Zoom video session. Noon-1 pm. Free. 561-276-4898; lwvpub.org

6/15 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

Thursday - 6/16 - Pride Month Film Festival: Paris Is Burning (1990) at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/16 - 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

6/16 - Concert: Paul Golden - Music Legends on Piano & Vocals at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

6/16 - Boynton Beach Food, Wine & Brew Fest at Benvenuto Restaurant, 1730 N Federal Hwy. Some of Boynton's finest restaurants & lounges, wine/craft beer tastings from local breweries. Age 21+. 6-9 pm. \$50. 561-395-4433; boyntonfoodwinebrew.com

6/16 - Authors Speak: The Impact of Race on American Society with Simone Browne at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8 pm. Free. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

6/16 - Valkenberg Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$45/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

6/16 - After Hours VIP Wine & Cheese Tasting at The Cheese Shoppe and Artisan Market, 204 E Ocean Ave, Lantana. 7:30-9 pm. \$35/person. 561-515-9919; cheeseshoppemarket.com

Friday - 6/17 - A Beginner's Guide to Podcasting at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8577; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 6/18 - Inaugural Tri-County Chess Tournament at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. Presented by City of Delray Beach & James McCray Chess Club. Novices learn from Instructors/experts; more advanced players compete for trophies/prizes. All ages/skill levels welcome. 10 am-2 pm. Free. Enrollment required: 561-352-7145; jameschessclub@gmail.com

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6/18 - Soil Collection to Remember Lynching Victim Samuel Nelson at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 561-355-3260; pbcremembrance.org
6/18 - Basic Orchid Care: Watering, Fertilizing and Pest Control Schedules at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/18 - Julius Sanna & The Positively Africa Experience: A Juneteenth Celebration at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JUNE 19-25

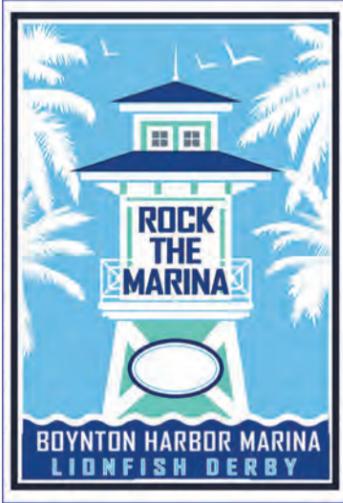
Sunday - 6/19 - Father's Day
6/19 - Music in the Museum: Con Brio Quartet at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 3-4 pm. \$5/ member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
Monday - 6/20 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Tuesday - 6/21 - Opera Conversations: The Joy of Opera at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/21 - Crafts and Coffee: Elastic Bead Bracelet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials & instruction provided. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
6/21 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Schedule subject to change - please check website: 1st F & 3rd T 7 pm. Free. 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory/observatory.html
Wednesday - 6/22 - Delray Beach Historical Society 2022 Annual Membership Meeting at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5:30 pm. RSVP: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org
6/22 - Step In Time: Tap Dance For Adults at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every W through 7/27 7-8 pm. \$120. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Thursday - 6/23 - Mac 101 Part 2 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
6/23 - Pride Month Film Festival: Carol at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
6/23 - Cult Wine Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$100/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
6/23 - Wine Glass Painting Party at The Cheese Shoppe and Artisan Market, 204 E Ocean Ave, Lantana. 7:30-9 pm. \$45/person. 561-515-9919; cheeseshoppemarket.com
Friday - 6/24 - United We Rock SummerFest Networking Bash featuring **Eagles Tribute Band The Long Run** at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Benefits US Veterans & The Delray Beach Playhouse honors philanthropist Alan Rose. 5:30 pm. \$25. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
6/24 - 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
Saturday - 6/25 - League of Women Voters: A Taste of the League - New Member Online Orientation. Orientation. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. RSVP: 561-573-6384; lwvpsc.org
6/25 - Curator Discussion: Charlene Farrington with Tayina Deravile, Khaulah Naima Nuruddin and Sheree L. Greer at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 12:30-2 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-279-8883; spadymuseum.com
6/25 - Island Festival Lake Worth Beach presented by Lake Worth Beach CRA and LULA Lake Worth Arts at HATCH 1121 Arts Center, 1121 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Art, music, dance, food, family fun, more. 3-9 pm. Free. lakewortharts.com
6/25 - Basic Orchid Care: Watering, Fertilizing, Fumigating and Propagating! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/25 - Comedy Off the Green starring **Bonnie McFarlane** at Mizner Park Cultural Center, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$30-\$45. 844-672-2849; miznerparkculturalcenter.com
6/25 - Gumby Navedo y Su Tumbao Charanguero at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Library at The Coffee District, 325 NE 2nd Ave. 3rd Th 9:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/27 - Afterlife by **Julia Alvarez** part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
6/27 - Podcast Club: Dr. Death, Season 1 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
6/27 - 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
6/27 - Sick Puppies Student Showcase at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 9 pm. Free. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com
6/27-28 - Limited Engagements Auditions: The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7 pm. First come first served. 586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
Tuesday - 6/28 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Cloud Cuckoo Land by **Anthony Doerr** 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
Thursday - 6/30 - Sonoma Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
Friday - 7/1 - Plumpjack Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$100/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
7/1 - Selwyn Birchwood Returns at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$25-\$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
7/1-7 - Florida Tax Holiday/Exemption: Freedom Week (Specific Admissions, Outdoor Activity Supplies). floridarevenue.com/salestaxholidays
Saturday - 7/2 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 8/27 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
7/2 - Grammy Nominated Guitarist Diego Figueiredo at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$25-\$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

SATURDAY - JUNE 11TH

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Monday - 6/27 - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club presented by Delray Beach Public

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